1 623

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. Pending further experience, it is not intended to allocate British escort carriers to U.C./C.U. convoys. ARCHER and BITER are being allocated to the Western Approaches for Trade protection.

2. The rules governing the number of passengers that may be carried in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently have been revised and details are given in A.M. 1140A/16.

5. A committee is to be set up, to be known as the Combined Ship building Committee (Standardisation of Design) to be composed of representatives of the U.S. Navy Dept., British Admiralty, R.C.N., U.S. War Dept., Maritime Commission, W.P.B., and Directorate of Munitions.

Home Commands.

4. STAD HAARLEM in Convoy K.M.S.ll was in collision in the early hours of today with AGWIDALE in 54.54 N., 34 W. AGWIDALE returned to the convoy with her bow damaged. STAD HAARLEM reported being anchored in Donegal Bay at 1645, making much water; at 1115 she reported sighting a submarine. She arrived at the Clyde on the evening of 20th March.

5. M.T.Bs 88, 93 and 230 sighted an escorted enemy convoy consisting of 4 merchant ships at 0005 today in 53.32 N. 04.54 E. (off Terschelling) M.T.Bs 88 and 93 fired torpedoes and one hit was obtained on a 10,000 or 5,000 ton merchant ship; and in a second attack at 0057A M.T.B. 230 hit with a torpedo a 5000 ton ship. M.T.B. 93 was slightly damaged by shell fire, but there were no casualties in any of our M.T.Bs.

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North and South Atlantic.

6. O.S. and S.L. convoys are being routed coastwise to obtain air coverage.

7. Vice Admiral Hewitt (U.S.) assumed command at 1000A today of the U.S. Naval Forces in North-West African waters.

North Atlantic.

Convoy U.G.S.6. 8. U.S. BENJAMIN HARRISON in Convoy U.G.S.6 was torpedoed this evening in 39.09 N. 24.15 W. (About 90 miles N.E. of San Miguel, Azores.)

Mediterranean.

9. PAKENHAM, PETARD and QUEEN OLGA sailed from Malta at 0026 today on operation. The force was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft at 2038.

Further attack on E.T.14 2 more ships torpedoed.

10. Convoy E.T.14 was again attacked by U-Boat at 1216 today and HADLEIGH and MERCHANT PRINCE were torpedoed but both arrived at Oran.

11. The Tripoli (L) convoy of 9 Storeships and a tanker (see 15th March) arrived safely today.

12. M.T.Bs. laid mines unobserved off Plane Island (North Coast of Tunisia today.)

13. A.A. destroyed 3 and fighters one of 9 plus enemy aircraft which attacked Tripoli (L) at 2150 today. No damage was caused at Tripoli.

625

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

U/Boat attacks on H.X.229 4 ships torpedoed. 14. Convoy H.X.229 (38 ships) which at 0800 was estimated to be in 49.30 N. 37.40 W. was attacked by U/boats at 1342 today. Escorts in company were VOLUNTEER, BEVERLEY, PENNYWORT, ANEMONE and MANSFIELD. At 2215 two white rockets were seen and at 2245 PENNYWORT reported picking up survivors of S.S. ELIN K. At 2334 the convoy was attacked again and ZAANLAND, JAMES OGLETHORPE and WILLIAM EUSTIS were torpedoed.
The position of the convoy at 2350Z today was 50.27 N. 25.09 W. (about 710 miles N.N.W. of Flores, Azores.)

Convoy S.C.122. 15. M/S - A/S Trawler CAMPOBELLO dropped astern of Convoy S.C.122 and was reported at 1219Z today to be disabled with her storehold flooded about 700 miles N.N.W. of Flores, Azores; GODETIA is standing by. It is thought that the convoy, which consists of 50 ships, has been reported by U/boats, and HAVELOCK asked for tugs to be sent for CAMPOBELLO and for BABBITT and INGHAM to be sent to join the escorts (2 destroyers, 1 frigate, 5 Corvettes) as soon as possible, as these are two short. No tugs were available at Argentia and C.O.A.C. was asked to sail a salvage vessel from Halifax. In the escort, GODETIA took off the crew from the sinking CAMPOBELLO and rejoined the Convoy. The cause of disablement is not known. INGHAM and BABBITT were sailed by C.T.G.24.6 at 1845Z

/ 16. U.S. S/M S.32, operating in the Aleutians probably sank a submarine today.

Australia and New Zealand.

17. 6. enemy barges containing crews only were intercepted and destroyed by two Allied M.T.Bs. off Maima River (10 miles N.N.W. of Merobe Harbour) at midnight today. The barges were apparently awaiting a R/V with a submarine and our vessels were mistaken for friendly.

18. Six Hudsons and 6 Beaufighters made direct hits on the W/T Station at Dobo today and sank 3 small vessels.

626 15.

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ARCHER, BITER. BATTLER. On completion of working up ARCHER and BITER are placed under the orders of C. in C. W.A. for trade protection.

2. When ready for service BATTLER will come under the orders of C. in C. H.F.

(D.O.D. H., 1028A/16 to C. in C. W.A., V.A.A. H.F. C. in C. H.F.)

A.M. 1028/16. Propose ARCHER and BITER come under your orders on 22nd March.

(R.A.A. H.F., 1947A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Russian Your 2349/20. Ambassador has not yet received procedure. these instructions. Request Foreign Office may (Hospital be stirred up. Unit for (Ad. Miles, 1248C/16). Archangel).

S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1851/14. Molotov has agreed to the following (A) Para. 1 (a) British boats may be also used, though they will have to use a special quay.

(B) Para. 1. (b) preliminary notification of number of packages and total weight no longer necessary.

(C) Para. 1 (f) Examination of private mail to be made locally in Northern Ports. I assume this means question of laisserpasser no longer arises.

(2) No relaxation on other points.

(3) S.B.N.O. North Russia is requested to get in touch with Timoshenko and put these matters on as workable as possible. (group omitted?).

(Adm. Miles, 1546/15 to Admty).

DEXTEROUS.

DEXTEROUS inspected and handed over to Messrs McLaren 1500 today. Hoisting of Dutch Ensign ceremony 1400/18. (M.S.R.T. Leith, 1532/16).

Movements.

MATCHLESS

Your 1141/15. Intend MATCHLESS arrive Plymouth 24th March to relieve MUSKETEER. (C. in C. H.F., 0949A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Dispositions.

North Atlantic Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C) ANSON, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT, 3 destroyers. Area Scapa DUKE OF YORK, KING GEORGE V, BELFAST, CHARYBDIS, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, JAMAICA, SCYLLA 9 destroyers. Area Clyde HOWE, FURIOUS,

Area Plymouth NEWFOUNDLAND, 2 destroyers. INDOMITABLE. Passage to Gibraltar CARLISLE, KENYA. On patrol UGANDA Area Gibraltar NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, SIRIUS, PENELOPE, ABDIEL,7 destroyers. Passage to U.K. ADVENTURE. (D.O.D. H., 1132A/16 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

627 271 .

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

s/M Movements. Intend to sail LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 1400A/18 to 090° Duncansby Head 3 miles E.T.A. 1700A/19 to R/V SOKOL and escort her to Clyde. E.T.A. 1400A/21, speed 9 knots. (Capt. S.3., 1147A/16).

Positions of submarines at O800A/17 and movements for

following 24 hours. (A) JUNON off Andfiord. (B) UNRULY 49° 12' N., 08° 57' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N., 09° 01' W. and 49° 10' N., 12° 26' W, thence to southward

daily advance 105 miles.
(C) DZIK 46° 05' N., 13° 22' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N.
13° 22' W. at 2200/18.
(D) SHAD in zone K. 508.
(E) X.5 and X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FIDELE arriving Port HHZ

from southward.

(F) SHAKESPEAREvicinity 44° 57' N. 13° 50' W.
(G) ULTOR vicinity 44° 23' N., 13° 50' W.
(H) HERRING vicinity 44° 40' N. 12° 30' W.
(F.O.S., 1653A/16). My 1653/16. Amend as follows:- Para. (D) SHAD vicinity
45° 10' N., 06° 02' W. probably on surface.
Para. (F). SHAKESPEARE vicinity 44° 57' N. 10° 01' W. probably on surface.

(H) HERRING vicinity 44° 30' N., 08° 00' W. probably on surface. My 1958/15. Amend as follows:-

Para. (G). SHAKESPEARE leaves vicinity of 44° 57' N. 13° 50' W. about 2000/16 on surface for 44° 57' N., 10° 01' W. Para. (H). HERRING leaves vicinity 44° 40' N. 12° 30' W. about 2000/16 for 44° 30' N., 08° 00' W. My 1721/15. Para. (j). SHAD leaves Zone K.508 about 2000/16 for 45° 10' N., 06° 02' W.

(F.O.S., 2001A/16).

SUFFOLK

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When ready for sea request you sail SUFFOLK for Scapa to work up. (D.O.D. H., 1247A/16 to C. in C. Nore).

A.M. 2203/10. Routed A.M. 2035/17th February, BONITO, sailed BONITO (S.O.) and GRAYLING escorting M.Ls. GRAYLING 555, 258, 468, 494, M.G.Bs. 642, 647, M.T.Bs. 634, 638, 640, 656. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 22nd and Coastal Craft for March. Codeword "Tiara". (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1437A/16 to F.O.C. Gibraltar. Gibraltar).

ARROW. ACTIVE. Request ARROW and ACTIVE be sailed to work up at Scapa as soon as ready for sea. (D.O.D. H., 1906A/16 to C. in C. Rosyth).

628 16.3.1943 Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1030A/15. "Advent" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0700A/16). Your 1457/15. "Arena" and "Arena 1" returned.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0752/16). 1. Intend M.L. 205 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 511 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leaving Portland at 1915 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line and leaving patrol-line at Dawn/17.

Object anti E-boat patrol. 3. Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1124A/16).

1. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail Force as follows, supplying intelligence.

2. Objects (A) Cover of convoy (B) Destruction of Enemy shipping.

3. Force M.T.B. 243, (S.O.), 242, M.G.B. 316, 312. 4. Execution (A) Patrol 10 miles to southward of C.E.161 4. during its passage between longitudes of C.3 and C.2 buoys. (B) Then proceed through passage Two in Q. Z. X. 771 to sweep Enemy coastal route between Cap D'Antifer and Le Treport. 5. Return through passage two to arrive within 20 miles of Newhaven by daylight. 6.

Codeword "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1225A/16).

Patrol tonight. M.G.B. 324 (S.O.) and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 090° and 1. 270° from position 213° Start Point 14 miles.

2. Object, to intercept enemy forces attacking convoys. Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1930/16 for patrol. Leave 3. Patrol at daylight 17th for Dartmouth keeping clear of W.P. 309. 4. Enemy E-boats may operate from Cherbourg or Guernsey. destroyer and two torpedo boats at Havre. Codeword "Limited".

1511A/16) (C. in C. Plymouth,

Departure H.M.T. CRANEFLY for patrol G.J. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 1701A/16 to F.O.I.C. Humber). My 1124A/16. "Device" sailed at 1925. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1935A/16).

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Biscay S/M Patrol. HERRING left patrol about 2000/15 probably on surface for position 044° 40' N. 012° 30' W. ULTOR at 2000/15th proceeded to position 044° 23' N., 013° 50' W.

SHAKESPEARE at 2000/15 proceeded to position 044° 57' N. 038° 50' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1103A/16 to ADVENTURE).
(1) No results have been obtained from air R/C owing to weather.
(2) If not in contact with enemy submarines proceed with all despatch after dark endeavouring to reach patrol-position as soon after dawn as possible. SHAKESPEARE 044° 57', 010° 01'. HERRING 044° 40' 007° 30'. SHAD 045° 30', 006° 00'. (F.O.S., 1839A/16 to S/Ms)

My 1839/16. Amend positions as follows:- HERRING 44° 30', 08° 01'. SHAD 45° 10', 06° 02'. (F.O.S., 1944A/16 to S/Ms).

MOST SECRET.) M 16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Operation "Upsilon 4" 1. "Upsilon 4" completed without incident night 14th.

 P.C.S. 068° 00', 009° 20' E, 030° 8.5 knots.
 Port engine clutch and starboard tail clutch unreliable. Port engine out of action for at least 24 hours. (JUNON, 1129A/16 to Admty).

Attack on Enemy Convoy. Two M/Vs damaged.

(1) Following a report from 12 Group A/C of a northbound convoy in 52° 04' N., 04° 04' E. at 1250/15, available M.T.Bs. for MIDGE and MANTIS were diverted from sweep previously ordered and assigned searches to intercept North of Vlieland. P.R.U. A/C confirmed the presence of this convoy later, in addition 12 Group again sighted it about 1800. Air action after dark by 16 Group had to be

cancelled due to low visibility on aerodromes. (2) M.T.Bs. 621, 617, 629 from Yarmouth and M.T.Bs. 88, 93 and 230 from Lowestoft sailed at 1600 to intercept. Unfortunately M.T.Bs. 621 and 617 had engine defects which prevented this unit from carrying out its sweep.

M.T.B.88 with M.T.Bs. 93 and 230 reports gaining R.D.F. contact on enemy convoy in 53° 20' N. 04° 38' E, steering N. 20° E. at 2257. Unit worked round astern of convoy to bring it up moon from unit keeping distance at about 3 miles, visibility being low. At 0005/16 in 53° 32' N. 04° 54' E. Convoy was closed and seen to consist of one large merchant vessel (10,000 tons approx.) 2 merchant vessels 5000 tons, one merchant vessel 1000 tons with escort of 1 "M" class and 1 destroyer ahead, 1 flak trawler inshore, and further escort to Seaward. Unit attacked at range of 1000 yards after Starshell had been fired from escorts.

M.T.B.88 fired two torpedoes at largest merchant vessel and 93 one at next largest which was over-lapping. M.T.B. 230 was blinded by gunfire and starshell and withdrew. M.T.B.93 reports definitely observing one hit with large explosion and cloud of black smoke. M.T.Bs. all retired and R/V'd, M.T.B.230 being detached to make further attack. R.D.F. contact was regained and at 0057A 5000 merchant vessel was attacked from 1000 yards with 2 torpedoes scoring one hit M.T.B. 230 coming under moderate but inaccurate gunfire. M.T.Bs. then returned to base. S.O. reports R.D.F. and R/T worked very efficiently throughout. Slight damage by shellfire sustained by M.T.B.93, but no casualties in any M.T.B.

(3) Both M.T.B.88 and 617 report increased enemy air activity but no attacks were made.

(4) Operation Q.U.7 (A) carried out as ordered. Supporting M.T.Bs. report sighting a trawler on Northerly course at 0016/16 in 52° 10' N. 04° 02' E. It was not considered to be a torpedo target and was not attacked. There were indications of the presence of other auxiliary vessels in the area but no further contacts were made by any units concerned, although area was searched.

(C. in C. Nore, 1558A/16).

/Operation...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation VP-R. 2 Enemy M/Vs sunk. M.T.B.631 lost.

My 1858A/10 and my 1255A/12. M.T.B.619 returned Lerwick 1330/16 and reports as follows. Night 14th/15th March laid mines in convoy channel west of Aarebraat (061° 37½' N. 004° 59½' W). 2. At 2240A/14 both boats attacked shipping in Floroe Harbour with torpedoes. M.T.B. 619 scored 2 hits on large vessel estimated 9000 to 10000 tons which broke in 2 and sank. Large number of men heard in water.

3. M.T.B.631 scored 1 hit on vessel estimated 3000 tons. Ship set on fire and then observed to sink. 4. Whilst withdrawing 631 struck rock in 061° 36' 36" N. 005° 03' 46" E. off Brejvik and became total loss. All her crew embarked in 619.

5. 619 had no casualties and only weather damage. 6. Only opposition was 1 round from gun on Floroe quay and pursuit of 619 off the coast by 1 or 2 enemy vessels 1 believed to be destroyer.

7. Intelligence obtained that merchant vessel of 300 tons had been sunk by mines laid by N.P.V's night of 5th March. (A.C.O.S., 1610A/16 to Admty). My 1610/16. M.T.B.631 ran aground on rocky shoal in

about 10 fathoms.

(2) All papers were burned and confidential books safe sunk in deeper water clear of wreck.

(3) Contents of safe.

(A.C.O.S., 1735A/16 to Admty).

Coastal operations requirements.

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Experience gained in operating "D" class M.T.Bs. against enemy convoys on the Dutch Coast shows that in order to maintain the offensive effort and to obtain a reasonable chance of success, it is essential that three or four M.T.Bs. should be available for offensive sweep every day. The average operation entails about 20 hours of seatime, thus

the proportion under routine maintainance is high irrespective of defects developed.

It is considered therefore that 12 M.T.Bs. are required to keep up the offensive effort.

If it is no longer possible to supply the second "D" class M.T.B. Flotilla originally allocated under A/L.M. 0864/42 of 3.2.42. It is particularly requested that favourable consideration be given to either:- (a) The allocation of a further 4 M.T.B.s to the 31st Flotilla making 12 in all.

(b) The fitting of 50% of the 17th M.G.B. Flotilla with torpedo tubes. All M.G.Bs. of this Flotilla are strengthened to carry tubes, and the Flotilla is being trained in torpedo attack. Torpedoes need not be carried when required for anti E-boat patrols.

(C. in C. Nore, 1732A/16 to Admty).

Operation "Regulation".

Intend sailing NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER, and METEOR for convoy protection and operation "Regulation" at 1600A/17. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1929/16).

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631

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Home Fleet Exercise. Your 2019/15. In the event of gales is there any objection to a 24-hour postponement. (V.A.2., 2240A/16 to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

U-boat sunk on 7th Feb. U-boat sunk U-boat U-boat

Patrol X

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Anti E-boat flying patrol X as in my 1411/8 will be carried out by Swordfish aircraft from 2000/16 to dawn/17. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1343A/16 to P.W.309, W.P.309) Cancel my 1343/16 owing to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1825A/16.) Am engaging enemy A/C in 44° 18' N. 14° 34' W. (A/C 59 Sqdn. No T.O.O. Recd. 1400/16)

R/C of Altenfiord. (S. B. N.O. North Russia, 1544A/16).

Sqdns. 816, 891, 837, 804.

C. in C. H.F., 1133/14. 816 and 891 Squadrons are to be increased to 9 I.E. Swordfish and 10 I.E. Hurricanes respectively forthwith. They are allocated to DASHER. 837 Squadron is to reform with 6 I.E. by amalgamating D and A Flights as ordered by F.O.N.A.S. 804 Squadron is to increase to 10 I.E. Hurricanes. (D.N.A.O., 1908A/16 to F.O. N.A.S.)

A/C in Iceland. My 1334/5. On re-examination of the joint plan it has been decided that, with the existing resources both as regards aircraft and aerodromes in Iceland, stage one of the plan can be carried out.

(2) Subject to Fleet R/C taking precedence over convoy protection all available aircraft can be employed on stage two as far as shadowing only is concerned.
(3) Stage three cannot at present be carried out.
(A.C.I.C., 2009A/16 to Admty).

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Humber Area.

Between 2100/15 and 2220/15 approx. 25 hostile A/C approached the coast between Flamborough Head and The Wash. Of this number about 15 crossed the coast. No aircraft plotted below 5,000 feet. Few bombs reported. In face of strong fighter and A.A. opposition aircraft appeared to be driven off. Minelaying not suspected but extra sweeping precautions are

being taken. (F.O. Humber, 0014A/16).

Jan Mayen

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Following from Jan Mayen. F.W. observed 1008 proceeding along south coast returning south east. (A.C.I.C., 1521A/16).

X.K.2. (Attack of 4th March).

Your 1750/15. Type of aircraft uncertain, not clearly seen owing to short time visible at about 3,000 feet. Report indicates twin engine monoplane, possibly Ju.88

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1600/16). A.M. 1531A/15. At approx. 1430 three F.W. 200 A/C operating from Bordeaux announced positions between 44° - 45° N. 12° - 15° W. (D.D.I.C., 1612A/16 to F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth H.Q.C.C., ADVENTURE).

Mining.

Have detonated red magnetic mine position 180° Off Newhaven West Pier 6.65 miles. Details. Newhaven. (M/S 57 1134/16 to C. in C. Portsmouth) (N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 2212/16, 1025/17).

At 1752A/15 one Ground Mine detonated by sweeper Thames in 186° Tongue Sand Tower 7 cables. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 1340/16). Estuary.

Your 1839A/13. Arrived. 15th M/S F. (A.C.O.S., 1453/16 to A.C.I.C.)

Area swept increased to 3.9 miles from North Western Western limit. Two mines cut and exploded in 50° 11' 42" N. 03° 17' 06" W. and 50° 10' 36" N. Channel. 03° 18' 42" W. respectively. Progress hampered by anti-sweeping devices. (M/S 4 1750A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Your 1228/15. Request Flotilla may arrive 9th M/S F. Portsmouth 27th March. (C. in G. Portsmouth, 1936A/16 to Admty).

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

U-boat sunk on 7th Feb. U-boat sunk We consider that LOBELIA's attack on 7th Feb. 1943 probably destroyed a U-boat. We congratulate LOBELIA on this success. (1st S.L. 0344A/16 to LOBELIA) See also 1st S.L. 0259A/16 in Allied Air Activity.

U-boats reported. Following received SSS from STAD HAARLEM S/M Raider. Submarine in vicinity. (Liverpool, W/T, T.O.R. 1111/16 to Admty). There are D/F indications of U/B probably damaged within 30 miles of 45° 00' N. 13° 45' W. (D.D.I.C., 2039A/16 to S/Ms)

Navigational.

Rosyth.

Port of Rosyth closed at 0800 owing to low visibility. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0817A/16). Cancel my 0817. Port now open. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1323A/16).

Casualties & Defects.

HONTESTROOM.
HONDRSTROOM (sic) grounded on Skagi Reef 64°
4' 45" N. 22° 43' 15" W. at 0205/15. Vessel is badly damaged in Nos. one and two holds and is likely to become a total loss. Ship has been abandoned. Master and entire crew have been landed at Reykjavik.
Admty.pass to Loch Ewe.
(A.C.I.C., 0154A/16).

M.G.B.51 My 0847/16. M.G.B.51 at Milford with defects. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0849A/16)

AZALEA. My 1729A/13 trouble now discovered to be due to leak from circulating engine bilge suction pipe. Repair will be completed 17 March and ammunitioning etc. will be arranged accordingly. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1719A/16 to Admty).

SCOTTISH AMERICAN. My 1339/25 and Admiralty 1205/9. SCOTTISH AMERICAN's windlass has been repaired and ship is ready for Sea. (A.C.I.C., 1806A/16).

LEWES My 1615/16. Returned with steering defect at 1941. (F.O. Humber, 2025/16).

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.F.11 and W.S. 28. My 1116/13. Codeword "Conifer one" sailed. My 1118/13 also refers.

(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0002A/16).

Convoys sailed in accordance with my 1238A/14. Codeword "Conifer". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0734A/16) Sailed 0736/16. 13 ships Pendants.

(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 0800/16)

Convoys sailed as in A.M. 1342A/6 and 1429A/6 routed as in A.M. 2115A/6.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1004A/16).

Sailed WREN S.O., DOUGLAS, WHADDON, BADSWORTH, GOATHLAND, EGGESFORD, KRAKOWIAK for K.M.F.ll and W.S.28. CYGNET delayed by defects.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1413A/16).

A.M. 1429/6 para. 7. S.O. 2nd Escort Group is sailing in WREN.

(C. in C. W.A., 1504A/16 to Admty).

K.M.S.11. Intercept YP82 (Commodore of K.M.S.11) to STAD HAARLEM. Had heavy collision, probably with AGWIDALE. Have to return. Probably sinking. STAD HAARLEM AGWIDALE. Ends.

(Valentia Radio, 0206/16 to Admty),

STAD HAARLEM reports heavy collision with AGWIDALE probably sinking. SNOWDROP searching. Position 054° 52' 011° 51'.

(C.2., 0330Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

My 0330/16. SNOWDROP has not made contact with ship in collision. Request air search at daylight.

collision. Request air search at daylight. SNOWDROP search until dark tonight, then to rejoin me. (C. 2., 0440Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.) Following received at 0631 from STAD HAARLEM to CPK. Heavy collision, slowing sinking, position 35 miles 180° noon, Position 15. Please send escort to get land. (Port Patrick Radio, 0747/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). My 0440/16. Nothing heard by guard in escort but Cdre. reported STAD HAARLEM signalled at 0243Z she was sinking. Request both ships be called by shore signal station. Revised position

both ships be called by shore signal station. Revised position of collision 054° 54' 011° 34'. (C.2., 0800Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Following received from STAD HAARLEM begins: - Heavy collision slowly sinking position 35 miles 180° noon position 15. Please send escort to get crew - Ends.

(C. in C. W.A., 0922/16 to SNOWDROP) Tug SAUCY is to proceed direct to assist STAD HAARLEM believed badly damaged at 0306A/16 in either (A) 054° 37' N. 010° 28' W. or (B) 054° 54' N., 011° 34' W. SNOWDROP is searching

Ordered her make utmost effort to remain with convoy. in sight.

2. At 1000/16 BARHILL 20 miles astern, reported insufficient speed and fuel, returning to U.K.

3. My 0330/16. No further news STAD HAARLEM or AGWIDALE.

635

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (Cont)

K.M.S.11, STAD HAARLEM AGWIDALE. (contd).

4. SHERWOOD rejoined. 5. My P.C.S. 1100Z, 054° 08', 012° 32', 200° 6 knots. (C.2., 1101Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

Received at 1031 G.M.T. de Tiree from STAD HAARLEM 150°. Am proceeding inwards noon position R/V March 15th K.M.S.ll.

(Port Patrick Radio, 1131/16 to N.O.I.C.Greenock) C. in C. W.A. 1049A/16. Position (B) is Cdre's estimate and probably more accurate than any other. Ships will probably drift N.N.E. STAD HAARLEM reported she was sinking at 0243Z but no news of AGWIDALE with whom she was in collision. N.O.I.C. Greenock pass to SAUCY.

(BROADWAY, 1210Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). My 1438 and 1542/16. Cdre. now reports AGWIDALE back in convoy. Bow damaged, but consider seaworthy. My 1101/16 para. 1 MARSA has turned back.

(I.C.2., 1545Z/16 to C. in C. W.A. Received at 1658 G.M.T. de STAD HAARLEM. Ship probably 92 struck me starboard aft about 2.30 a.m. between hatch four and five, drifted away with 2 red lights on. Am non anchored

Donegal Bay, still making much water. Please hurry. (Port Patrick Radio, 1645/16 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). (?Rejoining). Position 1800A/16 054° 46' N., 010° 0 present course 230° 11 knots. (SNOWDROP 1805A/16 to BROADWAY). 00' W.

EMPIRE KESTREL straggler reason unknown and at 1700/16 report by W/T her position 053° 48' 012° 30' returning Clyde at 7 knots. She used bearing and distance from letter position. (C.2., 1845Z/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

F.S.66, F. N. 74.

My 1716/23rd Feb. Intend VERDUN to relieve WOLSEY on arrival at Thames of F.S.66. Request you will sail WOLSEY to Rosyth as escort of F.N.74. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1116A/16 to C. in C. Nore).

M.K.F. 10 B.

P.C.S. 1200A 051° 08' N., 015° 44' W. 037° 14 knots. E.T.A. position A 2000A/17. All ships of convoy for Clyde. Propose they proceed unescorted from position A. (C.4 1215A/16 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 1215/16. Ships are to proceed independently from position A. (C. in C. W.A., 1540A/16 to Escorts M.K.F. 10 B)

P178

AD

Rescue tug HORSA whilst engaged in towing fore HORSA sunk. portion of RICHARD BLAND to Seidisfjord grounded on Ostles Rock 065° 38' N., 013° 54' W. about 1700/15. BUTF in attandary 013° 54' W. about 1700/15. BUTE in attendance reported that HORSA was anchored 2 cables to northward but in view

of weather he had taken off crew for night and intended to attempt to tow at daylight if HORSA was still afloat. HAZEL was ordered to leave Seidisfjord to assist. BUTE reports at 0821 16th weather deteriorating rapidly. Considers it unsafe to carry out inshore search and is returning Seidisfjord. (A.C.I.C., 1356A/16 to Admty).

/Your...

1

.6**36** 16.3.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (cont)

R.A.53. HORSA sunk. (contd). Your 1420/16. BUTE is to return Reykjavik bringing Capt. of HORSA and as many of crew as can be conveniently accommodated. Remainder of crew to return Reykjavik in LOCHNAGAR. (A.C.I.C., 2010A/16 to R.N.O. Seidisfiord).

My 1356 regret to report that HORSA sank during night. All HORSA's crew are safe and are at Seidisfjord in BUTE and will return to Reykjavik at first opportunity. (A.C.I.C., 2012A/16 to Admty).

(A.C.I.C., 2012A/16 to Admty). My 1239/13. As HORSA has sunk vide my 2012 request another rescue tug may be sent to Seidisfjord to tow J.H.B. LATROBE to U.K.

(A.C.I.C., 2109A/16 to Admty).

H.X. 229

C. in C. W.A., 1435A/16 see A.W.I., D.T.D. 1849A/16 See A.W.I.

M.K.S.9

Detail two corvettes of C.l. group to escort B. portion. Belfast and Clyde ships breaking off as requisite. Loch Ewe ships independent from position (R). (C. in C. W.A., 1455A/16 to Escorts M.K.S.9). Convoy P.C.S. 53.45 N. 11.20 W. at 2000Z/16 023° 82. (ST. CROIX 2114A/16 to C. in C. Plymouth).

0.N.S.1

(A) 1516A/16 March. (B) KINGCUP (C) S.S.(T) BEACONSTREET.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 1520A/16)
Ships and destinations.
(C. in C. W.A., 1819A/16).

QUEEN A.T. 38 arrived 1449/16. ELIZABETH. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1527/16).

H. X. 227

Arrived off Oversay 09002/5. Average speed 8.9 knots. WADE HAMPTON and MERIWETHER LEWIS torpedoed and sunk. Remainder arrived. (D.T.D., 1708A/15 to Connav).

Rescue Tugs for Atlantic Convoys. A.M. 1431/13. SAMSONIA and GROWLER are two of the tugs allocated to me as escort tugs vide A.M. 1302/16/1. GROWLER has not yet joined my command. Arrangements will be made to sail SAMSONIA as required.

2. It is suggested that the operation of Rescue Tugs as far as this command is concerned would be simplified if a specific allocation of tugs in two categories could be made to W.A. Category A being Rescue Tugs based in W.A. ports and Category B being Escort Tugs.

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (and)

Rescue Tugs Convoys. (contd).

3. The minimum numbers at present required to be for Atlantic available are Category A, Two and Category B three Figures for Category A are based on the assemption that not less than one Rescue Tug will

be available in Iceland. Figures for Category B are based on the fact that three new construction Trawlers allocated to this command will be used with Escort Tugs. As further trawlers become

available to work with Escort Tugs so will the number of Category B Tugs increase.

4. It is proposed that tugs suggested in para. 3 above should now be allocated to me by name and that I should assume complete operational and administrative control of these vessels. 5. It is intended to sail the first Escort Tug early in April. Once this system is introduced it is clear that tugs in Category B will not be available for any extraneous duties. 6. Any available tugs surplus to the minimum requirements

of W.A. Tugs given in para. 3 above that are based with the W.A. would be used to assist Category A tugs, increase the number of Category B tugs as the number of escorts increased, and be available to meet commitment not connected with Rescue Duties.

7. A.M. 1302/16/1, 1301/2/3 and my 2031/23/2, and letter W.A. 696/0805/19 dated 5th March. 1943 refer. (C. in C. W.A., 1735A/16 to Admty).

Further to my 2346/15. At 04242/11 O.R.P. H. X. 228 Attacked on GARLAND in position C on screen obtained H/F 10th and 11th D/F contact bearing 155° close, 4 minutes later in R.D.F. contact 175° 5100 yards. March. A/S contact obtained and promising attack made with depth charges. Contact then faded and after short search O.R.P. GARLAND rejoined as convoy had only 3 escorts present. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1840/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.122

INGHAM and BABBITT sailed to join. (C.T.G. 24.6 1930Z/16) See A.W.I.

S.C.121. COULMORE.

Situation 2000A/16. AUBRETIA 56° 58' N., 12° 12' W. Hove to. Tow parted at 1950 and tugs are waiting until daylight 17th to connect. COULMORE has main steam on one boiler but, in view of risk of further damage to forward part, it is not considered desirable for her to proceed under own steam in present weather. Weather 8171 6512. (AUBRETIA 2014A/16 to C. in C. W.A.)

X.K.3

Sailed BORAGE, DIANELLA, LUNENBURG in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1652/15. (Cdre. Londonderry, 2225A/16)

J.W. 55

It is expected that J.W.55 will comprise 30 ships including 4 tankers. It is not intended to ballast the 13 British ships loading in U.K. Do you agree. (D.S.T., 2256A/16 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Service.

1140A/16th March MESSAGE

MOST SHORIET

DATE: 16.3.43

N.S.H.O. Ottawa 680 F.O.C.West Africa 954 C. in C. South Atlantic 663 C. in C. Eastern Fleet 178 (B.1) C. in C. Mediterranean C. in C. Levant C. in C. Western Approaches 68 C. in C. Western Approaches A.C.N.B. 272 N.Z.N.B. 680 F.O.C.R.I.N. 955 S.B.N.O. West Atlantic 177 Naval Cypher (Flag Out)

Passengers - Numbers.

637 A

M

General

FROM: Admiralty.

TO: B.A.D.Washington 882

The rules governing number of passengers that may be carried in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently have been revised.

These rules are applicable to all British operated ships. U.S. Authorities have agreed to British operated ships carrying personnel under British rules in U.S. strategical areas in Atlantic. 2,

Read in 3 paragraphs A type of vessel or voyage B limitations of overall numbers, including crew and prisoners of war C limitations by service category.

Composition of each category to remain as at present.

1z entire voyage, regardless of speed.

B In trade convoy Passenger certificate, 250 of each throughout or 75% of boat service capacity, whichever is the greater.

Under 10 knots, Passenger certificate, No limitation unescorted. or 75% of boat by category. capacity whichever is the greater. Passengers other than P.O.W.not to exceed 12.

More than

More than 10, but less than 15 knots. unescorted.

0 . 4

B Passenger certificate, No limitation or 75% of boat by category. capacity, whichever is the greater. Passengers other than P.O.W. not to exceed 100.

2.

15 knots and over, but loss than 20 knots, unescorted.

Passenger certificate, 250 of each or 75% of boat service. T capacity, whichever is the greater.

service, Total U.S. service persennel not to exceed 250.

No limitation Over 20 knots, Lifesaving capacity. by category. unescorted.

4. Guards for P.O.W. are to be included in category of their own service passengers. The proportion of guards to prisoners is not to be less than 5% if British and 7% if allied.

5. In the Atlantic, total P.O.Ws are not to exceed 500, except in ships of over 20 knots.

6. Women if members of the W.R.N.J. A.T.S. W.A.A.Fs. etc. to be included in the categories of their respective services. Service personnel are not to be displaced for other women or children, nor are the latter to be carried in ships with high proportion of P.O.W.

7. In no case are persons not essential to the war effort to take passage if Service or Government personnel are thereby displaced.

8. Speed of ship may be defined as the designated speed which the ship is capable of making through the water on the voyage in question.

An escorted move may be defined as one for which 9. warship protection is provided against whatever U-boat or surface threat may reasonably be expected on the voyage in question.

/10. Except ...





3.

10. Except in the Atlantic, Commanders in Chief have discretion to approve individual exceptions to these rules for purely local moves within their stations. Where matters of permanant policy are involved Admiralty approval should be sought.

11 These rules are to come into force on receipt of this signal but passengers in excess of numbers allowed whe have already been embarked need not be disembarked. Discretion may be exercised up to March 31st as regards embarking under old rules, where alteration would entail overcrowding of transit camps etc. It should be remembered, however, that the new rules are designed to lessen risks in slower ships.

12. Dominion Authorities are requested to conform or to indicate any modifications which they are desire.

13. It is intended to promulgate the above in detail by C.A.F.O. In the meantime accressees are requested to inform S.T.Os, military and R.A.F. Authorities on their stations. B.A.D.Washington pass to U.S. Authorities concerned.

1140/16

for D.O.D. (F)

Approved 4th Sea Lord.

1st Lord 1st S.L. (2) D.F.S.L. 2nd S.L. 4th S.L. A.C.N.S. (H) A.C.N.S. (F) (2) A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) Soc. Nav. Sec. U.V.R. N.A.2nd S.L. D.P.S. D.O.D. (H) (2) D.O.D. (F) (2) P.A.S. (S) Duty Capt. (2)

D. of P.(2) Hd. of M.(10) D.T.D.(4) D.T.D.(M) D.T.D.(C) D. of S.T.(2) D.N.I.(4) Hd. of N.L. D.D.I.C.(2) Admiral Blake (4) I.P.(2) W:D.

LAM

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.)

SECRET.

on

MESSAGE, 1156A/16th March. DATE: 16.3.43.

TO B.A.D. Washington 883.

NAVAL CODE (X).

From Admiralty

Your 2145/1st March, paragraph one and A.M. 1140/16 paragraph 10.

It is proposed to extend similar facilities to United States Authorities in the Pacific. In cases where a departure from British rules would later entail an escorted move in a British area it is requested that the matter be referred to Admiralty.

1156A/16.1. B. A.D.) for D.O.D.(F). Approved 4th See Lord.

+ Former given Most Secret distribution.

lst Lord.
list. S. L. (2). D. F. S. L. (2).
D.F.S.L. (2). 2nd S.L.
4th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(H).
A.C.N.S.(H). A.C.N.S.(F). (2). A.C.N.S.(U.T.)(2).
A. C. N. S. (U. T.)(2). Sec.
Nav. Sec.
U. W. R.
N.A. 2nd S.L.
D. N. I. (4).
$D_{\bullet} P_{\bullet} S_{\bullet}$ $D_{\bullet} \text{ of } S_{\bullet} T_{\bullet} (2)_{\bullet}$
D. of S.T.(2). P.A.S.(S).
$O_{a} D_{b} (5)_{b}$
Ops (3).
N.L.
$D_{\bullet} T_{\bullet} D_{\bullet} (M)_{\bullet}$ $D_{\bullet} T_{\bullet} D_{\bullet} (3)_{\bullet}$
I.P.
W. D.
D. of $P_{\bullet}(2)_{\bullet}$
Ad. Blake. (4). Hd. of M. (10).

OUT.

638 16.3.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Passengers.

Revised rules re numbers allowed in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently. 1158/16 (D.O.D.(F) app. 4th S.L., 1140A/16. to Various.) See Lion Copy.

Raiders and Blockade Runners.

Intelligence. No further reports of raiders. 2. Blockade runner KOTA NOPAN from Far East intercepted and sunk by U.S. Forces at 1700/10th March in 7°S. 21° W. 3. Further homeward bound blockade runners are to be expected. 4. Unidentified vessel sighted in 5° 35' S. 11° 48'W. at 0545/11th March course North West. No repeat No Allied or neutral ship believed to have been in vicinity. (D.D.I.C., 1909A/16 to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

TRIDENT.

TRIDENT. Intend to sail TRIDENT p.m. 17th for working up patrol in Gulf of Lions north of latitude Cape Creuse west of longitude 5.50 E. outside 100
fathom line. 2. TRIDENT passes through (P) 180° Cape Calabras 5 at 2015/17th. (Q) 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 1430/18th. (R) 135
Cape Palos 5 0410/19th and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S)8. (S) 42.19 04.03 E. 2335/21st. 3. Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational control at 0410/19th. 4. Communication. 5. S. of A. 10 knots 135 miles per day. (F.O. Gibraltar. Ol31A/16 to Capt. (S) 8. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, ?S.O. (I) Alexandria, TRIDENT, 8th S.F., N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force H.) Amended by 0042/17 q.v.

Intend to sail TRIDENT p.m. 17th for working up

ANTELOPE Arrival. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0840A/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. Commr. Dakar (R) Admty. etc.) X.K.3.

Arrived. CARLISLE. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0921A/16 to Admty.)

T.E.19 sailed as in my 1512/13th less FAUVETTE, T.E.19. JACINTH, HUDSON'S HOPE and MICHAEL STONE plus VOLTURNO for Bone, THURLAND CASTLE and HARBURY for Algiers. (N.O.I.C. Gib., 0944A/16 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

SPIREA and MIGNONE TE arrived. Ref. 0930A/16th. SPIREA. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1000Z/16 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, MIGNONETTE, (R) ROCHESTER, Admty.) 0.S.44.

1000

639

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

SPIREA with MIGNONETTE in company departs 1315A/ 16th. Rejoining O.S. 44, 1220Z/17th. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 1305Z/16 to ROCHESTER F.O. SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, 0.S.44. G1b. F.O.C. W.Af.) Contd.

U.G.F.6.

Intend sail WISHART, VELOX, BUDE, CLACTON, CIRCE and HUSSAR departing Casablanca 2000A/17 (1000A/17) to R/V U.G.F.6 in 34.10 N. 08.10 W.

0800A/18 and escort Mediterranean section through 35.45 N. 07.01W thence QKAK 87 to external position 57, where Gibraltar section will detach with local escort. S. of A. 13½ knots. Stragglers route as convoy. E.T.A. position 57 2130A/18. Codeword Rigmarole. F.O.C. Gibraltar requested route onward and signal E.T.A. Oran accordance C. in C. Med. 150/15 (as received) C.T.F. 64 requested pass to Convoy Commodore.

(C.T.F. 64 requested pass to Convoy Commodore. (C.M.S.F.F., 1010Z/16 to C.T.F. 64, WISHART.) Convoy U.G.F. - 6 and Task Force 64, Captain Umsted, will pass through point (T) 033° 40' N. 017° 50' W. at 1400Z/16th. S. of A. 13.5. Thence proceeding to point (G) and (H). (C.T.F.64, 1045Z/16 to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R., C. in C, A.F. (U.S.) F.O.I/C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Mediterranean, S.N.O. Casablanca, Cdr. N. Africa Sea Frontier.)

Situation Reports.

Situation 2001A/16th. (?Fleet)(?Unit) 4 destroyers 32.51 09.21 through 33.29 08.47 15 knots thence

Gibraltar 16. (2) S/M TACTICIAN 37.41 09.37 through 36.31 09.13 at 0115 thence 099° diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ surfacing by night $10\frac{1}{2}$. (3) ARCTIC RANGER off Cape St. Vincent through 35 (?37 or 56) 06. 20 to Gibraltar 10.

(4) X.K.3 VILLE DE QUEBEC (?354°) (corrupt) 4 282° $6\frac{1}{2}$ (5) KENYA 37.51 16.19 to Gibraltar 17. (see amendment 1625A/16) (6) Fr. Sloop M/S COMMANDANT BORY 3 French S/Ms 28.37 10.38 through 29.41 10.29 at 0645A/17th and 31.24 09.45 at 1930A/17th thence northbound coastwise $9\frac{1}{2}$.

(7) C.G.19 LA GRANDIERE sails for Casablanca 1200A/17th through (8) Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 37.03 09.33 through 40.13 13.00

thence 359° 13.

(9) SPIREA and MIGNONETTE sail p.m. 16th from Malta to overtake 0.S.44.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1013A/16.)

My 1012A/16th (?1013/16 intended.) para. 5 amend position course and speed to read 039° 10' 017° 32' through 038° 01 017° 01' thence Gibraltar 17.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1625A/16) (My 1012A/16th (1013A intended) add new para 10. U.S.S. BROOME and U.S.S. JERFERS, 2 P.Cs. sailing 1800/16th through 035° 49' 006° 20' 036° 35' 007° 01' to Casablanca 15.

(N.O.I.C., Gibraltar, 1242A/16.) My 1012A/16th (1013A intended) add new para (11).

ANTELOPE sails 2200/16th to overtake X.K.3. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1345A/16.) Situation 20(?52) A 16th.

S/M ULTOR 41.24 11.56 155° diving by day 2 on surface by night 8.2.

(2) UNA 39.29 11.10 330° diving by day 2 on surface by night 8.2. (3) 0.(?S) 44 ROCHESTER (E) 31.40 10.46 through 29.02 12.10

1

.640

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Report. Contd. thence 223° 8¹/₂. (4) G.U.S. 5. (? T.F.35) 32.20 13.02 248° 9. (5) U.G.F. 6, T.F.34, 33.59 16.54 through 34.30 15.30 thence 78.53 13.26. (8) L.S.T. Convoy C.T.U. 32, 29.31, 22.49, through 31.10, 21.10 thence 042° 8. (9) Portuguese (2Navel) Terber Converse (9) Portuguese (?Naval) Tanker SAMBRAZ 34.47, 17.06 058° 11. (10) (?2) tugs 43.53 13.38 178° 7. (10) (?2) tugs 43.53 13.38 178° 7.
(11) MALCOLM, WITCH 46.46 14.40 through 45.01.15.01 thence 180° 15.
(12) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 45.28 14.12 through 40.01
14.30 thence 142° 14.
(F.O. Gibraltar 1024A/16.)
U.G.S. 6, T.F.33, 39.38 25.39 102° 9.
2. L.C.I.(L) convoy 33.22 32.29 102° 5½.
4. BURWELL left Ponte Delgade n m 16th for Horts.

BURWELL left Ponta Delgada p.m. 16th for Horta. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1042A/16.) 4.

BIRWELL

Arrived 1100 G.M.T. 16th. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1020/16 to S.O. (I) Gibraltar (R) Admty. R.O. Fayal.)

Your 1627/11. (N.T. in W.D.) N.C.S.O. Lisbon is arranging for SERPA PINTO to embark British and SERPA PINTO. N.C.S.O. Lisbon is possibly American survivors at end of month. He will communicate final arrangements.

(N.A. Lisbon, 1249/19 to Consul Ponta Delgada., (R) Admty.) Reply 1126/17.

G.U.S.5, 1200Z/16th, P.C.S. 32.30 N. 12.15 W. 250° 9.5. G.U.S. 5. (C.T.F.65, 1500/16 to Comnaveu, Connav, Admty.)

Intend sailing for Oran CEVENNES CAP PINEDE. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1616A/16 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) T.A. 19 X. C. in C. Med. Admty., Connav.)

Convoy

Sailed convoy X.K. 3 and WIVERN in tow of tug X.K.3. DESTINY escorted by VILLE DE QUEBEC, MOOSEJAW, KITCHENER, CAMROSE, IMPERIALIST. Local escort ANTELOPE, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE. My 1558/14. WIVERN has a complete set of area 1 S.Ps. on board and will keep

single line periods on appropriate area broadcast if separated from convoy.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1636A/16 to Admty. etc.)

Sailing telegram.(1) X.K.3. (2) 1600/16. (4) 6¹/₂ (5)Standard M.K.S. route. (6) VILLE DE QUEBEC, MOOSEJAW, KITCHENER, IMPERIALIST, ANTELOPE, PIROUETTE. GAVOTTE, CADMUS. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1642/16 1711A/16 to Admty.)

0.S.44.

Arrivals. (6 ships) (F.O. Gibraltar, 1717/16 to C. in C.W.A.)

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U.G.S.6. U/B's. D/F Bearings on 12260 kcs. at 1753Z and 1759Z and 1832Z indicate at least two U-Boats in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C., 2029A/16 to Escorts U.G.S.6, (R) Cominch etc.)

Movements.

Arrivals 15th Cable ship MIRROR. 16th U.S. P.C. 480 French LA BOUDEUSE French Submarines LA VESTALE, ANTIOPE. From Casablanca, HAARLEM

with two M/Vs. from Melilla. NASTURTIUM CONVOLVULUS...with Gibraltar section 0.S.44. ALBACORE, ACUTE, CADMUS, ESPIEGLE. From M/S. Sweep. Departures ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE MAN-O-WAR with convoy T.E.19, U.S. ships JEFFERS BROOME P.C.474, 475 for Casablanca. CARLISLE for Algiers.

(F. O. Gibraltar, 2130/16 to Admty. C. in C. Med. Cominch.)

Diversion of O.S. and S.L. convoys. A.M. 2005/19th July 1941. In view of the increase in movements on the Gibraltar Freetown route and as O.S.- S.L. convoys are routed coastwise to obtain air coverage, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to assume as from 2400

G.M.T. 18th March the responsibility for diversion of these convoys in his area. 2. Admiralty will transmit diversions direct in emergency as formerly.

3. Chop lines will be on paralles 43° N. and 26° 10' N. (D.T.D. 2309A/16 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ADRIAS attack on U/B. We consider that ADRIAS's attack on 27th Jan. * 1943, probably destroyed a German U-Boat. We congratulate ADRIAS on this success. 2. C. in C.Levant, pass to Admiral Sakellarion. (D.A.S.W. Approved 1st S.L. 0342A/16 to ADRIAS (R) C. in C.Levant, Adm. Sakellarion, F.O.C. W.Af.) * W.D.Note: ?13 Feb. intended.

SONTAY, CAP TOURANE. Your 2011/12. In the circumstances agree SONTAY Should proceed to India as previously arranged. 2. Can you suggest another ship readily available to proceed to Lagos to meet the requirement in my 0436/4 (?) Suggest CAP TOURANE might be considered. (D.S.T. 0523A/16 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

D.C.15.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0500Z/16th. 4. 8 knots. 5. Coastal, ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay (N.S.) 6. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. INDIAN STAR. 10. 11 knots BUTESHIRE. 12. E.T.A. Capetown p.m. 20th March. (N.C.S.O. Durban 0604Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

DESPATCH.

Present position 012° 00' N. 019° 22' W. 19 knots. E.T.A. 1830Z/16. Requirements. Weather report.

(DESPATCH 0800/16 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.)

 Proceed Bathurst to carry out blockade runner patrol in area between following points A. 05 N. 21 W. B. 04 N. 19 W.
 Ol N. 19 W. D. 03 N. 23 W.
 Time on patrol p.m. 18th March to noon 20th March. Estimated speed made good 19 knots.

3. No allied merchant shipping is routed through your patrol area. 4. Report position and E.T.A. Freetown at 1600Z/21st March. (F.O.W.A. 1731Z/16 to DESPATCH, (R) Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst. Admty. CAR ARVON CASTLE, Comsolantfor.)

Convoy C.D.9. Sailing telegram. 2. 0730Z/16th. 4. 9 knots. 5. Coastal, R.8, route ref. position N.S. Saldanha Bay 1 to 8. 6. MAYLAND, CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, QUALITY, RELENTLESS.D.Durban E.T.A. a.m. 19th March.

(N.C.S.O. Capetown 0848Z/16 to Admty. etc.) Simonstown departure 1244C/16th WAYLAND, CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY for Durban with convoy C.D.9. E.T.A. a.m. 20th. Shifting to W/T organisation "Jig" at OlOOC/19th. (C. in C.S.A. 1729C/16 to Admty. etc.)

/KOTA...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Sunk by U.S. Task Force (Comnaveu 0903/16.) KOTA NOPAN (German.) See America & West Indies.

GLOIRE. Arrived French Cruiser GLOIRE from patrol. (Comar, Dakar, 0931Z/16 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

W/T Routines.

Commencing at 0145 G.M.T. Saturday, March, 20th, B.A.M.S. Routines from Simonstown(Z S C) for ships in Area 3B, will be as follows (details.) 3. Attention is drawn to the fact that time of

existing routine at 0300 will be changed to 0145. 4. B.A.M.S. Routines from Rugby remain unchanged. 5. C.A.M.S.I. 1/43 in course of distribution (which supersedes C.A.M.S.I. 145/42) will be amended. (D.S.D. 1010Z/16 to B.A.M.S.)

EMPRESS OF	BOREAS has 800 survivors, PETUNIA 420, CROCUS
CANADA.	250, CORINTHIAN still searching.
(torpedoed	(F.O.C.W.A. 1017Z/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)
13/3.)	Have kept corvettes (corrupt group) assisting
	search, still recovering odd survivors from
	wreckage. At dusk transferring Prisoners to
	CODT WITTAN ALL I A -1 A

CORINTHIAN, then detaching corvettes return Freetown. Am remaining to continue search at daylight. Numbers follow.

(CORINTHIAN 1850Z/16 to R.A.West Africa.) Tonight at 2000Z/16th 001° 28' S. 010° 30' W. 337° 12 knots CROCUS in company.

PETUNIA has 105 survivors on board, 230 transferred to CORINTHIAN, CROCUS has approx. 200 on board, 120 transferred to CORINTHIAN. CORINTHIAN continuing search, fuller details in accordance with A.F.O. 2901/1941 follow later. Number reported in my 1715Z/16th, in PETUNIA for 420 read 305. (PETUNIA 2020Z/16 to R.A.W.A. (R) CORINTHIAN, CROCUS, BOREAS.) Number of survivors now on board 387. Ex PETUNIA survivors 194. prisoners 61. Ex CROCUS survivors 3. prisoners 102. Ex

194, prisoners 61. Ex CROCUS survivors 3, prisoners 102. Ex wreckage survivors 12, prisoners 15. Corvettes detached at 1937Z, am resuming search at daylight. Boats are apparently all accounted for.

(CORINTHIAN 2050Z/16 to N.O.I.C.W.Af.)

Your 1525/16th. E.T.A. 0300Z/18th. A.F.O. 2901/41. A. BOREAS. B. EMPRESS OF CANADA. C.9 D. 83. E. 49. F. 131. G. 2. H. 4 I. 25. J. 40 K. 12. L. 64. M. Nil. N. 793. O. Polish, French, Greek, Dutch, Italian, Norwegian, Jugo-Slav. P. and Q. Further signal. Not included in above 117 Italian prisoners, 129 Greek Naval, 15 French Naval, 1 Jugo-Slav, 92 Polish Army, 3 Norwegian Naval. 1 Italian prisoner dead and buried at sea. 2. 21 boats, 9 rafts. Chief officer reported all boats and rafts together within 4 miles. BOREAS embarked from 14 boats or rafts. 3. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z, 003° 05' N. 012° 22' W. 340° 12 knots. 4. Weather report 8380 1143. (BOREAS 2101Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

ARETHUSA (for repairs

A.M. 1508A/8th. 1. Intend to sail ARETHUSA for Bermuda for onward routeing to Charleston at at Charleston.) 1600Z/17th March, ARETHUSA calling at St.

Vincent for fuel. 2. Route A. 009° Ol' N. 016° Ol' W. B. 014° 20' N. 025° 51' W. thence to St. Vincent speed making good 21 knots. E.T.A. St. Vincent 1500Z/19th March. Expected sailing 2000Z/19th March. 3. Onward route to Bermuda C. 023° Ol' N. 040° Ol' W. D. 028° 42' N. 055° Ol' W. thence to Bermuda speed making good 14½ knots E.T.A. Bermuda 1400Z/26th March.

4. Wireless watch.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1040Z/16 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/16th NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD with N.C.7 off Walvis Bay to Saldanha Bay 8 knots.

HERTFORDSHIRE, TURFFONTEIN, IMMORTELLE with C.D.10 034° 45' S. 019° 15' E. to Durban 8.

WAYLAND, CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with C.D.9 034° 55' S. 020° 10' E. to Durban 9. NORTHERN CHIEF 033° 35' S. 027° 25' E. to Capetown 8. F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, INDIAN STAR with D.C. 15, 031° 35' S. 030° 00' E. to Capetown 8. VIVIANA 030° 15' S. 032° 40' E. to Durban 9.

VIVIANA 030° 15' S. 032° 40' E. to Durban 9.
NIGELLA, NORWICH CITY with INTEGRITY towing portion of JAMES B.
STEPHENS about 030° 30' S. 034° (?00') E. to Durban M.Ls. 829,
382, 028° 00' S. 032° 50' E. to Lourenco Marques 11.
(C. in C.S.A. 1053C/16.)
RUMBA, SARABANDE, PORTSDOWN with S.T. (59?) 03.34 10.20
to 02.40 07.46 thence (?074° or 259°) 9.
DUNCTON 03.34 10.20 to (corrupt group) Palmanam 11.
SUSSEX, ARMERIA, QUEENBOROUGH, BELLWORT, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S.
27 02.57 S. 08.06 E. to 04.48 S. 09.56 E. thence 180° 12.5
CYCLAMEN about 04.00 01.50 E. to Takoradi 12.
BOREAS. PETUNIA. CROCUS returning Freetown from 01.36 S. 10.22. BOREAS, PETUNIA, CROCUS returning Freetown from 01.36 S. 10.22.

CORINTHIAN searching about 01.36 S. 10.22 BARFOSS M.L. 263 off Accra. M.Ls. (?253) 290 off Port Bouet. (F.O.C. W.A. 1257Z/16.) French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, French Sloop minesweepers COMMANDA.T DELAGE, LA GRACIEUSE 22.36 17.28 to 19.55 17.54 thence 177 9.

BUTSER, BIRDLIP off Cape Blanco to join S.L. 126 in 19.45 17.32 at 0930Z/17th, PELICAN, WEAR, SENNEN, BURDOCK, COMMANDANT DROGOU, SPEY, ROTHER with S.L. 126, 18.11 17.37 to 20.00 17.30 thence 345° 7.

(?GHERARDI) about 24.15 16.21 to North East, 20. DUNKERY, ORFASY, escorting 12.37 17.42 to Bathurst 8.5. CARMARVON CASTLE patrolling about 11° N. 30° W. 15.5. (F.O.C.W.A. 1311Z/16.)

/MELLO...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MELLO	B.A.D. 2123/13 to F.O.C.W.Africa only. If
to be	Portuguese ship MELLO is encountered she should
intercepted.	be boarded and search made for four German Naval
	Machinists reported to be stowaways.
	2. Ship may not be diverted if conditions do not
	permit boarding.

3. Ship left Buenos Aires 6th March for Lisbon direct. Usual average speed is 9 knots.

(D.E.W.D. 1125A/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. B.A.D.)

No further action to be taken, see Admty. 1954A/23.

T.S.33.

Sailed T.S. 33 a.m. 19th March. Escorts CYCLAMEN, ARRAN, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON and 2 M.Ls. (F.O.C.W.A. 1149Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty. CYCLAMEN.)

Sailing telegram. 2. 0830Z/16th. 4. 72 knots.

5. Coastal, ref. position N.S. Saldanha Bay 1 to 8. 6. HERTFORDSHIRE, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1210Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Durban. Arrived WARSPITE, QUILLIAM, MEPAL, FOXHOUND, QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (Com. i/c Durban 1201Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy C.D.10.

Transports, Situation. Position 16th March. DIL ARA, CITY OF CANTERBURY, DEVONSHIRE, KHEDIVE ISMAIL sailed March 16th for Durban. MAURETANIA (A) arrived and berthed March 15th (B) fuel stores embarking personnel (C) March 19th for U.K. via Freetown. TREVORIAN (A) sailed March 16th for Durban. (S.T.O. Capetown 1237Z/16 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban.)

Freetown Water Supply. It appears that ready-use water tanks have now been fitted in transports resulting in entirely unexpected increase in water requirements at Freetown. Plenty of water available on shore for delivery to water boats at 450 tons per hour but owing to slow rate of 40 tons per hour at which

owing to slow rate of 40 tons per hour at which transports can receive it convoys now being delayed solely on account of water consider return of GRYFEVALE or supply of alternative craft essential if this is to be avoided. Further very desirable consideration be given to fitting of additional intakes in transports.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1250Z/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

/HERO...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIOIS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

HERO, JAMES PARKER.

Your 0918/15th. As escort of JAMES PARKER would involve delay in programme HERO unable undertake duty in view of urgency due to state of boiler. Intend to sail HERO for Freetown 1800 today. S.O.A. 24 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1331Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)

HERO is not to be sailed until further orders. Report when JAMES PARKER expected to be ready to sail. Your 1331Z/16th refers. (F.O.C.W.A. 1503Z/16 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty. B.A.D.) Following is a repetition of my 1733/16th March to F.O.C.W.Af (begins) Your 1503/16th. JAMES PARKER now ready. Escort by HERO would involve 24 hours additional steaming which C.O. is unwilling to accept owing to condition of boilers. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1734Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. B.A.D.)

Hospital ship TJITJALENGKA arrived 16th March expected to sail 17th March. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1504/16 to Admty. etc.) TJITJALENGKA.

PENNSYLVANIA, Following received from R.O. Port Harcourt, SS. PENSYLVANIA reports an explosion close to ship 032° (?23') S. 017° 24' E. at 2228/4th March explosion. possibly caused by acoustic mine. (N.O.I C. Lagos 1510Z/16 to ?C. in C.S.A.) (R) R.A.W.A. Admty.) W.D.Note: D/C dropped by ROCKROSE, see 1231C/17.

My 1508/14. To provide for survivors ex EMPRESS OF CANADA request you will leave as MAURETANIA. much accommodation vacant as possible in MAURETANIA up to a total of 4850 for embarkation at Freetown. Of this total 500 will be Italian

P.O.W. 2. We will definitely be able to cover all requirements from South Africa in QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA and another sailing which is expected during second o (D.S.T. 1531A/16 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.) expected during second or third week of April.

CHARON.

Arrived and left Pointe Noire 16th H.M.Tug CHARON. (B.N.L.O.W.Af. 1645A/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. PARRSBORO. (R) Admty. etc.)

Convoy N.C.7.

 Sailing telegram. N.C.7. 2. 1700C/16th.
 Blank Review 8¹/₂. 5. (F) 026° 30' S. 014° 00' E.
 G. 030° 00' ?016° 37' H. 031° 54' 017° 13'.
 NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD,
 (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1701C/16 to Admty. C. in NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD sailed 1700/?16 escorting convoy N.C.7 to Saldanha Bay, E.T.A. 0800/20th. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 1730C/16 to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Saldanha Bay.)

/HERO ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

HERO.

Arrival 16th March. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1801Z/16 to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. R. M.O. Lagos.)

Sighting Report.

1. U.S. Authority at Ascension report that U.S. Aircraft en route Natal to Ascension sighted capital ships in 07.21 S. 21.00 W., at 1425Z/14th and ships were identified as U.S. Task Force on Ocean patrol. 2. No British forces in this area South of equator at this time. (F.O.C.W.A. 1801Z/16 to Comsolantfor (R) Cominch etc.)

Departure 14th March U.S. Sub. Chaser P.C. 610. U.S.Movements. (R.O.Pernambuco 1855Z/16 to Admty.)

Convoy B.J. 2. Series number 22. Following ships sailed Bahia 1130Z/15th March in convoy B.J. 2:-SEMINOLE U.S. RIO BRANCO, AL IRANTE JACEGUAY, ITAPAGE, ARARANACGUA, ITAPE, 5 Brazilian, MOTOCARLINE, Panamanian, for Rio de Janeiro. MIDOSI, BAGE, 2 Brazilian, for Santos. IN E (sic) CARIOCA, Brazilian, for Rio Grande. RAUL SOARES, BAURULOIDE, 2 Brazilian for Montevideo. (A.S.O. (I) Recife 1922Z/16 to Admty.)

Arrival (?BELLWORT) 1800Z/16th March. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 1946/16 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty.) BELLWORT.

HUMBOLDT.

Natal departure 16th U.S. Ship HUMBOLDT. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 2021Z/16 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Freetown.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

3 relief ships leave Piraeus at 1000B/16th March Greek Relief. for Gibraltar and are not to be molested. (Capt. S.1.0021B/16 to PAPANICOLIS.)

Sailed PAKENHAM, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA on operation. PAKENHAM PETARD (V.A. Malta 0026/16 to Admty. etc.) QUEEN OLGA.

G.U.S.

G.U.S. 5 sailed 0900A/15 Casablanca section to my 1325/13 . Possibly 1325/11 from Commob Oran intended. Oran section consisting of (list). Gibraltar section consisting of (list). Gun from JEAN BART aboard M. FORBES. (Commorseafron Ol50Z/16 to Connav. Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) Cinclant. F.O. Gibraltar. Com. N.O.B. Oran, N.S.H.Q. C.E.S. Comserforlant. C.T.F.65.)

Movements Aden.

Arrival FALMOUTH 0450Z departure FROBISHER 0706Z/16th. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0706Z/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Alexandria.

Arrivals 15th March DULVERTON, KELVIN, JAVELIN, ROCKWOOD, ABDIEL M.T.B. 79. Departures 15th March ABDIEL H.L. 358. (S.O. (I) Alexandria 0915B/16 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Bi weekly. / Ref. Part 2 this Opsum. 6 Liberators dropped 20 X 1000 lb. H.E. on Naples harbour on 2345 B Opsum No.108 Part 3. hours 13 March. Results obscured by cloud. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 0958Z/16.)

U.S. Command In accordance with Cominch order V. Adm. Hewitt N.W. Africa. hereby establishes and assumes command U.S. Naval Forces North West African waters. Administrative Command temporarily established Allied Headquarters Algiers. Request Cominch inform interested Commands and offices. (Commavnaw 1000A/16 to Cominch. C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F. (R) Vice-Opnav, C. in C. Lant.

Comamphforlant, Commorseafron, Comamphor, Naw, Comnob, Oran.)

/RORQUAL...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

RORQUAL. Arrived. (V.A. Malta 1120A/16 to Admty. etc.)

E.T.15. Intend to sail. (list, 8 ships). (F.O.I.S. 1126A/16 to F.O. Gib. etc.)

E.T.14. Sailed as in my 0925/14 less JOSIAH BARTLETT plus CROMARTY FIRTH. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1135A/16 to C. in C. Med.)

SIBYL. SPLENDID. SPLENDID. SARACEN. UNSHAKEN. TROOPER. (1) P.217 (SIBYL) pass 038° 30' 013° 00' at 2000/17th thence course 270° for Algiers and may meet TRIBUNE. (See also 1328A/16.) (2) P.228 (SPLENDID) keep well clear of P.217 (SIBYL) operate between 013° and 014° S. of 038° 42' after 2000/17th. (3) P.247 (SARACEN) pass position P. at 0001/18th and is then to operate between 011° 30' and 013° S. of 038° 42' N. of Q.K.B.20. (4)P.54 (UNSHAKEN) passes position P. at 0600/18th thence Malta.

(4)P.54 (UNSHAKEN) passes position P. at 0600/18th thence Malta. (5) Above S/Ms are not to attack other S/Ms unless certain of hostile identity.

(6) TROOPER will be ordered to leave patrol p.m. 18th.
(7) Capt. (S) 10 pass to P.247 (SARACEN).
(Capt. S.8. 1146A/16 to 8.S.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

Boom Defences. C. in C. Levant's 2015/14. Need for increase of boom working vessels in Mediterranean is strongly concurred in.

2. In Western Mediterranean there are now only four Bar Class (one of which is allocated to Levant)

and two trawlers with two more expected from West Africa. 3. Major maintenance commitments will continue at Gibraltar, Mers el Kebir, and Algiers. Future laying operations in Tunisia and rapid improvement of Malta boom defences (vide V.A.M.S. Malta 97/00140 dated 4th Feb.) will require assistance of at least four more boom working vessels.

more boom working vessels. 4. Only assistance obtainable from French is two small vessels employed at U.S. ports in Oran area.

5. Request requirements for Med. as a whole may be reviewed as compared with numbers in U.K.

(C. in C. Med. 1146A/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

EMPIRE PRIDE M.K.F.11. Your 1757/14 EMPIRE PRIDE concur to await convoy. (D.T.D. 1221A/16 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib.)

Enemy Units. Spitfire reports one large Tanker 4 escorts at 1100A today P.C.and S. 060° Cape Spartivento 15 - 270 - 8. (Capt. S.10. 1237A/16 to 8th S/M.F.,(R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med.)

/Capt...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

<u>Mediterranean</u> - Contd.

Enemy	Capt. (S) 10th 1237. Try and be in southern
Units.	portion of your area tonight.
Contd.	(Capt. S.8. 1434A/16 to THUNDERBOLT. P.217 (SIBYL) (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
	(R) Capt. (S) 10.)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. March 16th visuals. A.M. Taranto, Messina not covered low cloud. Further attempts p.m. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1312A/16.)

P.R.U. March 16th Visuals. 1430 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers.

1515 Messina no major Naval Units. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1634A/16)

SIBYL.

Para. 1 of my 1146. Onward routeing through 038° 30' 008° 01' at 0500/19th 038° 30' 003° 35' at 2102/20th thence R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 03' at 0645/21st. (Capt. S. 8.1328A/16 to P.217 (SIBYL) (R) 9th S/M F. C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algters.)

Enemy Tank Carrying Ships.

Your 1626A/14th. P.211 states bow sharp raked like Tribal destroyer with short forecastle on which gun estimated 4 inch was mounted, no indication of any landing ramp, long well deck with short heavy mast with Crosstrees stepped 3 length of well from forward.

2. Heavy derrick approx. same length as mast triced up. Well deck had 2 large lorries stowed athwart ship before mast and 4 abaft occupying all space. Superstructure abaft well deck appeared to have more accommodation than required by crew. Fat funnel, smoke indicates steam engine. 4 inch gun on deck house abaft gunnel, low poop and Spoon stern. No exactness claimed for observations as vessel had at least 4 air escorts. (Capt. S. 8.1338A/16 to D. N.I. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Tripoli Discharges.

For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges 14 March. Tripoli 4490 tons Benghasi 1350 tons. Discharges 15 March. Tripoli 3570 Benghasi 1600 plus 970 bulk petrol. (Mideast No. T.O. 0/16. Recd. 1420Z/16.)

ALGOMA, NASTURTIUM, CAMROSE, REGINA.

Your 1717/15 and a.m. 1343/14. As all R.C.N. Your 1717/15 and a.m. 1545/14. As all R.C.N. Corvettes ex operation Torch are en route for U.K. except ALGOMA request you will sail ALGOMA to overtake X.K.3 as additional escort to U.K. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail NASTURTIUM, CAMROSE, REGINA and ALGOMA to Halifax in accordance with para. 2 of 1343/14. (D.O.D. (H) 1455A/16 to C. in C. Med. C. in C.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C. Gib.)

/U.G.S. 6 ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destination of tankers. ESSOBAYWAY, JOHN A. BROWN, U.G.S.6. GARONNE, to Oran. HALLANGER to Oran for onward routeing to Algiers. All tankers to be discharged to shore stocks of fleet attendant oilers and returned to U.S.A.

(C. in C. Med. 1535A/16 to C.T.G.33 (R) Admty.etc.)

Movements, 16th March Port Said arrivals PINDOS, MIAOULES, BELVOIR. Departures PARTHIAN, PINDOS, BELVOIR, M.L. 357, M.L. 1005. Port Said. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1616B/16 to Admty. etc.)

Malta. Directive to Governor and C. in C. in substitution of that of May 7, 1942. (Air Min. 1625Z/16 to Mideast). See Lion Copy.

UNBENDING, Arrival UNBENDING, departure SARACEN. (V.A. Malta 1631A/16 to Admty. etc.) SARACEN.

U.G. Convoys (Cominch C. & R. 1825/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.) See America and West Indies. Schedule.

Movements, Departure 16th March ISLAY M.Ls. 350, 384, 385, (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 1903B/16 to Admty. Haifa. C. in C. Levant.)

Para. 3 of my 2055/17th Feb. not to F.O. (S). Divers have examined U-205 lying in 22 fathoms. U-205. Consider further salvage operations impracticable under present circumstances. Full report follows by air.

(C. in C. Levant 1926B/16 to Admty. (R) F.O. (S))

Movements, Following ships arrived today H.M.S. LINNET H.M.S. FOXTROT H.D.M.L.1250 M.M.S.133, M.M.S.171. Oran. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 2000A/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Departure 15 March L.C.T.160 arrival 16 March Bone. CORIOLANUS. (S.O.I.S. 2002A/16 to C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.C. Gib.)

TRIBUNE. Departure. (Cdre. Algiers 2004A/16 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival: POLRUAN. Departures: MISOA, BACHAQUERO, TRANSVAAL, REIGHTON Algiers. WYKE, VISENDA, KING SOL, TANGO, WILTON, LIDDESDALE, M.M.S. 53, One, 50, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, OAKLEY, L.C.T.164, 169, French Chasseur (Cdre. Algiers. 2006A/16 to Admty. etc.)

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 1625Z/16th March OUT To Mideast (For Cs.in C. Date 16.3.43. and pass to Minister of State and C. in C. Levant). Britman, Washington (For J.S.M.). Freedom Algiers (For General Eisenhower) (via Etousa as No.2116).

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

Malta - Directive to Sovemor.

651A

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IMPORTANT

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(Z.771. 16th March, 1943.

The following Directive to Governor and Commander-in-Ohief, Malta (in substitution of directive contained in Telegram No.230 (SECER) dated 7th May, 1942, from Colonial Office to Malta) is sent for your information. Begins

You are appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Malta,

2. Malta is henceforth included in the sphere of the Minister of State, and

3. In your capacity as Governor you will deal direct with the Secretary of State for the Colonies in all matters relating to civil administration, including any matters arising out of para. 6 below.

4. In your capacity as Commander-in-Chief, you will be supreme Commander in the Island, Where in your judgment the safety of the Island is endangered, you will exercise this authority in any manner which appears to you to be necessary. In general, however, you will:-

- (a) be guided by the policy laid down by the Middle East Defence Committee:
- (b) Refer to the Middle East Defence Committee any specific questions of importance, if time permits.

5. In the event of an invasion you will command all sea, land and air forces located in or operating from Malte.

6. For purposes of offensive operations based on Malta, you will, in your capacity as Commander-in-Chief, be responsible for the co-ordination of all administrative preparations, civil and military, within the Island. In

Cases/

In cases where there is a conflict of priorities, either between the requirements of two or more Service Commanders or between civil and military requirements which, in your judgment, cannot be resolved locally, you will refer the matter to the Middle East Defence Committee. However, you will have the right, where necessary, of direct communication with the British Chiefs of Staff and with the Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces in North Africa.

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7. Subject to the above, Service Commanders will remain under the command of their respective Commanders-in-Chier. in the Middle East. They will, however, keep you fully informed of all important signals exchanged with their respective Commanders-in-Chief, and, in particular, of all signals which in any way affect the discharge of the responsibilities laid upon you in the proceeding the responsibilities laid upon you in the preceding paragraphs.

Inds.

lst Lord

1625Z/16.

Received from Air Ministry at 0220/18.

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1. 2. . to 2. .

25

Brig. Jacob. Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord C.6. Tels, War Office. A.M.C.S.(C) C.C.C. Sec. of State for Colonies.

lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. 4th S.L. 5th S.L. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(F)(2) A.C.N.S.(W) Secretary Naval Sec. N.A.Mails D.C.D.(H)(2) D.C.D.(F)(2) D.N.I.(4) D. of P.(2); Duty Capt.(2) D.J.I.C.(2) D. of P.(9) Hd. of M.(2) I.P.(2) W.D. N.A.Mails W.D. Adm. Blake.

EML.

(Deleted 1225-2/29)

651 B.

RUINC: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or illiel Government Services.

MOST SECRET MESSIGE 1225Z/29 March CUT 'N: Middle East (for C, in C. and Pass to Minister of State and C. in C. Levant) Britman Washington (For J.S.M.) Freedom Algiers (For General Hisonhower) (71a E.T.C.U.S.L. as N. 2273,T.C.C.1517C/29) CYPHER

FROM: Air Ministry.

IMMEDIATE

OX 889 29th March 1943.

Directive to Governor and Commander-in-Chief Malta sent y u in CZ.771#(No.2116 to Freedom) has been amouded as follows:-

Delete the last four words of the first sentence of para.7, namely, " in the Middle East".

12252/29

Recd. in War Reg. 01.35/30. z 1625/15.

Circulation: Brig. Jacob For. Secretary First Sea Lord C.6 Tels. W/C A.M.C.S.(C) C.C.O. S/S for Colonies

JH

652

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report.

AI.. 533. Part 1. Offensive night 15/16 March. Bad weather hampered offensive operations. 2 Special equipment torpedo carrying Wellingtons on search for enemy shipping in Palermo and

Taranto Areas encountered ASV jamming and found no suitable target. 2 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily 1 patrolling Castelvetrano and the other patrolling Catania area.

Part. 2. Enemy air activity. Day 16th March. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 7 Beaufighters provided escort to incoming convoy from south and 7 Spitfires provided cover by patrolling to 60 miles east of Malta.

(A.H.Q. Malta, 2008Z/16.)

Situation report No. 11.

Western Desert. Unloading of 400 tons from cased petrol carrier at Zar is completed. 2. Operation M.H. 9 (my 1415/11 N.T. in W.D. para. 3 refers) all ships arrived, no incidents. 3. Convoy of 9 storeships and one tanker have

arrived Tripoli (L), force attacked by 12 bombers after dark 15th March, 2 possibly 3 enemy aircraft destroyed. No damage reported. Convoy of 3 storeships and a tanker due Maltaa.m./17th March. (C. in C. Levant, 2016B/16 to Admty).

PAKENHAM etc. enemy A/C.

Following has been read, addressed Malta W/T from Capt. D.12. Enemy A/C bombing - my position is O61° TCFQ 16 miles (indecypherable by W.D.) (Burnham Radio, 2038/16 to Admty). My 2038. No hits. Remaining group (corrupt group) dummy (corrupt group) frequency incorrect 6 corrupt groups). (Capt. D.12, 2106A/16 to N.O.I.C. Malta).

POOLE

E.T.A. Great Pass Beacon 0900B/17th in company with AMBER and convoy "Dimple" (2 ships). Your 1237/16 para. 2 refers. (N.T. in W.R.) (POOLE, 2149B/16 to R.A. Alexandria (R) C. in C. Levant, R.A.D. Mediterranean).

Movements Tobruk.

Arrived M.L. 358 SEVASTI VICTORIA, sailed M.T.Bs. 65, 75 and 76. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2207B/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

for French

Information / Your 1146A/28th Feb. Considerations of security render it impossible at present to give to the Ships. Ships. French information suggested in your paras. 1 and 2. If the details of the LL sweep were to leak out to the enemy, he could easily produce a mine which could not be swept by our present methods, and our security in mineable waters would be seriously jeopardised.

2. A separate reply has been made to your paras. 3 and 4 in A.M. 1536A/14th March. (Hd. of M. II. Approved by D.F.S.L. 2223A/16 to C. in C. Med., Cominch, F.O.C.W.A.F.) /Movements...

/Movements...

• • 653

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Libya. Arrived DERWENT, EASTON, ROMNEY G.S. SAKTOURIS, PRIMULA, GLOXINIA, FALK, L.C.T.154 M.L. 168 and M.L. 135. Sailed EL HANNEN. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 2300A/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Navigation
Following is a repetition of my 2057/7 (begins)
A navigation aid system has been established
Bone,
Algiers.
FSD 271 sets. F.O.I.S. and Com. Algiers are also
responsible for warning units in these areas
when plot information shows they are running into
danger (details).
5. It is intended to extend this system to
other ports. M.W.S.G.O. will be issued.
(C. in C. Med., 2314A/16 to Admty. C. in C. Levant)

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WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first the prophrase B2637/156 the list to communicate it to MOST Difference on the secret cypher of the secret

Frod Nore : Messages shown as having been sent in a One 17.3, 43 "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

CYPHHR

Addressed: Etousa,

for E. Ambassador Madrid (pass to U.J. Ambassador Madrid BRITAILAT Ankara (for Marshal) Chakmak) Regident Minister Achimeta z Passed by Colonial Office

Minister of stat. Cairo Britman Washington (for Dill) # Armindia (for Wavell) Pas P.A.I.C. Ai Fores Nairobi (for Platt) sp

Landforces Lelbourne (for Blamey) Defender Wellington (for Puttick) Dechief Capetown (for Smuts)

Air Ministry Special Signals Passed by

Passed by

U.S. 228.

Var Office North-West africa Situation Report

653A

.CU R.f. No. 7085

FIN 239. Jummary of operations Mar. 11-14.

16th March 1943

1. <u>Bighth Army</u>. The enemy attacks during 10th March on Ksar Philane were held and he withdrew Northwards during the following night, The R.A.F. gave very effective support to our ground forces in this action.

The enemy is believed to have withdrawn part of his retaining armor northwards towards Gabes-Sfax area with a view to constituting a strategic reserve.

2. goutheast Algerian Fords and Two Corps. Our patrols continued their offensive reconnaissances towards Cafsa. In my patrols were encountered to the West and North of the town.

3. First Army. In the 19th Corps Area our patrols were active and penetrated some distance East of Oussltia without necentering any appreciable opposition. In the 5 Corps Area the newy has infiltrated through the hills, towards the Deja-Djebel Aboid Road, and fighting has been continuous in the vicinity of st? D_0 Tamera.

4. Naval, Enemy I Boats operation in the Gulf of Bone night 11/12 March were dispersed by shore battery. On 12 March one of our distroyers was hit by an I boat torp do

and subsequently sank. About 170 survivors were picked

1.50 . Fr -2-

5. <u>Air.</u> W ather was favorable for bombing on 11 and 14 March only. On both days attacks were made on siebel ferries between Tunisia and Sicily. Several direct hits were observed. Bombing attacks were also made on Tunis, Sousse and Infidaville. Enemy torpedo bombers attempting to attack a convoy were driven off with considerable losses by our fighters. Fighters and fighter bombers carried out offensive reconnaissances throughout the period but were hampered by the weather.

6. Liatson. General Giraud's speech outlined a broad and liberal policy. It is expected that the action already taken to apply these principals will be continued by appropriate administrative action. In the near future dusirable changes in personnel may also be expected.

23262/16

Paraphrased text of this message passed to all addresses.

Ruccived in War Reg. 1125/18

Circulation

Brigadier Jacob Forsign Sacretary First Sea Lord C.6 Talegrams War Office 1.M. G. D. (C) Mr. Strang Foreign Office Mr. Radcliffe Ministry of Information

Adm. Blake D.D.O.D.(M) D.A. W.T. $V \cdot C \cdot N_{A} : : : : : : (A)$ A \cdot C \cdot N : : : : : (A) A \cdot C \cdot N : : : : : (A) A \cdot C \cdot N : : : : : (A) A \cdot C \cdot N : : : : : (A) D.M.J. C.C.L.J. D. of L.D. P.A.S.(3) Ad. Mack (4) D.O.D.(E)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.D.I.C.(2) D. of P. 2

NMB

1st Lord 1st Dalla (2) 4th B.I.

5th dal .

U.W.R.

D.C. (8) H of M D.N.I. (4)

I.P. (2 D.P.D C.N.

D.C.N.A.H.

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.A.39 sailed from Bombay 14th March for Suez via Aden. E.T.A. a.m./19th. B.A. 39. (P.S.T.O.I., 0319Z/16 to P.S.T.O.M.E., S.T.O. Aden, (R) D.S.T.)

M.B. 29. Convoy M.B.29 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0518Z/16 to Admty.)

"Monsters" Request information whether instructions contained in paras. 3 and 4 of A.M. 2329/2nd May, communi-1942 regarding "Monsters" communications remain cations. permanently in force.

2. Since some doubt exists request also a complete list of ships including U.S. merchant ships to which the above quoted or similar instructions are applicable may be signalled. (C. in C. E.F., 0529Z/16 to Admty.)

W.S. 26B. Convoy W.S.26B arrived less CHYEBASSA detached for Colombo. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0624Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

BIRMINGHAM. BIRMINGHAM expects to sail from Simonstown for Freetown and U.K. on 31st. 2. E.T.A. Freetown 7th April E.T.D. Freetown 8th April, E.T.A. U.K. 18th April. 3. Request port of arrival. (C. in C. E.F., 0933Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.Africa, BIRMINGHAM, C.S.4.)

Movements. Departure LISMORE escorting MANTOLIT to Colombo. (N.O.I.C. Madras, 1122Z/16 to Admty.) Departure 1149Z/16th TULIP, M.S. ZUIDERKRUIS M.F.A. SINGU escorting hired transport SANTHIA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1153Z/16 to Admty.)

B.M. 46.

Sailing telegram. 2. 1030Z/16th. 3. Expected time of passing Cochin 0700Z/19th. 3a. E.T.A. Colombo 0230Z/21st. 4. 8 knots. 5. C. 014° 11', 073° 24'. D. 009° 57', 075° 35'. E. 008° 03', 076° 52' thence Colombo. All ships ordered Colombo but hold routes to destination. 6. JUMNA.

(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 1049Z/16, 1051Z/16 to Admty.)

Movements, Arrivals 0615Z TAMWORTH with M.B. 29, 1000Z Bombay. PUNJAB. Departure 1030Z JUMNA with B.M.46. 64, 168, 146, 189, 222, 325. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 1108Z/16 to Admty., etc.)

/Convoy ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Convoy	Concur in	para.,	1 of you	r 2024/15th.	
Titles.	· · · ·	E.F.,	1221Z/16	to Admty., (R F.O.
	Ceylon.)				

V.H.F. in F.A.A. Request I may be informed of policy as regards fitting of V.H.F. in F.A.A. fighter aircraft. (C. in C. E.F., 1506Z/16 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., Com. N.F.S., Ceylon, R.A.N.A.S. I.O.)

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Dairy.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

11911 Report.

Following received via Lands End Radio -Intercept 2339 G.M.T. DE.W.S.L. (Ammagansett W/T). S.S.S.S.38° 48' N. 30° 48' W. no call or time given 2321 G.M.T. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0041A/16) (Burnham Radio, 0021/16 to Admty.)

Spain. policy if Axis Attack.

C.O.S.(W) 529. (1) Last few lines of F.A.N.106 give the impres-1 sion (wrongly) that Staff Conversations with Spanish Government are in progress but have not yet reached the stage when use of airfields in Balearics can be considered. (2) By transposing the last sentence of our C.O.S.(W) 514 the

meaning has been changed. (3) Suggest an amendment be sent to F.A.N.106, in order to obviate any possibility of misunderstanding. (Britman Washington, 0025Z/16 to Air Min.) Amended 1155Z/16.

For: Eisenhower Freedom Algiers. From: The Combined Chiefs of Staff. Ref. F.A.N.106. The final sentence of F.A.N.106(0230/13) may have given you impression that Staff Conversations with the Spanish Government are in progress. This is not so. (War Washington, 2012Z/16 to Etousa Hq. Freedom Algiers

(Action)).

BROCKVILLE.

E.T.A. Ambrose Channel 1700Z/16. (BROCKVILLE, Ol09Z/16 to C.E.S.F., Com.3, N.O.I.C. New York,)

Convoy Escorts.

Your 2251/13. (1) Intend subsituting SKEENA for ASSINIBOINE with O.N.17 on ASSINIBOINE rejoining group C.3 SKEENA will relieve RESTIGOUCHE in group C.4 (2) C.O. of SKEENA A/Lt. Com. E.E.G. Boak seniority of (F.O.N.F. Ollog (C.C.

(F.O.N.F., OllOZ/16 to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Londonderry. Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7.) Re ASSINIBOINE out of action and JED required to join S.C.124.

HIGHLANDER.

Sailed St. John's N.F. at 0200/16th to join H.X.229. (F.O.N.F., 0220Z/16 to N.O.E.T.U.24.1.18. (R) Connav, Comtask 24. C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

S.G.21.

Arrived. (S.O. Present Afloat Greenland, 0315/16 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.) C.T.F. 24, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. (?N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.)

Helicopters / ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Briny 3565. Situation re production, and attitude of U.S. Bureau of Aeronautics. Helicopters. (B.A.C., Washington, 0405Z/16 to M.A.P.)

U.S.S/M Notice. (Cominch, 0418/16, 1501/16, 1503/16, 1540/16, S/M Estimate 1541/16, 1542/16.) 16th March.

NORTH KING.

NORTH KING 400 troops on board leaking badly in No.l hold. Detached at 0545Z in 051° 50' N. 049° 45' W. to proceed to St. Johns N.F. Request air cover and local escort if available. (E.G.40, 0605Z/16 to C.T.24 (R) F.O.N.F.)

Cominch's 17?31/15 addressed to Comnaveu informs as follows: At 1727/10 inbound runner KOTA NOPAN exploded and sank at 07 S. 21 W. Prisoners taken U.S.N.Task Force Report. KOTA NOPAN (German) Blockade Runner Sunk. (Comnaveu, 0903/16 to Admty.)

Your 1507/15 (N.T. in W.R.) Arrivals at My 1439/13 March as amended by my 1009/15 March Bermuda. is correct but refers to L.C.I. (S.B.N.O.W.A.,0909Q/16 to B.A.D.)

C.U.1. Slow Convoys Departure p.m. 15th FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, WESTON for Azores for fuel.

Slow Convoys Escort. (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 09250/16 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Kingston). This is repetition of C.A.F.A.C.0140/16th. FOLKESTONE, WESTON, TOTLAND departed Willemstad 2200Z/15th for Azores accordance C.E.S.F. 0529/15th route (B) 018° 41' N. 063° 35' W. (C) 024° 59' N. 050° 36' W. (D) 033° 21' N. 030° 42' W. (E) 037° 13' N. 026° 09' W. thence direct. S. of A. 11 knots. Communications as prescribed by Cominch C. and R's 1641/6th Feb. 1943. No U.S.Navy Code held. (Radio Washington, 2000/16 to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar). Gibraltar).

T.B.8.

My 0945/14 (0954/14 intended) U.S.S. SAUEY sailed late as additional escort joining convoy, 1800Q/16 position 7°51' N. 057° 30' W. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 0937Q/16 to Admty.)

Convoy C.U.1. Request if possible names of all tankers nominated for C.U.1. At present only 2 escort oilers nominated and U.S. Authorities have no definite information. (N.C.S.O.Curacao, 0950QR/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D) Reply: 1047A/17.

T.G.61.1/ ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

1

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

T.G.61.1. Convoy O.T.3.

Cinclant 1437/15 informs as follows: Task Group 61.1 hereby constituted consisting of DUPONT, DICKERSON, ELLIS, under Lt. Cdr. Musgrave. Escort convoy 0.T.3 consisting of about 6 tankers scheduled to sail Aruba 20th to North Africa or Gibraltar. Follow routing prescribed by Cominch (CANDR). At 40° W. operational control shifts from me to Admiralty; and at 10° W. to C. in C. Med. Destroyers of this task group (61.1) will not enter Mediterranean. MONMOUTH and ESSO ROCHESTER are included in convoy fuel destroyers at sea from them. When directed by Commorrocan Seafron return to Aruba escorting convoy T.O.3 in accordance with Admiralty routing. When east of 40° W:(Communications) (Comnaveu, 0958/16 to Admty.)

Convoys S.C.122 H.X.229, U/B's. Indefinite D/F Bearings at 0724Z on series 8 suggest possibility that U/Boat may have re-ported Convoy S.C.122 or H.X.229. (D.D.I.C., 1017A/16 to S.C.122, H.X.229,

U/B's.
(D.D.I.C., 1017A/16 to S.C.122, H.X.229, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C. C.T.G.24.7.) D/F bearings on 15768 kc/s. at 1205Z indicate
U-Boat in contact with either S.C.122 or H.X.229.
(D.D.I.C. 1552A/16 to Escorts S.C.122, Escorts H.X.229,
(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.) A.M.1552A/16. Up to and including 1650Z numerous
transmissions on 15768 k/cs. and several on 7885 k/cs. indicate
at least two probably three U-Boats in contact with
H.X.229 using series 8 and at least one U-Boat in contact with
S.C.122 using series 7. S.C.122 using series 7.

(D.D.I.C., 1843A/16 to Escorts S.C.122, Escorts H.X.229, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C.)

V.C.N.S.

For 1st S.L. V.C.N.S. left by American Express Air Line for U.K. via Port Lyautey and Foynes at 1600Z/16. March. (S.B.N.O.W.Af., 1047Q/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., V.A. Gibraltar.)

S.C.122. CAMPABELLO.

CAMPABELLO disabled flooded stockhold fires out. GODETIA standing by. Can tugs be sent in view of U-Boat situation am not prepared to detach another escort. Position at 0730Z 050° 57' N.

O55° 22' W. Weather report. (HAVELOCK, 1219Z/16 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav. Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C., GODETIA.)

S.C.122 is short of 2 escorts and may have been reported by U-Boats. Request U.S.S. BABBITT and U.S.S. INGHAM may join as soon as possible. (HAVELOCK, 1231Z/16 to C.T.G.24.6., C.T.F.24.(R) Connav,

Admty. etc.

F.O.N.F. reports no tug available. HAVELOCK 1219Z/16th. Regret tug not available Argentia. C.O.A.C. requested sail salvage vessel from Halifax.

(C.T.24., 1655Z/16 to C.O.A.C. (R) C. in C. W.A., HAVELOCK, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., GODETIA.) C.T.U/ ...

659 10 100

16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S.C.122. CAMPABELLO (Contd.)

C.T.U.24.6.4 in INGHAM M/F D/F plus U.S. Dest. BABBITT M/F D/F departed 1845Z/16th to join S.C.122 and when directed by C. in C. W.A. to escort S.C.L.122 to Iceland. Estimate they will join at noon 18th.

(C.T.G.24.6., 1930Z/16 to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.(R) C.T.U.24.1.19 C.T.U.24.6.4.)

Recommend crew is taken off by GODETIA HAVELOCK's 1219/16.

who should then rejoin convoy. (Admty., 1936A/16 to C.T.F.24. (R) Connav, C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7. GODETIA, HAVELOCK.) S.C.122 P.C. and S. 051 55' N. 035° 44' W. 066° 7.5 knots. Signals D/F by HAVELOCK show possibility of convoy being shadow-Description of the state of the state

Following received from GODETIA (Begins) CAMPABELLO ed.

sinking. Crew taken off. Rejoining convoy Madevia (Ends). (HAVELOCK, 2000Z/16 to C.O.A.C. C.T.24., T.U.24.6.4.

(R) Connav, Admty, etc.) Your 1655/16th. In view of (HAVELOCK's) 2000/16th intend taking no further action.

(C.O.A.C., 2547Z/16 to C.T.24. (R) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., HAVELOCK, Admty.)

H.X.229.

SHERBROOKE sailed St. John's N.F. 1310/16th to join H.X.229.

(F.O.N.F., 1325Z/16 to M.O.E. T.U's 24.1.18. (R) Cominch, C. & R. C.T.24, C. in C. W.A.

(R) Comment, C. & R. C.T.24, C. In C. W.A. C.O.A.C.,N.S.H.Q., Admty.) Request you will sail VIMY when ready to join escorts H.X.229. (C. in C. W.A., 1435A/16 to A.C.I.C. (R) N.O.I.C. Londonderry. F.O.N.F., HIGHLANDER, VIMY.) Bearings of U-Boats 353° at 1330Z indicate H.X.229 shadowed in 050° 10' N.036° 57' W. Am steering evasive

course to eastward.

course to eastward. (C.T.U.24.1.18, 1630Z/16 to Cominch, C.T.F.24 (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., Ships escorting S.C.122.) Following from WITHERINGTON (Begins) lost touch with H.X.229 in Westerly gale in 049° 05' N 041° 23' W. at 1600Z/15th. Have been hove to for 48 hours. Am returning to St. Johns N.F. T.O.O. Nil. (F.O.N.F., 1950Z/16 to C.T.24. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C.T.G.24.7, Admty. C.T.G.24.6, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, T.U.24.12.3.) H.X.229 attacked in 50° 27' N. 35° 09' W. 1 ship(as cypher-ed) 2 ships torpedoed.

ed) 2 ships torpedoed.

(C.T.U.24.1.18, 2550Z/16 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.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course. Speed.
Summary	ACHILLES	352 N. 55 W.	075° 18.
1800 G.M.T.	S.S. ANDES	37 N. 602 W.	283° 19.
16th.	(D.O.D.(F),	1025Z/16 to Opnav	(R) Comnaveu)

U.K/ ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.K- Curacao, Tanker Convoys.

o, A.M. 1954/16th Jan. para. 2. Not now intended that British escort carriers shall be included in these convoys, C.U.1 excepted, unless experience shows that this is advisable. (D.O.D.(H), 1025A/16 to S.B.N.O. W.A. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, S.B.N.O. Curacoa, B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

British A.M.1155/21 Jan. Pending further experience Escort it is not intended to allocate British escort Carriers. carriers to U.C/C.U. convoys. (2) ARCHER and BITER are being allocated to Western Approaches for trade protection. (D.O.D.(H), 1049A/16 to B.A.D.)

COPIAPO. Guayaquil now reports COPIAPO refloated. (S.O.I. Callao, 1130R/16 to Admty. for D.N.I., (R) N.S.H.Q.) Cancel my 1730R/15. (S.O.I. Callao, No. T.O.O./16 Recd.1153/16 to Admty. (for D.N.I.).

Carriage of Passengers. Numbers allowed in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently. (D.O.D.(F), 1140A/16, 1156A/16 to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., etc.) See Lion Copy - General.

U-Boat. Submarine sighted 1725 G.M.T.127° 250 miles from Kingston. (Kingston, 1526R/16 to Admty.)

THORSTRAND. Have you any news of THORSTRAND (Nor.) due St. John N.B. 10th March? (D.T.D., 1541A/16 to N.S.H.Q.) Reply 1937/17.

FREDERICTON. E.T.A.1000Z/17th. Speed 12 knots, course 267° (FREDERICTON, 1625Z/16 to C.O.A.C., C.T.F.24.)

FAIRFAX. A.T. FAIRFAX (U.S) ex 229 A arrived St. John's N.F., March 15th. (N.S.H.Q., 16192/16 to Admty.)

T.A.38. A.T.40. Your 1600/13. On assumption E.T.A. Halifax of T.A. 38 will be late p.m. 24th, Admiralty propose to embark 28 and 29 for sailing as A.T.40, 30th March. (N.S.H.Q., 1635Z/16 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T., C.O.A.C., B.A.D. Connav.)

E.W.SINCLAIR / ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

E.W. SINCLAIR Oiling at Sea.

B.A.D.OlOl/16th, not to Admiralty. E.W. SINCLAIR has arrived without any oiling at sea gear. Effort being made to collect enough $5\frac{1}{2}$ inch armour hose from escort vessel. Submit S.O. escort may choose a more suitable ship than E.W. SINCLAIR as 2nd escort oiler. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1706QR/16 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.) Reply from B.A.D., 2155/17.

Dispositions.

Section South west. 0.N. number 169 T.U. 24.18.9 044° 31' 060° 02' 270° 6 alter to 248° in 060° 40' West. Halifax portion O.N. number 169 Western Local T.U.24.18.5 vicinity 044° 32' 060° 02' en route

Halifax 7.5. S.C.123 Western Local Escort Task Units 24.18.2 041° 11' 065° 24' 064° 7.5. H.F.42 MILLTOWN, SWIFT, CURRENT 044°25' 066° 35' 024° 7.5. Cape Cod Special escorted by FENNEL 043° 32' 064° 52' 233° 12.5 alter to 264° in 065° 23' West. L.25 on surface escorted by NANAIMO 044° 01' 065° 10' 244° 8, alter to 267° 045° 15' N 065° 24' W. FREDERICTON 044° 34' 065° 15' en route for Halifax 12. U.S.S. KENDRICK 045° 10' 065° 14' 270° 16 alter to 278° in 065° 30' W. WATUKA vicinity 045° 31' 060° 28' en route Halifax 7.5. S.S. EROS 040° 18' 060° 38' 265° 13. MAKENA vicinity 045° 24' 060° 41' en route Halifax 7.5 knots. (C.O.A.C., 1752Z/16 to Admty.)

U.G. Convoys. Schedule.

Your 1509A/14th following is schedule of U.G. Convoys: (1) U.G.S. 6 A March 19th. U.G.S. March 29th thence every 15 days. Convoy designations to following sequence 7, 7 A, 8, 8 A, etc. Voyage duration 19 days departing Casablanca 21 days after arrival. Cycle 60 days. (2) U.G.F. 7 April 2nd. U.G.F. 8 April 29. U.G.F. 9 May 20th thence about every 25 days. Voyage duration 12 days departing Casablanca 6 days after arrival. Cycle 50 days. (Cominch C. & R., 1825/16 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.) Amended, Cominch C. & R., 1659/20.

San Francisco March 13th ROSEVILLE NORAMLU for Movements. S.B.V.A. U.S. A.T. (N.S.H.Q., 1837Z/16 to Admty.)

BUXTON / ...

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

BUXTON. When ready about 21st sail BUXTON Boston to Halifax. Available for escort duty en route. (Cominch, 1848/16 to C.E.S.F.)

LINCOLN. When ready about 25rd route and sail LINCOLN Charleston to St. Johns N.F. Available for escort on (corrupt group) delay basis. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1851/16 to C.E. S.F.)

TENACITY. Following for C.C.R.T. My 1807/8 TENACITY arrived St. Johns 1522/16 Ex search for EMPIRE LIGHT. (F.O.N.F., 1921Z/16 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T.F. 24.)

- U-Boat. Guantanamo reports submarine contacts at 0000 G.M.T. 17th in 19° 56' N. 74° 18' W. (Kingston, 2035R/16 to Admty.)
- MAYFLOWER My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/ 59° 44' 31° 32', 234° 10. Weather report. (MAYFLOWER, 2101Z/16 to C.T.U., 24.1.13.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z. B. Sub sighted 58.25 N. 24.15 W. about 1200/14. C. Sub reported 15.38 N. 73.22 W. 1725/16. D. Plane makes radar contact 32.40 N. 78.15 W. 1530/16 Patrol craft makes sound contact 20.01 N. 74.18 W. 0210/15. Surface craft makes radar contact 35.50 N. 72.14 W. 1650/15. Surface craft makes sound contact 37.06 N. 74.55 W. 2225/15. (Cominch, 2125/16 to Admty.)

Escort / Lorsa 7911 Ref. Lorsa 7910, request outline Vessels, Design. / Lorsa 7911 Ref. Lorsa 7910, request outline in escort vessels which we should try to obtain in escort vessels laid down in 1944 including especially any new weapons equipment or requirements it is possible may have to be met by the time these ships are completed. (B.A.D., 2217Z/16 to Admty.)

Standardis- Sugge ation of (B.A. Ship Design.

Suggested Combined Shipbuilding Committee. (B.A.D., 2221Z/16 to Admty.) See Lion copy.

P.553 / ...

662 A.

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WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message and the text must first be paraphrased* if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services. (*Note: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad: "O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)

SECRET

Combined Shipbuilding Committee. Standisation of Design.

SECRET.

3

MESSAGE.

2221Z/16th March. IN.

(3)

Date. 17.3.43.

Recd. 1301

From B.A.D. Washington.

Flag Officers (X) Plug by Cable.

Addressed: Admiralty. Repeated: B.A.T.M. Ottawa. LORSA 7910.

The Combined Chiefs of Staff at their 74 Meeting agreed that a committee should be set up to be known as the Combined Shipbuilding Committee (Standardisation of Design) this Committee to be (Standardisation of Design) this Conmittee to be composed of representatives of the U.S. Navy Department British Admiralty, Royal Canadian Navy, U.S. War Department, The Maritime Commission, The War Production Board and Directorate of Munitions and Supply Canada, under the Chairmanship of a representative of the United States Navy Department. These members must be officials who are now concerned with standardisation and production of ships.
(A). The committee to be charged with the duty of advising advising all interested agencies on methods of achieving the greatest possible standardisation of design, equipment and layout of escort vessels, auxiliary craft, landing craft and merchant vessels, in the United States Great Britain and Canada and in so doing to have particular regard to operational experience and requirements.

requirements.

(B). To be responsible for seeing that all three countries are aware of the latest developments and for

countries are aware of the latest developments and for making recommendations for introduction of operational improvements in such a way as to cause least interference with the existing production schedule. (C). They should concentrate first on escort vessels the formation of this committee is gratifying as being a positive step forward. It is hoped that it will result in reducing the necessity for modifying U.S. built ships to meet our operational need. It is naturally not intended to interfere with Admiralty. U.K. programmes. It is intended that Admiralty representatives on this committee shall be B.A.S.R. (with D/B A.S.R.(Ships) be his alternate) and D.N.C. (W) with Mr. R.R. Powell Secretary of the Merchant Shipping Mission representing M.S.M. for Merchant ships in the first instance, the subjects to be raised on our side will be subjects to be raised on our side will be

(1) The Kaiser twin screw Corvette. (Frigate) Bridge Layout.

(2). Possible modifications to late which the U.S.are anxious to effect. Possible modifications to later DE's bridges (3). Reduction in number of types of smaller vessels now under construction, o.g. Minesweepers, Boom vessels etc. etc. also from the report of the department co-munitions and supply Canada, to the C.C.S. it appears that the question of standardisation of design between R.C.N. Frigates and R.N. Corvettes Building in Canada may be raised. Naturally, in matters of this kind B.A.T.M. will be consulted

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 ue raised. Naturally, in matters of this kind B.A.

 will be consulted.

 lst Lord.
 22212/16.

 lst S.L. (2)

 3rd S.L.
 P/L.

 4th S.L.
 D.B.D.(2)

 5th S.L.
 D.S. V. P. (2)

 Controller.
 D.S. V. P. (2)

 V.C.N.S.
 H

 A.C.N.S. (H)
 D.(4)

 A.C.N.S. (W)
 D. N. Controller. (3)

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16.5.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

P.553.

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Admty. 1558/14 and B.A.D.2515/15. C.O.A.C. is to sail P.553 to arrive Bermuda by 17th April. S.B.N.O. W.A. is requested to confirm that this date is satisfactory. (N.S.H.Q., 2242Z/16 to C.O.A.C. (R) S.B.N.O. W.A. Admty. Capt. D. Halifax, Cdre. in C. Bermuda, F.O.(S). F.O.N.F., B.A.D.)

U-Boat Attacked. Submarine attacked 07° 15' S. 29° 15' W at 1940 G.C.T/16. (Cominch, 2249/16 to Admty.)

Mark 24 mines. B.A.D. 2245/27th Feb. First supplies Mark 24 mines will be made to U.K. in April. As British personnel will not be trained by this date an American maintenance unit of 1 officer

and 4 men will be sent with first consignment of mines. Intention is that these shall be relieved by British personnel later. (2) Storage for mines must be dry and reasonably warm. Arrangements for charge batteries will be required. (3) Americans have promised to supply 1 dummy for equipment trials as soon as possible. (4) Weapon is being used in first instance from Liberators and Fortress. (B.A.D., 2301Z/16 to Admty. (R) A.Min. (Personal for V.C.A.S.)

HAMILTON.

E.T.A. Halifax, 0220Z/17th. (HAMILTON, 2345Z/16 to C.O.A.C. (R) D. Halifax.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Air Raid Darwin. 44 Enemy aircraft attacked Darwin Naval Oil Fuel Installation and other targets 15th. Preliminary reports of damage (details) Pipeline considerably damaged. Other damage, M/S Store roof blown off. Public Works Department Dieseline Tank leaking. P.W.D. Store P.W.D. Workshop and Railway Bond Store received direct hit. (A.C.N.B., 0646Z/16 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

Digest Serial No.419 March 15th. (5) Two Fortresses attacked Wewak Aerodrome and surrounding area night 14th. Photos Wewak Harbour Noon 15th reveal three medium merchant vessels in addition to one patrol craft, two small merchantmen, reported there over past few days, and 45 barges. Also two destroyers reported patrolling off harbour. (11) 15 Enemy

aircraft attacked Oro Bay evening 14th causing damage to dock

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16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.419 March 15th (Contd.)

(12) Two destroyers area but no casualties. sighted in Kaimana Bay and three small Merchant Vessels in vicinity afternoon 15th. (13) Three Hudsons three B.25's and four Beaufighters attacked convoy of three small vessels loaded with troops to northwest Yumaroe Islands scoring two direct hits and

causing casualties among troops afternoon. One Beaufighter lost. (14) 24 bombers escorted by 20 fighters (See 0420Z/24) raided Darwin forenoon scoring hits on oil tanks buildings and installations and wounding 15 personnel. Spitfires intercepted destroying one bomber six Zeros plus one Bomber six Zeros probably and damaging two bombers three Zeros. Four Spitfires shot down two pilots safe one injured one killed. (G.H.Q., S.W. P.A., 0734Z/16)

Movements.

Arrivals Port Moresby 14th ARUNTA Milne Bay 14th Bowen Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th BUNGAREE, Departures Townsville 14th U.S.S. VICTORIA Cairns 15th GLENELG for Milne Bay. Milne Bay 14th VENDETTA for Townsville.

 MANUNDA arrived Brisbane 16th.
 U.S. Transport CREMER departed
 Brisbane 14th due Townsville 17th.
 H.T. ILE DE FRANCE departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 16th due Fremantle 22nd. (A.C.N.B., 1141Z/16 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1342A/16, 1343/16.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly Summary. My 1059/22nd July. (1) (a) On 10th (? 11th intended) HARVESTER sank U.4444 with depth charges and by ramming in 52° 05' N. 27° 03' W. (b) On 11th F.F.S. ACONIT, who was standing by HARVESTER, sank U.432 by depth charges and by ramming, after

HARVESTER / ...

665 16.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1

Weekly Summary. HARVESTER had been sunk. (2) On 11th a Liberator aircraft attacked a U-Boat which had been sighted on the surface in 52° 05' N. 27° 03' W. U-Boat left a trail of oil 3 miles long after attack. (3) On 12th a Hudson aircraft from Gibraltar attacked a U-Boat which was sighted on the surface in 27° 32' N. 14° 05' W. The U-Boat submerged 10 seconds after the attack and one possible body was seen in the water. (4) On 14th a Sunderland aircraft attacked a U-Boat in 51° 30' N. 21° 00' W. 6 depth charges straddled the U-Boat while the conning tower and stern were still visible. (D.A/S.W., 2235A/16 to Cominch).

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17.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation "Regulation". 1. Unspecified craft were reported today at 0906 in 45.15 N. 12.00 W. and at 1324 in 45.11 N. 11.00 W. NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER and METEOR sailed for convoy protection on the U.K. - Gibraltar route and for Operation "Regulation, at 1615A today.

Fog.

2. Fog caused some closing of ports today on the East Coast and Portsmouth; Convoy F.N.71 was cancelled and movements of shipping were rendered uncertain.

K.M.S.11.	3. TRIONA, a straggler from Convoy K.M.S.11 sighted a U-Boat in 52.33 N. 12.51 W. at 0708Z. The ship returned to the Clyde at 1044/19 with cargo shifted.
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Coastal 4. A/S Trawlers BONITO and GRAYLING sailed from craft Milford Haven today escorting 4 M.Ls., 2 M.G.Bs convoy. and 4 M.T.Bs to Gibraltar.

North Atlantic.

Convoy 5. SS.MOLLY PITCHER in Convoy U.G.S.6 was torpedoed today in 38.21 N. 19.54 W. (about 250 miles N.E. of San Miguel, Azores.)

South Atlantic.

6. CHESHIRE sailed from Montevideo for Capetown at 1730Z escorting two tugs with a floating dock in two sections.

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17.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

7. It is reported that DERWENT and the Tripoli (L) convoy shot down an aircraft p.m. today off Misurata.

Convoy M.W.23. 8. A convoy of 3 merchant ships and one tanker arrived at Malta this morning.

9. S/M SPLENDID fired 4 torpedoes at a 10,000 ton southbound tanker escorted by 4 destroyers at 1040 today off Trapani. Three hits were made and it is believed the ship sank.

10. Nine Beauforts from Malta, escorted by 9 Beaufighters attacked a tanker of 10,000 tons in convoy with a 5,000 ton merchant ship, escorted by 3 destroyers and 15 Me.110s and Ju. 88s at 1227 today in 38.18 N. 16.38 E. (48 miles N.E. of Cape Spartivento) steering south-west. The tanker was attacked with 7 torpedoes and was damaged or sunk, and the enemy aircraft escort suffered 1 : 2 : 6.

East Indies.

Destroyers.

11. After adjusting complements with other Australian manned destroyers QUIBERON and NEPAL are being sailed to Australia with as many ratings as possible of over 2 years' foreign service. These two destroyers will be available for operations by mid June, but will not be fully worked up.

Only two destroyers (NIZAM and QUICKMATCH) will be retained at Kilindini; the remainder of the Eastern Fleet destroyers will operate on the South Atlantic Station for as long as the U-Boat threat remains.

12. C. in C. E.F. urges that heavy ships of his Fleet should be exercised in fuelling at sea by trough method as used in the U.S. Fleet, in anticipation of future co-operation with the U.S. Fleet.

668 17.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

U-Boat 13. Further attacks occurred on Convoy H.X.229 attack on from 0259 onwards and at 0540Z today VOLUNTEER reported that a total of 8 ships had been H.X. 229, more ships torpedoed, viz:torpedoed. SOUTHERN PRINCESS (British tanker 12156 tons) attacked 0259 - 0517/17: sunk. NARIVA - attacked 0259 - 0517/17: left sinking in 50.54 N. 33.35 W. EL MUNDO - attacked 0259 - 0517/17: left sinking in 50.54 N. 33.35 W. ELIN K - PENNYWORT reported picking up survivors at 2245/16: apparently attacked at 2215/16. ZAANLAND WILLIAM EUSTIS - torpedoed 2334/16. IRENEE DU PONT (U.S. tanker) - torpedoed 0259 -0517/17 and left sinking in 50.43 N. 35.02 W. at 0900Z/17. JAMES OGLETHORPE - torpedoed 2334/16. HARRY LUCKENBACH - torpedoed 0456 - 0517/17. At 0456, when the convoy was attacked, owing to escorts being away counter-attacking U-Boats and picking up survivors there were only three escorts with the convoy, and after attack at 0517 two only. In a further attack at 1300Z today Dutch SS. TERKOELEI and British SS. CORACERO were sunk in approx. 51.22 N. 33.02 The convoy made two turns to port. At 1355 a destroyer attacked 2 U-Boats, one of which is considered to have been severely damaged. WITHERINGTON, one of the escort, lost touch with the Convoy in a westerly gale in 49.05 N. 41.23 W. at 1600Z/15 and after being hove to for 48 hours she returned to St. Johns N.F. on 17th March. SHERBROOKE sailed from St. Johns N.F. at 1310/16 to join the escort. At 0230Z today ABELIA reported that she was proceeding to overtake H.X.229; and C. in C. W.A. at 1435A/16 asked A.C.I.C. to sail VIMY when ready to join the escorts (sailed 0318/18). At 1437Z C.T.U. 24.1.18 reported that persistent attack would not permit fuelling and the situation was becoming critical. D/F and sightings indicated that many U-Boats were in contact. The Admiralty estimate that up to 9 U-Boats may be in contact with the convoy and about 15 others may attack H.X.229 or S.C.122 during the next 24 hours. Two Liberator aircraft arrived over the convoy at a range of 1000 miles from base, at 1630 today and patrolled until 2045 when they reported 6 U-Boats astern of the convoy, 3 of which were attacked.

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17.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

on S.C.122, 7 ships torpedoed.

U/B attack 14. Convoy S.C.122 (53 ships) was attacked by U-Boats in 52.14 N. 32.15 W. (about 720 miles N.N.W. of Flores, Azores) at 02012 today and 4 ships were torpedoed and sunk, viz:-KINGSBURY, KING GRUFFYD, ALDERAMIN and FORT CEDAR LAKE. No U-Boat was seen and no contacts were made. At 1141Z HAVELOCK reported that H/F D/F today indicated that about 6 U-Boats were in the immediate neighbourhood of the convoy. Aircraft arrived at dawn and carried out attacks in the morning and afternoon. At 1406Z GRANVILLE was torpedoed and sunk in 52.50 N. 30.35 W.; no aircraft was with the convoy at the time; and at 2200Z PORT AUCKLAND and ZOUAVE were torpedoed in 52.58 N. 29.13 W. At 2352Z/17 the U-Boat resurfaced and again torpedoed PORT AUCKLAND which was still afloat. GODETIA, who was standing by, attacked the U-Boat but there is no evidence of destruction. HAVELOCK's asdic is out of action, and the sound equipment of INGHAM, which is proceeding to reinforce the escort, is inoperative. The Admiralty estimate that about 4 U-Boats are in contact with the convoy and about 15 others may attack S.C.122 or H.X.229 during the next 24 hours.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. The U.S. Navy Dept. wish to attempt to cut the following cables -Singapore - Saigon. Singapore - Labuan. Singapore - Hong Kong. Singapore - Batavia. Labuan - Hong Kong. Manila - Hong Kong.

16. A submarine unsuccessfully attacked with torpedoes a small Allied convoy in 25.41 S. 153-51 E. at 0410Z today.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SEVERN.

Consideration is being given to fitting out SEVERN as raiding-party carrier. It would be appreciated if a representative to Combined Ops. could visit SEVERN in next few days in Clyde area with representatives of Capt. S.3 to discuss

necessary alteration. The following points require consideration. (F.O.S. 1102A/17 to Capt. S.3. C.C.O.)

Your 1947/16. Concur. (C. in C.W.A. 1533A/17 to V.A.A.H.F.) ARCHER. BITER.

BATORY.

BATORY will come under the control of D.S.T.O. Monck for service until further notice as a training ship. (D.S.T. 2140A/17.)

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 1653/16. Amend para. G. to read ULTOR vicinity 44° 23' N. 13° 50' W. leave patrol 1200/16 diving by day to 43° Ol' N. 12° 54' W. then to South. 105 miles in 24 hours. Add new para. J. TRESPASSER escorted by ALECTO vicinity 57° 20' N. 06° 55' W. for Holy Loch. (F.O.S. 0926A/17.)

E.T.A. Clyde boom 0715A/18 via Sounds of Mull and Islay, TRESPASSER in company.

(ALECTO 1036A/17.)

1. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1801/11. From position:-042° 59' 013° 50' diving by day proceed through. P. 044° 01' 2° 54' thence via route "Green" to R/V in position X. 000° 0. 012° Round Island Scilly Isles 7 miles at 1400/24 with escort as arranged by Capt. S. 3 for passage to Holy Loch. Proceed on surface at C.O's discretion East of 009° W. 2. DZIK and UNRULY Southbound on route "Brown" and "Red" crossing 043°

N. at 2200/18 and 0500/22nd respectively. (F.O.S. 1221A/17 to UNA.) Arrival Port H.H.Z. 1500A/17 FIDELE, X.5 and X.7. (BONAVENTURE 1455A/17 to Admty.)

Position of submarines at O800A/18 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. JUNON on patrol Lofoten Area.

B. SOKOL escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee 0830/18th for Aberlady Bay sailing thence 1800/18 for R/V off Duncansby Head.
C. UNRULY, 49° 10' N. Oll° 40' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N.
Ol2° 26' W. towards 43° Ol' N.Ol2° 26' W. speed 105 miles per day.
D. ULTOR 42° 59' N. Ol2° 54' W. dived by day towards Gibraltar.
E. DZIK 44° 10' N. Ol3° 22' W. dived by day on 180° course, speed 105 miles. per day.

E. DZIK 44° 10' N. 013° 22' W. dived by day on 180° course, speed 105 miles, per day.
F. SHAKESPEARE on patrol vicinity 45° 01' N. 09° 59' W.
G. HERRING on patrol vicinity 45° 15' N. 007° 35' W.
H. SHAD on patrol vicinity 45° 10' N. 05° 58' W.
J. UNA dived by day from southward passes position 42° 59' N.
013° 50' W. at 2300/18, thence to 43° 01' N. 012° 56' W. towards
49° 10' N. 012° 56' W. Speed 105 miles per day. (F.O.S. 1726A/17.)



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HOME CONVANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (Contd.) My 1726/17 para. A. Amend to read JUNON very approx. 62° 20' N. 001° 50' E. probably on surface towards Lerwick 8¹/₂ knots. (F.O.S. 2238A/17 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE, Sailed R.A.(A) H.F. in INDOMITABLE in company HOWE. HOWE for Scapa in accordance with R.A.(A) H.F. 1217/14. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1148A/17.)

CAMELIA, FORMOSA, MONGABARRA. FORMOSA, and MONGABARRA 35° 57' N. 25° 19' E. (N.A.Stockholm 1601/17.)

ADVENTURE. E.T.A. Boom 1630A/18. My position 049° 42' N. 013° 30' W. (ADVENTURE 1602A/17 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

NEWCASTLE. My 1925/16. NEWCASTLE and TANATSIDE sailed. (C. in C.Plymouth 1617A/17.)

AMARAPOORA. Hospital ship AMARAPOORA will be required mid-April to transport 338 sick and wounded Italians from U.K. to Lisbon, where up to 500 British sick and wounded and protected personnel will be embarked for U.K. (Hd. of M. 2057A/17 to A.C.O.S.)

ORKAN. Cancel my 0949/16. ORKAN will be sailed to arrive Plymouth 22nd March to relieve MUSKETEER. (C. in C.H.F. 2358A/17 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1124A/16. "Device" returned to Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0750A/17.) Your 1511/16. "Limited" returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0755/17.)

Intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on lat. 50°
 20' N. between Ol° 45' W. and O2° 25' W.
 Leave Weymouth at 2000 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/18th.

3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device." (F.O.I.C. Portland 1137A/17.)

/1. N.O.I.C...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.)

N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail Force as follows and give them latest intelligence.
 Force. 3 M.G.Bs. 1 M.T.B.
 Object. Destruction of enemy shipping.

4. Execution. Leave Newhaven at Dark 17th and proceed through passage two in Q.Z.X. 771 to sweep enemy coastal route between Cap D'Antifer and Le Treport. 5. Return through passage two to arrive off Newhaven by daylight. Codeword "Advent."

(C. in C.Portsmouth 1216A/17.)
2. 3 M.G.Bs. 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven patrolling to southward.
3. 2 Chasseurs patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy. 4. M.L. 572 at St. Helens. WENSLEYDALE, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at

Yarmouth. 5. M.G.Bs. 54 and 53 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1234A/17, 1550A/17, 1750A/17.)

Patrol 17th March.

. Forces employed Group A. M.T.Bs. 203, 204, 231. B. M.T.Bs. 94,96,227, 239.

2. Group A. To patrol between 323° Sept Iles Light 5 miles and 063° Sept Iles 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 shipping on coastal passage. 4. Groups to leave Dartmouth 1900/17 and proceed to patrol-lines at speeds not exceeding 20 knots. Leave Patrol as required to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light/18. 5. One Narvik Destroyer and 2 T.Bs. at Havre. E-Boats at Cherbourg.

7. Codewords GroupA"Scent", Group B. "Scent 2".

(C. in C.Plymouth 1355A/17.) Your 1355/17. "Scent" less M.T.B. 231 and "Scent2" sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1912/17.) My 1137A/17. M.G.Bs. 54 and 53 both defective. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2154A/17.)

Biscay S/M

1. ULTOR leaves patrol at 1200/17 and proceeds diving by day through 043° 01', 012° 54' thence Patrol. Gibraltar as ordered by V.A.Gibraltar. (F.O.S. 0914A/17 to S/Ms.) My 1534/17. HERRING move to 045° 15', 007° 35. (F.O.S. 1652A/17 to S/Ms.) From 1800A/17, SHAD and HERRING are to act under orders of C. in C.Plymouth. F.S.L. 2 Paragraph 3 (B) refers.

(F.O.S. 1716A/17 to S/Ms.)

Operation NEWFOUNDLAND take MUSKETEER and METEOR under his "Regulation." orders. Passing gate at 1600 today and proceeding by following route. S.O.A. to be not less than 18 knots.

2. Route. By G.Z.S. 278 and 389 to position P. 050° 11' N. 006° O2' W. Q. 050° 09' N. (?012°) 58' W. R. 049° 10' N. 014° 05' W. thence covering K.M.F.11 (S.O. of escort WREN) and K.M.S. 11 (S.O. of escort BROADWAY) keeping west of 013° 40' W. and within 60 miles of convoys.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

3. Object A. Protection of convoys. B. Operation "Regulation." Operation "Regulation." (Contd.)

4. Further movements will be ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. When fuel shortage so requires NEWFOUNDLAND is to detach destroyers to return in company to Plymouth.

5. British and Allied S/Ms are operating in and on passage through area.

6. Codeword to limit of fighter range "Skunk." (C. in C.Plymouth 0953A/17.)

My 0953/17. NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER, METEOR sailed for patrol.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1615A/17 to Admty.) After passing position C. 045° 45' N. 027° 40' W. pass through position D. 045° 36' N. 022° (?56') W. E. 041° 59' 024° 48' W. F. 041° 02' N. 022° 01' W. thence Freetown. F.O.I.C. Gib. is requested to signal onward route. 59' N. (C. in C.Plymouth 1801A/17 to UGANDA, (R) NEWFOUNDLAND, ACHILLES.)

Operation	My 1706A/14. M.T.B. 627 sailed	at	1345A/17.
$V_{\bullet}P - L_{\bullet}$	My 1706A/14. M.T.B. 627 sailed (A.C.O.S. 1455/17.)		

Operation My 1735/16. Enquiry now discloses that depth of water in which safe was sunk is doubtful as it was V.P - R.jettisoned close to wreck. M.T.B. 631. (A.C.O.S. 1831/17 to Admty.)

Operation "Upsilon Four."

Your 1129/16. Well done. Return to Lerwick by route "Orange." (F.O.S. 1947A/17 to JUNON.) Doubt exists regarding date of your 1129. Estimate your position at 0800A/18, 062° 38' N. 001° 50' E. Report if this is more than 20 miles in error. (Capt. S.9 2309A/17 to JUNON.)

Allied Air Activity.

/ Your 2148A/19th January. Interviewed March 16th Murmansk Col. Ivanov Cmdre. Murmansk A/A guns. Conveyed Balloon Admiral Miles grave concern about shore balloons Barrage. not being flown (?limit) number of low-level attacks. Offered to send for supply of land-type

balloons for defence of docks to replace any lost through weather or gunfire. Was assured that Russians have plentiful supply of balloons and that they would be flown whenever weather conditions made low-level attacks possible. Made preliminary arrangements to obtain from shore (?initial) charge of gas for ships balloons to be flown whilst ships are at anchor in vicinity of docks. This shore supply essential to conserve ships supplies for topping up and use at sea. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk 1348A/17 to Admty.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Off Finisterre. | Focke-Wolf sighted in 042° 03' N. 015° 02' W. (MALCOLM 1445A/17 to C. in C.W.A.) Fock-Wolf activity in vicinity 042° 50' N. 013° 30' W. at 1505. (C. in C.Plymouth 1635A/17 to MALCOLM, WITCH.)

Scapa.

Low-flying enemy A/C approached within 6 miles of fleet anchorage at about 2,000 feet tonight. Sufficient light to render ships visible. Came from 5 miles S.E. of Wick, circled E. of Wick

and S. of Castletown to Dunnet Head. Then over Swona at 1000 feet on easterly course. No guns opened fire. Fighters did not take off. (A.C.O.S. 2345/17 to Admty.)

Mining.

East Coast clearance sweep. Detonated 1 mine 207° 54B Buoy 7 cables, from which position a line of mines running 095° was seen. In last lap parted 1 sweep on 54B and 2 on MORAVIA. Must sink buoy. Visibility poor throughout. In tend passing Rough at 0715/17 and returning at 1900. Will SPINA be available to R/V between 54A and 3 Buoy. (M/S 9 No. T.O.O. Recd. 0207/17.)

S.O.90A.

My 1326/14. Weather conditions indicate sufficient improvement for you to attempt passage. Proceed accordingly. If weather is too bad to continue return to shelter.

(R.A.M. 0918/17 to SCOTT.) My 1210/8 and 1102/14. SCOTT sailed from Broad Bay at 1130A today. (R.A.M. 1137/17 to A.C.I.C.)

2 Swedish Fishing Craft mined. Mining results of Sound and Kattegat. Press reports. 1. Swedish fishing vessel M.O. 697 mined and sunk Lommabukten 13th March. 2. Swedish fishing vessel NORMANDIE mined and sunk eight miles N.N.W. of Lysegrund 16th March. 3. 20 Swedish West Coast trawlers entered Baltic on 16th March owing to mine danger. About 100 more are expected. (N.A.Stockholm 1717/17.)

4th M/S F. KELLETT, SELKIRK, ALBURY, ELGIN and SUTTON of 4th M/S Flotilla anchored in Weymouth Bay owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2102/17.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessels. Following unspecified craft reported. 0906/17 position 045° 15' 012° 00' and 1324/17 045° 15', 011° 00'.

(F.O.S. 1534A/17 and 2014A/17 to S/Ms.)

A Ju. 88 heavy fighter reported an unspecified unit in 45° 15' N. 12° W. at 0906 and at 1324 a further report of a similar nature referred to position 45° 15' N. 11° W. (D.D.I.C. 1600A/17 to C. in C.Plymouth (R) UGANDA.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. My N.R. two. P.C. and S. 52° 25' N. 28° 59' W. 100°, 6 knots. (A/C X7UM 1115/17 to 15 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C X7UM 1130A/17 to 15 Group.)

U-Boats reported. By TRIONA in K.M.S.ll. See Shipping. Am over enemy SM in 51° 32' N. (?longitude). (A/C P7NG 1437A/17 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 51° 28' N. 29° 32' W. (A/C 93 Sqdn. Duty G. 1548A/17 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy submarine 51° 21' N. 32° 00' W.

(A/C P7NJ 2008/17 to 15 Group.) Am over 3 enemy S/Ms in 51° 18' N. 32° 31' W. (A/C 199 Sqdn Duty J 2050A/17 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 51° 12' N. 32° 20' W. (A/C 199 Sqdn Duty J. 2159A/17 to 15 Group.)

Navigational.

Yarmouth.	Port is closed due to fog.
	(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0725A/17.)
	Port now open.
	(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 0911A/17.)

Brightlingsea. Port closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 0730A/17.) Port open. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1252/17.)

Lowestoft. Port is closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0814A/17.) Port open. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1912A/17.)

Portsmouth.

Port of Portsmouth closed due to fog. (C. in C.Portsmouth 0925A/17.) Port now open. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1308A/17.)

/Needles...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Needles Port Needles Channel closed at 1743 owing to fog. Channel. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1826A/17 to Admty.)

Technical.

Importance / A destroyer recently torpedoed in the battle of of Zig-Zagging. / A destroyer recently torpedoed in the battle of the Atlantic was steaming at 6 knots on a steady course for 2 hours prior to her torpedoing. The dangers of such a procedure are obvious and it cannot be too strongly stressed that ships should zigzag whenever possible. (C. in C.W.A. 1359Z/17 to W.A.Escort Vessels.)

Casualties & Defects.

BELGOL. Your 1246/7. Grave doubts as to advisability of attempting to dock BELGOL in A.F.D. 17 owing to lack of stability when vessel is lightened sufficiently for lifting by dock. (D.N.C. 0623A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

LEWES. My 0040/16 and 2025/16. Steering defect will be repaired and vessel sailed at 1600 today. Add 24 hours to all times in my 0040/16. (F.O.Humber 1016/17.)

ARIGUANI. Left Salen Bay at 1240A/17. Am proceeding according to Admty's. 0136A/11 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1025A/11. Intend making west coast of Scotland Route off Ness Point Isle of Skye. Estimated S.O.A. 4 knots. (ARIGUANI 1242A/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

L.C.V. 584. Whilst being towed from Inverary to Rosneath p.m. March 15 by H.M.Drifter GOLDEN GIFT L.C.V. 584 broke adrift and was subsequently sunk one mile off Inellan whilst L.C.T. 128 was endeavouring to take her in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1256A/17.)

DOUGLAS. My 1455Z/16. DOUGLAS reports that she can carry on as long as she is not asked to exceed speed of 22 knots. (E.G. 2 1420Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

/M.G.B. 641...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.G.B. 641. My 2233/15. M.G.B. 641 reports bent port outer shaft which necessitates slipping for renewal. Intend to sail to Shoreham at 0900/18 for repairs. (N.O.I.C. Newhaven 1653A/17.)

CULEBRA. If weather suitable intend sailing BUSTLER towing SS. CULEBRA at 0700/18. THIRLMERE in company. E.T.A. Loch Ewe 1300/18. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1657A/17.)

- HALCYON. My 1728/16. HALCYON port engine manoeuvringvalve defective. Anticipate sailing 0700/18. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1735/17.)
- Unknown Ship. Following from Tiree Radio Grade 3, 269°, distress, T.Q. 92. (Port Patrick Radio 2217 G.M.T/17 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- BLYTH. BLYTH reports main circulator engine out of action. She will enter at slow speed tomorrow as soon as port is open. (M/S 9 2324A/17 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

Shipping & Convoys.

M.K.S.9.

NAPANEE, BADDECK detailed to escort to Belfast and Clyde Light Vessels E.T.A. 007° W. 2100A/17. Loch Ewe ships proceeding independently on arrival in 008° W. E.T.A. Barra Head 0200A/18, Loch Ewe 1300A/18. (ST. CROIX 0030A/17.)

E.T.A. 2200A/17. Ships in company are:-ST. CROIX, urgent defects. REGINA, QUALICUM, WEDGEFORT, urgent defects. PRESCOTT urgent defect, hull leaking badly aft. SHEDIAC urgent defect. KENOGAMI urgent defect. BATTLEFORD urgent defect, steering gear defective. FORT YORK in company. (ST. CROIX 1708A/17 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)

Arrived ST. CROIX, KENOGAMI, PRESCOTT, FORT YORK, WEDGEFORT. (Cmdre. Londonderry 2202A/17.)

K.M.S.11	SSSS De TRIONA. Submarine sighted 52.35 N.
TRIONA,	12.51 W. ends.
STAD HAARLEM.	(Valentia 0706/17 to Admty.) (Burnham Recd. 0709/17)
	Class one, 225° distress TRIONA.
	(Tiree Radio 0707 G.M.T/17 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
TRIONA straggle	er signals sighted U-Boat 052° 33'. 012° 51'.
Qundonland in	stanting billiou d-blat 002 50, 012 51.

Sunderland investigating. My position 051° 54', 013° 58'. (C.2 0710Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Met...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

K.M.S.11. TRIONA, STAD HAARLEM. (Contd.)

Met TRIONA returning Clyde position 052° 30' N. 013° (34'?) W. at 1000A. Report cargo shifted. I expect to rejoin before dusk. (SNOWDROP 1045A/17 to BROADWAY.) STAD HAARLEM. Our officer reports on good mud bottom in safe position. Closing work in

progress and nearly completed. Will endeavour drain hold through engine room bulkhead by ship pumps and sending 2 6" salvage pumps from Belfast as precaution for passage to Belfast. Please arrange escort for Friday morning. (SALVAGUIN 1840/17 to Salvage Dept. Admty.)

0.N.S.1.

Sailed VERVAIN to overtake O.N.S.1. (Cmdre. Londonderry 0855A/17.) Convoy O.N.S.1.

A. 1800Z/16th March. B. 1000Z/24th March. C. C.T.U. 24.1.4. FAME (H/F D/F), VISCOUNT (H/F D/F), POTENTILLA, ROSE, EGLANTINE, VERVAIN, KINGCUP. Oilers AMPETCO, BEACON STREET, SCOTTISH MUSICIAN. Ships with improvised stowage carrying depth-charges STANDARD 60, A.C.BEDFORD 60, W.S.FARISH 60, B-CON STREET 100. Additional escort CAPE MARIATO, AYRSHIRE, ST. KENAN, PAYNTER, LORD MIDDLETON. No other tankers in this convoy are fitted for oiling at Sea. D. 34. (C. in C.W.A. 1556Z/17 to Connav.)

GEORGIC.

My 1450/13, 1121/16, and your 1210/16. Inspection of GEORGIC completed and vessel `not required for Admiralty use. She should be ordered to Belfast forthwith.

(D.T.D. 1201A/17 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.) GEORGIC will be sailed for Belfast a.m. 19th. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1706A/17.)

After O.N.S.1 and S.C. 122 the regular practice of Iceland (C) contingents joining and leaving transatlantic convoys will be discontinued. Tceland Shipping. 2. Shipping between Iceland (C) and North America will normally proceed via Loch Ewe in U.R. and R.U. convoys. (D.T.D. 1207A/17 to A.C.I.C.)

S.C.121. COULMORE. Para. A. No oiling carried out in S.C. 121 ref. C. in C.W.A. 0917/9.

Para. B. Reason for failure.

1. Continuous heavy weather which did not permit

fuelling. 2. Quick trip of 8 days did not require escorts to be fulled. Para. C. Defects in equipment in oiler not known. Had reported ready to fuel by astern method on moderation of weather but opportunity not presented and oiler was torpedoed and sunk during voyage.

/Para. D...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (Cont)

S.C.121. COULMORE. (Contd.) Para. D. Suggestion to improve efficiency. Equip three oilers each convoy. Remarks: arrangements were being made to equip two additional oilers in S.C. 121 before and after escort oiler was sunk. Gear was available in escorts to accomplish this. However necessity did not arise during quick trip and they were not equipped. (C.T.G. 24.7 1233Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

Situation 2000A/17. Position 57.06 N. 10.57 W. course 145° estimated speed 4 knots. COULMORE used main engines during the night 16th/17th but unable to maintain steam due to poor coal. Both Tows connected 0900/17 and holding. Weather 8132 6310. (AUBRETIA 2001Z/17 to C. in C.W.A.)

QUEEN	T.A. 38. Amend my 1600/13 para. 3.	
ELIZABETH.	Position D. to read 45.31 20.29	
	Position E. to read 43.30 30.01	
	(D.O.D.H. 1353A/17 to C. in C.W.A.)	

F.N. 71. F.N. 72M. Convoy F.N. 71 cancelled owing to fog. F.N. 72 M sails at 0815/18. (C. in C.Nore 1416A/17.)

F.S. 64. F.S. 64 is to proceed by A.M Q.Z.S. 277 and 402. (C. in C.Nore 1436A/17 to VANITY, etc.) Am now anchoring with F.S. 64 at 18 A buoy visibility 1 cable. (VANITY 1450A/17 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

FEIE. M/V FEIE arrived Burghead 2200/16. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1750/17.)

H.X. 229. A.C.I.C. 1922A/17 and 0435A/18 see America & West Indies. C. in C.W.A. 1718Z/17 see America & West Indies.

P.S. 18. My 1735A/17. P.S. 18 cancelled. (C. in C.Portsmouth 2030A/17.)

M.K.F.10B. Convoy M.K.F.10B is due U.K. about 18/3 comprising the following troopships A. to Liverpool STAFFORDSHIRE, DUCHESS OF YORK.
B. to Tail of the Bank DURBAN CASTLE, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
3. No personnel or cargo on board above ships except DUCHESS OF YORK, 130 personnel.
(D.S.T. 2135A/17.)

/J.W.53...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

J.W. 53,

R.A. 53.

Convoy J.W. 53 consisting of 25 ships sailed from Loch Ewe on 15th February and a further 3 ships sailed on the following day. Six of the convoy had to return owing to weather damage.

2. Escort and cover were provided similarly to J.W. 52 with the addition of an Escort Carrier with the Convoy and seven more destroyers in the Striking Force. The Escort Carrier had to return to U.K. from the vicinity of Iceland owing to weather damage.

3. The convoy was attacked at noon on the 25th January by 14 Ju.88 and again at 1220 on the 26th by a high level attack by an unknown number of aircraft. No damage was sustained from these attacks. U-Boats shadowed the convoy from 25° E. but no attacks developed.

4. The convoy and escort arrived safely on the 7th February. 5. The return convoy R.A. 53 sailed Kola Inlet on 1st March, consisting of 30 ships which included 4 tankers. Close escort and cover were as for J.W. 53.

6. On the 5th March, in vicinity of 72° 30' N. 11° 30' E. the convoy was attacked by U-Boats, the American ships EXECUTIVE being sunk, and RICHARD BLAND damaged, but able to continue with the convoy. Later the same day, 12 Ju.88s made a medium level bombing attack - no damage was sustained.

7. On the 8th March, American ship J.T.L.M. CURRY was abandoned sinking owing to weather damage. J.H.B. LATROBE steering gear was damaged and she finally had to be towed to Seidisfjord. 8. On the 9th March in the vicinity of 66° 45' N. 10° W. American ship PUERTO RICAN was torpedoed and sunk. 9. On the 10th March, RICHARD BLAND was torpedoed again and on the 11th she broke in two.

10. Very heavy weather was experienced throughout and the convoy was widely dispersed, but on the 14th March, 22 ships arrived at Loch Ewe, four having proceeded to Iceland. (D.O.D.H. 2025A/17 to B.A.D. Washington.)

J.W. 55.

Following for Dalgliesh. J.W. 55. We propose bunkering U.K. loaders on usual basis of 54 days steaming plus 600 tons coal. It may be necessary to load 1,000 tons of coal for H.M.Trawlers which d over 5 ships but no other coal will be loaded

to load 1,000 tons of coal for H.M.Trawlers which would be spread over 5 ships but no other coal will be loaded for Russian stocks etc. in view of necessity for loading maximum cargo in U.K. We request your views before taking final decision. Please rush reply.

(D.T.D. 2115A/17 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

K.M.F.11.

Sailed CYGNET to overtake K.M.F.ll. S.O.A. 17 knots. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2140A/17.)

/LEINSTER

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

LEINSTER.

Anticipated programme for LEINSTER is now as follows:-For Faeroes. For Iceland. 31/3. 13/4. 28/4. 11/5. 26/5. 8/6.

26/5. 8/6. 2. Request confirmation that you anticipate LEINSTER can maintain this programme. (D.S.T. 2145A/17 to P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports.)

Atlantic Escort Groups. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1714/15. Most of the British groups have borne their present names for more than a year. I consider that nothing would be gained by the proposed change and that the present designations of my groups should be retained for the sake of tradition and continuity. (C. in C.W.A. 2313A/17 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BENJAMIN Cominch re-encyphers MW (C.T.F.) 63 162250 "(Request Cominch pass to Admty. and other interested authorities from Comtaskforce 63) 39.09 N. 24.15 W. BENJAMIN HARRISON in centre convoy HARRISON (U.G.S.6) torpedoed. U.G.S.6 torpedoed at 1952Z". (Radio Washington 0003Z/17 to Admty.)

TRIDENT.

My Ol31/16th. TRIDENT's patrol area altered to an area bounded by (A) 40.06 N. (B) 00.15 E. (C) 38.50 N. (D) Coast of Spain.

2. Amend position (S) to read 090° Cape Nao 14 at 2340/19th and add position. (T) 39.02 N. 00.15 E. at 0140/20th. (F.O. Gib. 0042/17 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, TRIDENT, 8th S/M.F. S.O. Force H. N.O.I.C. Oran.)

- Cancel my 0122/12th. (re T.C.A.O.16 route for ULTOR) (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0056A/17 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C.) ULTOR.
- Master of Clearing Pool (?S.S. CLEARPOOL intended) wishes to return to Melilla. Weather moderate. ?CLEARPOOL. (LORD NUFFIELD 0455/17 to F.O.C. Gib.)

T.E.19X.

Ships sailed 2230/16 as in my 1616/16. (F.O. Gib. 0811A/17 to F.O. Oran (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav.)

BURWELL.

Arrived Horta 1015 G.M.T. 17th. (R.O. Fayal 0915/17 to F.O. Gib. Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.) BURWELL left 2370 G.M.T. 16th. (N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada 0920/17 to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) Admty.) See also 2000C/17.

UNA 041° 04' 012° 21' 330° dived by day 2

Situation 2002A/17.

surfacing by night 8.2. 2. DZIK passes 43.01 13.22 at 2200/18th course 152° dived by day 2 surfacing by night 7¹/₂. 3. X.K. 3 VILLE DE QUEBEC, 36.20 09.05 through 36.30 10.01 thence 311.6¹/₂. 4. Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE 41.15 13.01 359.13. 5. 0.5.44 ROCHESTER 28.38 12.33 through 26.12 15.05 thence 213.8¹/₂. 6. G.U.S.5 Task Force 35, 31.03 16.53 through 31.01 17 (?46) thence 251.9. 7. U.G.F.6 Task Force 34, 35.20 10.32 through 35.28 09.50 and 34.10 08.10 at 0800/18th to 34.01 01.07 59 thence Casablanca 13¹/₂. 8. L.S.T. Convoy, 32, 31.58 20.23 042° 8. 9. Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAS 37.03 12.25 to Lisbon 11. 2 Tugs 41.13 13.32 through 40.05 13.30 thence 143.7. 11. MALCOLM WITCH 43.47 15.01 through 40.01 15.01 thence 171.12. 12. U.G.S.6, 33, 38.32 21.13 through 38.35 19.20 thence 109.9. 13. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 39.51 14.21 through 35.30 10.01 and 35.49 06.10 thence through Straits 14. 14. KENYA approx. 36.38 10.15 to Gib. 17. 15. Spanish Training Ship GALATEA left Tenerife 2000/14th for Ferral 16. Submarine ULTOR passes 43.01 12.54 at 0600/18th course 155°

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

diving by day 2 surface by night 8 (?.2). Situation (F.O. Gib. 1105A/17). Addition see 0540A/18. 2002A/17. Contd.

Situation 1954A/17.

S/M TACTICIAN 036° 37' 007° 26' through 036° 37' 007° 24' at 20 (?30) 17th. and 035° 53' 006° 15' at 0800 18th to 035° 49' 006° 6½ minutes at 0840/18th thence Gibraltar proceeding on surface after 2030/17th. speed 6 until 0800/18th.

(3) COMMANDANT BORY 3 French S/Ms. 31.28 09.54 thence 12. coastwise through 33.41 07.50 at 1510/18th to Casablanca $9\frac{1}{2}$. (4) C.G.19 LA GRANDIERE 34.31 07.13 through 35.01 06.42 and 35.50 06.33 to Gibraltar 9. (6) WISHART one destroyer 4 minesweepers sail from Casablanca 2000/17th to R/V U.G.F.6 in 34.10 08.10 at 0800/18th and escort Mediterranean section through 35.45 07.01. (7) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAM BRAS 37.03 12.25 to Lisbon 11. (10) P.C.480 sailing 1800/17th through 35.49 06.30 to Malta 15.

(F.O. Gib. 1135/17.) ACHILLES 37° 08' 045° 52' through 037° 30' 044° 05' thence 064° 18.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1315A/17, 1845A/17.)

SERPA PINTO
Survivors
from
P. Delgada.
Your 1249/16th. I earnestly trust it will prove
possible for SERPA PINTO to take off American
survivors also. For your confidential information.
American Consul has not displayed very great energy on their behalf and they are looking to us to help them out. Our help would thus have a definite value as a gesture of friendliness and I have been informed that further 23 British and

co-operation. 80 American survivors are either at Horta or about to arrive there and that there is a possibility of a further 45 British being picked up in vicinity. This gives a total of 283 or possibly 328 allied Seamen awaiting disposal. (Consul Ponta Delgada 1126/17 to N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty.)

NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA , EMPIRE PRIDE.

A.M.1455/16. (see Mediterranean) NASTURTIUM Boiler Cleaning. My 1818/16 to C. in C. Med. only refers. 2. Intend closing up NASTURTIUM forthwith, estimate ship ready for sea 2359/18th. 3. Propose sailing EMPIRE PRIDE at 2359/18 escorted by NASTURTIUM and ALGOMA to Ponta Delgada

to lift survivors ex CALIFORNIA, KEYSTONE, ROXBURGH CASTLE, thence to U.K.

(F.O.C. Gib. 1140^A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A.) See also C. in C. Med. 1501A/17, 1836/17 and Admty. 1039A/18.

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY.

Intend to sail Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY a.m./19 to carry out repairs to Gibraltar-Madeira cable in 35° 56 minutes 08 secs.N,05° 48 minutes 48 secs. W. (2) Clearing sweep of area will be carried out prior to MARIE LOUISE MACKAY sailing. (F.O.Gib. 1208A/17 as amended to 1026A/18 Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

/Type...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Your 1953/15. This will be done. Type (C. in C. W.A. 1224A/17 to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty.) 251 M. in Convoys.

Arrival MALAYA, QUADRANT, WOLVERINE, Greek MALAYA Ship ADRIAS. destroyers. (F.O.C. Gib. 1320/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Home Fleet F.O.C. W.A. C. in C. Med. S.N.O.C.A. Comdr. Dakar.)

DE LA SALLE. Sailed in X.K.3, 0990/16, embarked 125 French service personnel. (S.T.O.I.C. Gib. 1502A/17 to D.S.T.)

Your 1953/15. Following W.A. ships fitted type Type 251 M: ALYNBANK, ARCHER, BITER, DELHI, ULSTER QUEEN VISCOUNT (coded W.7.) (2) Escorts listed in a.m. 179A of 4th Feb. 1943, are also fitted except DOUGIAS and FISHGUARD. (3) You will be informed when any 251 M, ships fitted. further ships fitted type 251 M are included in southbound convoys. (C. in C.W.A. 1519A/17 to F.O.Gib. (R) Admty.)

U.G.S.5A. R.O. Norfolk's (Virginia) 1721/18 and your 1232/7 request information U.S. MONROE. (D.T.D. 1730A/17 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) MONROE. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. Connav.)

My 1031/24th Feb. Reardon now fit to travel but leg almost useless and escort necessary as far as LLANGIBBY CASTLE London. Propose Lt. Hugill, who has been here 13 Boatswain. months, accompany him and spend 10 days in London. (N.A.Lisbon 1740/17 to D.N.I.)

MALCOLM U/B-

One submarine sighted on surface in O41° 12' N. O14° 58' W.

(MALCOLM 1743A/17 to C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.C. Gib.) My 1743A/17, have abandoned unsuccessful search. Special weather report.

(MALCOLM 1950A/17 to C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

ULTOR.

My 0121/12th. Amended times as follows (T) 0145/22nd (U) 2310/22nd (V) 0800/23rd (W) 0900/23rd. 2. After passing position (U) proceed on surface at your discretion at 8.2 knots. 3. S.B.R. until 2310 22nd thereafter T.B.R. 4. Amend time (70800) 23rd. (F.O. Gib. 1801A/17 to ULTOR (R) F.O. (S) C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 8.) Modified by 1909A/18 U.V.

/THORS TRAND ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

THORSTRAND, CALIFORNIA STAR, survivors.

One Life-boat with 21 survivors from Norwegian THORSTRAND sunk in O41° 23' N. O42° 59' W. on 6th March. One motor-boat with 32 survivors missing. Last seen on 9th March 040° 49' N. 040° 53' W. (2) My 1135/17th. (N.T. in W.D.) 46 survivors of CALIFORNIA STAR on 4 rafts are missing. One officer was made prisoner by S/M.

A/C search made by Portuguese from Azores without result. (N.A. Lisbon 1837A/17 to Admty.)

U.G.S.6.

Continued W/T activity on Series 3 lines 1 and 2 indicates U-Boats continue to shadow. (D.D.I.C. 1855A/17 to Escort U.G.S.6 (R) Cominch F.O.I.C. Gib. etc.) W.D. Note: For Med. Section escort, see C. in C. Med. 1709A/17.

U-boat.

S/M reported on surface in O41° O3' N. 008° 43' W. at 0430A today. Course and speed not known. A.O. (N.A. Lisbon 1912A/17 to S.O. (I) (R) Admty.)

Cable operations.

Cable and Wireless Ltd, suggest: (A) Retaining LADY DENISON PENDER at Gibraltar for docking and (B) Allocating MIRROR for repairs to St. Vincent, Bathurst and Bathurst, Sierra Leone cables.

(2) I do not concur, there being no hope of docking LADY DENISON PENDER at Gibraltar. C. in C. Med's 1927/11 refers.
(3) I am investigating possibility of docking LADY DENISON PENDER at Dakar and if practicable, intend to adhere to original allocation of cable ships. A.M. 2136/23/12 refers. (F.O. Gib. 1934A/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Admty. is requested to copy to C. in C. Western Approaches. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Departure 2100 G.M.T. 17th March BURWELL BURWELL, HORORATA. escorting HORORATA. Estimated S. of A. 13 knots. Routes B.C.D. only known so far. Request further routeing instructions and destination may be signalled BURWELL 18th March. HORORATA draught 31 feet. (R.O. Fayal 2000C/17 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

Movements.

Arrivals: ARCTIC RANGER from Escort Duties West. TYNEDALE, POLRUAN, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH, ALGOMA with convoy E.T.14.

Departures: LA SETOISE, LA SABLAISE, L'ENGAGEANTE with convoy T.E.19 X. TRIDENT to patrol thence Algiers. U.S.S. P.C. 480 to Casablanca. Motor Launches 554, 557, 560, 561, 566 to Oran. (F.O. Gib. 2005/17 to Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Morocco.

17th March BROOME, JEFFERS, P.C.474 and 475 arrived from Gib. P.C.481 and 482 plus French LA GRANDIERE and SERGEANT GOUARNE departed with departed to R/V with U.G.F.6. (Commorseafron 2007Z/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Cominch, Admty.)

E.T.14

Arrived 2114/17. (list 15 ships). (F.O. Gib. 2147A/17 to C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BIRDLIP.

Your 1507Z/16th (N.T. in W.R.). Returning port Etienne, E.T.A. 0800Z/17th. (BIRDLIP, 0430Z/17 to Comar, Dakar.)

Convoy, D.N.25.

Sailing telegram. (2) 0500Z/17th. (4) 8 knots (5) (2) 028° 34' S. 032° 30' E. (A) 031° 00' S. 038° 00' E. (6) JASMINE, GENISTA, LE TIGRE, HILDESAY. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0656Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Italian Sick.

Movement of almost 24/1. Understand you have embarked almost all Italian Sick personnel ex South Africa in hospital ship TAIREA. (2) There remain 900 protected personnel from South Africa and 450 protected personnel and 220 sick personnel from East Africa to embark at Tanga.

Presume you are using all available hospital ships for this purpose but request report. (3) If these are incapable of dealing with all requirements from South and East Africa we are considering arranging a special voyage under safe conduct of SONTAY from South Africa to Middle East en route in India. (D.S.T., 0747A/17 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.) Reply, 1558C/19. Request your views.

W.S.27.

Unless otherwise ordered QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL to full stowage Durban 16th from SUSSEX. RAIDER at Pointe Noire rejoining 1600 today Wednesday when ARMERIA and BELLWORT will be detached in accordance with your 1116Z/15th not to C. in C. S.A. W.S.27 position 1200/17th, 005° 39' S. 009° 56' E. Speed made good 123 knots. (SUSSEX, 0803Z/17 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty. B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, C. in C. S.A.

D.N.25. Sailed convoy D.N.25 routed as N.C.S.O. Durban 0656/17. (2) JASMINE parts company at position (Z) taking Lourenco Marques portion to destina-tion then escorts M.Ls to Tulear. My 1704/14 not to Admiralty refers. (3) HILDESAY proceeding to Diego Suarez escorting one ship from position (A) (4) After dispersal of convoy in position (A) HILDESAY sets continuous watch on 500 K/cs. shifting to read B.A.M.S. Routines. (Cdre, Durban, 0901C/17 to Admty. etc.)

HERO. JAMES PARKER. Sailed 0800/17th March (? HERO) escorting JAMES PARKER to position C speed 17 knots. route A. 004° 26' N. 002° 10' W. B. 003° 45' N. 008° 26' W. C. 007° 43' N. 015° 00' W. E.T.A. Freetown 1500/19th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 0910Z/17 to R.A..W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

BURDOCK / ...

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17.3.1943. Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

BURDOCK, FORTOL, 0.S.44.

(i) Detach BURDOCK and FORTOL to join convoy O.S.44 in O24° 21' N. O16° 26' W. at 1200Z/19th March. Approach course and speed 213° 8. (ii) Orders following for BIRDLIP. (R.A.W.A., 0923Z/17 to PELICAN (R) Ships Escorting S.L. 126, Ships Escorting O.S. 44. Admty, Comar.)

Dispositions.

Position at 2000Z/17th.

NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD, CAPE WARWICK with N.C.7, 026° 50' S. 014° 15' E. to Saldanha Bay 8 knots.

HERTFORDSHIRE, TURFFONTIEN, IMMORTELLE with C.D.10, 034 25' S. 022° 30' E. to Durban 8 knots. WAYLAND. CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with C.D.9, 034° 45' S. 024° 20' E. to Durban 9 knots. ST. LOMAN 033° 50' S. 026° 45' E. to Cape Recife, 8. knots. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, INDIAN STAR with D.C.15, 033° 45' S. 027° 10' E. to Capetown 8. MEDICINE HAT CLAPISSA PADCTIERE with PDITICU HDOR 033° 50

MEDICINE HAT, CLARISSA, RADCLIFFE with BRITISH JUDGE 031° 30' S. 030° 00' E. to Capetown 7 knots.

CATTERICK, NIGELLA, INTEGRITY, NORWICH CITY. VIVIANA with two portions of JAMES B. STEPHENS about 035° 05' S. 032° 30' E. to Durban 3 knots.

QUILLIAM, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, FOXHOUND 051° 00' S. 052° 40' E. to 055° S. 056° E. thence 058° S. 028° E. 16 knots. GENISTA, JASMINE, LE TIGER, HILDESAY with D.N.25 028° 40' S. 052° 40' E. to 051° S. 058° east 8 knots. (C. in C. S.A., 1112C/17) Situation at 2000Z/17th. DELICAN WEAP SDEY STRENHOUS ROTHER SEMMEN RUPDOCK

PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY, STRENUOUS, ROTHER, SENNEN, BURDOCK, COMMANDANT DROGOU, BUTSER, BIRDLIP with S.L.126. 020° 57' 017° 48' 345° 7. One Escort Vessel escorting FORT OLOFF, PORT ETIENNE, to join

S.L.126.

French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE, LA GRACIEUSE, with Convoy C.D.4 019° 01' 017° 52' 178 9. French sloop M/S GAZELLE, ARMIRAL MOUCHEZ, with convoy D.69 off Cape Varde to North within 10 miles of coast 6. DESPATCH about Oll° Ol' Ol8° Ol' to patrol about position 003° 50' 020° 30' 20.

ARETHUSA about 008° 37' 013° 57' 298° 21.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position Oll° N. 030° W. BRIDGEWATER, THYME, P.615, exercising off Freetown returning to harbour 2359/17th.

CILICIA off Freetown to South West. 14.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1112Z/17.)

Situation at 2002Z/17th. THYME off Freetown to 005° 01' 014° 45' $12\frac{1}{2}$ BOREAS 007° 38' 014° 01' to Freetown 12. PETUNIA, CROCUS about 002° 59' 012° 24' 337 12. CORINTHIAN about 001° 05' S. 010° 30' to Freetown 13. ROWAN, PORTSDOWN, SARABANDE DUNCTON with S.T.59, 002° 56' 006° 53' 074° 9. HERO escorting about 004° 14' 005° 00' 262° 16.

SUSSEX / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic

Dispositions (Contd.) SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.109 (? W.S.27) 007° 15' S. 009° 57' E. 180° 12½. BELLWORT, ARMERIA about 007° 01' S. 009° 55' E. to Takoradi 12½. M.L.271, escorted from Port Bouet to Cape Palmas 6. CILICIA off Freetown 256° 14. (F.O.C.W.A., 1511Z/17)

ARETHUSA.

Intend Cruiser ARETHUSA to arrive St. Vincent to fuel at about 1600Z/19th March sailing immediately on completion. Request Portugal Authorities be notified.

Requirements. (F.O.C.W.A., 1140Z/17,1051Z/18 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent for Br.C. (R) N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)

BELLWORT. Amend orders of BELLWORT in my 1116 of 15th March. BELLWORT is to be detached to proceed direct without relief for escort duty to Freetown. (F.O.W.A., 12042/17 to SUSSEX, (R) B.N.L.O. W.Af. BELLWORT, Admty., ARMERIA, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, R.N.O. Lagos, Vice-Consul, Matadi.)

PENNSYLVANIA. (Explosion on 4/3) N.O.I.C. Lagos, 1510/16th. ROCKROSE dropped one depth charge at this time within 3 miles of convoy CN.11. (C. in C. S. At., 1231C/17 to N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

RAIDER. Pointe Noire arrival 0850Z/17th and departure 1150Z/17th, RAIDER. (B.N.L.O. W.Af., 1245A/17 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

CILICIA.

Intend to sail CILICIA at 1830Z March to patrol area bound following position. (E) 005° 05' N. 021° 17' W. (F) 003° 50' N. 023° 31' W. (G) 006° (?52') N. 025° 12' W. (H) 008° 27' N. 022° 15' W. S. of A. 14 knots. CILICIA will be on patrol from a.m.19th March to p.m. 21st March. (F.O.C.W.A., 1400Z/17 to Admty. (R) Comar Dakar, CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, DESPATCH, Comsolantfor).

U/B / ...

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17.3.1943. Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

U/B. Assessment. Your 1655/14 (Non-receipt of report of attack). Report was forwarded to Air Ministry under cover of A.H.Q.W.A. W.A/S 535/1/Int. of 24th Nov., together with photographs. This was considered a very promising attack. (F.O.C.W.A., 1426Z/17 to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 1732Z/26.

QUEEN OF

Sailed QUEEN OF BERMUDA to Freetown escorted by

QUEEN OF BERMUDA, QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND. (A) QUILLIAM and (B) FOXHOUND routed through (A) QUILLIAM and (B) FOXHOUND routed through (A) 55° . OO'S. 36° OO'E. (B) 38° OO' 28° OO" (C) 40° OO' 12° OO'. (D) 55° OO' O6^{\circ} OO'. (E) 08° OO'S. 18° OO'W. (F) 06° 50° N. 16° 20'W. S. of A. $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. Freetown O900Z/2 April. (2) QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND part company in 59° OO'S. 20° OO'E. and proceed to Capetown. S. of A. of QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND after parting company with QUEEN OF BERMUDA, 20 knots. E.T.A. Capetown 0500Z/21. (5) QUEEN OF BERMUDA and escorts shift W/T organisation to S.L. at 1030Z/18. QUEEN OF BERMUDA shifts to area P.W/T organisation 1500Z/27 March. 1500Z/27 March. (Com.i/c Durban, 1455Z/17 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.A.F., N.L.O. Capetown.)

MAURETANIA.

Your 1551/16. Steps to (?increase) accommodation (details) (2) At request of High Commissioner arrangements had been made to embark at Capetown about 400 civilians, including women and children, who came from India during past six months, and permission is requested to embark them in Monsters instead. A.M.1546/19 Feb. para. 3 refers. 19th March. (3) Ship leaves Capetown a.m. Friday (P.S.T.O.Capetown, 1504C/17 to D.S.T.) Reply: 2240/18.

CILICIA.

Arrival 1750/16th CILICIA from Escort duty. ((? S.O.(I) Freetown, 1551/17 to Admty, C. in C. S.A.)

C.M.40. Composition of convoy C.M.40 due to leave Durban Monday 22 March as follows. (a) For Mideast, KHEDIVE ISMAIL, DEVONSHIRE, EMPIRE WOODLARK, CAP TOURANE, PULASKI, with 7600 troops.
(b) For India, CITY OF CANTERBURY. DILWARA, EMPIRE TROOPER, CITY OF LONDON, with 7500 troops. (2) Only ship requiring fuel en route at Kilindini, KHEDIVE ISMAIL.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1605C/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

ST. LOMAN.

My position 2000C 235° distance 12 miles from Great Fish Point. Course 230° S. of A. 11knots altering to 270° at 2400 until 0300 then steering

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South Atlantic.

ST. LOMAN. (Contd.)

180 until 0400. At 0400 intend to steer 045 until daylight. (ST. LOMAN, 1615/G.M.T./17 to N.L.O. Port Eliza-beth (R) N.L.O. East London, N.L.O. Capetown, C. in C. S.A., Com. i/c. Durban.)

BUTTERMERE. Minesweepers. Following from BUTTERMERE (begins): Pernambuco arrivals 16th Minesweepers 805, 806, 807 and 808. 17th BUTTERMERE and Minesweepers 102, 103, 105, 106 and 107 (ends.) (Asst. S.O.(I) Recife, 1643Z/17 to Admty. etc.)

Flying Boats in S. Africa.

For Air Ministry from Frew. Re 15 F.B's now in Union, including one of 262 Sqdn and 6 of other squadrons. 8 more of 262 Sqdn. expected any day. (a) Would like fuller information on policy, especially on possible peak figures, (b) Would like earliest intimation by signal

of probable arrivals and departures of individual F.B's from commands concerned. Detachments arrive with crews only, and no maintenance personnel or spares. Maintenance capacity for additional numbers is available but not personnel and spares. If excess detachments continue to arrive, boats must return to parent bases for overhaul or maintenance. (U.K. High Commr. in South Africa, 1712/17 to Dominions Office)

ARGO.

Intend sailing F.S/M ARGO for Freetown unescorted 1730Z/22nd. Speed made good 13 knots (route) (2) Request surface escort from position P and British air cover, throughout passage. (3) Request total bombing restrictions 20 miles ahead 30 miles astern 10 miles either side of estimated position. (4) ARGO should she pass outside total bombing restricted zone would signal P.C. and S. Subsequent signal would be made if passing outside modified total bombing restricted zone. (5) ARGO will proceed on surface throughout passage but may dive if attacked. (6) W/T. (7) Publications. No flare. (Comar Dakar, 1737Z/17 to F.O.C.W.A.) Deferred, see 1008Z/21.)

DUNKERY, ORFASY.

Arrival 1700/17th DUNKERY, ORFASY escorting CAP PADARAN. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 1742/17 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. Comar, Dakar.)

GLOIRE.

French Cruiser GLOIRE undergoing minor engine repairs. Expected date of completion 20th March. (Comar, Dakar, 1745Z/17 to R.A.W.A.(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Convoy / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy D.69.

Sailed Convoy D.69 as in my ll22/l2th. MARY KINGSLEY for Port Etienne and fishing trawler CAP FAGNET, TATIANA, BRITIA. (Comar, Dakar, 1832Z/17 to F.O.C. W.Af. Admty., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

AELYBRYN.

B/S AELYBRYN torpedoed and sunk at 1910Z/11 in 28° 30' S. 34.00 E. Master and 32 others landed Capetown,8 persons missing. (C. in C. S.A., 1916C/17 to Admty. (R) Com.i/c Durban.)

A.F.D. CHESHIRE, THAMES, ROODE ZEE.

CHESHIRE sailed for C apetown 1730Z with tugs THAMES and ROODE ZEE and floating dock route (a) 050°00' S. 050° 00' W. (b) 050° 00' S. 005° 00' W. thence to Capetown by Q.G.A.127 estimated S. of A. 4 to 5 knots shifting to W/T organization Q at 0001 April 4th. (N.A. Montevideo, 1940Z/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.) S.A. etc.) W.D. Note: Dock is in 2 parts, see 1857/18.

Movements, Recife.

Arrival 15th March U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW from Maceio. Departure 15th. U.S. Destroyer

KEARNEY. Arrival 16th, U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY. Arrival 16th, U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT. Departures 16th, U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW U.S. Destroyer GOFF. Arrivals 17th. U.S. Cruiser OMAHA, U.S. Destroyer LIVERMORE and 4 U.S. S/M Chasers P.C.489, 492, 576, 609. Departures 17th, Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA, Brazilian minelayers CABEDELLO and CAMAQUA (2 corrupt groups). and CAMAQUA (2 corrupt groups). (R.O. Recife, 2001Z/17 to Admty. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

BOREAS. (survivors of EMPRESS OF CANADA).

Amend E.T.A. to 00012/18. Acknowledge. (BOREAS, 2013Z/17 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Transports.

Ref. A.M.1552/1 para. 10. Instructions for ALMANZORA, ANTENOR, CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS, STRATHMORE, STRATHAIRD and CAPETOWN CASTLE. (D.S.T., 2150A/17 to P.S.T.O. Capetown etc.)

Survivors / ...

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South Atlantic (Contd.)

Survivors of EMPRESS OF CANADA. E.T.A. 1901Z/19. A.F.O.2901/41. (A) CORINTHIAN (B) S.S. EMPRESS OF CANADA (Details). All require clothing. (CORINTHIAN, 2201Z/17 to F.O.C.W.A.) My E.T.A.0700Z/19th. A.F.O.2901/41 and 4715/42. (A) PETUNIA, CROCUS.

(CORINTHIAN, 22012/17 to F.O.C.W.A.) My E.T.A.0700Z/19th. A.F.0.2901/41 and 4715/42. (A) PETUNIA, CROCUS. (B) S.S. EMPRESS OF CANADA (Details) These numbers actually on board PETUNIA, CROCUS. For information, several cot cases suffering from shark and (corrupt group) bites. 6 deaths to date. (PETUNIA, 2225Z/17 to F.O.C.W.A.)

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Mediterranean.

E.T.15.

Pass to N.C.S.O's: E.T.15. Intend to sail, E.T.15. Pass to N.C.S.O's: E.T.15. Intend to sail, 51 TOPDALSFJORD to Gibraltar for (?orders) 52 EVVIVA to Algiers, 55 EMPIRE DACE to Algiers. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 0823A/17 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc.) My 0823/17th. Add 41 FORT LAC LA ROUGE, ballast, Gibraltar for orders; 42 H.M. Trawler LA PAGERIA for Algiers. (N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 1357A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc) E.T.15 Intend to sail for Gibraltar (list) Admiralty

is requested to signal final destinations.

(Cdre., Algiers, 1546A/17 to F.O., Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc) E.T.15. Add to my 1126A/16th BACHAQUERA and MISOA for E.T.15. Oran, motor mine sweepers 68 and 81 for Algiers, FORFAIT French for Philippville. (F.O. Inshore Squadron, 1649A/17 to F.O.C. Gibraltar,

N.O.I.C.Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C.Bone Etc.)

ABDIEL.

Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 0824A/17 to Admty. etc.) Sailed ABDIEL. (V.A. Malta, 1724/17 to Admty. etc.)

WOLBOROUGH, TETCOTT, Movements, Arrivals 16th March. MALINES, Tug FAVOURITE, Greek Destroyer SPETSAI, French Sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE. Alexandria. Departures 16th March. TETCOTT, French Sloop LA MOQEUESE. (S.O.(I) Levant, 0908B/17th to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No.108 Part 4.

Night 15/16. About 12 JU.88's attacked westbound convoy off Misurata (W.D. Note: DERWENT) at last light. Beaufighters on patrol over ships sighted some enemy aircraft but these escaped in cloud A.A. fire destroyed 2 enemy aircraft probably destroyed another 5 Hurricanes sorties on R/C. Gabes and Mareth areas without incident. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 09222/17)

CARLISLE forms part of 12th Cruiser Squadron. CARLISLE. (C. in C. Med., 0932A/17 to Med. Station 311 K. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

Enemy Units.

Baltimore reports P.C. and S. at 0705A/ today one 7000 ton merchant ship one 4000 tons merchant ship 5 escorts 039° 17' 017° 28' - 180 -9. (Capt. (S) 10, 0937A/17 to 8th S.F.(R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med.)

Position/ ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Enemy Units (Contd.) P.C. and S. of one 10,000 tons M/V 3 destroyers 4 ME. 110 and 2 JU.88. 38° 36' N. 16° 59' E. 200° 12 knots. (A/C BTP/U via Alexandira W/T, 1050A/17 to Air H.Q. Malta.) My 0937/17th and Aircraft "U" report 1050/17th.

Probably only one ship in convoy which has almost certainly been sunk by torpedo aircraft from Malta. (Capt. (S) 10, 2546A/17 to 8th S/M.F.(R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8).

G.U.S. 5A.

Have following for inclusion (list) (Com. N.O.B., Oran, 0950/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

E.T.14.

My 1716/16. Following have also arrived VILLE DE STRASBOURG, HADLEIGH, MERCHANT PRINCE, last two torpedoed, report of damage will be signalled later. (Com.N.O.B. Oran, 1005A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Connav, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers,

PARTHIAN.

17th arrival PARTHIAN. (S.O.I. Beirut, 1025B/17 to Admty.)

TROOPER, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE,

(1) TROOPER leaves patrol to pass 039° 50' 012° 30' at 2000/18th 038° 28' 009° 51' 2002/19th thence 270° (See also 1640A/17) TURBULENT. (2) THUNDERBOLT after 2000/18th patrol North of 039° 30' and East of 014° as in my 1900/13th to TROOPER. (3) TRIBUNE after passing 038° 24' 010° 00' at 0100/19th proceeding through 039° 01' 011° 59' thence course 90° to patrol South of 039° 30' and East of 015° East. (4) TURBULENT is off East coast Sardinia. (Capt.(S) 8, 1128A/17 to 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10)

PAPANICOLIS.

Leave your area p.m. 19th March to pass through following position: (A) 035° 36' 027° 44' at 1900B/19th. (B) 033° 55' 031° 04' at 0600B/21st, thence direct arriving Beirut searched channels at 0600B/23rd March. Daily S. of A. estimated at 110 miles diving by day. Acknowledge this signal when clear of your area. (Capt.(S) 1, 1149B/17, 1155B/17 to PAPANICOLIS, G.S. (R) C. in C. Levant, C.F.E. Cdre. (D) Capt. (S) 10th S/F, PARTHIAN, Capt. (S) CORINTHIA).

SAHIB.

Intend to sail P.212 (SAHIB) at 1850/18th through 058° 08' 004° 52' at 0600/19th 058° 08' 010° 01' at 0150/21st thence to patrol off north coast of Sicily. (Capt. (S)8, 1158A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10. Cdre. Algiers.) Re-routed, see 1644A/18.

M.W.23/ ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

M.W.23.

Arrived convoy M.W.25. PAKENHAM, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS. (V.A.Malta, 1244/17 to Admty. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

UNRUFFLED, UNBROKEN. Leave patrol as necessary to return to Malta and R/V sweeper at 0830A/19th. Route: (i) P.46 (UNRUFFLED) through south east corner of your area thence between Linosa and Lampedusa. (ii) P.42 (UNBROKEN) south of Lampedusa. (Capt. (S) 10, 1245A/17 to P.46 (UNRUFFLED) P.42 (UNBROKEN) (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8 Capt. (S) 1.)

NASTURTIUM. Your 1455/16 and 1343/14. Request you will confirm that it is intended to sail NASTURTIUM to Canada. (C. in C. Med. 1501A/17 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.) Reply: Admty. 1039A/18. W.D. Note - F.O. Gibraltar 1140A/17 refers. Your 1140/17, approved if Admiralty concurs. (C. in C. Med., 1836/17 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

M.L.6.

Sailed M.L's 121, 134, 459 and 462. (V.A. Malta, 1546A/17 to Admty. C. in C. Med. Levant.)

LOOKOUT defect. LOOKOUT Starboard high power turbine first row of blading stripped. Inadvisable to exceed 25 knots and when risk of further damage occurs. Consider ship should proceed Gibraltar for lifting of turbine and examination of damage. C. in C. Med. pass to (?Captain) F. (C.S.12, 1552A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.

C. in C. Med. pass to (?Captain) F. (C.S.12, 1552A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, Capt. F. Capt. D. 19. LOOKOUT) My 1522/17. (1552/17 intended) Further examination shows 18 pit (ted) rows of impulse blades broken (?loose) and missing. In view of this consider maximum speed with both engines is 20 knots except over short period in an emergency. (C.S.12, 1730A/17 to C. in C. Med.)

TROOPER.

My 1128. Onward routeing through 038° 28' 009° 51' at 2002/19th 038° 28' 003° 36' at 2058/21st to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 55' 003° 15' at 0645/22nd. (Capt. (S) 8, 1640A/17 to TROOPER (R) Cdre. Algiers, C. in C. Med. 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10)

TAURUS / ...

)

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

TAURUS JULIET Your escort will be JULIET. (Capt. (S) 8, 1700A/17 to P.339 (TAURUS) (R) Cdre. Algiers, X.D.O.)

U.G.S.6.

N.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to detail and sail escorts to R/V with U.G.S.6 in 055° 40' 009° 40' W. at 1200A/20th and escort Med.

section to destination. (2) Onward route from R/V through position (A) 035° 50' 006° 50' W. by Q.K.A.87 then 37.3 52.95 letter B. 68 (?routed) to Oran at best speed estimated at 9½. Stragglers route as convoy. (3) Gibraltar section detached in position 37 with local escort 1000A/21st. E.T.A. at Oran 1100A/22nd. (4) Fighter protection priority 2, code word "Dunnock".
(C. in C. Med., 1709A/17 to Comtask 33, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force H., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty., Connav.)

Sailed M.T.B's 84, 95 and 61. (V.A. Malta, 1726A/17 to Admty. C. in C. Med. M.T.B's. C. in C. Levant.)

T.E.19.

Arrived WILLIAM MACKINLEY, MARYMAR, MEMPHIS CITY, E.J. LUCKENBACH, SUNCREST. (Com., N.O.B.Oran, 1751A/17 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Connav, Admty.)

Air

To: CG 8th Air Force. From: Spaatz. For: Eaker. 12th Air Force daily intelligence cable. (1) 16 B-17's escorted by 24 P.38s Report. attacked Siebel Ferry Convoy at 1530 hours, scoring direct hits on at least 3 vessels; l left sinking 2 on fire. (Allied Air Force, 1759Z/17 to H.Q. Etousa).

Arrival and Departure 17th. Greek Destroyer Movements, AETOS, CUMBRAE. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 1802B/17 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.) Palestine.

S/M Patrol Areas.

(i) To reduce signalling following S/M patrol areas are established. To avoid confusion with other lettered areas they will be referred to as zones. (ii) A.B. and C. are South of latitude 038° 45' repetition 038° 43', zone A. being between longitude Oll° 30' and longitude

Cape San Vito/ ...

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Mediterranean.

S/M
Patrol
Areas.
(Contd.)
Cape San Vito and 14°, Zone C. between 014°
and 015°. Southern limit of zone A. is northern
edge of Q.K.B.20 and latitude 038° east of
Marettimo. (iii) zones D. and E. are between
latitude 039° 30' repetition 039° 30' and 038°
42' and between longitude 011° 50' and 015°.
Zones D. and E. are west and east respectively of 015° 12'
repetition 015° 12'. (iv) Zone F. South of (? 039°)
30' East of 015° (v) Zones G. and H. North of 039° 50' between
longitude 15° and coast, West and East respectively of 014°
14' repetition 014° 14'. (vi) S/M are not to be attacked in these zones unless hostile identity established. (Capt. (S) 8, 1808A/17 to 8th S/M Flotilla (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10. S.O.S/M's Gibraltar.) Further instructions. See 1148A/18.

T.E.19.

Destination SERULA is Philippeville. (C. in C. Med., 1815A/17 to WHEATLAND, Escorts of Convoy T.E.19 (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admty. N.O.I.C. Philippeville).

Greek Relief. Relief ships MONGABALI (MONGABARRA) FORMOSA and CAMELIA in 037° 13' N. 024° 19' at 2000A/16th on passage from Piraeus to Gibraltar, by approved route through Straits of Messina. One may not have sailed. (Capt. (S) 10, 1941/17 to S/Ms on patrol (R) Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1.)

Movements, Algiers.

Arrivals French Submarine CASABIANCA, L.C.T. 160, CARLISLE. (Cdre. Algiers, 2001A/17 to Admty. etc.)

No.71.

Situation (1) My 1528/13 para. 6, no other enemy ships Report were encountered during sweep. One of twelve T/B which attacked force between 1851/12 and 1936/12 claimed shot down by LIGHTNING.

(2) 828 Squadron from Malta obtained one hit on a tanker off North Coast Sicily night 12/13 March. Following night sank ammunition ship and probably hit 2/3 thousand ton merchant vessel. One Albacore missing from each night's operations. (3) Further mines laid by M.T.B's inside Zembretta (Gulf of Tunis) during night 12/13 March. Three E boats encountered. One left stopped and on fire. Others last seen firing at each other. (4) Three mines swept on 13th March off Cape De Garde. (5) T/B aircraft attacked Force Q and Ferry Service off Cape De Garde p.m. 14th March total bag by fighters and A.A. fire one shot down three probables, two damaged. (6) Convoy E.T.14 attacked by U-Boat at 1842/15

in / ...

1 . . 699 17.3.1943. Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report, No.71.

in position 36° 55' N. Ol° 59' E. OCEAN SEAMAN hit, ship has arrived Algiers. Further U-Boat attack off Cape at 1216/16 resulted in HADLEIGH and MERCHANT PRINCE being torpedoed. They have arrived Oran. (7) Minelaying M.T.B's carried out unobserved operation off Plane Island (off the coast of Tunis) on 16th March. (C. in C. Med., 2010A/17 to Admty.)

Departure this date FOXTROT, M.M.S.133, 171. Movements, (Commandant N.O.B. Oran, 2010A/17 to Admty.etc.) Oran.

Arrival 17th: ISLAY, M.L.384 and 385, LEBAN. Departure 17th: ISLAY, M.L. 385, ALKANET. (N.O.I.C.Famagusta, 2013B/17 to Admty. etc.) Movements, Cyprus.

A.M.1529/15th. In view of time involved Minelaying by M.T.B's.

provision of stiffening from U.K. is not required for these 2 M.T.B.Flotillas. Anticipate requirements can be met from resources available as in A.M.1352/15th or local arrangements. A.M.1552/15th para. 2. It should be noted that Elco M.T.B's based on Bone have been laying American moored mines for the last month. (C. in C. Med., 2032A/17 to Admty (R) C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, C.C.F., C.F.W.)

Movements. Benghazi.

Sailed SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA, M.L.1158. Arrived and left M.T.B. 65, 75, 76. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2044B/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.

2000A/16 to 2000A/17. Malta Naval. Convoy from Alexandria arrived a.m. AB-Intelligence DIEL arrived from Alexandria with load of Summary. mines and sailed for Haifa after discharging them. 4 M.L. sailed for Tripoli to co-operate with Eight Army. 5 M.T.B's sailed to operate South of Marittimo during the night. (Govr. Malta, 2045Z/17.)

Malta Air Report.

A.1548/17th March. Part 1. Offensive, night 16/17. 2 torpedo carrying special equipment Wellingtons on search for enemy shipping in Taranto Palermo Area encountered A.S.V. jamming and found no suitable target. 9 Beauforts escorted by 9 Beaufighters made successful attack on convoy of 1 tanker 10000 tons and 1 M/V. 5000 sighted by Baltimore

southbound / ...

1.1.4 700

17.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.)

southbound in Gulf of Taranto with escort of 5 D/rs. Strike aircraft located convoy at 1227 38° 18' N. 16° 38' E. course 225° now escorted by 15 Me.110s. and Ju.88s; which (?while) Beaufighters drove off convoys air escort, Beauforts attacked tanker with 7

A big column of water and a large cloud of black torpedoes. smoke were seen at the stern of the tanker and smoke was also seen from its decks. Baltimore sent to photograph strike found 1 Ju.88 and 1 twin engined flying boat circling a large oil patch 1 quarter mile in diameter, flying boat climbed into thin cloud stalled and then crashed into the sea. In air combat over convoy for loss of 1 Beaufort and 1 Beaufighter so far missing we destroyed 1 Me. 110 probably destroyed 2 Me. 110s and damaged 6 Me. 110s. In addition Beaufighters damaged 1 Dornier 217 1 Ju. 52 and 1 He. 115 in area of strike. Part 2. Enemy air activity day 17th. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta 50 Spitfire sorties were made to escort Malta convoy approaching from South from 0455 hrs. when convoy was first located 25 miles south-southwest of Malta continuous escort was provided until its safe arrival in harbour at 1100 hrs. (A.H.Q.Malta, 2140/17)

Movements, Tobruk.

Arrived SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN MAID, ST. MONANCE, A.138. Sailed BLUEBIRD, PEPITA, DELPHINIUM, A.138 Tug CORNELIUS TWO. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2156B/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

SOKOL, DZIK.

A.M.1206A/2nd Feb. Polish submarines SOKOL and DZIK will be based on Malta. They will probably carry out short working-up patrol beforehand from Gibraltar or Algiers. For administrative reasons it has been agreed with Polish Naval Authorities that both vessels shall return to U.K.

for a short period after six months in the Mediterranean, returning to Mediterranean subsequently. (Hd. of M.II. 2214A/17 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Capt. (S) 10, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

Landing craft, Weekly returns of landing craft on hand are no Transfer to longer required. Monthly returns showing U.S. state at 0001 on 25th of each month are to be signalled by F.O.C. Gibraltar, Comm, Algiers and C.L.C., latter being responsible for Bougie and eastwards. (2) L.S.I.(M's) are to report only when craft are exchanged or replaced. (3) British small

craft now at Oran and Arzeu are hereby transferred to U.S. (4) In addition to differentiation between operation Flag.

and / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Landing craft, Transfer to U.S. (Contd.) and temporarily non-operational craft future returns are to indicate craft whose hull and/or machinery are considered beyond repair by base staffs. Nil returns required. (5) L.C.I.(L) L.C.T. and L.S.T. are not to be included in periodical returns. (C. in C. Med., 2229A/17 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com.N.O.B. Oran, Comm. Algiers, F.O.I.S., C.L.C., N.O.I.C. Philippeville., N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Bone. PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN. (R) Admty., C.C.O. C.S.12)

Movements, Bone.

Enemy Units. Bone arrivals: WILTON, LIDDESDALE, TANGO, REIGHTON WYKE, KING SOL, VISENDA, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, OAKLY. Departures: ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BICESTER, OAKLEY, LOOKOUT. (F.O.I.S., 2242A/17 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers and one ship unknown 38.18 N. 12.27 E. 190° 12 knots. (A/C. FCY/C, 2359A/17 via Alex. W/T.)

CELENO.

CELENO expected arrive Istanbul from Constanza next three or four days. B.4. Comment: Arrival may coincide with that of ALBA JULIA from Salonica, tanker using same escort for continuation of voyage. My 1012/11 (Re ALBA JULIA expected Istanbul March 18th) refers. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1809C/17 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant, S.1, D.N.I.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Arrival 1414Z/17 GAWLER escorting APPLELEAF. (VSIS) TAIPING. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0318Z/17 to Admty.) Arrival 0637Z/17th March EMILE BAUDOT, MAGNOLIA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 0641Z/17 to Admty.) Departure KARACHI to relieve TRAVANCORE. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0950Z/17 to Admty.) Departure 0955Z/17th CAPETOWN for Khor Kuwai and Bombay. (2) N.O.I.C. Hormuz (corrupt group) Khor Kuwai. (N.O.I.C. Bahrein, 1125Z/17 to Admty.) Arrivals 0330Z HAWKINS with W.S.26B, 0445Z CARNATIC. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 1043Z/17 to Admty., etc.) Ceylon 1. FALMOUTH arrived Aden, 16th. Movement 2. SCOUT left Colombo 15th escorting U.S. MORMACDOVE to Calcutta due 20th. Summary 3. HINDUSTAN on patrol Persian Gulf. No. 42, 4. SUTLEJ due Karachi 18th thence Bombay for March 17th. boiler cleaning. 5. JUMNA left Bombay 16th escorting B.M.46 due Colombo 21st. 6. ASTER arrived Bombay 12th. 7. TULIP left Addu Atoll 16th escorting ZUIDERKRUIS, SANTHIA and SINGU due Colombo 19th. 8. VERBENA left Colombo 16th to R/V KANIMBLA with O.W.5. Returning Colombo due 18th. 9. LISMORE left Madras 16th escorting MANTOLA due Colombo 19th. 10. BARMILL left Colombo 15th due Trincomalee 18th. 11. GAWLER arrived Addu 17th with 2 ships. 12. HIRAVATI left Jask 13th via Ras-al-Hadd due Muscat 15th, 13. 13. ORISSA left Aden 13th escorting A.P.24 due Khor Kuwai 19th. 14. TAMWORTH escorting M.B.29 arrived Bombay 16th. 15. MARYBOROUGH and BENGAL left Bandar Abbas 16th escorting P.B.31 due Bombay 22nd. 16. MADRAS escorting P.A.29 due Aden 23rd. (F.O. Ceylon, 0638Z/17 to Admty., etc.) QUIBERON, After adjusting complements with other Australian NEPAL. manned destroyers QUIBERON and NEPAL are being sailed to Australia with as many ratings as possible of over 2 years foreign service. 2. These 2 destroyers will be available for operations by mid June but not fully worked up. A further proportion of ships' companies have however volunteered to recommission. 3. This will leave approx. 33% of R.A.N. ratings of over 2 years foreign service in Eastern Fleet destroyers. Your 1438/11th refers. (C. in C. E.F., 0947Z/17 to Admty., (R) A.C.N.B.) See also 1537/17.

Movements, Kilindini. Left QUIBERON, GAMBIA, SHAPINSAY arrived. (F.O. E.Af., 1222Z/17 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Movements, Colombo. C

Fuelling at Sea. ARNDALE. I do not know if it is intended to fit any Fleet Oilers for fuelling heavy ships at sea by trough method as used in U.S. Fleet but in any case I consider it is desirable at least that one British Fleet Oiler attached to Eastern Fleet should be so fitted in order that ships may

exercise this method in anticipation of future co-operation with U.S. Fleet. 2. Propose that ARNDALE whilst refitting at Durban in April should have following fitted. (Details). 3. Information not yet available whether all above items are available at Durban. If proposals approved further signal will be made in respect of outstanding items. (C. in C. E.F., 1342Z/17 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., Com. i/c Durban, C.S. Durban.)

QUIBERON, Paras. 1, 5 and 6 of my 1656/11. NIZAM, 1. QUIBERON has sailed for Australia in lieu of NEPAL, NIZAM and will be followed shortly by NEPAL. NAPIER. 2. NAPIER and QUALITY are to remain on S.A. QUALITY. Station leaving NIZAM and QUICKMATCH only at QUICKMATCH. Kilindini. 3. Numbers in para. 6 will be increased accordingly. (C. in C. E.F., 1537/17 to C. in C. S.A., (R) Com. (D), Admty.)

Dispositions. My 1240/10. U.S. Forces in Pacific. The following changes in disposition -ALTAMAHA, COPAHEE, NEW MEXICO, NEW ORLEANS - At Sea. INDIANAPOLIS - At San Francisco. SALT LAKE CITY - Alaskan Area. (D.O.D.(F), 1831A/17 to C. in C. E.F.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X.229 attacked,

ELIN K,

Following received: SSSS de A.Z.22 (indecypherable torpedoed 0030/17 de G.C.K. Controlling Station Valentia/G.C.K. R.A.F. informed. (Burnham Radio, 0030/17 to Admty.) Received at 2339 G.M.T. de Gallon Head Radio. SOUTHERN PRINCESS,

NARIVA, Following intercepted at 2332 G.M.T. SSSS 93

ZAANLAND, (rest unread) Q.S.T.2. WILLIAM EUSTIS, (Wick Radio, 0039 G.M.T/17 to R.A.F. Operations IRENEE DU PONT, Room Wick.)

My P.C. and S. at 0230Z/17th 50° 54' 42° 03' 066° 12 knots. Ref. Connav 1330Z/16 to overtake H.X. 229. Weather report. JAMES OGLETHORPE, HARRY LUCKENBACH (ABELIA, 0230Z/17 to F.O.N.F.)

torpedoed.

Following received. SSSS de A.Z.ll. Torpedoed. (Liverpool W/T 0246/17.)

Following received from Lands End Radio. (Begins) intercept 0207 G.M.T. D.E.T.Q.51 SSSS T.Q.D.I.D.E.T.Q.51 torpedoed 0308/17th (ends.)

(C. in C. Plymouth, T.O.R. 0315/17.) At 0210 T.Q. 51 torpedoed starboard. (Gallon Head Radio via Wick, T.O.R. 0359/17 to Admiral Lyness.)

Lyness.)
Following received from H.X.229, SSSS 81. Torpedoed. (Liverpool 0501/17 to Admty.)
Ship torpedoed approx. 051° 05' N. 033° 55' W.
(C.0.A.C. 0532Z/17 to G.B. 7A. (R) C.T.F. 24, Connav, Admty.
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., C.O.A.C.)
3 further attacks, total of 8 ships torpedoed. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 0540Z/17 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., HIGHLANDER, ABELIA, MANSFIELD, WITHERINGTON.)
No. 72. SOUTHERN PRINCESS has sunk, No. 92 NARIVA and
No. 73 ELMINDO left sinking in 050° 54' N. 033° 35' W. Have
94 survivors entire crew from NARIVA on board. Remaining
survivors picked up by TEKOA. Am rejoining convoy speed survivors picked up by TEKOA. Am rejoining convoy speed 14 knots.

(ANENOME, 1240Z/17 to VOLUNTEER (R) HIGHLANDER.) H.X. 229 have BEVERLEY and MANSFIELD in company PENNYWORT and ANEMONE overtaking astern. Persistent attack will not permit fuelling and situation is becoming critical. D/F and situation of the permit fuelling and situation of the permit fuelling and situation of the permit fuelling and situation is becoming critical. D/F and

permit fuelling and situation is becoming critical. D/F and sighting indicate many U/boats in contact. (C.T.U. 24.1.18, 1437Z/17 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. HIGHLANDER.) A.C.I. Article 39 para. (5). 2(a) 4 attacks 2215Z/16 to 0508Z/17 in 50° 38' N. 34° 46' W. (b) 4, details unknown. (c) to Starboard.(d) SOUTHERN PRINCESS, ?ELIN K, ZAANLAND, NARIVA, WILLIAM EUSTIS, IREMEE DU PONT, JAMES OGLETHORPE, HARRY LUCKENBACH. Survivors VOLUNTEER 66, PENNYWORT 90, MANSFIELD 20, COALVERLY 30, TEKOA 200, ANEMONE considerable number details unknown. (e) NARIVA being investigated. (f) All rejoining. (g) Nil (h) 0853 6555. (C.T.U. 24.1.18. 1545Z/17 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connay.

(C.T.U. 24.1.18. 1545Z/17 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.)

/Your...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X.229 attacked, SOUTHERN PRINCESS, NARIVA, ELIN K, ZAANLAND, WILLIAM EUSTIS, IRENEE DU PONT JAMES OGLETHORPE, HARRY LUCKENBACH

torpedoed. Contd.

Your 1253A/17th. (Request for weather report.) 44881547. Position 051° 31' N. 038° 20' W. (HIGHLANDER, 1658Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.) Liberator A/C Convoy call sign W.2 will meet H.X.229 18th. Aircraft will be fitted with high brilliancy landing light and A.S.V. and will remain in vicinity of Convoy for about three hours after dark. Aircraft will carry out an A.S.V. search round the convoy and be prepared to use lights with object of attacking U-boats on the surface if S.O. of Escort considers this advisable. All Merchant Ships are to be warned of possible use of Illuminants by aircraft after dark 18th March and warned not to open fire. Aircraft will make contact with S.O. of Escort before dark when aircraft is to be informed

before dark when aircraft is to be informed whether or not search with landing light is to be carried out by making signal "Light" or "Dark". (C. in C.W.A., 1718Z/17 to HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, VOLUNTEER, (R) Ships escorting H.X. Convoy 229, Ships escorting S.C. 122, A.C.I.C., 15 Group, Admty.) At 2100Z/17th my P. C. and S. (? 12) Ol N. 36.46 W. 070° 20 knots. Hope to join H.X.229 before dark 18th. Request VOLUNTEER transmits P.C. and S. at 0800Z/18th on 2410 K/cs., HIGHLANDER will D/F. HIGHLANDER will D/F.

(HIGHLANDER, 2303Z/17 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., VOLUNTEER, ABELIA, Escorts H.X.229.)

S.C.122 attacked KINGSBURY, KING GRUFFYD, ALDERAMIN, FORT CEDARLAKE, GRANVILLE, ZOUAVE torpedoed.

Convoy S.C.122 attacked 052° 14' N. 032° 15' W. (HAVELOCK, 0201Z/17 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. A.C.I.C., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.24, C.T.G.24.6) S.C.122, my 0110Z/17, (0201Z intended?) one attack carried out by U-boats. 4 ships sunk, KINGSBURY 51, KING GRUFFYD 52, ALDERAMIN 61, and FORT CEDAR-LAKE 124. U-boat was not seen and no contacts PORT AUCKLAND, LAKE 124. U-boat was not seen and no contacts made. ZAMALEK escorted by H.M.S. SAXIFRAGE picked up about 160 survivors rejoining 1900Z/17. H/F D/F bearing today indicate about 6 U-boats in immediate vicinity of convoy. Aircraft has carried out two attacks. Uncyphered weather

report 5389 0781.

(HAVELOCK, 1141Z/17 to C. in C.W.A. (R) T.U. 24.6.4., 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.)

S.C.122 U-Boat attack(ed). One ship torpedoed 052° 50' N. 030° 35' W.

(HAVELOCK, 1406Z/17 to C. in C.W.A. (R) H.Q.C.C. Connav., C.T.F. 24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)

My 1406Z/17th GRANVILLE 41 torpedoed and sunk. Master, U.S. My 14062/17th GRANVILLE 41 torpedoed and sunk. Master, U Army Colonel, U.S. Naval Ensign. 5 Officers and 27 men saved, 2nd Mate died, 11 others missing. Attack on contacts carried out by U.S. Destroyer UPSHUR and H.M.S. GODETIA, no results. Ships rejoining. My Asdic is out of action and cannot be repaired. B.R.M.W. 2 did not contact convoy. Uncyphered. Weather report, 3581 0514. (HAVELOCK 2009Z/17 to A.I.G. 303)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S.C.122 attacked KINGSBURY, KING GRUFFYD, ALDERAMIN, ZOUAVE torpedoed. Contd.

Following from Resolution Island (begins.) At 0209 intercepted following SSSS to Commodore S.C.122 from P.T.51 in S.C.122, torpedoed. At 0211 P.T.5 in S.C.122 starboard bearing 117 at 0214 SSSS from P.T.124 in S.C.122 torpedoed FORT CEDARLAKE, SSSS from C.T.124 in S.C.122 torpedoed -/16. (2) PORT AUCKLAND, At 0501 G.M.T. intercepted SSSS. 81 torpedoed GRANVILLE, signal too weak for bearing -/12 (ends) C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Connav informed. (N.S.H.Q., 1406Z/17 to Admty.) Following from Wick Radio. Received at 1402

G.M.T. on 375 K.C/s. De Gallonhead Radio (Begins, Following intercept 1357 from T.Q.41 (Ship of S.C.122) SSSS. No. further particulars Q.S.A. 3. 1505 B.S.T. Wick Radio (Ends.)

A.C.O.S. No T.O.O. to Admty., Recd. 1525.) S.C.122 U-Boat attack (?52° 58' N. 029° 13' W., number 92,

PORT AUCKLAND, torpedoed. (HAVELOCK, 2200Z/17 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.) ZOUAVE (British, 4256 tons) also torpedoed and sunk, see 1824Z/18

ANDES.

E.T.A. Pilot, (as received) 2359 Q? 17th. (S.S. ANDES 0040Z/17 to C.E.S.F. (R) Cominch.) Sail ANDES Casablanca via (N) 38.30 71.05.

(0) 34.01 65.03 (P) 32.55 55.10 (Q) 31.01 45.20 (R) 28.40 36.50 (S) 28.40 22.10 (T) 33.45 17.40 (U) 33.55 08.04 Chop times 40° W. and 10° W. to be included in sailing telegram. Port Director New York has action C.E.S.F. has for information. Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. V.A. Gibraltar. (Connav, 2002/17 to Port Director New York, (R) Cinclant, N.O.B. Bermuda, C.E.S.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Moroccan Sea Frontier Forces, Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med.)

V.C.N.S.

Personal from 1st S.L. Your 2253 V.C.N.S. leave New York on Monday? (1st S.L. 0125A/17 to B.A.D.) Your 2253/12. Did

Personal for 1st S.L. and Adm. Curteis. Your 0125/17. V.C.N.S. left New York for U.K. by American Export Air Line on Monday 15th. Understand plane was at Bermuda yesterday. Adm. Curteis is requested to inform 1st S.L. date and time of plane's departure from Bermuda.

(B.A.D. 1545Z/17 to Admty., S.B.N.O. W.A.)

ARCOLA, TAIGETE.

Following is a re-encipherment of N.R.O. Aruba 161335 addressed Connav and Cafac repeated Comcaribseafron, passed to you by connav for information. "Connav 142030,(N.T.inW.R.) ARCOLA and TAIGETE to be routed: J.13 - 07 N. 69.07 W. K. 13.07 61.49. Thence direct to Kingstown St. Vincent.". (Radio Washington, 0237/17 to Admty.)

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

Movements.

16th March. St. John's, N.F. Arrivals TENACITY ex Search for S.S. EMPIRE LIGHT. Arrivals -

CHELSEA ex OLN. 170. ST. CLAIR, THE PAS, BLAIRMORE, KAMSACK ex H.X. 229 A. IROQUOIS ex Halifax. Departures -SHERBROOKE to H.X. 229. MALPEQUE to Search for S.S. NORTH KING. (N.O.I.C. St. John's, 0304Z/17 to Admty.) Mayport departed 0745Q/16 M.T.B. R.15 Group B for

Charleston.

(N.S.H.Q. 0515Z/17 to Admty.) Left Havana 17th March Q 080 for Grand Cayman 1200 G.M.T., Q 081 for Key West 1145 G.M.T. (B.R.L.O. Havana, 0946/17. to Admty.) Left 17th U.S. Submarine Chasers 497, 530, 649.

(Cartagena Colombia, 1035/17 to Admty.) Departures BARRIE, BUCTOUCHE, MEDICINE HAT, GANANOQUE, escorting H.S.C.123. Arrivals GEORGIAN from St. John N.B. HAMILTON, GRANBY, CHICOUTIMI, MATAPEDIA ex O.N.169, FREDERICTON ex H.X. 229.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1520Z/17 to Admty., etc.)

U.S. Dispositions Cominch 1820/16 addressed for action to Admiralty and for information Comnaveu informs as follows. Changes my 1530/09. Serial 65:

Pacific. ALTAMAHA, COPAHEE, NEW MEXICO and NEW ORLEANS at sea. INDIANAPOLIS at San Francisco. SALT LAKE CITY in Alaskan area. Atlantic. TUSCALOOSA at Casco Bay. RANGER at Newport. OMAHA and ESSEX at sea. BOGUE at Argentia. PHILADELPHIA and ARKANSAS at New York. (Commaveu, 0829/17 to Admty.)

G.A.T.49. Convoy G.A.T.49 arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 0947Q/17 to Admty.)

Your 0950/16 not to Aruba. C.U.l. Nine vesse nominated E.W. SINCLAIR, ESSO PATERSON, ESSO Convoy C.U.l. Nine vessels C.U.1. PHILADELPHIA. CARIBBEAN loading Curacao. COLINA, ESSO, WILMINGTON, SPARROWS POINT, VIRGINIA, OKLAHOMA loading Aruba. Only two escort oilers nominated are E.W. SINCLAIR and ESSO PATERSON. My 1245/10 March and my 1733/15th March refer.

(D.T.D., 1047A/17 to B.R.L.O. Curacao, (R) B.A.D., B.R.L.O. Aruba)

Sailing telegram. 2. Date 1000Z/17th. 3. H.O.M.P. 1500Z/18. 5. As C.E.S.E. 1200/10. H.S.C. 123 7. Total 17 ships. 8. As S.C.E.S.F. 1200/10 (C.O.A.C. 1300Z/17, 1302Z/17 to Admty.)

H.X.230.

 Sailing telegram part 1. H.X. 230.
 Position C. at 2000Z ^March 18. 3. 5. 8. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafron 122131 March 6. Task Unit 24.18.8. LETHBRIDGE S.O. HALIFAX, BROCKVILLE. C.E.S.F. pass to C.O.A.C. for information. (P.D. New York, 1418/17 to Admty., (R) Cominch C. and R. etc.)

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America and West Indies. - Contd.

ALCOA GUARD U.S. in U.G.S.6 arrived Bermuda March ALCOA GUARD 14th collision damage. collision. (N.S.H.Q., 1431Z/17 to Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

S/M Estimates. U/S S/M notices.

(Cominch. 1450/17, 1451/17, 1600/17, 1601/17, 1602/17.)

S/M attacked 52.23 N. 28.45 W. at 1025 G.C.T./17. U/B (Cominch, 1503/17 to Admty.) attacked.

S/M sighted 10° 47' N. 77° 51' W. at 1720 G.M.T. (Kingston Jamaica, 1516R/17 to Admty.) U/B.

Yard is Navy Yard Philadelphia. Your 1746/15. ARGONAUT. (B.A.M.R., 1526Z/17 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Following four American merchantmen damaged in attack on convoy B.T.6 in area 07° 11' N. 52° 30' W. have been salvaged and towed to Trinidad. B.T.6. Ships Salvaged. (1) S.S. JAMES K. POLK by H.M.R.T. FRISKY. (2) S.S. MARK HANNA by H.M.R.T. ORIANA.
(3) S.S. JAMES SMITH by D.R.T. ZWARTE ZEE.
(4) S.S. THOMAS RUFFIN by MILFORD.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1532Q/17 to Admty.(R) B.A.D.etc)

Your 1635/16. We would like ship to be sailed A.T.40. so as to arrive Clyde p.m. 3rd April. As this will probably mean sailing Halifax p.m. 29th March, can embarkation programme be adjusted to fit in with above. (D.O.D. (H) 1640A/17 to N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

Dispositions Section South West. S.C.123 Western Local Escort T.U.24.18.2. 42.29 61.51 064° 7.5. H.S. (?C) 123 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4. 43.57 62.25 125° 7.5 to join S.C.123 O.N. 169 T.U.24.18.9 43.22 64.24 251° 7.5 altering to (?211°) in 65.22 W. T.U. 24.18.10 departing Chebucto Head 21002/17th to join O.N. 170 in 41.57 61.21 at 1300Z/18th. S/M L.23 on the surface escorted by NANAIMO (?43)09 67.01 267° altering to 235° in 43.05 N. 68.56 W. and to 184° in 42.21 N. 70.16 W. S. of A. 8. SLOGA 44.30 62.25 055° 8 altering to 038° in 60.57 W, WATUKA vicinity 44.52 61.10 en route Halifax 8. Halifax 8.

(C.O.A.C., 1720Z/17 to Admty.)

Movements.

Trinidad arrivals March 17th MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, AMARANTHUS, YESTOR, TUgs FRISKY, ORIANA, ZNARTE ZEE. (S.O.(I) Trinidad, 1702Q/17 to S.B.N.O.W.A., etc.)

/H.X. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X. and S.C.Convoys proposed increase of numbers.

/ In first four convoys in March, only 192 ships out of a possible 545 have so far sailed, an average of only 48 ships for each convoy. If the balance of 353 are to have an opportunity of sailing remaining 5 convoys would need to average 70 ships. 2. In view of serious state of im-

portant programme and improving weather, it is proposed that upper limit for H.X. and S.C. be raised from 60 to 70. 3. It is not possible to adjust strength of escorts to suit the size of the convoy and, unless convoys are kept at an even size, there will be some unduly large convoys. 4. B.A.D. is requested to obtain Cominch's concurrence in upper limit of 70 and, if agreement is reached, to inform Sparkes accordingly, pointing out how essential it is to ensure that each convoy contains 70 ships so as to avoid any increase over 70 for each convoy.

(D.T.D. Approved 1st Sea Lord., 1805A/17 to B.A.D., C. in C.W.A.)

L.C.I. (L) Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Sail following 19 L.C.I. (L)s Norfolk to Gibraltar when ready about March 20th: - 114, 117, 250, 253, 263, 266, 268, 269, 270, 273, 275, 296, 297, 298, 299, 301, 314, 317, Also 249 which did not sail my 1805/2nd, via following route (K) 34.30 69.55 (L) 31.45 65.10 (M) 30.15 56.30 (N) 28.05 47.50 (O) 28.29 39.01 (P) 28.20 30.05 (Q) 27.35 21.59 (R) 26.45 15.55 (S) 28.01 13.25 (T) 32.02 10.05 (U) 35.50 06.25 thence to destination. Any or all ships 10.05 (U) 35.50 06.25 thence to destination. Any or all ships may enter Bermuda at discretion of S.O. in L.C.I. (L) 301. Advise time of departure, S. of A. (Cominch, 1851/17 to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. etc.) Amended 1245/26.

U/Bs.

S/M sighted 51.32 N. 30.10 W. at 1337 G.C.T. 17. S/M sighted 51.28 N. 29.32 W. at 1448 G.C.T. 17. S/M attacking 51.45 N. 32.26 W. at 1300 G.C.T. 17. (Cominch, 1837/17 to Admty.)

VIMY.

Your 1435/16th. VIMY will be sailed immediately defects to asdic training shaft are completed. (A.C.I.C. 1922A/17th to M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, F.O. N.F.)

Your 1541/16 (Requesting news of THORSTRAND (Nor)) Please see my 2010/15. Nothing further. (N.S.H.Q., 1937Z/17 to Admty.) THORSTRAND.

U.S.A.T. MADISON arrived Balboa 15 March. (N.S.H.Q., 1951Z/17 to Admty.) Balboa 1723 hours U.S.A.T.MADISON, San Jose, MADISON.

Guatemala, Cutuco-Punta Arenas and return to Balboa 20 March, coastal. (R.O. Cristobal, 2358/17 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z. A. Two unidentified torpedoed 51.45 N. 32.26 W. about 171230. IRENEE DU PONT torpedoed area 51.05 N. 33.55 W. about 170500. 7 unidentified torpedoed same area night 16/17. Two unidentified torpedoed area 52.10 N. 33.30 W. about 170211. British plane attacks sub course 200 52.25 N. 28.45 W. 171025 P.A.F. plane

about 170211. British plane attacks sub course 200 52.23 N. 28.45 W. 171025. R.A.F. plane sights sub on surface course 090 51.32 N. 30.10 W. 171337. R.A.F plane sights periscope course 330 51.28 N. 29.32 W. 171448. SANTEE planes and EBERLE attack sub on surface 07.15 S. 29.15 W. about 171940. C. Sub. contacts 19.56 N. 74.18 W. 170000. Sub. sighted course 200 04.25 S. 35.45 W. 160900. Sub. contact 04.37 S. 33.19 W. 152210. P.C. 1191 attacks sound contact 20.20 N. 74.09 W. 141800. (Cominch 2100/17 to Admty. for 0.1.C.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav. Serials 15 to 17. IRENEE DU PONT Torpedoed 17th March 51.05 N. 33.55 W. H.X.226 (?H.X.229) 13, CERES, 12 CITIES SERVICE, MISSOURI, sunk. Correction 10, JAMES SMITH not sunk. BENJAMIN HARRISON torpedoed 16th March 39.09 N. 24.15 W. in U.G.S. 6. C.E.S.F. has for information. (Cominch, C. and R., 2130/17 to Comnaveu.)

E.W. SINCLAIR, oiling gear. Your 1706/16th. U.S. Authorities state following equipment was placed on board E.W. SINCLAIR on 5th March and signed for by Wesik, third mate.(list) 2. Receipt includes statement that instructions in use was given. (3) Request immediate confirmation that above gear is not on board.

(4) Necessary action can only be taken with U.S. Authorities here, therefore suggest further representation should be through
C.A.F.A.C. or B.A.D. Washington.
(B.A.D., 2155Z/17 to S.B.N.O. Curacao (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

O.N.S. 169.

Directly daylight proceed to New York. Port Director New York, Cdr. Eastern Sea Frontier and Cdr. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston have for information by

other means. (Cominch C. and R. 2213/17 to C.T.U. 24.18.9. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. C.lst U.S. N.D. Boston, Cdr. E.S. Frontier. U.S. Port Director New York.)

U/Bs.

B.A.M.S.I.A. S/M. sighted 51.19 N. 32.19 W. at 1906 G.C.T./17. S/M. attacked 51.21 N. 32 W. at 1908 G.C.T./17. (Cominch, 2247/17 to Admty.)

Washington Conference, provision of A/S. Aircraft. JSM.817 17th March. Although we understood that Adm. King did not propose to lay conclusions and recommendations of Anti-Submarine Conference before Combined Chiefs of Staff until you had time to consider them, we have today received a memorandum by U.S. Chiefs of Staff containing A.C.C.3 and A.C.C.3/1, the reports on air support. Para. 1 of

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Washington Conference, provision of A/S Aircraft. Contd.

the latter paper recommends necessity for provision of 128 V.L.R. aircraft in addition to the 132 now in sight as of such urgency as to warrant a recommendation that Combined Chiefs of Staff should arrange to supply them immediately by diversion from other deployments. Figure of 132 V.L.R. aircraft is composed of 60 R.A.F. available in U.K. - Iceland area by 1st July, 48

U.S.A.A.F. and U.S.N. in Newfoundland area by 1st June, 24 U.S.A.A.F. in N.W. Africa "in near future." Total figure of 260 is for whole Atlantic including Caribbean and South America. 2. U.S. Chiefs of Staff consider that only means of quickly increasing effectiveness of our A.S.W. measures is to divert heavy bombers from other assignments, and in view of the situation in several theatres of active warfare, the only possibility is to divert these planes from bombing of Germany. They propose therefore that Combined Chiefs of Staff "should weigh advantages of diverting 128 hombers - on some part weigh advantages of diverting 128 bombers - or some part thereof - from the bombing of Germany to anti-submarine operations," and suggest a special committee consisting of representatives of R.A.F., U.S. Army Air Force. and Chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics should be set up to consider this matter. 3. We have put in a short paper to Combined Chiefs of Staff agreeing to general study of provision of additional V.L.R. aircraft, but stating that we considered that it should be made by Combined Staff Planners, that in making this study they should consider possibility of diverting aircraft from appropriate resources already available or earmarked for all theatres of operations, and that to make this study on lines proposed it will be necessary to study resources now in, or proposed, for all theatres, together with full details of availability of suitable aircraft, trained personnel and special A/S equipment. 4. These two papers will come before Combined Chiefs of Staff on Friday. We should be glad to have any comments that you may wish to make before then. (J.S.M. Washington, 2303Z/17 to W.C.O. London.) Received from W.C.O. 1405/18.

Cable operations.

Proposed // Navy Department wish to attempt to cut following cables: Singapore - Saigon. Singapore -Labuan. Singapore - Hongkong. Singapore -

Batavia. Labuan - Hongkong, Manila - Hongkong. Request all possible information regarding exact positions of these cables and any other information to facilitate the operation may be forwarded as soon as possible and if possible by air. (B.A.D. 23112/17 to Admty.)

ANEMONE. LANDGUARD, SWEETBRIAR.

Your 1449/17. (N.T. in W.D.) ANENOME and LANDGUARD arrive St. Johns 13th April and 21st April respectively. SWEETBRIAR now at Argentia and has been informed. (F.O.N.F. 2332Z/17 to CANADA, (R) B.A.T.M. Ottawa, Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 420 16th March.

Photos Kavieng morning revealed 1 heavy cruiser in Harbour while visual sightings reported in addition 1 small merchant vessel off the runway one 8,000 ton merchant vessel, 1 small warship course 270° and 2 medium merchant men course and 1 medium merchant vessel 10 miles W.N.W. (2) may solve 350°. 360° in two groups approx. 20 miles S.W. Kavieng

(2) Two cargo vessels including 1 damaged under tow 2 small destroyers position 00° 17' S. 144° 55' E. course 190° early hours.

(4) Submarine attacked midday position 00° 10' S. 152° 10' E. with unobserved results.

(5) 100 ton vessel one barge sighted in Lagoon near Finschhafen morning.

(8) Three merchant vessels position 04° 01' S. 132° 36' E. course West unsuccessfully attacked forenoon.

(10) R/C 13th (Reveal?) no aircraft on Denpasar Aerodrome (Bali). Sourabaya photographed revealing 23 effective merchant vessels totalling 8,500 tons including 8 vessels, 5 to 7,000 tons also 1 old Dutch Depot ship, 1 possible Gunboat 1 Torpedo Boat, 1 sub chaser under repair, 6 vessels including 1 destroyer sunk and 5 serviceable floating. Docks, 1 fighter, 5 single engine and 13 medium bombers, 1 transport aircraft on Tandjoeng Perak Aerodrome and 2 Runways of 1500 and 1600 yards. (11) R/C aircraft over Darwin forenoon 16th. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0837Z/17).

Movements.

Arrivals Port Moresby 15th SWAN, Thursday Island 16th LATROBE, Townsville 15th (corrupt group) WAGGA Tutuila 16th, VENDETTA. Sydney (N.S.W.)

15th BUNDABERG, WARRNAMBOOL, departures Port Moresby 16th ARUNTA for Cairns. KATOOMBA for Milne Bay, Cairns 16th ECHUCA for Merauke, Townsville 16th WARREGO for Port Moresby WAGGA for Cairns.

(A.C.N.B., 1021Z/17 to Admty).

Arrivals 16th March Port Moresby H.T. KATOOMBA. Townsville R.F.A. BISHOPDALE. U.S.T. BANTAM 17th, Townsville H.T. TAROONA U.S. MAETSUYCKER.

Departed Brisbane 16th due Gladstone 17th. R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK and U.S.T. VAN DER LIJN depart Brisbane 16th due Townsville 20th. (A.C.N.B., 1041Z/17 to Admty. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1415A/17, 1430A/17)

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. The proposals concerning convoys, which were made by Cominch to the Admiralty on 12th March and amended on 13th March, are to become effective immediately. Halifax is established as the terminal for S.C. and O.N.S. convoys. The U.S. Iceland (C) Shuttle Service is to be discontinued, and Iceland (C) shipping will sail from U.S.A. to U.K. and thence to Iceland (C) in U.R. Convoys. Mid-Ocean escorts will be composed of 14 British and Canadian Groups: the U.S. Ships in A.3 Mid-Ocean Group will be returned to U.S. control as British new construction permits. Western Locals will be composed of 11 Canadian Groups and to escort trans-Atlantic Trade convoys between New York, Halifax and Westomp, and in addition to escort Boston - Halifax convoys.

Home Commands.

2. The Admiralty today informed F.O.(S) that warning of a break out of main units from bases in Northern Norway is more important than the Bay patrol.
P.315 (TRUCULENT) and P.223 (SEA NYMPH) are to leave Lerwick on 20th March and P.316 (TEMPLAR) Holy Loch on 22nd March for patrol in the Lofoten Is. area. (See 19th March).

3. BORAGE this morning picked up 13 survivors of SS. JAMAICA (Norw. 3015 tons, Liverpool for New York independently) in 50.47 N. 13.38 W. The ship was sunk by torpedo in 50.24 N. 13.56 W.: no further details are known.

4. Fog on the east coast caused some ports to be closed during part of today.

5. ADVENTURE arrived at Milford Haven this afternoon from the Mediterranean.

6. An aircraft of 304 Squadron sighted and attacked a medium sized merchant vessel steering east in 44° 50' N. 04° 20' W. at 1643 today.

/7. ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

7. The Admiralty have asked Coastal Command to provide reconnaissance of Havre and Cherbourg at least twice a week.

8. 97 aircraft of U.S. VIII Bomber Command attacked the Vulkan Shipbuilding Yards at Vegesack (near Bremen) early this afternoon. Hits were seen on the U-Boats on the slips and on workshops. Two U.S. aircraft are missing. Forty to 50 enemy aircraft were destroyed and many damaged.*

9. There were a number of W.R.N.S. casualties when a single aircraft bombed Yarmouth at 0626 today.

10. Two mines, apparently of German Y type, were cut today in approx. 64.05 N. 23.34 W. (off Skagi). A clearance sweep of the area is to be commenced forthwith.

*Details of the damage caused are in Sictel No.7 (7th April).7 U/Bs were severely and 6 slightly damaged, out of 15 hulls on the slips at the time. It is thought the yard will be of little importance for 12 months.

North Atlantic.

11. KENYA arrived at Gibraltar this morning from U.K.

12. U.S. Battleship NEW YORK, U.S. Cruiser BROOKLYN and H.M. Escort Carriers HUNTER and STALKER arrived at Casablanca at 1355 from New York after escorting Convoy U.G.F.6.

South Atlantic.

13. An unknown ship reported being attacked by a submarine in 11.44 S. 01.44 E. at 2200 today. It is estimated that LULWORTH HILL, due at Freetown 26th March from Capetown and overdue on 29th March, was in the vicinity at the time.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

14. DAFILA and KAYING were torpedoed at 0935 in 32.59 N. 22.21 E. (about 35 miles N.W. of Derna). The first named sank and KAYING also foundered during heavy weather in the night 18th/19th March. BEAUFORT, EXMOOR and TETCOTT are searching for the U-Boat. The Italian tug CORNELIUS II which was reported salued at Wahnuk an 25th December 1949 conk a m

salved at Tobruk on 25th December 1942 sank a.m. today off Ras Azzaz whilst straggling from convoy. The cause of sinking is unknown.

Air Operations. 15. Naples was bombed today by 12 B.24s. Owing to low cloud, no results were observed except a fire in the town area.

16. Six aircraft attacked 20th Group M/S Trawlers north of Cape de Garde whilst sweeping today. H.M.S. NEGRO shot down one of the enemy.

America and West Indies.

17. Aircraft escorting Convoys S.C.122 and H.X. 229 sighted and attacked several U-Boatstoday.

H.X.229. 2 more ships torpedoed, making 12 in all. 18. MANSFIELD was detached to Londonderry at 0700Z today in 53.05 N. 29.22 W. MANSFIELD is short of water and fuel, and at 1400Z she reported that she was proceeding on port engine only, on account of leaking starboard condenser. It had not been possible to refuel the escort during the night, owing to the weather and continual action against U-Boats. At 1405 ANEMONE made 6 attacks on a U-Boat 3 miles astern of the convoy and considered the U-Boat to be damaged. At 1447 HIGHLANDER carried out 4 attacks on a U-Boat with promising results. At 1547 WALTER Q. GRESHAM and CANADIAN STAR were torpedoed in 53.35 N. 28.05 W. (510 miles S.W. of Rockall) and were abandoned. BIBB sailed to join the escort at 1025Z today.

/WAVENEY ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 229. 2 more ships torpedoed. making 12 in all. (Contd.)

WAVENEY and ABERDEEN have hull damage: the latter's dome, is missing and both ships need to dock on arrival. (1.726) HIGHLANDER (S.O. of Group) and BABBITT joined the escort at 1905. None of the 4 escorting

aircraft was met.

In all, 12 ships in the convoy were torpedoed in 7 attacks, of which 6 were successful. The S.O. escort vessels attributes the chief cause of sinking to (A) There were only 4 escorts over a critical period; HIGHLANDER was delayed by defects and WITHERINGTON did not join on account of stress of weather. MANSFIELD joined but was absent searching. (B) Lack of a rescue ship, which resulted in escorts being absent from the convoy picking up survivors.

19. EMPIRE GRANITE is reported sinking as the result of a collision in the Hudson River.

S.C.122.

20. Five aircraft escorted S.C.122 today and made 4 attacks. An attempted U-Boat attack on the convoy at 2203 was frustrated by the escort.

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

DEXTEROUS. Dutch Ensign hoisted on DEXTEROUS 1430/18. Vessel awaiting official register before ready to sail. (M.S.R.T. Glasgow, 1450/18.)

lst S.G.B. Flotilla. On return to operational service boats of lst S.G.B. Flotilla are to be based at Newhaven under operational orders of C. in C. Portsmouth. (D.D.O.D.C. 2102A/18 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

Movements.

S/M Movements.

My 1726/17. Add to para. (F) leaves patrol 0800/18 dived by day towards 43° 01', 10° 02' speed 120 miles per day. Thence to Gibraltar. My 2238/17. Amend to read JUNON position 63° 02'

My 2238/17. Amend to read JUNON position 63° 02' 02° 04' E., probably on surface toward Lerwick 8[±]/₂ knots. (F.O.S. 0811A/18 to Admty.)

Your 1115A/17. Estimated ready for sea 22nd March. (BLACKFISH, 1350A/18 to Comsubron) Position of submarines at 0800A/19 and movements for

following 24 hours. (A) JUNON probably arriving Lerwick from Northeastward. (B) SOKOL escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Rattray Head, due R/V in O90°. Duncansby Head 3 miles at 1700/19, thence escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to Holy Loch, E.T.A. 1400/21. (C) UNRULY 47° 50' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day, course 180°. Daily advance 105 miles. (D) HERRING vicinity 45° 15' N. 17° 35' W. (E) SHAD in Biscay, South Zone. (F) SHAKESPEARE 43° Ol' N. 10° 02' W. proceeding to Gibraltar from Northward. (G) UNA 43° 50' N. 12° 57' W., dived by day through 44° 00' N. 12° 54' W., thence course 000°. Daily advance 110 miles.

(F.O.S. 1737A/18 and 1841A/18) Note. See Amendments 0731A/19 and 1031A/19.)

VISCOUNT, Hvalfiord arrival at 0931 VISCOUNT and ROSE. (A.C.I.C., 1022A/18)

HOWE, INDOMITABLE. Scapa arrival HOWE, INDOMITABLE, OFFA, ONSLAUGHT, BLANKNEY, OBEDIENT, OPPORTUNE. (A.C.O.S., 1102/18)

DASHER.

Your 1309A/16. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dundee, 1315/18.) Your 1315. Arrived. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1855A/18 to N.O.I.C. Dundee.)

ANTHONY.

(1) Sail at 1030 tomorrow and proceed by searched channels in force to Scapa.
(2) S.O.A. 20 knots, weather permitting.
(Capt. D.16 1437A/18 to ANTHONY.)

/SAUCY...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Cont.

SAUCY.

Request you sail SAUCY with despatch to Londonderry to stand by at immediate notice for further orders. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1806A/18 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

Craft for Force "J". Request all eight of next batch of L.C.I.(L) on passage to U.K. may be sent to join Force "J" as soon as possible after arrival. (C.C.O., 2015A/18 to Admty.)

INDOMITABLE, ARCHER. Intend sailing (A) INDOMITABLE, (B) ARCHER for Clyde on 20th March. Pass Hoxa Gate (A) 1400A/20th. (B) 1415A/20th. S. of A. and E.T.A. Clyde L.V. (A) 18 knots 0930A/21st.

(B) 15 knots 1400A/21st. berth in Clyde will be requested later.
Request screen. A.C.O.S. Acknowledge.
(R.A. (A) H.F. 2122A/18 to C. in C. H.F., (R) C. in C.W.A.,
A.C.O.S., R.A. (D), Admty., N.O.I.C. Greenock, INDOMITABLE,
ARCHER, F.O. N.A.S., Cdre, 2nd i/c N.A.S.)

ORKAN. Proceed passing "Switha" 1430A/20 to arrive Plymouth A.M. 22nd. Routed through Minches, North Channel and Q.Z.L.15. 2. On arrival act as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (R.A.D., 2145A/18 to ORKAN.)

FLY, GLEANER. My 1143/18 and A.C.I.C. 1802/18. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail FLY to Hvalfjord. (2) GLEANER to remain in Iceland until further further directions. (C. in C.H.F. 2222A/18)

DASHER. My 1447/15* (1) Report proposed time of sailing to C. in C. H.F. who is requested to provide screen to Scapa. (2) Embark 9 A/C of 816
Squadron and 6 of 819 Squadron at Scapa and sail Clyde.
(3) Working up in Clyde paying particular attention A/S attack and fighter interception.
(V.A.(A) H.F., 2347/18 to DASHER, (R) R.A.N.A.S. Hatson, Machrihanish, A.C.O.S., R.A.N.A.S., C. in C.H.F., C. in C.W.A., C.D.B., N.O.I.C. Greenock, Admty.)* Not received.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol.

SHAKESPEARE leaving patrol at 0800/18 proceeding diving by day to 043° 01', 010° 02', thence Gibraltar as ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar. (F.O.S. 0034A/18 to S/Ms.)

/Proceed...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol Contd.

Proceed at best speed to 45° 27' N. 03° 10' W. Aircraft report further search from 03° 00' at 1500, sweeping West. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1009A/18 to SHAD) My 1009/18. You are not to proceed further east than 04° 00' W. unless in contact with

enemy.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1219A/18 to SHAD.)

My 1822. fathom line. Course 91°, speed 10.5. Do not cross 100

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1847/18 to SHAD.)

If not in contact with enemy by 0300 proceed patrol K.508. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2315A/18 to SHAD.)

Operation "Upsilon Four". Your 2309A/17. (1) My position at 0800A/18 will be 063° 02', 002° 04' E. (2) Date of my 1129 is 16th. Transmission delayed due to breakdown of transmitter. (JUNON, 0211A/18 to Capt. S.9.)

(1) E.T.A. Lerwick 1000A/19. (2) My position 062° 14', 000° 42' E. (JUNON, 1701A/18.)

Coastal Patrols.

My 2154A/17. M.G.B.55 returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0710A/18.) 1. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail

following force and give latest intelligence. 2. 3. M.G.Bs., 1 M.T.B. 3. Object. Destruction of enemy shipping. 4. Leave Newhaven at dark 18th and proceed through passage two in Q.Z.X. 711 to sweep enemy coastal route between Treport and Cap D'Antifer. 5. Return. Through passage two to arrive off Newhaven by daylight. 6. Codeword "Advent".

two to arrive off Newhaven by daylight. 6. Codeword "Advent". (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1129A/18.) 1. 3 M.G.Bs., 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven patrolling to southward. 2. Chasseurs 10 and 13 patrolling southward of E.A.5. 3. 2 M.Ls. at St. Helens. KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth. 4. R.M.L. 516, M.L. 246 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1135A/18.) (1) Intend R.M.L. 516 (S.O.) and M.L. 246 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leaving Portland at 1930 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol-line and leaving patrol-line at dawn. (3) Object:- Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".

patrol. Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1140A/18.) 1. M.G.Bs. 330 and 324 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210°. Start Point 10 miles. 2. Object. To intercept E-boats attacking convoy. 3. Leave Dartmouth 1930/18 for patrol. Leave patrol-line to arrive Dartmouth by 0600/19 keeping clear of convoy W.P.310. One NARVIK destroyer and 2 T.Bs. Havre E/Boats Cherbourg. Code word "Arena". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1523A/18.)

/Patrols...

18.3.1943.

Thursday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Patrols. Patrols tonight. 2. motor gunboats (L) each Z 53, Z 54, Z 56. 2 M/L each Z 21, Z 14, Z 12. 3 motor gunboats each Z 18, Z 16, Z 52. 6 M.T.Bs. vicinity of Terschelling. Patrols tonight.

(C. in C. Nore, 1542A/18.) M.Ls. 141 and 293 patrolling at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 38 35 and 221 and M.G.Bs. 110, 108 and 113 at No. 4 Buoy from 2000 to 2300. M.G.Bs. 41, 40 and S3 at "V" Buoy from 1945 to M.T.Bs. 38, 0530/19.

(V.A.Dover, 1644A/18.) Your 1523/18. "Arena" sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1935/18 to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 1140A/18. Sailed "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1944A/18)

My 0953/17, para 2. You should consider K.M.F.ll your principal care until 1200/19th and after that Operation "Regulation". time K.M.S.ll. To avoid friendly submarines keep to westward of Ol4° 30' W. when South of

045° N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1044A/18 to NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR, MUSKETEER.)

My 1858A/10th.* M.T.Bs. 623 (Senior Officer) and 618 sailed Balta for patrol X for X Ray at 1050/ V.P. - XOperation. 18th.

(A.C.O.S., 1208/18 to Admty. and for N.I.D.(C) and (Q) (R) C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C. Rosyth, F.O. (S) H.Q.C.C H.Q. No. 18 Group Sumburgh Wick N.O.I.C. Lerwick Capt. (S) 9 C.C.O.)*V.P. Operation.

Operation V.P. - L.

My 1455/17th. M.T.B. 627 returned Lerwick 1245/ 18. Visibility on coast 50 yards and prevented entry. (A.C.O.S. 1300A/18.)

N.W. Norway S/M patrol.

(1) P.315 and P.223 are required to leave Lerwick p.m. 20th March for patrol in Lofoten Is. area. (2) P.316 is required to leave Holy Loch 22nd March for Lerwick and a similar patrol. (F.O.S.2147A/18 to Capt S.3.) Warning of a break-out of main units from bases in

Northern Norway is of more importance than the Bay patrol. 2. Request your proposal for operating submarines for this purpose.

(A.C.N.S. H. 2210A/18 to F.O.S.)

Exercises.

Home Fleet Exercise. Your 2019A/15. Aircraft from 15 Group and Iceland will co-operate subject to operational requirements. (H.Q.C.C. 1525A/18 to C. in C.H.F.)

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

R/C of Havre and Cherbourg. Your 1550/1. During first sixty days of 1943 successful reconnaissance were obtained of Havre on 16 days and Cherbourg on 15 days. It is requested every effort be made to provide reconnaissance of these ports at least twice a week.

(D.O.D.H. 1320A/18 to H.Q.C.C.)

Convoy protection.

Swordfish aircraft will carry out an anti E-Boat on. patrol tonight from 2000/18 till dawn/19 as in my 1411/8/3.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1431A/18 to Escorts W.P.310 P.W.310.)

Aircraft Cross-over Patrols cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2101A/18 to Escorts W.P.310, P.W.310)

M/V attacked.

1

Position of enemy is 44° 50' N. 19° 20' W. (A/C "A" of 304 Sqdn. 1647/18 to 19 Group.) One medium-sized merchant vessel 090° 1 knot 090° 44° 50' N. 04° 20' W. Attacked 1643. (A/C "A" of 304 Sqdn. 1805/18 to 19 Group.)

R.A.F Stores in North Russia. In the event of it being necessary to operate Hampden Squadrons in North Russia in an emergency we must have accurate knowledge of the quantity, conditions, and whereabouts of the R.A.F. stores landed from J.W.53. 2. Request you will consult with Wing Commander McKern and report by signal. (A.C.N.S. H. 2119A/18 to S.B.N.O., North Russia.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Off Yarmouth.

Yarmouth bombed.

Yarmouth bombed by single A/C at 0626 today. (A) Injured W.R.N.S. personnel. (B) 5 dead, 25 to 30 injured approx 6 seriously. (C) Nil. (D) W.R.N.S. Quarter 48 Queens Road demolished. 0, 11, evacuated.

Enemy A/C in sight in 52° 49' N. 03° 20' E. (M.G.B. 85, 0615/18 to N.O.I.C. Yarmouth.)

Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, evacuated. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1012A/18.)

L.C.I.(L) 178 attacked. AAAA de L.C.I.(L) 178. Gunned 43.10 N. 15.00 W. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 1134 G.M.T./18 and 1144 G.M.T./18 to Admty.) Following from L.C.I.(L) 178. Attack broken off. (Portishead Radio, 1210 G.M.T./18).

/L.C.I.(L)...

722 18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity - Contd.

De L.C.I.(L) 128. Gunned 42.50 N. 14.52 W. (Rosyth W/T T.O.R. 1457/18.) L.C.I.(L)128

attacked.

Mining

S.N. 90A.

My 1204/8. Intend to carry out operation S.N. 90A. 4 days late. Destroyer referred to in para. (d) (1), (o) and (p) will be CHARLESTOWN. (R.A.M. 0904/18 to CHARYBDIS, etc.) My 1208/8. Add 4 days to date. (R.A.M. 0908/18 to A.C.O.S.) My 1114/11. Add 4 days to both dates.

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter protection. (R.A.M. 0909/18 to C. in C. Rosyth.) Your 0904A/18. My P.C.S. 061° 42' N. 011° 54' W., 330°

12 knots.

(SCOTT, 1300A/18 to R.A.M.)

Scapa arrivals BEAUMARIS and WORTHING.

(A.C.O.S.1530/18.)

Q.L.9. Q.U.8. (1) Prepare to carry out operation Q.L. (9) with available M.Ls. and mark XIX mines, alternative operation Q.U. (8) on first suitable night. (2) My 1802/26th November. Add (7) Q.U. (8) vicinity of Whistle Buoy reported in 052° 13' N. 004° 03' E. (C. in C. Nore, 1211A/18 to BEEHIVE.)

Tceland.

While carrying out exploratory sweeps between Skagi and 100 fathom line to 572 westwards 2 mines were cut by GLEANER in approx. 064° 05' N. 023° 34' W. Clearance sweep of area within 5 miles of this position will be commenced forthwith. HOUND (S.O.) GLEANER, and HAZARD are available. SHARPSHOOTER will join in operation on completion of boiler cleaning. (A.C.I.C. 1802A/18 to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. (D.D.I.C. 1111A/18 to UGANDA.) Am over enemy submarine in 53° 31' N. 26° 45' W. (A/C "E" of 120 Sadn. 1428A/18 to 15 Group) Am over enemy submarine in 53° 10' 29° 25' W. Am over enemy Submarine in 55° 10° 29° 25° W (A/C JIRN, 1750A/18 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 53° 08' N. 27° 12' W. (A/C "B" of 120 Sqdn. 1812A/18 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 53° 02' N. 26° 50' W. (A/C J.R.I.X. 1822A/18 to Artunshofdi.)

Am over enemy submarine in 55° 35' N. 29° 13' W. (A/C 120 Sqdn. Duty N. 1900/18 to 15 Group.)

/Am...

18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U.-Boats.

U-Boats reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 53° 02' N. 26° 32' W. (A/C 120 Sqdn Duty X. 1925A/18 to Artunshofdi.) Am over enemy S/M in 53° 15' N. 27° 00' W. (A/C J.R.1.B. 2138A/18 to 15 Group.)

By D/F at 2056Z U-Boat within 50 miles radius of 48° N.

15° W. (D.D.I.C. 2315A/18 to Escorts K.M.S.11, BORAGE, NEWFOUNDLAND.)

Poor D/F Bearings at 2140Z indicate U-Boat in 47° N. 15° W. (D.D.I.C., 2350A/18 to Escorts K.M.F.ll and W.S.28.)

U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 53° 20' N. 26° 52' W. (A/C J.R.I.B., 1845A/18 to 19 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C J.R.1.B. 1900A/18 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 53° 12' N. 27° 40' W. (A/C 120 Sqdn., 2106/18 to 15 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C 120 Sqdn. 2107/18 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 47° 05' N 07° 32' W Am over enemy S/M in 47° 05' N. 07° 32' W. (A/C D.9.P.H. 2212/18 to 19 Group.) Have attacked U-Boat and estimate no hits. (A/C D.9.P.M. 2226/18 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Needles Channel. My 1826A/17. Port Needles Channel open. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 0750A/18)

Harbour closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, 0836A/18.) Lowestoft. Port open. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. 1056A/18.)

Yarmouth.

Port is closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0853A/18). Port open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 1123A/18.)

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

ARIGUANI.

Admty. 0136A/11 and N.O.I.C. Greenock's 1025/11. My Position 0115A/18 was 57.25 N. 06.54 W. S. of A. 52 knots on West Coast Scotland. Route 130. Fine weather. Request 3rd t R/V with me and then for me to proceed on passage

tug be sent R/V with me and then for me to proceed on passage. (ARIGUANI, Ol25A/18 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.) Sailed tug EMPIRE SPRITE in accordance with your Ol25/18 to assist you into Aultbea.

(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0727A/18 to ARIGUANI).

- UNDERWOOD, BALMARINO. UNDERWOOD bound Liverpool ex. Clyde in collision with BALMARINO bound Ayr ex Belfast 2322A/17. Both ships now anchored Bangor Bay. (N.C.S.O., Belfast, 0545A/18)
- BELGOL. Your 0623/17. Intend to sail BELGOL to U.K. for docking on relief by RADIPOL. (A.C.I.C., 1002A/18 to Admty.)
- MUSKETEER. C. in C. H.F's 2358VA/17. On relief by ORKAN request MUSKETEER may be sailed to Tyne for refit. (R.A.D., 1010A/18 to C. in C. Plymouth)

BARHILL has returned to Greenock with steel breakwater between horns carried away owing to weather. Request breakwater may be fitted with strong backs and angle-irons. Vessel is urgently required. (B.D.O. Clyde, 1127A/18 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow)

FAME. FAME delayed at Londonderry with defects. (C. in C. W.A. 1202A/18)

LANGLEEBROOK. Following from LANGLEEBROOK. Distress, bearing by D/F 128°, class 1. (Gallon Head Radio, 1505/18) (Port Patrick Radio, 1506/18, 1508/18) Intercept 1507 G.M.T. de LANGLEEBROOK to N.C.S.O. Methil. LANGLEEBROOK collision, endeavouring beach Largs Bay. (Port Patrick Radio, 1607/18 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

JAMES IREDELL / ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects (Contd.)

Distress JAMES IREDELL, bearing by D/F is 128° JAMES IREDELL. class 1. (Gallon Head Radio, 1532/18 to Admty.) (Portrush Radio, 1533/18)

CAPE ARGONA. Admiralty 2006/9. CAPE ARGONA is delayed about three weeks due to a fire on board. (C. in C. W.A., 1853Z/18 to N.S.H.Q.)

BADDECK, NAPANEE. E.T.A. Moville 0830A/19. Urgent defects. Details. BADDECK in company. Urgent defects. (NAPANEE, 1930Z/18 to Cdre, Londonderry) Details.

Shipping and Convoys.

Request report of reason why sea speed certificate for ATHLONE CASTLE dated 16th March shows speed ATHLONE CASTLE. vessel can maintain at sea has dropped from 18 to $16\frac{1}{2}$ knots and maximum speed from $18\frac{1}{2}$ to 18 knots. (D.S.T.,0022A/18)

Clyde portion arrived. M.K.F.10 B. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0734A/18)

JAMAICA.

At 0630Z/18 picked up 13 survivors S.S. JAMAICA in 050° 47', 013° 38'. Reference A.C.I. article 42 (A) 1 boat with 4 men 7th March. (D) Sunk by torpedo P.C.S. dead reckoning at 0900Z (coming into) 050° 24' 013° 56', 207° 12. (BORAGE, 0904Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

If urgent medical assistance required proceed Your 0904Z/18.

Your 09042/18. If urgent medical assistance required proceed to R/V BROADWAY convoy, P.C.S. at 15002/18, 48.10 N. 15.03 W. 179° 7 knots. BROADWAY take necessary action. (C. in C. W.A. 13202/18 to BORAGE) My position at 15002, 048° 22', 014° 59' 180°, making good 6 knots. If required home (? yourself) on 4400 k/cs. per sec. every 2 hours commencing 16002. Report intention. (BROADWAY, 14202/18 to BORAGE) Your 13202/18. Intend contact BROADWAY. DIANELLA

with LUNENBURG are proceeding as in your 1652A/15. P.C.S. 048° 50', 014° 50', 183°, 10. (BORAGE, 1701Z/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

TaskN.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1714/15.Concur in proUnitabolish U.S. Navy Task-Unit Designators.Designations.(C. in C. W.A., 1002A/18 to Admty.) Concur in proposal to

T.A. 38 / ...

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18.3.1945. Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

T.A.38.

War Diary.

Intend sailing S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH passing Clyde Boom at 0400A/20 routed in accordance with A.M.1600A/13 and A.M.1353A/17. S.O.A. from position B.26 knots. "Chop" date 22nd March. E.T.A. Halifax 0100/25. Codeword "Teapot". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1018A/18)

Importance / Pass to W.A. Escort Vessels. My 1359/17 may of not be quite clear. The Destroyer referred to zig-zagging. was in company with a convoy and was steaming on the same course and at the same speed as the convoy. There would appear to have been nothing to prevent her steaming at a high speed and zig-zagging. (C. in C. W.A., 1045Z/18 to W.A. Escort Vessels.) F.O.I.C.N.I. 2140/3. Convoy orders have been received from Ardrossan intact in closed envelope Loss of Convoy and have been checked and destroyed by fire. Orders. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1114/18) (PAUL RYKENS) FAME delayed at Londonderry with defects. 0.N.S.1. (C. in C. W.A., 1202A/18 to VISCOUNT) (A) 1310Z/17 position 051° 45' N. 032° 26' W. (B) 1 (C) to starboard. (D) TERKOELEI and H.X.229. TERKOELEI CORACERO survivors on MANSFIELD number unknown. and (E) Nil. (F) Nil. (G) Nil. (M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18., 1215Z/18 to A.I.G.303) Report if tug is required for NARIVA. (C. in C. W.A. 1754A/18 to Escorts H.X. 229) CORACERO survivors. WAVENEY and ABERDEEN Hull damaged. Latter's Dome wiped off. Essential Dock both ships on return. (E.G.40 (ABERDEEN), 2357Z/18 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Cdre, Londonderry)

W.S.28. Embarkation W.S.28. Details of personnel. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 1245/18).

Control of A/A Gunfire in Convoys.

Admty. 1620/16. Although a few suggestions have been made particularly after large convoy operations that advantages would have been gained if the distribution of ships A/A. Gunfire had been centrally controlled from the Senior Officer's ship it is considered that the general

adoption of this principle would be unwise. (2) Air situations change so rapidly that, even with excellent R.D.F. plotting and lookouts, the Senior Officer will never be able to appreciate fully and instantaneously the problems presented to all Units in

Company / ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Control of A/A Gunfire in Convoys. (Contd.)

Company unless the Force is small and concentrated It is considered preferable that the action of ships should be governed by a general policy with Commanding Officers having full discretion to employ their armaments as they think fit in defence of own ship or otherwise. (3) The brief signals which may be required for fire discipline and occasionally fire distribution in blind fire

at sea or in harbour can be made by the Senior Officer using one of the existing lines of W/T or R/T communication. In this case a member of the Senior Officer's Staff does fulfil the role of F.A.D.O. but it is not repeated not considered that any special communication encouragements for a float air that any special communication arrangements for a fleet air defence Officer are necessary. (C. in C. H.F., 1353A/18 and 1712A/18).

U.G. Convoys Schedule.

Following received from Cominch C. and R. replying to Admiralty 1509/14. Begins. Following is schedule of U.G. Convoys:

Schedule. Schedule. Schedule of U.G. Convoys: (1) U.G.S.6A. March 19th. U.G.S. 7 March 29th thence every 15 days. Convoy designations to following sequence 7, 7A, 8, 8A etc. Voyage duration of 19 days departing Casablanca 21 days after arrival. Cycle 60 days. (2) U.G.F. 7 April 2nd. U.G.F. 8 April 29th. U.G.F. 9 May 20th thence about every 25 days. Voyage duration 12 days departing Casablanca 6 days after arrival. Cycle 50 days. 1825/16 Ends. (2) Admiralty proposals to effect junction with K.M.S. and O.S. convoys will follows. (D.T.D.1410A/8 to C. in C. W.A.)

K.M.S.ll. STAD HAARLEM.	Proceed to Donegal Bay and escort STAD HAARLEM damaged to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1814A/18 to BRYONY)
S.C.122.	My P.C. and S. at 2000Z, 053° 46' N. 025° 55' W. 095°, 7 knots, altering at 0130Z to 060°. (C.T.U. 24.1.19, 1820Z/18 to C.T.U. 24.6.4.)
K.M.S.12.	K.M.S. 12 will sail from the Clyde p.m. 29th. (D.T.D., 1833A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)
S.C.116. CULEBRA.	Arrived BUSTLER towing CULEBRA and escorted by THIRLMERE. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1901A/18)
WASHINGTON EXPRESS.	WASHINGTON EXPRESS is not repeat not to be sailed independently. She is to sail in the next O.N. convoy.

(D.T.D., 1907A/18 to N.C.S.O. Clyde)

011ing / ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Oiling at Sea.

Your 1840/18. Following is a repetition of my 0917/9 to F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24. Request following information of oiling at sea whilst escorting North Atlantic convoys may be signalled after arrival of escorts.

A. Whether oiling was successfully carried out by escorts.
B. Reason for any failures by escorts to oil.
C. Defects in equipment in oilers or escorts.

D. Any suggestions to improve efficiency. Ends.

(C. in C. W.A., 1908A/18 to Admty.)

SANTA CATALINA.

SANTA CATALINA is not repeat not to be sailed She is to sail in next O.N. independently. convoy. (D.T.D.1918A/18 to N.C.S.O. Mersey)

Convoy S.C.121. Summary of Attacks S.C.121. First attack 2349Z/6 March. (A) Number 61 EGYPTIAN torpedoed starboard. (B) Believe attack starboard bow

(B) Belleve attack starboard bow single U-Boat approaching undetected between escorts patrolling can and starboard flank.
(C) 5 escorts stay on E.D.R. similar R.C.I.N.E. 5 (A)
Convoy 56 ships 14 columns straggling. Heavy swells moderate sea visibility 2 miles. HF/DF Intelligence suggested probability attack abaft beam. No U-Boat contact prior to or during attack (2 corrupt.groups follow here). Asdie conditions ineffective due weather. No report of ship being torpedoed until several hours afterward. Fate of ship unknown. Believe others picked up by straggler 3 known survivors. EMPIRE IMPALA.

EMPIRE IMPALA. Second Attack S.C.121, 2128Z/9 and 2145Z/9 March. (A) Nr. 102 MALANTIC Port side Nr. 75 ROSEWOOD side unknown. (B) Believe attack by 5 U-Boats, 1 from ahead or Port bow, 1 from Port quarter and 1 from Starboard side 1st 2 firing inside screen and last one outside. (C) 8 escorts similar A.C.I.N.E. 6. 40 ships 14 columns straggling. Rough sea visibility 5 miles. HF/DF bearings suggested probability attack abaft beam. 2 U-Boats previously attacked by escorts Starboard beam. None contacted immediately prior to or during Night Zombie and ineffective illumination. During attack. search Starboard quarter escort saw torpedo fired from outside screen on Starboard flank but investigation fruitless. Radar and Asdic very ineffective due sea conditions Nr. 102 abandoned and reported afloat when last seen. 21 survivors. ROSEWOOD reported being hit continued 25 unaccounted for. with Convoy temporarily but missing at Daylight. Fate of ship and crew unknown. Third Attack S.C.121. 0005Z/10 to 0010(?) Z/10 March. (A) Nr. 23 NAILSHEA COURT Port side Nr. 81 BONNEVILLE starboard and Nr. 24 COULMORE port. (B) Believe co-ordinated

attack by 2 U-Boats penetrating screen from Port flank and Starboard bow. (C) 7 escorts similar A.C.I.N.E. 6 omitting (S). Convoy 38 ships 14 columns straggling. Rough sea

visibility / ...

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18.3.1945. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Convoy S.C.121. (Contd.) visibility 3 miles. Night Zombie effective illumination. HF/DF Intelligence suggested probability attack abaft beam also several bearings ahead but not close. No contacts before or after attack. Port beam escort obtained hydrophone effect torpedo during

Zombie but investigation fruitless. Radar and Asdic very ineffective due sea conditions. Nr. 25 abandoned sank quickly. 5 survivors 45 unaccounted for Nr. 81 abandoned and sank. 7 survivors 45 unaccounted for including Commodore Birnie R.N.R. and Staff. Nr. 24 7 survivors 36 unaccounted for. Abandoned too quickly still afloat 1637Z/11 and tugs dispatched to salvage. (C.T.U.24.1.5., 2000/17)

S.C.121. COULMORE. My P.C.S. 2000A/18, 55.57 N. 08.58 W, 105° 4½. Tows holding well. E.T.A. 007° W. 1400/19th. E.T.A. Toward Point 1800/20. Propose detaching CLOVER for Moville p.m. 19th. (AUBRETIA, 2007A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.122.

At 0001Z or sooner when about 40 from S.C.122 (? divert to) fire Star Shell and drop depth charge to simulate attraction convoy. (HAVELOCK, 2050Z/18 to BABBITT, INGHAM)

Escort Oilers for Atlantic Convoys. Your memorandum W.A.162M dated 28th February and F.O.I.C. Greenock's Memorandum No.771/0101/ 555 dated 5rd March. (2) The work of finding escort oilers and spare depth charges for outward convoys will be a hand-to-mouth business for some time to come. Quick interchange between Admiralty and the ports is essential

at every stage but is to some extent impeded at Avonmouth which has a large tanker traffic but communicates via Cardiff. F.O.I.C. Cardiff has been consulted and agrees. (3) Request if you concur that N.O.I.C. Avonmouth may be sent a copy of both memoranda referred to in para. 1, and be required to comply with their provisions keeping F.O.I.C. Cardiff informed as necessary of action taken. (D.T.D.,2212A/18 to C. in C. W.A.)

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation.

My 1105A/17th and new para 17. 5 L.C.I's. (A) 038° 53' 020° 49' 063° 10. (F.C. Gib. 0540A/18 to A.I.G.55.)

U-Boat.

Am over enemy S/M in 36.33 N. 10.02 W. (A/C SKP/S. 0959A/18).

U-Boat reported by aircraft in 036° 36' N. 010° 02' W. at 0959A/18th.

(F.O. Gib. 1058A/18 to S. & A. Area, X, Y, Z, (R) Admty.)

KENYA.

Arrival KENYA (from U.K.) (F.O.C. Gib. 1019A/18 to Admty.)

Situation Report.

Situation 2000A/18th. S/M ULTOR 42.32 ?12.37.155 (?8.2) on surface 2 dived. (2) UNA 42.42 13.36 to 42.59 13.50 at 2300/18th thence northbound 8.2 on surface 2 dived. (3) DZIK crosses 43.01 13.22 at 2200/18th

dived. (3) DZIK crosses 43.01 13.22 at 2200/18th thence $152.7\frac{1}{2}$ on surface 2 dived. (4) S/M SHAKESFEARE crosses 43.01 10.02 at 0800/19th thence approx. 191,9 on surface 2 dived. (5) W.S.28 and K.M.F.11, WREN 47.20 14.01 181.12½ NEWFOUNDLAND covering. (6) BORAGE 2 corvettes 46.02 14.08 188.12. (7) BONITO, GRAYLING, 11 small craft, 46.39 13.40 180.10. (8) 5 L.C.I. (A) 40.42 16.12 through 40.45 15.40 thence 015° 10. (9) Spanish training ship GALATEA left Tenerife 2000/14th for Ferrol. (10) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 35.30 10.01 through 35.49 06.10 to Gibralter 14. (11) X.K.3 VILLE DE QUEBEC, 37.52 11.59 311.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. (12) (70.N) S.44, ROCHESTER 26.08 15.09 213.8 $\frac{1}{2}$. (13) L.S.T. Convoy C.T.U. 32, 34.21 17.51 through 34.30 17.40 thence 079° 8. (14) 2 tugs, 38.47 12.11 through 36.30 9.02 thence Gibralter 7.

(14) 2 tugs, 38.47 12.11 through 36.30 9.02 thence Gibraltar 7.
(15) MALCOLM, WITCH 34.50 13.13 through 34.01 09.01 to
Casablanca 17. (16) U.G.S.6 Task Force 33, 37.25 15.26 109.9.
(17) Port Destroyer TEJO (left) Lisbon a.m. 18th Ponta Delgada ?16
(18) NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA one M/V sail from Gib. 2359/18th through 35.01 08.01 thence 264.131.

(F.O. Gib. 1047A/18.)

Situation Report Area XA. Situation 1959A/18th. 2. U.G.F.6 (Med.) WISHART 311 Spartel 5 thro' Straits 13¹/₂. 5. M.L. 173 MARIE LOUISE MACKAY sailed from Gibraltar 0630/19th to carry out cable repairs in 35.56 05.48.

(F.O. Gib. 1123A/18.)

My 1123/18th. Add new para. (6) PENTSTEMON, VETCH, CAMPBELL, trawler sail 0900/19th 267° 9. (7) S.C. 525 1 merchant ship leaves Casablanca 0730A/19th southbound coastwise 6.

(F.O. Gib. 1923A/18.) Situation 1958A/18th ACHILLES 39.59 37.25 through 41.35 32.56 thence 071° 18. Rest of message is dummy. (F.O. Gib. 1159A/18.) Area Y. Situation 2001A/18th.

H.M.S. UGANDA 43.52 23.27 through 41.59 24.48 and 41.02 22.01 thence 231.18. (3) BURWELL one merchant ship 42.23 25.15 through 45.01 22.26 thence northbound 13. (4) G.U.S.5, T.F.35, 29.52 20.45 251° 9.

(F.O.Gib. 1213A/18.)

* HORORATA See 17/3 \$.685

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

EMPIRE PRIDE. NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA.

Intend sailing EMPIRE PRIDE escorted by NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA at 0001/19th for Ponta Delgada to transport merchant seaman survivors to U.K.

(2) (Route) S. of A. 13¹/₂ knots.
(3) (Onward route from Ponta Delgada.)
(4) C. in C. W.A. is requested to signal onward

route and destination.

(5) N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada is requested to signal number of survivors to be embarked.
(F.O. Gib. 1201A/18 to C. in C. W.A. Admty. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada San Miguel, C. in C. Med. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, R.O. Horta.
NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA.) Reply from Ponta Delgada, 1116/19.

UGANDA.

109. Onward route from (F) (G) 38.15 N. 26.27 W. (H) 37.45 N. 26.53 W. (J) 26.10 N. 23.14 W.

(2) F.O.C. W.Af. is requested to signal onward route from (J) (F.O. Gib. 1224A/18 to UGANDA, F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. H.Q.C.C. etc.)

Survivor stowaways in BURWELL.

Two seamen, Venables and Mead, survivors in S.S. ROXBURGH CASTLE awaiting transport here, are presumed stowed away in BURWELL together with American cadet named McGee, survivor torpedoed American M/V. Practically certain they were aided by ratings of BURWELL. I have reported matter to local Portuguese Naval

Commander who has fortunately taken friendly view: but incident should give grounds for considerable uneasiness regarding security measures taken by C.O's of H.M.S.'s in these waters. Easy for example for enemy agents to pose as British survivors and enlist sympathy of British Naval ratings in order to be smuggled on board.

BURWELL also took off a British Naval rating and Belgian merchant seaman sick in a local hospital; and a U.S. army officer assigned for special duty in a torpedoed American M/V. Special permission had been granted by Portuguese Naval Commander for two last mentioned to be embarked in warship. (Consul, Ponta Delgada 1236/18 to N.A. Lisbon (R) Admty. for D. N. I.)

My 1236/18th. American Consul reports survivor (?Johnson), American Merchant Seaman, is also missing, presumed to have stowed away in BURWELL. There are thus two American stowaways on board.

(Consul, Ponta Delgada 1745/18.)

TACTICIAN.

Arrival. (F.O. Gib. 1342A/18 to Admty.)

/U.G.F. 6 ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U.G.F.6.

Casablanca Section U.G.F.6 arrived. EVANGELINE, HUNTER, J.W. MCANDREWS, ERICSSON, MALDAPONI, MEXICO, SANTA ROSA, STALKER, MONTEREY, T.F.64, NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, KODLSEY, LUDLOW, EDISON, BUCK, WILKES, SWANSON, ROE, BRISTOL, NICHOLSON. (S.N.O.C.A. 1355/18 2200Z/18 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Com. N.O.B. Oran, Cominch, Admty, C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q.) W.D. Note: NEW YORK, Battleship, BROOKLYN, Cruiser, HUNTER and STALKER escort carriers. See also 18252/18.

escort carriers. See also 18252/18.

U.G.S.6.

Preliminary D/F bearings on 12260 kc/s. at 1131Z, 1237Z and 1244Z indicate U-boats in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1505A/18 to Escort of U.G.S.6 (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. etc.)

Diversion of O.S. and S.L.	A/T 2309/16th is not addressed or repeated to
Convoys.	S.N.O.C.A. Request I may be informed who is responsible for diversions in his Area.
	(F.O. Gib. 1600A/18 to Admty.)

SHAKESPEARE.

Amend my 2311/14th. Pass position 40.01 10.50 at 0500/21st thence (T) At 0600/23rd (U) At 0640/24th (V) At 1230/24th (W) At 1310/24th.

(v) At 1230/24th (w) At 1310/24th. (2) S. of A. 98 miles per day. After passing position (U) proceed on surface at your discretion at 12 knots. (3) Submerged bombing restrictions at 0640/24th thereafter total bombing restrictions. (4) Amended reads "Do not pass positions 36.37 N. C7.24 W. before daylight 24th". (F.O. Gib. 1822A/18 to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (R) F.O.S. etc.)

HUNTER, STALKER. Request you designate three destroyers escort HUNTER, STALKER, Casablanca to Gibraltar. Depart Casablanca 1800A/19 S. of A.15, E.T.A. 4 miles South Tarifa 0730A/20 depart Casa via Q.K.A.92

9 K A 87 to Gibraltar. Escort Guard Gib. F.H.X.2410 kc/s. Voice provide air coverage to 35° N. A H.Q. Gib. requested provide onward F O C. Gib. requested return escorts immediately. HUNTER requests 1,000 tons fuel oil upon arrival Gibraltar. (Commorseafron 1825Z/18 to C.T.F.64, HUNTER, STALKER. (R) Com. N.O.B. Casablanca, C.F.W.15, Admty, A.H.Q. Gib., F.O.C. Gib., C in C. Med.)

KAULDI, LIVADIA. Spanish 59 KAULDI German 63 LIVADIA fully loaded in outer harbour ready for sea. (Bilbao 1855/18 to Admty. etc.)

ULTOR.

My 1801/17th. Do not cross meridian 006° 40' W. before 0630/23rd. (F.O. Gib. 1909A/18 to P.53 (ULTOR). (R) R.A.F. Gib.)

/CORRIENTES ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

CORRIENTES. Under Secretary of Mercantile Marine states German have offered Spanish Government tanker CORRIENTES (at Las Palmas) in exchange for MONTE GOBEA which they sank. (N.A. Madrid 1919/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C.Gib.)

DZIK.

My 0924/15th. Do not cross meridian 006° 40' W. before 0630/24th. Increase speed afterwards if possible. (F.O. Gib. 1931/18 to P.S. DZIK (R) F.221 (SHAKESPEARE) R.A.F. Gib.)

M.T.B.635. My 1146A/18/3/43 (N.T. in W.D.) sailing of M.T.B. 635 delayed. Further signal will be made. (F.O.C. Gib. 2008A/18 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, C.F.W., C.C.F.)

Movements, Casablanca. 19th March Warships. Arrivals Task Force 64 plus STALKER and HUNTER with U.G.F.6. French Subs. ATALANTE, ARETHUSE, and SULTANE escorted by COMMANDANT BORY (Fr.). Departures U.S.S. BRISTOL and NICHOLSON to join U.G.S.6.

(Commorseafron 2045/18 to Admty.) Your 1151/10th. 3 French S/M's and escort arrived 1614Z/18th (Moroccan S.F.F. 2359Z/18 to Comar, Dakar, (R) F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals M.M.3.133, 171 from Oran, U.S.P.C's 481, 482 French ships LA GRANDIERE, SERGEANT GOUARNE with convoy C.G.19. Departures ADRIAS for Mers-el-Kebir. VERITY, VENEMOUS to R/V and escort U.G.F.6. (F.O.C.Gib. 2227A/18 to Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

TABOR (sunk 9th March.) 22 survivors landed near Cape Infanta from Norwegian ship TABOR sunk 0640C/9th March 037° 30' S. 023° E. Two life boats with survivors adrift. (C. in C.S.A. 0026C/18 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C.E.F.)

W.S.29. NEW NORTH-LAND, ALMANZORA. G.O.C.W.A. forecast for W.S. 29 all services 2000/2500. If this is correct strongly suggest ship be made available for West Coast, as NEW NORTHLAND is scheduled for Shuttle Service Bathurst, Freetown. 2. G.O.C.W.A. dso advises that present intention is ALMANZORA returns West Coast from Capetown

for operational move E.T.A. Lagos 1st April. Please confirm. (D.S.T.O.W.A. 0903Z/18 to D. of S.T.)

MONTEREY.							MONTEREY.
	(R.O.	Para	1010	0/18	to	Adr	nty.)

ROCHESTERYour 0923Z/17th E.T.A. R/V 0700Z.0.S. 44(ROCHESTER 1017Z/18 to R.A.W.Af. (R) PELICAN,(BURDOCKBURDOCK.)and FORTOLto join.)

Situation Reports. Position 2000Z/18th SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S. 27 Oll° 45' S. OlO° 00' E. to 020° S. OlO° E. 12½ knots.

NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD with N.C.7 029° 30' S. 016° 15' E. to Saldanha Bay 8. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY with C.N. 13, 032° 20' S. 017° 20' E. to Walvis Bay 8¹/₂. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENME D'ORVES (F.S.) with D.C. 15, 034° 30' S.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENME D'ORVES (F.S.) with D.C. 15, 034° 30' S. 023° 40' E. to Capetown 8. HERTFORDSHIRE, ST. LOMAN, TURFFONTEIN, IMMORTELLE with C.D. 10, 034° 25' S. 024° 40' E. to Durban 8.

034° 25' S. 024° 40' E. to Durban 8. SPHENE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN CHIEF escorting BRITISH JUDGE 033° (?05') S. 028° 10' E. to Capetown 6¹/₂. WAYLAND. CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with C.D.9 033° 20' S. 028° 20' E. to Durban 9.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA, QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND 034° 10' S. 034° 20' E. to 038° S. 028° E. thence 039° S. 020° E. 14½. CATTERICK, GENISTA, LE TIGER, HILDESAY with D.N. 25, 030° 10' S. 036° 06' E. to 031° S. 038° E. 8. JASMINE M.L. (?380), 382, 383, 829, 025° 50' S. 033° 55' E. to Tulear 11.

(C. in C.S.A. 1201C/18.)

/Situation ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation Reports. (Contd.)

Situation at 2004Z/18th. PETUNIA, CROCUS 007° 30' 014° 02' to Freetown 12. CORINTHIAN 003° 56' 012° 52' 340° 12¹/₂. THYME escorting about 005° 30' 014° 40' to Freetown 8.

CILICIA 007° 02' 019° 00' to patrol about position 006° N. 023° W. 14.

DESPATCH on patrol about position 003° 30' 020° 30' 20. HERO escorting JAMES PARKER about 005° 10' 010° 42' 300° 16½. RUMBA, SARABANDE, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON with S.T. 59 003° 24' to Takoradi 9. 55' 003°

M.L. 271 escorting from Port Bouet to Cape Palma S.6. ARMERIA 002° 24' S. 005° 45' E. 315° 12½. BELLWORT 002° 50' S. 007° 09' E. 311° 13. Allied Naval Units Ascension St. Pauls Rocks Area.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1410Z/18.)

Situation at 2003Z/18th. PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN, COMMANDANT DROGOU, BU BIRDLIP with S.L. 126, 023° 57' 018° 42' to 025° 02' 018° thence 059° 7. BUTSER, 58' thence 059° 7. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM with 0.S. 44, 025° 54' 015° 20' 213, 8½ BURDOCK escorting 023° 50' 018° 09' to Freetown. O.S. 44 in 024° 21' 016° 26' at 0700/19th GAZELLE, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ with S.D. 69 016° 33' N. within 10 miles of coast 6. DUNKERY two M.Ls. escorting off Bathurst to south 8½. ARETHUSA 011° 53' 021° 17' to 014° 20' 025° 51' thence 015° 21. CARMARVON CASTLE (? on patrol) about position 011° N. 030° W. (F.O.C.W.A. 1411Z/18.)

NEPAL.

NEPAL will be sailed at 0930C/19th March. in accordance with your 0949/17th. 2. Ship will carry 4 cases of Chlorine which are urgently required at Reunion Is.

3. N.O.I.C. Mauritius is requested to arrange for these to be sent Reunion Is as quickly as possible unless you instruct NEPAL to call at Reunion where she could arrive 0600C on 22nd March. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1214/18 to C. in C.E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Mauritius, NEPAL.)

ALMANZORA.

Your 1532/1 para. 10 A and your 2057/5. ALMANZORA must call at Capetown for fuel. Request immediate instructions whether ship is to continue to India or turn round at Capetown. If ship is continuing to India endeavour will be made to escort her to rejoin Durban Section after fuelling at Capetown. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1233/18 to D.S.T.)

S.R.3.

Propose sailing convoy S.R.3 consisting of 10 ships on 21st March. Can your escort take over (F.O.C.W.A. 1240A/18 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Admty. S. N.O. Casablanca, Comar, Dakar.)

/BUTTERMERE...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

BUTTERMERE, M.M.S. B.Y.M.S. BUTTERMERE with M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106 and 107 arrived Recife 1000P/17th. Expect to be delayed about 7 days for repairs to 103 and 107. H.M.Y.M.S 5,6,7 and 8 arrived Recife 2300P/16 and will sail with M.M.S. Group. B.A.D. Washington inform Admty. F.O.C.W.A. has been informed. (Commander Fourth Fleet 1421/18 to Action Cominch Info. B.A.D. F.O.C.W.A.)

TJITJALENGKA. Hospital ship TJITJALENGKA sailed 18th for Kilindini. E.T.A. 24th March. No personnel embarked. (D.S.T.O. Durban 1538C/18 to D.S.T.O. Kilindini, (R) Admty. D. of S.T. etc.)

UGANDA.

BIRDLIP.

Comar Dakar 1142Z/12th. Will BIRDLIP who joined escort of convoy D.69 on 20th March be relieved escort from Casablanca. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1618Z/18 to C. in C.Med. S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Comar, Dakar.)

C. in C.Plymouth's 1801A/17th. Request estimated time of passing 026° N. (R.A.W.Af. 1555Z/18 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Movements, Bahia.

Departure 18th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S. Destroyer JOUETT. (R.O.Bahia 1635Z/18 to Admty.)

SONTAY, CAP TOURANE, ELIZABETHVILLE. personnel as C. in C.E.F. will permit and loading such cargo as may be made available by M.W.T.R. 2. CAP TOURANE is proceeding to Mid. East with

C.M. 40 on 22nd March and cannot be spared for Lagos. Suggest ELIZABETHVILLE might be substituted on completion of refit at Port Elizabeth at middle of April. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1648C/18 to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. S.T.O.W.A. G.C. in C.W.A. S.T.O. Durban, C. in C.E.F. P.S.T.O. India.) Agree ELIZABETHVILLE (D.S.T. 0029A/21.)

Movements, Dakar. Arrived LA GRACIEUSE, DUMONT D'URVILLE and COMMANDANT DELAGE escorting EL BIAR, MEDIE II, ALSACE, FINISTERRE. (Comar Dakar 1730/18 to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

/U/B...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

U/B campaign off South Africa.

Although U-Boats are operating within sight of South African coast not a word of their presence has been allowed to appear in South African press and the vast majority of South Africans have not the slightest idea that German Submarines have ever left North Atlantic.

ever left North Atlantic. 2. This is a highly unsit is factory state of affairs because (A) With the danger to Egypt removed people here are becoming indifferent to the war and the jolt necessary to bring them back to realities is lacking.

B. Not realising that the war is actually being fought on their very doorsteps the inhabitants of coastal towns are clamouring for removal of blackout restrictions.

3. Propose therefore that I should issue a statement on the following lines. "The battle of the Atlantic is being waged not only in the seas between Europe and North America but over the whole of the Atlantic Ocean. This Ocean washes South African shores and U-Boats have appeared off South African Coast. Their coming was not unexpected and preparations had been made to meet them. In the fight against these pests both offensively and defensively the British, South African and Allied Naval Forces, Royal Air Force, South African Air Force and Coastal Watchers are fully and unceasingly co-operating. Not a small part of the battle of the Atlantic is the withholding from the enemgevery scrap of information which concerns shipping however remotely. I know that a member of the public can be relied on to keep to themselves any such information that may come their way and not press for details of this battle which in the interests of all should not be given. Similarly blackouts of certain coastal areas are essential measures in this battle, and while the inconvenience of these measures is fully recognised the public in these districts will realise the necessity for them and the part they are playing in baulking the enemy's purpose 4. This message is ment at request of General Smuts who for political and other reasons would like a statement to be made on above lines as early as practicable.

5. High Commissioner has seen this message and is endorsing it in a telegram to Dominions Office.

(C. in C.S.A. 1834/18 to Admty.) Concur: see (1st Lord 1527A/22 to C. in C.S.A.)

A.F.D. 24.

My 1940/17th, the dock is in 2 sections each towed by one tug. (N.A.Montevideo 1837Z/18 to Admty. (R) C, in C.S.A. etc.)

CATTERICK.

Parted company at 2100 in 029° 48' S. 035° 00' E. S.O.A. of convoy now 8 knots. CATTERICK should arrive 1200C/19th. (CATTERICK 1900Z/18 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) GENISTA)

/Movements...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,	Departure 17th March U.S. Sloop HUMBOLDT
Recife.	arrival 17th U.S. Patrol Vessel CARNELIAN
	arrival 18th U.S. destroyer SOMERS.
	(R.O.Recife (Pernambuco) 2015Z/18 to Admty.)

ARETHUSA. Departure 1935/17th ARETHUSA. (S.O.(I) Freetown 2113Z/18 to Admty.)

U/B. "S" Report. -----

Following has been read SSSS DE ZTC Position 11.44 S. Ol.44 E. attacked by Sub. (Simonstown W/T T.O.R. 2200.) W.D.Note: Presumed LULWORTH HILL, see F.O.C.W.A. 1241Z/39th March.

MAURETANIA. passage of civilians from India. Your 1504/17. Regret decision in A.M. 1546/19th February para. 3 cannot be waived as Admiralty are most anxious not to have women and children on board in view of large numbers of P.O.W. 2. Sailing referred to in my 1531/16 para. 2 should be able to lift all these civilians. (D.S.T. 2240A/18 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- P.C. and S. of enemy convoy are 38.12 N. 12.40 E. 120° 12. Enemy Convoy. (A/C FCY/C 0100A/18.)
- M.T.Bs. 84, 95 and 61 returned. (V.A.Malta 0104A/18 to Admty. etc.) M.T.Bs.

C. M. 40. Request disposal instructions vessels C.M. 40 after disembarkation Suez. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 0857B/18 to Admty. for D.S.T.)

Following received addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C C/S CYK/U, P.C. and S. of two medium sized merchant ships,5 destroyers 39.55 N. 14.35 E. Enemy Convoy. 260° 9 knots. (Alexandria 0900A/18 to Admty.) (Capt. S.10 1421A/18 to 8th S/M F.)

Arrivals 17th March AMBER, POOL, BELVOIR, M.Ls. 357, 1005, Greek Destroyer PINDOS. Departures 17th March Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, Movements, Alexandria. M.L. 1048. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0910B/18 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

DAFILA, DAFILA and KAYING torpedoed in position 8 miles east of "Chop". KAYING (BEAUFORT 0935/18 to C. in C.Levant.) (?DAFILA) sunk. KAYING floating well. Am searching with EXMOOR, TETCOTT, no contact yet. (BEAUFO T 1025/18 to C. in C.Levant.) torpedoed.

E.T.15. Intend sailing following (2 ships) Cmdre. Algiers is requested to signal pendant numbers.

(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1000A/18 to C. in C.Med.) E.T.15. Add to my 0929/16 DELANE, Algiers for repairs and ballast, Pendant 32.

(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1001A/18 to F.O.I.S. etc.)

E.T.15. My 1126/16th and 1649/17th sailed less FORFAIT. All have K.Bs.

(F.O.I.S. 1850A/18 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran. etc.) My 1850A/18th TRITON returned with Condenser trouble. (F.O.I.S. 2012A/18 to Cmdre. Algiers.) Your 1745A/15th E.T.15 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 2303A/18 to C. in C.Med.)

/Tripoli...

740 18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tripoli Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges Tripoli. 15th March 3200 tons. 16th March 3850 plus 2970 bulk petrol. Discharges Benghazi. 15th March 1270 tons plus 890 bulk petrol. 16th March 1310. (Mideast 1010Z/18.)

W/T N. Africa Ports. My 283 K/12th Feb., not to all addressees. Port wave at Casablanca, Oran, Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville, and Bone is to be shifted to 2150 k/cs at OOOIA/1st April. H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. is requested to shift W/T watch at fighter airfields at the same time. (C. in C.Med. 1037A/18 to Med. Station, 315 K, H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F., (R) C. in C.Levant, etc.)

NASTURTIUM.

Your 1501/17 confirmed. 2. NASTURTIUM is attached temporarily to R.C.N. and was one of the 17 corvettes loaned by them for Operation "Torch."

3. Your 1836/17. Concur with F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 1140/17. (D.O.D.(H) 1039A/18 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Gib. etc.)

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 109 Part 1.

Night 16/17 March. About 15 Ju.88s bombed Tripoli. Full details not available but some damage caused to M.T. and buildings, including barracks and hospital. Casualties, 9 killed, 11 wounded. 3 Beaufighters up shot down 1 Ju.88 probably destroyed another. Part 2.

Following additional details received. Night 15/16 March, 2 enemy aircraft, operating singly bombed Tripoli. No damage or casualties (1 corrupt group) Beaufighters up no interceptions. 16th March 8 Beaufighters, 95 Hurricanes protection of shipping Tripoli Benghazi and Tobruk areas. 2 Baltimores 1 Blenheim convoy escort.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1106Z/18, 1141Z/18.)

UNISON.

P.43 S/M UNISON, leaves Malta 1500A/18th routed South of Q.K.B. 6 through 035° 20' 015° 28' thence course 10° to her patrol area between 1at. 037° 20' and 039° 20' and N.W. of line 040° from 037° 20', 016° 24'. (Capt. S.10 1136A/18 to 10 S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.) Sailed UNISON (P.43) (V.A.Malta 1818A/18 to Admty. etc.)

/RORQUAL ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

RORQUAL, UNSHAKEN. RORQUAL leaves Malta 1500A/18th routed through R,Q,P, passing P. at 1200A/20th thence to operate in zone "A" and as ordered by Capt. S.8th. 2. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) keep south side of your route during daylight 19th. (Capt. S.10 1139A/18 to S/Ms on patrol (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.lst, Capt. S.8th.)

S/M Patrol Areas.

My 1808/17th. Majority of targets in Zones A. B and F. proceed close inshore where patrols cannot always be maintained. Submarines are free to withdraw to seaward as necessary. Submarines

in zones D. and E. should patrol for most part in south east and south west position respective of their zone and may be ordered in certain circumstances to reinforce zones A. B. and C. When A/C are co-operating S/Ms may, if chance of obtaining contact with enemy appears good, enter another S/Ms zone but in this event should withdraw to their own zone on completion of attack. S/Ms in zone G. and H. should patrol as in my 1900/13th to TROOPER.

(Capt. S.8 1148A/18 to 8 S.F. (R) C. in C.Med.)

My 2229/17th. (Monthly returns of landing craft to be signalled.) Para. 3 refers to Landing Craft L.C.M. and below only. Landing Craft. (C. in C.Med. 1150A/18 to F.O.Gibraltar, etc.)

German Vessel LEZARDRIEUX expected sailing for LEZARDRIEUX. Marseilles Monday 22nd. (Alicante 1200/18 to Admty. Gibraltar, Madrid.)

RORQUAL, SARACEN, SPLENDID.

1. RORQUAL from Malta will be operating in zone A from about 0001/20th* subsequently proceeding Algiers. RORQUAL when west of 010° is to report expected time of passing 038° 15' 008° 01' and result of lay and is then to steer 270° S.O.A.

145 miles per day. 2. P.247 (SARACEN) P.228 (SPLENDID) operating in zone B. and C. respectively from 0600/20th.*

(Capt. S.8 1238A/18 to RORQUAL, 8th S.F. (R) Capt. S.10.) * See amendment following.

*My 1238. For 20th in 2 places read 21st Capt. S. 10 1551 (N.T. in W.D.) refers. Capt. S.10 pass to RORQUAL. (Capt. S.8 1758A/18 to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. S.10, RORQUAL.)

SERPA PINTO.

Following is repetition of 1249/16 from N.A.Lisbon addressed Ponta Delgada (R) Admty. (Begins) :-N.C.S.O. Lisbon is arranging for SERPA PINTO to embark British and possibly American survivors at end of month. He will communicate final arrange-ments. (Ends.) (D.T.D. 1435A/18 to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) N.A.Lisbon.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

My 0950A/17. Add LORD DELAWARE, 10.85. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1450A/18 to C. in C.Med.) G.U.S. 5A.

KATSONIS. My 1118/11th not to Capt. S.10. Cancel my 0904/9th, and 1808/10th. (Capt. S.l., 1637B/18 to A.I.G. 76 etc.)

My 1158/17th P.212 is re-routed through 038° 08' 003° 04' at 0200/19th thence course 90° SAHIB. (P.212.) 145 miles a day. (Capt. S.8 1644A/18 to 8 S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

My 1941/17th. (Position of relief ships MONGABALI, FORMOSA and CAMELIA.) Noon position today 035° 51' 020° 31' speed 13 knots. All 3 ships in Greek Relief. company. (Capt. S.10 1822A/18 to Submarines on patrol, (R) Capt. S.l., Capt. S.8.)

Intend to sail (list) for Bougie, Philippeville T.E.19. and Bone. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 1829A/11 - ?18 intended to N.O.I.Cs. Bougie, Bone, Philippeville.)

Your 1500/6. 1. Understood from C.O. ADVENTURE ADVENTURE that mine storage at Mers-el-Kebir is not ready. mine storage 2. Therefore preferred to postpone sailing of Mers-el-ADVENTURE. Requested you will indicate earliest Kebir. date by which you would like her to arrive. (D.D.O.D.(M) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1912A/18 to C. in C.Med.) Reply: C. in C.Med. 1321A/19.

M.Ls. Oran. Received ships named, M.L. 566, 560, 554, 557, 561. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1945A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Tripoli (L) raided 2150/16th March by 9 plus aircraft 3 destroyed by A/A and 1 destroyed by Situation Report No. fighters. No damage. 12. 2. My 2016/16th March Para. 3. M.L. from Tripoli (L) picked up 3 German airmen off Misurata from l of aircraft shot down by DERWENT and convoy p.m. 17th March.

3. British SS. DAFILA and KAYING torpedoed by U-Boat 0935/18th March in position 32.59 N. 22° 21' E. Former sunk, latter still afloat. (My 1203/25th Dec. para. 1) salved Italian Tug CORNELIS CORNELIUS II, straggler from Convoy, sunk off Ras Azzaz a.m. 18th March. Cause unknown. (C. in C. Levant 1950B/18 to Admty.)

/Malta...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report.

A.I. 555 18th March. C.S.R. Part 1 offensive. Night 17th/18th March. 6. intruder Mosquito sorties were made 4 over Southern Italy and 2 over Northern and Western

Sicily.

1 2,000 ton vessel was attacked 4 miles North East of Cape Orlandc and strikes scored on superstructure. 2 Wellingtons and 2 Beauforts all carrying special equipment and torpedoes searched for enemy shipping in Palermo area but experienced heavy A.S.V. jamming and found no suitable target. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 2000/18.)

Movements, Bone.

Bone arrival O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA, departure LIDDESDALE, WILTON, F.S. LA FAVORITE, VISENDA, REIGHTON WYKE, KING SOL, M.M. 81 and 68. (S.O.I.S. 2003A/18 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Movements, Algiers.

Algiers arrivals ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, MAN-O-WAR, FELIXSTOWE, WHEATLAND, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, OAKLEY, FOXTROT, French Chasseur III. (Cmdre. Algiers 2017A/18 to Admty. etc.) Algiers arrivals S/M P.339 departure S/M P.212.

(Cmdre. Algiers 2021A/18 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Benghazi.

Arrived, PRIMULA, FALK. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 2144B/18 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

18th March, Port Said, arrivals and departures. JERVIS, KELVIN, CUMBRAE, ORION, PINDOS, M.L. 1048. Greek AETOS and PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Movements, Port Said. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 2310B/18 to Admty. etc.)

REDWOOD. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2355B/18 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Arrival BADORA.

Movements.

(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam Ol46Z/18 to Admty.) BRITTANY arrived. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0205Z/18 to C. in C.E.F.) Arrival U.S.S. WESTPOINT. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0404Z/18 to Admty.) Departure TAMWORTH. (S.O.I. Bombay 0946Z/18 to Admty.) Colombo departures 0130Z/18 WORCESTERSHIRE. Arrivals. 0930Z KANIMBLA. 0930Z VERBENA. (F.O.Ceylon 1115Z/18 to Admty.) MAURITIUS, BIRMINGHAM left CARADOC arrived. (C. in C.E.F. 1322Z/18 to Admty.) Left ALBATROSS. (F.O. ? E.F. 1326Z/18 to Admty.) Departure 2125Z/18th GAWLER escorting R.F.A. (?APPLELEAF) victualling store issuing ship TAI PING. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 2128Z/18 to Admty.) B.P. 722. Departure PUNJAB and ADRIA with B.P. 722. (S.O.I. Bombay 0232Z/18 to Admty.) Departure PATHFINDER (as received) towing Survey Motor Boat E.T.A. Mandapam 0430/20th. Wearing ?PATHFI NDER. blue ensign do not hold recognition signal or carry W/T. Requirements. N.O.I.C. Mandapam please pass to Officer i/c R.N. Survey Unit. (N.O.I.C. Cochin O611Z/18 to C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Mandapam, S.O.(I) Kilindini, Admty. S.O.(I) Bombay.) Convoy Intentions for escorts. HINDUSTAN and ORISSA, P.B. 32 MARGUERITE, P.A. 30 sailing 1100Z/22nd ocean route No. 3. PUNJAB and RAJPUTANAP.B. 33, LAUNCESTON P.A.31 Escorts. sailing O800Z/29th ocean route No. 2. This amends my 1234/11th. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0723Z/18 to A.I.G. 418.) 0.W.5. O.W. 5. arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 1023Z/18 to Admty.)

JOHN W. MACKAY. (Cable ship) JOHN W. MACKAY has asked dated 17th to be docked on completion of programme Admiralty 2010/1st Dec. Recommend his mail be sent Bombay until this question decided. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1013Z/18 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. Cmdre. Durban.)

/Mauritius...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

Mauritius Docks. Your 1543A/19th Feb. (requesting report -N.T. in W.D.) Consider Albion Dock Company are not capable of docking H.M. Ships as they are only a Lighterage firm who repair lighters on slipways. Further remarks. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 1241Z/18 to Admty.)

Troop Transport.

 l. P.A.I.C. request shipping for 3000 Indian Troop personnel Basra/Mideast about 1st April. Request instructions whether 3 ships of B.P.73 not detailed for Polish families may be used for this service. Your 1055Z/13 refers.
 (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 1425Z/18 to P.S.T.O. India, (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. M.E. P.A.I.C.)

Combined Training Centre, India. Combined training centre in India largely depends on early arrival of ALBATROSS at Bombay for which port ship has sailed.

2. To progress in any way adequately this combined training and in order that landing operations can be exercised under realistic conditions it is essential one of H.M. Ships should be available with suitable communications and preferably with aircraft.

3. Should be most grateful therefore if withdrawal of ALBATROSS invisaged in your 1752/16th could be deferred until another suitable vessel can be made available my 1254/3rd Jan. also refers (C. in C.E.F. 1434/18 to Admty.)

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Thursday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Dispositions. Section East. My 1650/17th add SS. EAGLE sailed p.m./17th to EMPIRE PUMA in 52.00 N. 50.25 W. (corrupt)ACUS departed Argentia 1930Z/17th escorted by U.S.S. INGRAM 227°, 16.

Amend NORTH KING arrived St. Johns N.F.

MALPEQUE vicinity 48.36 51.28 en route St. Johns N.F., 12.

(C.O.A.C., 0230Z/18 to Admty.) Section South-west. My 1720/17 add F.H.43 MILLTOWN, SWIFT CURRENT 044° 54' 066° 14' 202°, 8 altering to 151° in 043° 53' N. and 084° in 043° 01' N. and (3 groups missed) 065° 17' W. Delete SS. SLOGA.

(C.O.A.C., 0400Z/18 to Admty.)

H.X.229 (attacked by U/B 17th March) further attack 18th March.

Hvalfjord departure VIMY at 0318 to join you. (A.C.I.C., 0435A/18 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.8, C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.) MANSFIELD detached to Londonderry dawn 18th short of water and fuel. Remaining escort approx. 50% fuel remaining. Escort tanker fitted canvas hose. No refuelling possible owing to weather and continual action against (? group

omitted). (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 0701Z/18 to C. in C. W.A., (R) HIGHLANDER, 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.)

Total number of survivors on board is 126. 55 are from Dutch ship TERKOELEI which was torpedoed and sunk with the British ship CORACERO at 13002/17 in 051° 22' N. 033° 02' W. approx. 52 are from CORACERO and 19 are from U.S. Ship IRENEE DU PONT which was left sinking at 0900Z/17 in 050° 43' N. 035° O2' W. The Master of CORACERO gives the following names as missing from his ship (list).

(MANSFIELD, 1330Z/18 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., VOLUNTEER, HIGHLANDER.) Your 1345Z/15th complied with but it is now essential to

proceed to Londonderry as no opportunity to fuel has occurred due to bad weather and recent heavy U-Boat attack on convoy. Now proceeding on port engine only due to leaking starboard condenser. P.C. and S. of H.X.229 on leaving at 0700Z/18 was 053° 05' N. 029° 22', 053°, 10 knots. Weather report. (MANSFIELD, 1400Z/18 to A.I.G.302, (R) VOLUNTEER, VIMY, HIGHLANDER.)

Following has been read.

SSS SSS SSS de AZ2J.

(AZ2J, T.O.R. 1547/18 to Whitehall W/T.) H.X.229 attacked, two ships torpedoed 53° 35' N. 28° 05' W. (C.T.U. 24.1.18, 1610Z/18 to C. in C. W.A., (R) A.C.I.C., Admty., N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 24.7, Connav, H.Q.C.C.)

W.D. Note: Ships were WALTER Q. GRESHAM (U.S.) and CANADIAN STAR (British), vide (D.O.R. 20th March 1943).

/P.C. and S. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

P.C. and S. at 2200Z/18th 055° 17' N. 023° 22' W. 250°, 22 knots alter course to 231° at 0124Z. E.T.A. 0315Z/19th. Will transmit for homing H.X. 229 (attacked by U/B 17th March) on 4400 k/cs per sec. at 0100Z and every hour further thereafter. Request name of ship of S.O. 7752 9835. attack (BABBITT, 2215Z/18 to Ships escorting Convoy H.X.229, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.6, C.T.U. 24.6.4, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7.) Intercept at 1550 G.M.T. de Valencia Radio begins: SSSS de AZ21 no further parts. 1547/18. (Wick Pedic. 1651 P.S.T. /18 to Ops. Poom P.A.F. 18th March. (Contd.) (Wick Radio, 1651 B.S.T./18 to Ops. Room R.A.F. Wick, Adm. Lyness.) Movements Ship Position Course Speed Summary 40° N. 37¹/₂° W. 065° ACHILLES 18 1800 G.M.T. FOLKESTONE) 20¹/₂° N. 59¹/₂° W. 18th March. 063° TOTLAND 11 WESTON 432° N. 24° W. 200° UGANDA 19 BURWELL) 42° N. 25° W. 038° 13 1 M/VCARNARVON) 11° N. 30° W. Patrol Blank CASTLE (D.O.D.(F), 0937Z/18 to Opnav, (R) Comnaveu.) Curacao 1706/16 (re E.W. SINCLAIR arrived without any oiling at sea gear, she cannot heat the oil Oiling at sea. and has no suitable derrick for trough method). Request you will reply. (D.T.D., 1107A/18 to B.A.D., (R) B.R.L.O.Curacao.)

Helicopters. Briny 3565 para. 2 as received here is not clear. Request you repeat this information in two tables. (Ministry of Aircraft Production, 1215/18 to British Air Commission, Washington.) Briny 3686. Para. 2, Briny 3565 should read as follows -(quoted).

(quoted). (British Air Commission, Washington, 2000Z/18 to Min. of Aircraft Production.)

Movements.

Departure SNOWBERRY, PORT HOPE to escort 0.N.170. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1300Z/18 to Admty.) Kingston departure U.S.A.T. STATE OF MARYLAND. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1434/18 to Admty.) U.S.A.T. MATSONIA arrived San Francisco 17th. (N.S.H.Q., 2029Z/18 to Admty.)

/S.C.122 ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C.122 (attacked by U/B, 17th March).

E.T.A. S.C. 122 about 0200Z/19. Will transmit home signals 4400 k/cs at 2000Z/18 and each 2 hours thereafter until midnight. Will take station ahead unless otherwise directed. Sound equipment of INGHAM inoperative due to holed dome. Request your P.C. and S. My position 1200Z/18 57° 24' N. 22° 11' W. Weather

report.

(C.T.U. 24.6.4, 1405Z/18 to C.T.U. 24.1.19, (R) C. in C. W.A., C.T.G. 24.6.

S.C.122 my 2200Z/17. ZOUAVE torpedoed also sunk. 130 survivors from two ships in GODETIA. U-Boat was sighted on starboard bow five minutes before ships were torpedoed, dived immediately no contact made. U-Boat resurfaced at 2352Z/17th and again torpedoed PORT AUCKLAND which was still afloat but no contact made.

From numerous A/C sightings and attack S.C.122 appears now to be passing through U-Boat patrol of high density. Weather report.

(HAVELOCK, 1824Z/18 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Admty., Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C., C.T.F. 24, C.T.G.

N.S. H.G., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., H.G.C.C., C.T.F. 24, C.T.G. 24.7, C.T.U. 24.6.4.) U-Boat sighted port bow of Convoy diving. No contact, no casualties, 053° 47', 025° 25'. (C.T.U. 24.1.19, 2303Z/18 to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.G., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7, H.G.C.C., C.T.U. 24.6.4.)

J.H. 42A.

(1) J.H.42A.
(2) 1830Z/18.
(3) E.T.A. Halifax
1300Z/20.
(4) 12¹/₂.
(5) (D) 47.33 N. 52.32 W.
(E) 46.29 N. 52.56 W.
(F) 45.18 N. 60.35 W.
(G) 45.00 N. 61.11 W.
(H) 44.35 N. 62.26 W. (6) LEAMINGTON, RIMOUSKI. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 1414Z/18 to Admty.)

Submarine Estimate 18th March, U.S. S/M Notice.

(Cominch, 1459/18, 1500/18, 1602/18, 1603/18, 1604/18.)

C.U. 1 slow convoy, Escorts.

Your 0925/16th. Request route of these ships in order that merchant ships intelligence may be given them. (N.S.H.Q., 1501Z/18 to S.B.N.O. Curacao, (R) Admty., S.B.N.O.W.A., B.A.D., S.O.(I) Kingston.)

A.T. 40.

Your 1640/17th. Embarkation programme being adjusted. Provided no delay in arrival as estimated in my 1635/16th anticipate vessel can be sailed p.m./29th. (N.S.H.Q., 1532Z/18 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C., Connav.)

/Atlantic ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Atlantic Convoys, Schedules, Designations. Admty. pass to C. in C. A.F. and F.O. Oran. Provisions of my 2219/12th are effective immediately. (Cominch, 1540/18 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Lant, Cdr. all S.F. Atlantic, Cdr. S.At., (R) C.T.24, C. in C. W.A., C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., B.A.D., C. in C. A.F., C. in C. Med., F.O. Oran.) Concur. (Admty., 1747A/19.)

O.N. 169. Following for Cdre. My 1458/14th para. 7 (N.T. in W.D.) First 5 ships named arrived Halifax and state no change of destination to St. John N.B. was received and that they were instructed to proceed to Halifax. Much delay in expediting turn around of ships has occurred and reasons for misunderstanding are requested. (C.O.A.C., 15452/18 to B.R.L.O. New York, N.O.I.C. St. John, N.B. Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

ANDES.	Arrival	March 18	Bth New	York ANDE	s.	
	(Port Di	rector 1	lew York	, 1558/18	3 to	Admty.)

Desertions from French vessels refitting in U.S.A. Reply to my 1843/ô was about to be despatched when Ambassador's telegram No. 1221 was received reporting action taken by Navy Dept. H.M.G's policy is that stated in F.O's telegram to Algiers, No.189, repeated to Washington No. 1267, and in Admiralty message 1805/3. 2. The only real solution can be some form of

agreement between de Gaulle and Giraud, the prospect of which now seems good. It is understood that recruiting agreement is being tackled at once by Catroux Mission. (Head of M.(I), 1602A/18 to B.A.D.)

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. Flotilla 154 arrived 1145/18th. (B.R.L.O. Balboa, 1614R/18 to Admty.)

U/B.

Submarine sighted 53° 31' N. 26° 45' W. at 1328 G.C.T./18. (U.S. Navcom Washington, 1637/18 to Admty.)

Movements.

U.S. C.G.83365 left for Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1640/18 to Admty.) Arrival 18th U.S.A. Minesweeper A.M.C.72. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1815/18 to Admty.)

Convoy Conference Report. Please make following changes to report of convoy conference appendix A to A C C 2 pages entitled convoy plan. Change last 4 figures in the line Curacao - U.K. convoys to read in order 6, 6, 0, 6. Change total to read 446. (Cominch, 1647/18 to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Cinclant, C.T.24, C.E.S.F., C.C.S., Chief of Staff U.S. Army, Canadian Air Force, H.Q. Ottawa, C.C.S.F., C.G.S.F., C.T.F.23, Cincpac, B.A.D.) /Dispositions.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and mest Indies - Contd.

Dispositions.

Section East.

O.N.171 Western Local E.T.U. plus KALE 48.10 47.35, 188°, 1.5 altering to 209° in 46.(?43) N. ANNAPOLIS vicinity 47.18 51.45 to join number

171 in 46.13 48.02 at 1200Z/19th. M.O.E.T.U. vicinity 48.05 48.28 en route Argentia 12 knots. HURRICANE vicinity 48.17 48.15 en route St. Johns N.F. 12 knots. J.H.42A LEAMINGTON, RIMOUSKI 47.04 52.41, 195°, 14. SS. EAGLE vicinity 50.52 N. 50.05 W. to assist (? mined) PUMA in`vicinity 52° 00' N. 50° 25' W. S.C.123 WL.E.T.U. 24.18.4 43.32 59.12, 064° 7.5. SCEBELLI 42.00 57.45, 270°, 13.5 altering to 336° in 62.00 W. DALWARNIC 46.00 55.10, 086°, 7 en route St. Johns N.F. EXCELLER 40.56 55.50, 265°, 14. (C.O.A.C., 1655Z/18 to Admty.) My 1655Z/18th. Section East add U.S.S. NORTHLAND, BEAR, NANOK ATAK departed Argentia 1930Z/18th 299°, 8 altering to 237° in 046° 56' N. and to 075° in 046° 08' N. (C.O.A.C., 0002Z/19 to Admty.) Section South-west. 171 in 46.13 48.02 at 1200Z/19th.

Section South-west.

Halifax portion S.C.123 W.L.E. L.U. 24.18.2 48.53 61.40 en route Halifax 12.

SANTIAGO one escort vicinity 43.50 61.20 en route Halifax 6.5. O.N.170 Task Unit 24.18.10 (E) 41.30 62.48, 246°, 8.5. Halifax portion O.N.170 W.L.E.T.U. less NIAGARA 42.28 62.10 en route Halifax 9 knots.

COBALT departs Halifax 1600/18th, to join 0.N.170. F.H.43 MILLTOWN, SWIFT CURRENT 43.22 64.48 050°, 8. IMPERIAL MONARCH towed by NANCY NORMAN and FOUNDATION FRANKLIN escorted by KENTVILLE departs Sambro Light Vessel 2100/18th 233° 6.5 altering to 265° in 65.23 W.

L.23 on surface escorted by NANAIMO 41.50 70.20 en route Cape Cod Canal thence NANAIMO proceed to Halifax speed 12 knots. U.N.169 T.U. No. 24.18.9, 43.10 63.22, 270°, 7.5 altering to 229° 69.00 W.

U.S.S. ANTAEUS, INGRAM, OSMOND 43.10 60.46 en route Boston 16 knots.

EROS 40.08 67.58, 270°, 13. IRISH WILLOW 40.50 64.56, 340°, 8.5 en route St. Johns N.B. Q.090, Q.097, Q.093, Q.096, Q.089 43.34 65.00 en route to Shelburne 12 knots.

(C.O.A.C., 1725Z/18 to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties.

Serial 18. WILLIAM EUSTIS, JAMES OGLETHORPE, HARRY LUCKENBACH attacked 17th 50° 38' N. 34° 46' W. convoy H.X. 229. MOLLY PITCHER torpedoed 17th 38° 21' N. 19° 54' W. convoy U.G.S.6. JAMES K. POLK Serial (? 10) damaged, sunk. (Cominch (C. & R.), 2050/18 to Comnaveu.)

/Sub. ...

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America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting

All times Z. (A) R.A.F. plane sights sub. on surface 53.31 N. and sighting summary. 26.45 W. 1328/18. British plane sights sub. on surface course 020°, 51° N. 33° W. 1240/17. U.S.S. UPSHUR and QUEEN BEE attack sub. area 52.50 N. 30.35 W. about 1350/17. British plane sights three subs. on surface course 020°, 51° N. 33° W. 1829/17. British plane attacks sub. course 045° area 51.19 N. 32.19 W. 1000/17 Dritich plane sights sub. on surface course 045° 51°

1908/17. British plane sights sub. on surface course 045° 51° N. 32° W. 1941/17. British plane attacks three subs. on surface course 020° 51.18 N. 32.31 W. 1940/17. British plane sights sub. on surface course 045° 51° N. 32° W. 2100/17. (C) Sub. sighted 13.40 N. 60.56 W. 0705/17. (D) Y.P.45 sights sub. 30.06 N. 88.04 W. 0250/18. S.C.684 makes sound contact 39.52 N. 73.50 W. 1025/18. (Cominch, 2107/18 to Admty.)

Helldivers (1) From preliminary trials it appears that the in Kaiser take-off of a Helldiver will make it unsuitable for operating from A.C.Vs with a 1600 lb. bomb Ships. or torpedo. Trials give a level take off of Helldiver at 15,425 lbs. at 580 feet with 23 knot wind. (2) As a guide for your planning it appeared that Kaisers will be able to operate the following typical outfits. (a) Not using flight deck parking.

- 12 Tarpons or 21 Corsairs.
 10 Tarpons and 4 Corsairs.
 6 Tarpons and 12 Corsairs.
- (3) 6 Tarpons and 12 Corsairs.(b) Using flight deck parking.
- (1) 21 Tarpons or 33 Corsairs.
- (2) 17 Tarpons and 4 Corsairs.

(2) 17 Tarpons and 4 Corsains.
(3) 12 Tarpons and 12 Corsains.
(4) 6 Tarpons and 23 Corsains.
(3) If accelerator is not used a range of 6 Tarpons at 15,800
lbs. will probably require 25 knots wind speed for take-off
from a Kaiser. 9 Tarpons probably 32 knots, the maximum speed of Kaisers is not likely to exceed 19 knots. (B.A.D., 2135Z/18 to Admty.)

S.C.123, H.S.C.123.

S.C.123 met at 1910Z/18th in 43° 35' 59° 08' by H.S.C.123 consisting of 12 ships total of 42 merchant ships present. BUCTOUCHE escorting three stragglers pendants 85, 113 and 114. Pendants 104 and 11 not accounted for. Your 2028Z/17th KENORA escorting SANTIAGO detached at junction and proceeding Halifax. Weather report.

(C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2, 2140Z/18 to C.O.A.C., (R) N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F., C.T.24, Connav, F.O.N.F., C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4.)

U/B.

Submarine sighted by shore watcher in 047° 00' N. 052° 50' at 2100/18th. (C.O.A.C., 2315Z/18 to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., etc.) Considered C.4. (1940Z/19.)

/H.X.229A ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

H.X. 229A.

Your 1306Z/18th (N.T. in W.D.) My P.C. and S. 56.30 N. 45.26 W., 050°, (?8).5 altering to 056° at 1000Z/19th. Request BIBB's port of departure and R/V. Weather report. (E.G.40 in ABERDEEN, 2358Z/18 to C.T.24, (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., C.T.U. (U.S.) BIBB.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Apia U.S.S. CYGNUS. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0206Z/18 to Admty.) Departure Apia U.S.S. CYGNUS for Penrhyn Island

and Bora Bora.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 2209Z/18 to Admty.) Arrival Milne Bay 17th KATOOMBA. Townsville 16th PIRIE,
17th ARUNTA. Cairns 16th WAGGA. Exmouth Gulf 16th U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS. Departure Exmouth Gulf 17th U.S. Seaplane Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON for Fremantle. Sydney 17th MORESBY, BUNGAREE for Brisbane. Townsville 16th WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby. Cairns 17th BALLARAT for Milne Bay. Port Moresby 17th SWAN for Townsville.

(A.C.N.B., 1001Z/18 to Admty.) Arrivals 17th March GLADSTONE, U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER. Brisbane V.S.I.S. MERKUR. Townsville U.S. Transports BONTEKOE, CREMER. Hired Transport DUNTROON, R.A.A.F. Store ship WANAKA departed Townsville 17th due Port Moresby 19th. Hospital Ship MANUNDA departed Brisbane 17th due Port Moresby 19th. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Sydney 17th due Townsville 22nd. U.S.Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Townsville 17th due Port Moresby 20th. Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed Port Moresby 17th due Townsville 19th. U.S. Transport BONTEKOE arrived Bowen 17th. (A.C.N.B., 1002Z/18 to Admty.)

FOMAL HAUT.

Departure Guadalcanal U.S.S. FOMALHAUT for Auckland, E.T.A. 0700Z/24. Routed west of New Caledonia speed of advance $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Escorted by U.S.S. RUSSELL to vicinity Noumea. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0001Z/18 to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 421 March 17th.

/ 3. Forenoon R/C Wewak sighted one small vessel in harbour, one vessel on reef. 5. 6 enemy barges containing crews only intercepted and destroyed by 2 Allied notor torpedo

/boats ...

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18.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 421 March 17th. (Contd.)

harbour) midnight 16th. Barges apparently awaiting R/V with submarine and our vessels mistaken as friendly.
7. One enemy floatplane ineffectively bombed Merauke before midday 17th.
8. Noon R/C report 2 bessels 1000 tons each

boats off Maima river (10 miles N.N.W. Merobe

Babo also unsuccessfully bombed 3 small coastal steamers stationary at entrance McCleur Gulf.

9. After daybreak 3 Hudsons bombed waterfront and barracks area at Langgoer (Kai Islands) Folljs 2 groups missing 13 B.25s. No activity airfield and nil shipping sighted Kai - Aroe Islands area.

10. Small Allied convoy unsuccessfully attacked by torpedoes from submarine position 25° 41' S. 153° 51' E. at 0410Z/17. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0618Z/18.)

Air Raid Darwin. My 0646Z/16 now proves to be less serious. Numbers 1, 2 and 7 tanks can be repaired, number 6 requires partial rebuilding, number 4 total loss. Remaining tanks in use. Pipe-line appears capable of early repair. Fuel destroyed (details). (A.C.N.B., 0815Z/18 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1401A/18, 1405A/18.)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Lofoten Is. S/M Patrol. 1. It is believed that TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW and NÜRNBERG may be in the Narvik area and may attempt either to break out to the Atlantic or proceed to Altenfiord area. F.O.(S) intends to maintain a S/M patrol in the Lofoten area from 23rd March. On 6th April, S/Ms will be withdrawn to positions about 50 miles from the coast on account of the short hours of darkness. The patrol will be maintained by all available S/Ms; SEVERN and the U.S. S/Ms will not maintain close patrol, owing to their size. A message today from F.O.(S) gives details of temporary patrol zones which are established in the Lofoten Is. area.

2. The Admiralty estimate that about 30 or 35 U-Boats have been operating against Convoys S.C.122 and H.X.229. Several U-Boats were sighted and attacked by aircraft from 17th March onwards. C. in C. U.S. Fleet estimated at 1616 that about 15 U-Boats were still in the neighbourhood of the convoys.

3. The Convoy was attacked again by U-Boats in bright moonlight at 0550Z in 54.05 N. 24.19 W. and SS. CARRAS (Greek) was torpedoed. The ship was reported to be salvable, but the crew have abandoned her and are on board rescue ship ZAMALEK. SAUCY, escorted by JONQUIL, was sent from Londonderry to assist CARRAS. Later it was reported that she was not salvable. Continuous air escort was provided from 0834 today to 0302/ 20 by 6 aircraft who made 4 attacks, 2 of which are considered promising. Offensive sweeps, also covering H.X.230, were made and resulted in 2 attacks. During the attacks on S.C.122 from 17th to 19th

March inclusive, the absence of R.D.F. contact by surface escort was remarkable, although R.D.F. conditions were normal.

Convoy H.X. 229. Fourteenth ship torpedoed. 4. Two submarines were sighted early this morning and were attacked by HIGHLANDER and ANEMONE in about 54.28 N. 25.34 W. The convoy was not attacked. ANEMONE has only 2 depth charges remaining and has 158 survivors on board; and HIGHLANDER intends to detach her with SS. TEKOA at the earliest safe opportunity. BABBITT attacked up to 3 U-Boats near the convoy, commencing at 0530Z and making in all 11 attacks; she has evidence of serious damage or destruction of one U-Boat. BABBITT was absent from the convoy all day.

/Escorting ...

Convoy S.C.122. Eighth ship torpedoed.

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy H.X.229. Fourteenth ship torpedoed. (Contd.)

Escorting aircraft (six, of which 5 were met) made 6 attacks on U-Boats today. In an attack in 54.40 N. 25.48 W. at 1516 an aircraft estimates 5 hits. Another promising attack was made by a Fortress at 1014, 465 miles west of Achill Head. One minute after the attack diesel oil gushed to the surface and the U-Boat surfaced with decks awash, to disappear again slowly with no forward movement. The aircraft made a second attack as the conning tower disappeared, and the flow of oil increased rapidly during the 10 minutes that the aircraft remained in the area.

In the area. MATHEW LUCKENBACH, which left the convoy at 2200Z/18 in 55.45 N. 26.50 W. was reported by HAVELOCK at 1620Z/19th (HAVELOCK gave the name as F.W. LUCKENBACH) to have been torpedoed in 54.23 N. 23.34 W: U.S.C.G. INGHAM picked up the entire crew and armed guard. The ship the entire crew and armed guard. is afloat but is expected to sink.

5. An aircraft of Coastal Command attacked a merchant ship in 44.58 N. 02.13 W. steering 120° at 10 knots at 0115 today.

Convoy K.M.S.11.

S.N. 90A.

6. F.W. aircraft attacked K.M.S. 11 today; one was shot down in 45.51 N. 15.04 W. at 1315Z.

Operation / 7. R.A.(M) in MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON and PORT QUEBEC, and destroyers NEWARK, CHARLESTOWN, WELLS and ST. MARYS sailed from Port ZA at 1700 today for a minelaying operation. CHARYBDIS left Scapa at 2500 to cover the operation.

> 8. SS. GLENDALOUGH was mined and sunk in 161° East Dudgeon Buoy 4.75 miles (about 20 miles N.N.W. of Cromer) this morning.

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War Diary.

19.3.1943. Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Attack on

9. About 12 Ju.88 this evening made a bombing Tripoli (L). and circling torpedo attack on shipping in Tripoli Harbour; they were not detected by R.D.F. and no warning of the raid was given. It was at first reported that all telephone wires were cut shortly before the raid began. but it appears that there is no evidence of this and that heavy rain rendered all land lines except one unserviceable through flooding. OCEAN VOYAGER, British, 7174 tons was hit by 3 or 4 bombs and blew up at 0100/20. Pieces of the ship were found a mile away.

VARVARA, Greek 1354 tons was hit by 2 bombs, ammunition caught fire and she sank at 0400/20. 6,400 tons of petrol and ammunition were lost in these two ships. DERWENT, Hunt class destroyer, was hit by a circling torpedo and was beached with both boiler rooms and engine room flooded. The magazines were flooded when fire threatened the ship.

Superficial damage was caused to nearly all ships, boats, lighters and tugs as the result of explosions. A wave followed explosions, causing all boats and lighters to break adrift. All H.M. Ships and 4 merchant ships left Harbour soon after the explosion, many steaming through a wall of fire.

The A.A. defences report 5 aircraft destroyed and one probable. Owing to heavy rain and 10/10 clouds down to 700 ft, no night fighters went up.

/ 10. SS. TALMA carrying to Turkey Italian Naval prisoners for exchange, was bombed ineffectively by an Italian aircraft in 33.26 N. 33.28 E. about 80 miles S. of Cyprus, at 0945B today. The Italian Govt. had granted safe conduct to the ship, and the Swiss Legation in London have been asked to bring the incident to their immediate notice.

Convoy M.E.20. 11. Convoy M.E.20 sailed from Malta this evening escorted by PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, CROOME and KANARIS.

America and West Indies.

12. SS. SVEND FOYN (oil refinery, 14795 tons) in H.X.229A struck an iceberg this morning in

/58.05 N. ...

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies - Contd.

58.05 N. 44.15 W. and requires two tugs. HASTINGS is standing by. No tugs are available in Iceland (C). Assistance was sent from Greenland to rescue the crew, but no vessel was available to tow.

13.M.V. HERMA (Trinidad for Pernambuco) reported being chased by a submarine at 1350 G.M.T. in 06.20 N. 52.11 W.

14. The Tanker TICONDEROGA (Freetown for Trinidad) reported sighting a submarine in 11.38 N. 60.20 W. at 2215 G.M.T.

Australia and New Zealand.

U/B destroyed. 15. A U-Boat observed to be unloading at Lae Harbour at dusk, with 8 barges plying between ship and shore, was bombed and damaged by 5 B.25 aircraft which report 4 direct hits from 75 feet with 500 lb. bombs.

Enemy Air Operations. 16. 18 enemy bombers escorted by 32 Zeros bombed Porlock Harbour, coast of Papua, at midday, damaging a wharf and 1 launch.

1:

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 1737/18 amend as follows.

Para. (D) U.S.S. HERRING proceeding from north-wards to patrol in Zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 20' N.

Para. (E) U.S.S. SHAD proceeding from northward to patrol in Zone K.508. (F.O.S., 0731/19.)

P.556 exercising in area A off Plymouth between 1100 and 1600/19.

ULTIMATUM in area C between 1430 and 1700/19.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 0955A/19 to Admty., C. in C. Portsmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.(S), F.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.Os. I.C. Milford Haven, Dartmouth, Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcast C.N. and Port Wave in Plymouth Command, Cdr. A/P Plymouth, 10 Group.)

My 1737/18th add new para. (H) P.556 and ULTIMATUM (P.34) exercising off Plymouth in Areas A and C respectively between 1100/19th and 1700/19th.

 $(F_{\bullet}O_{\bullet}(S), 1031A/19_{\bullet})$

Positions of S/Ms at O800A/20th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) SOKOL escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Little Minch due Holy Loch 1400/21st.

(B) UNRULY (P.49), 46° 02' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day due 43°
O1' N. 12° 26' W. at 0500/22nd.
(C) UNA 45° 48' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day to northward advance 110 miles daily.

(D) U.S.S. HERRING in Zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N. (E) U.S.S. SHAD in Zone K.508.

(F) JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Lerwick 1000/20th for Dundee, E.T.A. 1700/21st. (F.O.(S), 1714A/19.) My 1714/19th add new para. (G) GRAPH escorted by COLUMBINE

leaves Lough Foyle 2030/20th for Holy Loch expected time of arrival 0800/21st.

(F.O.(S), 2226A/19.)

Pass to F.N.F.L.

F.S. JUNON arrived Lerwick.

(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 1014A/19 to Admty.)

Intend sailing GRAPH escorted by COLUMBINE from Lough Foyle at 2030A/20th speed 9 knots arrive Holy Loch 0800A/21st. COLUMBINE thence Belfast for refit. Communications.

(N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1508A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, (R) Capt.

(S) 7, Admty., etc.) Intend to sail JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH for Dundee 1000A/20th routed: (A) 089° Sumburgh Head 5 miles. (B) 090° Fair Isle 6 miles. (C) 058° 44' N. 002° 42' W. entrance by searched channels, E.T.A. 1700A/21st. 2. A.C.O.S. is requested to arrange fighter protection help

message on 385 k/cs, S. of A. 9 knots.

3. Communications.

(S.O. S/Ms Lerwick, 1111A/19 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth, (R) F.O.(S), Admty., Capt. (S) 9, H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C.Dundee.)

/BROADWAY

19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

My P.C.S. 2000Z 044° 50' 015° 01', 180°, 7¹/₂ BROADWAY. knots altering at 2100Z to 205° and at 0300Z to 180° Have been shadowed by enemy aircraft and possibly U-Boats. (BROADWAY, 1915Z/19 to COWSLIP.)

INDOMITABLE. My 2122A/18th add one hour to all times. ARCHER. A.C.O.S. acknowledge. (V.A.A.H.F., 1952A/19.)

Scapa departure CHARYBDIS. CHARYBDIS. (A.C.O.S., 2305/19 to R.A.(M), C. in C. H.F., etc.)

Operations.

SHAD. HERRING.

Your 1716A/17th. Not to all addressees. Request you will take over control of U.S.S. SHAD

and U.S.S. HERRING from 0600/19th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0327A/19 to F.O.(S), (R) S/M operating S. of 51° N., Admty., H.Q.C.C., etc.) If not in contact with enemy by 0600/19th proceed to patrol Zone K.505 and K.501 south of latitude 044° 25' N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0329A/19 to U.S.S. HERRING, (R) Admty., F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C.)

Coastal force patrols.

My 1140/18. "Device' returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0820A/19.)

Intend M.G.Bs 54 (S.O.) and 55 to patrol tonight Friday 19th March weather permitting on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. 2. Leaving Weymouth at 2000 via Q.Z.S.382 for

patrol line and leaving patrol at dawn/20. 3. Object: Anti E-Boat patrol. 4. W/T watch. 5. Codeword "Device". Request air protection be arranged.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1104A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.) Patrols 19th/20th March.

1. M.G.B. 616 (S.O.), 615, 608 to carry out anti E-Boat patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route between longitudes 0° 45' E. and 0° 10' W. To be at eastern end of patrol by 0100/20 and to keep to south-eastward of convoy during its passage leaving patrol 0630, constant watch 1700 k/cs. Collective call sign 3GRP pages of Loxod for 19th and 20th March and AVSB to be carried. No other codes. 2. Chasseurs 14 (S.O.), 10 patrolling southward of E.A5 buoy constant watch 2450 k/cs.

3. M.L.572 at St. Helens. ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. KINGSTON TOPAZ and M.L.572, constant watch 2450 k/cs. ALBRIGHTON constant watch broadcast C.N. and 2450 k/cs. 4. M.G.B. 54 (S.O.), 55 from Portland patrolling between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W. on latitude 50° 20' N. Constant watch 2300 k/cs.

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal force Patrols. (Contd.) Movements.

5. C.W.164 escort WORCESTER passes D Buoy 0020,

C.2 0345, E.A5 0945/20. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1335A/19 to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, X.D.O.E., etc.)

Patrol 19th March. (Cancelled 1831/19.) (C. in C. Plymouth, 1351A/19 to M.T.Bs 203, 204, 235, 94, 96, 227, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, etc.)

1. Cancel my 1351A/19 and substitute. Forces employed

M.T.Bs 204, 203, 235, 94, 96, 227. 2. Information - enemy. An enemy convoy believed to consist of 7 M/V and 1 E or R-Boat was reported in 49° 01' N. 02° 22' W. at 1459 course 000° speed 8 to 10 knots.

W. at 1459 course 000° speed 8 to 10 knots.
3. Own. M.G.Bs 54, 55 from Portland patrolling between 01°
45' W. and 02° 28' W. on lat. 50° 20' N.
4. Object to intercept enemy convoy.
5. Execution. M.T.B. are to leave Dartmouth at 1845/19
and steer to position (A) 50° 01' N. 3° 29' W. thence to
position (B) 50° 01' N. 2° 01' W. Speed on passage 20 knots. E.T.A. position (B) 2245/19. 6. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to take control of Force from 2230/19 onwards.

7. Any vessel which breaks down before reaching position (B) are to return direct to Dartmouth.

8. Force to be within 20 miles of our coast by first light 20th. 9. Collective call signs 3RXS. Constant watch on 2300 k/cs. 10. Whilst operating under C. in C. Portsmouth orders. Portsmouth L O X O spare groups are to be used. 11. Codeword "Arena".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1831/19 to M.T.Bs 203, 204, 235, 94, 96, 227, C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, Admty.)

My 1104A/19. "Device" sailed 1957.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2002A/19.)

Search the traffic route between Cape de la Hague and position 000° Cherbourg 5 miles returning Dartmouth in accordance with para. 8 of C. in C. Plymouth's 1831/19. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 2242A/19 to M.T.B. Force, (R) C.

in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, Admty.)

Lofoten Is. S/M patrol.

Your 1210/18th.*

(1) Intend to commence patrol in Lofoten Is. area from 23rd March with 2 submarines, a third submarine joining 27th March.

(2) The patrol will be augmented by 2 or more fast submarines taken from U.S. submarines and SEVERN commencing about 5th April. In order to maintain patrol cycle intend to withdraw SHAD and HERRING from Bay

patrol on 1st April. (3) Hope a patrol of 3 patrol type and 2 fast submarines can be maintained off Norwegian Coast.

(4) Until 6th April when lighting conditions prevent close patrol intend one submarine to patrol off North entrance Gimsostrommen, one off Gavlfiord and one off approaches to Vestfiord. C. in C. H.F. concurs. After 6th April intend to

withdraw submarine to positions approx. 50 miles off coast.

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Lofoten Is. S/M Patrol. (Contd.) (5) One submarine will still be available continuously for A/S training at Scapa. Otherwise A/S training commitments to be maintained at present level.

(6) Flow of reinforcements to Med. will not be interrupted.

(F.O.(S), 1309A/19 to Admty., (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Plymouth.) * ? 2210/18 intended re warning of break out of main units

from bases in Northern Norway.

My 2147/18th. (a) P.223 (SEA NYMPH) is to patrol in Zone K.150 concentrating Patrol as near as practicable to Northern exit from Gimsostrommen.

(b) P.315 (TRUCULENT) is to patrol in Zone K.151 concentrating Patrol as near as practicable to exit from Gavlfiord.

(c) P.316 (TEMPLAR) is to patrol in Zone K.148.
2. Patrol Zones are given in my 1401/19th.
(F.O.(S), 1311A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, S.O. S/Ms Lerwick,
(R) Admty., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., Capt. (S)
9, Comsubron 50.)

1. It is believed enemy main units may be in Narvik area and may attempt either (A) to break out to Atlantic or (B) proceed Altenfiord area.

2. I intend maintain S/M patrol in Lofoten Is. area with object of attacking and reporting enemy main units. Very early information of any movements is of vital importance. 3. Owing to short hours of darkness close patrol is not possible after 6th April when S/Ms will be withdrawn to

positions approx. 50 miles off Coast. 4. Patrol will be maintained by all available S/M. SEVERN and U.S. S/M will not maintain close patrol owing to their size. 5. SHAD and HERRING will be withdrawn from Bay patrol about 1st

April. (F.O.(S), 1312A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Comsubron (F.O.(S), 1312A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Comsubron (F.O.(S), 1312A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Comsubron 50, S.O. S/M Lerwick, (R) Admty., C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

Following temporary patrol zones are established in Lofoten Is. area.

K.147 between latitude 066° 50' and 067° 10' and longitude 010° 01' 012° 45'. K.148 between lat. 067° 10' and 067° 30' and above long. K.149 between lat. 067° 30' and 068° 20' within 50 miles to westward of Lofoten Is.

The following zones within 50 miles enemy coast. K.150 between lat. 068° 20' and 068° 55'. K.151 between lat. 068° 55' and line 325° from Andenes Light. K.152 between line 325° from Andenes Light and lat. 070° 15'. 2. K.160 to K.177 inclusive each 20 miles square, western limit

c. k.100 to k.177 Inclusive each 20 miles square, western limi
of zone is lines joining (A) 066° 12' N. 008° 50'. (B) 067° 32' N. 008° 50'. (C) 068°
50' N. 010° 00'. (D) 070° 05' N. 013° 10'. (E) 071° 08' N.
017° 10' when zone overlaps lowest number is to be considered square. K.160 is at South end of line.

(F.O.(S), 1401/19 to as 1312A/19.)

/1. ...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Lofoten Is. S/M Patrol. (Contd.)

1. Request you will sail S/Ms as follows in order maintaining patrol, given in my 1312/19th. TUNA, P.214 (SATYR), P.238 1st April. SEVERN and BLACKFISH when ready. BARB 1st April. 2. Unless otherwise ordered SEVERN and U.S. S/Ms will not call Lerwick. (F.O.(S), 1521A/19 to Capt. (S) 3, Comsubron 50, (R) Capt. (S) 9, S.O.(S) Lerwick, A.C.O.S., Admty., C. in C. H.F.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Further to my 1044A/18th not to all addressees continue to cover K.M.S.11 till dark 20th keeping West of 013° 40' W. and within 60

miles of convoy.

(2) At dark 20th unless otherwise ordered return to Plymouth passing through position (S) 049° 01' N. 013° 40' W. (T) 18° Bishops Rock 10 miles. (U) 18° Lizard Head 3 miles thence by Q.Z. Message S.347 and 390.
(3) UNA estimated in 046° 10' N. 012° 50' W. at 2000/20th steer 000° advance 110 miles a day. (4) F.W. A/C have today attacked K.M.S.11 which is also shadowed by several U-Boats. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1905A/19 to NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER, METEOR,

(R) Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.11, C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., Admty.)

Operation V.P. - X.

My 1208/18, M.T.Bs No. 623 and 618 returned Lerwick 1900/19. Visibility prevented entry of leads. (A.C.O.S., 1947/19.)

Exercises.

Home Fleet exercise.

My 2019/15th para. 5. Aircraft will co-operate subject to operational requirements.

(C. in C. H.F., 1049A/19.) Failing (corrupt group) (? of) a few depth charges expended periodically by both forces might produce a useful effect in patrol "Black" area during course of the exercise.

(C. in C. H.F., 2003A/19 to V.A.2, F.O. 10th C.S., (R) Admty., H.Q.C.C., BERWICK.) Reference Coastal Command.

A.35* 18th March. Regret no aircraft available to co-operate.

(15 Group, 1530A/19.)

* A.935 intended, T.O.O. 2000/18 re A/C to co-operate Home Fleet exercises.

P. 556.

C. in C. Plymouth 2141/19, see C. in C. Plymouth's 0955A/19 in Movements.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Merchant ship off Bordeaux. P.C. and S. of one merchant vessel 44.58 N. 2.13 W., course 120°, speed 10 knots. (A/C 3GFK, 0115/19 to 19 Group H.Q.) Have attacked enemy with level bombs, hits none. Am returning to base for fuel. (A/C 311 Sqdn., 0116/19 to H.Q. 19 Group.)

Lervik.

(A) RO/G2/19th March.
(C) Two Hampdens to bomb anchorages at Lervik 500 lb. M.C. Bombs to be carried. Time of sortie at Station Commander's discretion. W/T Org. 1. (? 18 Group, 1115A/19 to (B) Leuchars H.Q.C.C., (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., A.L.O., Admty.)

(A) RO/G3/19th March.
(C) Three Hampdens to carry out "Rover" patrol between the Naze and Stavanger. Time of Sortie at Station Commander's discretion. 8 foot contact Naze -Stavanger patrol. torpedoes to be carried. W/T Org. 1. (18 Group, 1120A/19 to (B) Leuchars, H.Q.C.C., (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., A.LO., Admty.)

? Operations. (C) A.C. 772, 19th March. My V.770, 19th March ref. (1) amend times of patrol 1505 to P.I.E. E.T.A. Base 2000/19.

(2) Second sortie cancelled time of first on patrol 1530 to P.L.E., E.T.A. Base 2000.
(3) Postponed bad weather in area.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 1155A/19 to C.C. 15 Group,
A.L.O., Admty., N.O.B.I.)

O.N.M. 174.

O.N.M.174. Request fighter protection -(A) 9 ships including 5 tankers, 2 special escorts, 1 A/A ship, 2 trawlers. (B) 2300A/20 until R/V with MAGOG in position A/21. (C) II. VC 5483 at 1700A/21.

(D) Milford Haven departure 2300A/20 Q.Z.S. 300 Route A.
(E) 385 k/cs P.C.74 VH.F R/T command guard. (F) "Poker".
(G) 9z knots. A/A ship returns to Milford Haven from R/V.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1803A/19 to 9 Group, 10 Group, R.A.F
N.I., (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, F.O.I.C.
N.I., H.Q.F.C., 19 Group.)

F.C.3, 19th March. Reference HWY/01/19th March, message C/461 for transmission L.C.178 please ? report my position to Plymouth we were attacked by A/C yesterday A/C message T.O.O. 1354 gave vessel's position 1253 KQLN 0600 360° 10 knots. (R.A.F. Hamworthy, 2010A/19 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, (R) C. in C. W.A., 19 Group, 15 Group.)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Ref. C.A.F.O. 587/40 Lowestoft attacked from approx. 2300 to 2315/18 by several aircraft Lowestoft. dropping incendiary bombs. A - D - Nil. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft, O116A/19.)

1 plane (VVCP 4039) 53.40 N. 0° 39' E. BLENCAT HRA. (BLENCATHRA, 0930/19.)

K.M.S.11. Several F.W. aircraft are active from Bordeaux. your position was probably reported at 1350 and aircraft are probably homing U-Boats. (D.D.I.C., 1510A/19 to Escorts to K.M.S.11, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C.Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

Mining.

SS. GLENDALOUGH.

SS. GLENDALOUGH mined in 161 East Dudgeon Buoy 4.75 ship sunk tug assisting.

(MEYNELL, 0700A/19 to C. in C. Nore, (R) N.O.I.C. Humber, VANITY, S.E.E.C.C.D.) My 0700. Wreck not visible. M.A/S.B. No. 1 buoying position 11 survivors, 5 in M.A/S.B. No.1. Propose disembark survivors Humber. Number missing 5.

(MEYNELL, 0741A/19.) My 0741 to C. in C. Nore. Amend number of survivors MEYNELL 5 and 3 dead. SAPPHIRE Master and 5 and has been ordered to proceed Humber. Missing 2. Arriving Boom 1100. Request necessary arrangements be made for disembarkation.

(MEYNELL, 0914A/19 to N.O.I.C. Humber, (R) VANITY, C. in C. Nore.)

My 0914 survivors disembarked proceeding to rejoin Convoy.

(MEYNELL, 1150A/19.)

9 M/S. F. operation. Your 1936/16. As far as can be foreseen 9 M/S.F. will be available to leave Harwich on 26th March. Probably 6 ships available for operation. (C. in C. Nore, 1301A/19 to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) Admty., F.O.I.C. Harwich, M/S.9.)

SCOTT.

Arrived Seidisfjord 1400A/19. (SCOTT, 1401A/19.)

S.N. 90a.

R.A.M. sailed IN MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK, CHARLESTOWN, WELLS, ST. MARYS in company. (TRELAWNEY, 1700/19 to Admty., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, (R) H.Q.C.C., H.Q.F.C., etc.)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N.90a (Contd.) S.N.90A. R.A.(M)'s 1204/8th and 0904/18th not to all. I consider most necessary that air R/C should be maintained to eastward of R.A.(M)'s force while to North of Faeroes. (C. in C.H.F. 1956A/19 to Admty. R.A. (M) H.Q.C.C. (R) C. in C.Rosyth A.C.O.S. A.C.I.C. CHARYBDIS.)

Skagi.

My 1802/18th. Mines appeared to be of German Y Type. One of them was exploded by rifle fire and other sunk. (A.C.I.C. 1857A/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C.H.F. V.A.2 H.F. A.C.O.S. 15th M/S Group.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Ships off Cherbourg. Enemy shipping plotted by Portsmouth R.D.F. 18/19 March E 3.Q. 2 medium to large westbound from 4 miles North of Cherbourg at 2230 turning off Omonville at 2259 and returning to Cherbourg at 2329. (C. in C.Portsmouth 0945/19.)

Main Units. / It is reported (graded B.3) that on 19th March TIRPITZ and 3 large units and several smaller units are based in Bogen Bay and that these ships are carrying out exercises in Ofotfjord. Comment: The three large units may be SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW and NURNBERG, vide A.M. 1555A/14 March. (D.D.I.C. 2122A/19 to A.I.G. 21 and 47, H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Med.

F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.Force H. Admiral Miles, Moscow, Comnaveu, F.O.S. H.Q.B.C. Cominch, N.A.Stockholm, S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

U-Boats.

0.N.S.1.

D/F bearings on 4540 k/cs at 2147Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles radius of 58° 30' N. 18° W. (D.D.I.C. 0210A/19 to Escorts of O.N.S.1. (R) C. in C.W.A. Cominch. A.C.I.C. N.S.H.Q. A.C.O.S. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.O.)

U-Boats Following read. Am over enemy S/M in 54.35 N. 25.30 W. speed one knot. course 090°. reported. (A/C 8PN/H 0924/19 via Gibraltar W/T.) Am over enemy submarine in 054° 03' N. 022° 46' W. Enemy submarine, periscope only sighted course 090° speed 5 knots. (A/C BS8E 1155A/19 to 19 Group H.Q.) Following read. Am over enemy S/M. (A/C 172 Sqdn./E. 1333/19 to F.O.S.)

/Am...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported. (Contd.)

Am over enemy S/M. (A/C 248 Sqdn/V 1333/19 to No. 15 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 42.49 N. 14.08 W. (A/C 1 QSC 1925/19 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 54.24 N. 23.19 W. Enemy

S/M previously reported when first sighted was on course 090° speed 10 knots.

(A/C 73 Sqdn./J 2026/19 to 19 Group.)

U/Bs attacked. The following has been read Am over enemy S/M in 53.55 N. 23.31. W. Enemy S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 330°, estimated speed 15 knots.

(A/C V9NM 1014/19 to A.O.C. 19 Group.) The following has been read. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C 9NM2 1014A/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Enemy submarine previously has surfaced. (A/C 220 Sqdn/M 1015A/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Submarine has dived. Have attacked enemy with cepth charges. (A/C 220/M 1016/19 to 19 Group H.Q.)

Have attacked enemy. Corrected position 54.18 N. 26.15 W. (A/C 8 JNH/H 1048/19 to 15 Group H.Q.) Following read: - Am over enemy S/M in VGFF 4012. (?54°)
40' N. 25° 48' W. Enemy S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 010°.

(A/C 228 Sqdn/V 1316/19 to 15 Group C.C. (R) F.O.(S).) Have attacked enemy and estimate 5 hits.

(A/C 228 Sqdn/V 1318/19.)

Am over enemy S/M in 53. (?49) N. 22.28 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and seen to submerge on course 180 speed (?3) knots. Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Result of attack unobserved. (A/C BS8E 1410A/19.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C J/73 Sqdn. 2027A/19 to 19 Group.)

DIANELLA.

D/F bearing on 4412 k/cs at 1004Z indicate U-Boat within 40 miles of 45° 40' N. 15° W. (D.D.I.C. 1248A/19 to DIANELLA (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib. H.Q.C.C.)

Navigational.

Wick.

Wick Harbour closed weather. (R. N.O.Wick 1230A/19.)

Casualties & Defects.

NORTHERN PRIDE.

Intend to sail NORTHERN PRIDE at 1900A 19 to Belfast E.T.A. 0800A/20. NORTHERN PRIDE unable to anchor and requests arrangements be made to berth alongside. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1006A/19 to F.O.I.C.N.I.)

/BLACKFISH...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

BLACKFISH. Anticipate U.S.S. BLACKFISH will be ready to sail 22nd March. (C. in C.Plymouth 1012A/19.)

TRIONA. TRIONA returned from K.M.S. 11 deck cargo shifted. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1044/19.)

Cancel my 1814/18 return to Lough Foyle. (C. in C.W.A. 1159A/19 to BRYONY.) STAD HAARLEM. My 1814/18 remain outside Territorial Waters. STAD HAARLEM will R/V with you there.

(C. in C.W.A. 1315A/19 to BRYONY.) My 1315/19 R/V with STAD HAARLEM 5 miles outside Killibegs at (C. in C.W.A. 1648A/19 to BRYONY.)

My 1648/19th. It is possible that order for R/V may not be received by STAD HAARLEM in which case she may sail any time after 1900A/19th for Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1934A/19 to BRYONY.)

SS. JAMAICA. Your 1320/18th. 3 survivors transferred from BORAGE to LAGAN. BORAGE proceeding with re-mainder. Weather report 45° 56' 14° 59' 2866 0632. (BROADWAY 1230Z/19 to C. in C.W.A.)
P.C. and S. 1600Z 045° 03' 015° 00' 180° 11.5. Weather report 5882 0700.

(BORAGE 1626Z/19.)

SVEND FOYN.

Escort Group 40 0923/19th. No tugs are available in Iceland.

(A.C.I.C. 1329A/19 to C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. E.G.40. ABERDEEN.) Your 1230/19th. (see America & West Indies.) Regret there are na repetition no ocean going tugs available in Iceland. (A.C.I.C. 2021A/19 to HASTINGS and as 1329A/19.)

ARIGUANI.

Sailed BUSTLER towing ARIGUANI escorted by VIOLET, request service of additional tug through Pentlands. E.T.A. Cape Wrath 2130/19th. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1231A/19 to A.C.O.S. N.O.I.C. Tyne (R) Admty. etc.) Sailed H.M.Tug FREEBOOTER to R/V either in North Minch or in

270° Cape Wrath 7 miles, whichever is the earlier. FREEBOOTER will assist with towing as far as Kinnairds Head, thence returning to Scapa. W/T watch on 1740 k/cs. (A.C.O.S. 1505/19 to VIOLET.)

/HORSA ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

HORSA.

Your 1356/16 and 2109/16. Regret serious loss. No Rescue Tug immediately available for LATROBE will arrange and advise soonest possible. (Admty. 1603A/19 to A.C.I.C.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Convoy S.C.122. U-Boat attack at 0550Z/18th in 054° 05' N. 024° 19' W., one ship ZAMALEK and BUTTERCUP standing by.

(C.T.U. 24.1.19 (HAVELOCK) 0607Z/19 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.) My 0607Z/19 CARRAS 132 torpedoed in No. 2 hold but still afloat and salvable. Crew had abandoned ship and are on board ZAMALEK. Master has been sent back to collect C.Bs. and ZAMALEK escorted by BUTTERCUP will then rejoin convoy. Position as in previous signal.

(C.T.U. 24.1.19 0919/19.)

Sail JONQUIL when ready escorting Tug SAUCY to assist CARRAS reported abandoned but afloat in 054° 05' 024° 19' 19' at 0600Z/19th.

(C. in C.W.A. 1643A/19 to Cmdre. Londonderry (R) N.O.I.C.

Greenock, Admty.) Request first aircraft may arrive at 0630Z tomorrow that is about an hour and a half earlier than this morning. One U-Boat probably very close to convoy has just made sighting report. (?HAVELOCK 1933Z/19 to C. in C.W.A.)

D.S.38.

D.S.38 .sailed 0656/19. (D.S.T.O. Greenock 0700/19.)

Convoy H.X.229. 2 S/Ms sighted 0410 and 0445/1st astern attacked by ANEMONE 2nd on port bow attacked by HIGHLANDER. H.X. 299 position at 0430 054° 28' N. 025° 34' W. convoy not attacked.

ANEMONE has only 2 depth charges remaining and 158 survivors on board intend detaching her with SS.TEKOA at the earliest safe opportunity. HIGHLANDER carried out 3 depth charge attacks and one abortive Hedgehog before losing contact BEVERLEY

9 depth charges remain weather report 3380 0232. (HIGHLANDER 0732Z/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.) Attacked from one to 3 S/Ms in the vicinity H.X. 229 commencing 0530Z/19th expending all but 9 depth charges in 11 attacks. Have evidence of serious damage or destruction of one Mill join H.X. (?229) before dark 19th. P.C. and S. 1300Z 054 04' N. 025 49' W. 060 20 knots. Weather report 6671 9134. (BABBITT 1345Z/19 to C.T.U. 24.1.18 (R) C. in C.W.A. 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. C.T.G. 24.6.)

/My ...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (cont)

Convoy H.X. 229 (Contd.) My 1330Z/18th*. My P.C. and S. 054° 22' 017° 16' 078° 14.5 If O.F. Situation permits propose continuing Greenock to land survivors unless otherwise ordered. Weather report 6642 1143. (MANSFIELD 1604Z/19 to C. in C.W.A.) * Re survivors on board from TERKOELEI and CORACERO.

F.W. LUCHENBACH (?MATHEW LUCKEMBACH intended) straggler from H.X. 229 torpedoed in 054° 23' N. 023° 34' W. Entire crew and armed guard picked up by U.S. C.G.C. INGHAM. Confidential matter suck but ordinary mail still on board. Ship is afloat with engine room flooded, but is expected to sink. Following is uncyphered weather report 3480 0345.

(HAVELOCK 1620Z/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.) Following from H.M.S. VOLUNTEER Ref. A.C.1 convoy Article

39 para. 5. Instructions (A) 1610Z/18th. 53.35 N. 28.05 W. (B) One. (C) To port. (D) WALTER Q. GRESHAM. CANADIAN STAR, survivors picked up by ANEMONE and PENNYWORT. (E) Nil. 1300Z/19th. Ends. MATHEW LUCK ENBACH left H.X. 229 at 2200Z/18th in 53.45 N. 26.50 W.

(C) Course 080° speed about 13 knots closed by HIGHLANDER would not reform

(HIGHLANDER 1942Z/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

A.N.D. Ships. It has been decided that all N.D. ships in J.W. 55 and subsequent convoys shall carry full N.D. equipment including nets. (Admty. 1104A/19.)

K.M.S.ll SS. JAMAICA. D/F bearings on 4412 k/cs at 0916Z/19 indicate U-Boat in approx. 46° N. 15° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1115A/19 to Escorts K.M.S.ll. BORAGE. (R) CYGNET, NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER, METEOR. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

GULFWING O.N. 174. Confirming telephoned instructions Tanker GULFWING receiving emergency canvas hose and 600 tons Furnace Oil and will sail as escort oiler in O.N. 174. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1148/19.)

R.A.F. Stores in N.Russia. Your 2119/18. All R.A.F. stores ex J.W. 53 are coming to Graznaya of which only 500 tons can be stored under cover. Detailed contents of cases are not known in North Russia but can be obtained from Air Ministry to whom details of losses and damage will be signalled. Cases being sealed by Russians before storing and access to them on arrival of British personnel will be denied until decision has been taken over operation "Grenadine." Condition of contents cannot therefore be ascertained. (S.B.N.O. N.Russia 1235A/19 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

Fast independent outbound ships.

Important to C. in C.W.A. Pass to F.Os.I.C. and N.C.S.Os. Fast independent ships outward bound from U.K. 1. On receipt by Admty. of application for routes, instructions will be given as to whether or not these ships are to start the voyage in convoy.

2. Admty. will issue independent routes to which ships will be detached by order through Commodore when U-Boat situation permits. (D.T.D. 1236A/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.S.A.)

K.M.S.11 NEWFOUNDLAND. (?K).M.S. 11 Focke Wolf passed over and shot down my position 045° 51' 015° 04'. (C.2 1315Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A. NEWFOUNDLAND.)

C.W.A. NEWFOUNDLAND.) K.M.S.ll shadowed by enemy aircraft. (C.2 1620Z/19 to C. in C.W.A. (R) NEWFOUNDLAND) Immediate to convoy and NEWFOUNDLAND. D/F bearings on 4412 k/cs at 1549Z indicate U-Boat probably in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1746A/19 to Escorts K.M.S.ll NEWFOUNDLAND, (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib. H.Q.C.C.) K.M.S.ll. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1036A/14. Following additional ships have sailed with degaussing off - MARS, EMPIRE

KANGAROO.

2. Cancel STAD HAARLEM damaged.

(C. in C.W.A. 1802A/19 to A.I.G. 190.) A.M. 1746A/19 further U-Boat transmissions on 4412 k/cs from vicinity of convoy indicate probably at least two U-Boats shadowing. (D.D.I.C. 2308A/19.)

S/M shadowing stragglers convoy codeword "Roman" course 100 speed 5 knots in 53.50 N. 22.40 W. Convoy "Roman." (A/C BS8E 1425/19.)

CHAMPOLLION,

French CHAMPOLLION 12546 tons and French ERIDAN ERIDAN. 9928 tons are to be sailed for London by earliest opportunity, former for conversion to troop transport, latter for repairs. 2. Request these ships may be given close escort if possible when South of the Humber.

It is understood that both ships are capable of better than 3. 12 knots. (D.T.D. 1740A/19 to F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.Rosyth, C. in C. Nore, (R) P.S.T.O. Scottish Ports, D.S.T.O. Greenock, D.S.T.O. London.)

K.M.S.10. Attacked on 4th and 6th March.

Following preliminary report from ST. CROIX, BURWELL, KENOGAMI, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, NAPANEF, FORT YORK, WEDGEPORT, QUALICUM. A. First attack. Two F.W. Kuriers sighted flying low at 1040A/4th March in 41.32 N. 13.25 W. and circled to westward of convoy. At 1145 they

/commenced....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (cent)

K.M.S.10 attacked on 4th and 6th March (Contd.) commenced to cross convoy from West to East (convoy's course south) and bombed the convoy above range of close-range weapons. Attack interferred by long-range weapons of convoy and TYNEDALE and ST. CROIX. Bombs missed. Catalina was in company B. Second attack at 1745/4 in 40.50 N. 13.20 W. 3 F.W. Kuriers sighted. At 1840 same F.Ws. attacked convoy in V. formation. Made to swerve

by gunfire, bombs missed. Catalina was in company and was attacked by one F.W.

2. Attacks by U-Boat. 1202A/6 in 36.29 N. 10.18 W. ST. CROIX obtained H/F D/F bearing 253° groundwave, convoy course 156° and investigated without results. At 1415 ST. CROIX was about to attack contact ahead of No. 2 column when number 13 (N.D.) (FORT PASKOYAC) torpedoed from starboard. About 1 minute later No. 55 torpedoed port side. One minute after last torpedo ST. CROIX dropped shallow pattern ahead of No. 1 column. Operation "Artichoke" carried out. ST. CROIX while astern between torpedoed ships obtained firm contact and delivered two attacks before losing contact. SHEDIAC remained with No. 13 who was later towed to Gibraltar. Consider nets saved ship. No. 55 sank later.

(Cdre. Londonderry 1929A/19 to C. in C.W.A.)

M.K.S.9. attacked on 12th and 13th March. Preliminary report of H.M.Ships ST. CROIX, BADDECK, BATTLEFORD, KENOGAMI, NAPANEE, PRESCOTT, QUALICUM, REGINA, SHEDIAC, FORT YORK. Air attack at 1430A/12 in position 44.20 N. 15.00 W. F.W. Kurier sighted flying low circled convoy from westward and attacked from west to east convoy's course 022°. No hits. Liberator was in company.

course 022°. No hits. Liberator was in company. 2. U-Boat attack. PRESCOTT at 2149A/13 in 45.05 N. 15.00 W. obtained R.D.F. contact whilst stationed down-moon 10,000 yards on the starboard bow of convoy. U-Boat which was closing convoy dived 1,400 yards from PRESCOTT. A/S contact gained and while running into attack second U-Boat was sighted 900 yards on port bow. Depth charges were dropped near first U-Boat and course altered to attack second U-Boat which was put down by gunfire. An accurate depth-charge attack was carried out but contact not regained, no evidence. Further attack carried out one and quarter hours later while carrying out observant with NAPANEE. Ships left to rejoin convoy at 0220. 3. U-Boats were in quarter line about one mile apart possibly with intention that first U-Boat would draw off escorts leaving

with intention that first U-Boat would draw off escorts leaving convoy uncovered for second U-Boat to deliver attack. (Cdre. Londonderry 2100A/19 to C. in C.W.A.)

k M.F. attacked on 14th March.

Preliminary report from CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE, AMHERST. All times G.M.T. No indication that convoy was reported or shadowed until 1245Z/14 in position 42° 17' N. 16° 13 W. when a F.W. Kurier was sighted high up in the sun. She later attacked convoy hitting DUCHESS OF YORK with a 500 lb. bomb that did not explode.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Cont)

M.K.F.10B. attacked on 14th March. (Conta.) Between 1315 and 1345/14 March two further F.W.Kurler aircraft appeared and carried out slow independent bombing runs across convoy at approx. 5000 feet. 4 bombs were cropped between columns but no further damage to ships.
 Only effective H.A.guns in escort or convoy were one three inch in RESTIGOUCHE and one three inch in SS_STAFFORDSHIPE

were one three inch in RESTIGOUCHE and one three inch in SS. STAFFORDSHIRE. 4. At times of attack convoy was out of range of air coverage from both Gibraltar and England and was at a distance of 700 miles from Bordeaux.

(Cmdre. Londonderry 2145A/19 to C. in C.W.A. and 0415/25 to Admt

0.N.S.l. Sailed FAME to overtake 0.N.S.l. S.O.A. 18 knots. FAME. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 2145/19.)

Support Groups. It is anticipated that in the very near future two support groups each of about 7 Fleet destroyers, and two groups each of an escort carrier and two or three destroyers, will be operating in the Atlantic using Iceland (C) and Argentia as refuelling ports. Request arrangements for necessary stores and supplies for these ships. (C. in C.W.A. 2239Z/19 to A.C.I.C. F.O.N.F.)

X.K.3. K.M.F.11. W.S.28. D/F bearings on 12260 k/cs at 2027Z repeated on 4540 k/cs at 2050Z indicate U-Boat may have reported one of the convoys. (D.D.I.C. 2312A/19 to Escorts X.K.3. K.M.F.11. W.S.28. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

S.C. 122 H.X.229. D/F bearings on 4600 k/cs at 2052Z and 2102Z indicate U-Boats in contact with either or both convoys. (D.D.I.C. 2321A/19 to Escorts S.C. 122, H.X. 229 (R) C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C

SS. BOGUE. C.T. 24 1305/19th. As BOGUE and her destroyers are likely to be placed under my operational control shortly, it would be of greatest assistance if she could keep in company S.C.123 for whole passage U.K.

An early conference with BOGUE is most desirable from every point of view. (C. in C.W.A. 2345A/19 to Admty.)

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NASTURTIUM,

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

My 1201/18th. Sailed NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA escorting EMPIRE PRIDE. Q.Z. Messages H.253 less 222 S.404 ALGOMA, X.941 Y.380. EMPIRE PRIDE. (F.O. Gib. 0045A/19 to C. in C.W.A. Admty. N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) C. in C. Med. B.N.A. Lisbon. N.S.H.Q. R.O. Horta.) See 1025A/19 re EMPIRE PRIDE. MONTEREY. S.S. MONTEREY be prepared sail 1400A/19 March routed through swept channel to 33-55 N. 07-53 W. thence (route) to New York. S. of A. 20. Comtaskforce 64 designate one destroyer escort for first 400 miles then return Casablanca. W/T watch. (S.N.O.C.A. 0215/19 to S.S. MONTEREY, C.F.64, Comfairwing 15. (R) Com. N.O.B. Casablanca, Admty. Cinclant, etc.) Amend my 0215/19 MONTEREY. Maintain W/T watch as follows. Amend my 0215/19 MONTEREY. Maintain W/T watch as follows. (details). First chop 10° W. 2030Z/19. Second chop 20° W. 0030Z/21. Third chop 40° W. 0800Z/23. Fourth chop 50° W. 1300Z/24. (C.M.S.F.F. 1231/19 to MONTEREY, C.T.F.64.) My 0255/19 (0215 intended) sailed. F.O.C. Gib. pass to Aluslo Gibraltar. Comeastseafron pass to Port Director New York. Admty. pass to Comnaveu. C. in C. Med. pass to C. in C. Allied Forces. (C.M.S.F.F. 1412/19 to F.O.C. Gib. P.D.N.Y. C. in C. Med. etc.) Diversions Your 1600/18th March. Request information whether S.N.O.C.A. (A) maintains an operational plot. of 0.S. & (B) holds the necessary tables for diversion of S.L. convoys. merchant ships. (D.T.D. 0246A/19 to F.O.C. Gib. 292 (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C. W.Af.) Reply 1243A/21. Tugs. Arrival H.M. Rescue Tugs EMPIRE NED, EMPIRE FRED. (F.O.C. Gib. 0909A/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. etc.) G.U.S. 5A. Intend sailing. WOLVERINE, PANAMA CITY, JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, MAJA (T) MORETON BAY, FRANCIS PARKMAN. Request Pendant numbers and destinations. (F.O. Gib. 0954A/19 to F.O., Oran (R) C. in C. Med. etc.) KAULDI, Spanish 59 (KAULDI). Sailed 0004/19th.German 63 LIVADIA sailed 0005/19th. LIVADIA. (Consul, Bilbao. 1012/19 to D.N.I., M.E.W. etc.) 2002A/19th. S/M SHAKESPEARE 42.37 10.08 191° 72/22 Situation 2002A/19th. S/M SHARESPEARE 42.57 10.00 191 /2/22 2. S/M ULTOR 40.51 11.36 155° 8.2/2. 3. Polish DZIK 41.39 12.26 152° 7½/2 4. NASTURTIUM, LGOMA one M/S 34.51 10.14 through 34.30 16 01 thence 270° 13½. 5.8 and K.M.F. 11.42 21.14.01 through 40.01 Reports.

14.02 thence 140° 122.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Contd.

6. DIANELLA LUNENBERG (E) 44.30 15.01 to R/V

X.K.3, 10. 7. X.K.3, VILLE DE QUEBEC, 39.30 14.29 through 39.58 15.10 thence $OO2^{\circ} 6\frac{1}{2}$. (See amendment 1806A/19.) ANTELOPE, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE, return

to Gibraltar at prudent limit of endurance. 8. BONITO, GRAYLING, 11 small craft, 42.39 13.38 through 40.05 13.30 thence 141° 10.

9. L.S.T. C.T.U.62, 35.03 14.07 through 35.30 10.55 thence 086[•]8. 10. U.G.S.6, T.F.63, 36.29 12.12 through 35.50 09.50 and 35.40 09.40 at 1200/20th thence Casablanca 8.

11. S.L. 126, WEAR, 25.53 17.23 059° 7. 12. K.M.S. 11, BROADWAY, 44.58 15.01 180° 7. (F.O. Gib. 1021A/19.)

My 1021A/19th Para (7). Amend P.C. and S. to read: 039° (38') 014° 02' through 041° 22' 015° 50' thence 006° 6¹/₂. (F.O. Gib. 1806A/19.) Situation 2002A/19th.

G.U.S. 5 T.F. 65. 28.42 24.37 through 28.01 27.01 thence (?214)9. 2. ACHILLES 42.38 28.42 through 44.10 22.30 thence 033° 18. 3. Portuguese Destroyer TEJO, 37.51 22.32 to Ponta Delgada 18. 4. UGANDA 39.17 24.51 through 38.15 26.27 and 37.45 26.53 thence 165.18.

(F.O. Gib. 1032A/19.)

EMPIRE PRIDE.

My 1435/18 (see Mediterranean) and in view of U-Boat situation request you will recall EMPIRE PRIDE for M.K.F.11.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (UT) 1025A/19 to F.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.) Your 1025A/19th to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Should I arrange for

British and Norwegian Merchant Seamen to be taken to Lisbon in Portuguese SERPA PINTO arriving Azores about 31st March?

(N.C.S.C. Lisbon 1921/19 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gib.N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada). Reply: Yes. (V.A. Gib.2352A/21.) Return Gibraltar with EMPIRE PRIDE forthwith. Acknowledge

forthwith.

(F.O. Gib. 1412A/19 to Escorts of EMPIRE PRIDE, NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.) Your 1412A/16 acknowledged. P.C. and S. 34.57 08.35 067° 12 knots. ALGOMA incapable of more than 12 knots owing to engine defect. E.T.A. Gib. 0530A/20.

(NASTURTIUM 1500A/19 to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med.) Your 1201/18th. Survivors to be embarked Ponta Delgada and Horta (numbers). After embarking survivors here suggest EMPIRE PRIDE proceed to Horta to embark remaining survivors. To avoid complications request you will instruct ship and escort vessel

to enter Ponta Delgada separately at intervals of 1 hour. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1116C/19 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. N.A. Lisbon, R.O. Fayal).

K.M.S.11.

A.T.2201/16. (Re Admiralty Cargoes in K.M.S.ll.) Propose TESTBANK be diverted to North Africa to avoid delay in discharge. (C.S. Gib. 1106A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

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North Atlantic - Contd.

U-Bs ...

Following D/F bearings in Series 3 indicate U-Bs. within 90 miles of respective positions:-1957Z/18 39° N. 16° 30' W. 2216 38° 30' N. 20° W. 2312 40° N. 15° 30' W. 0242Z/19 37° N. 18° W. 0349 38° N. 16° W.

(D.D.I.C. 1129A/19 to F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Plymouth UGANDA.)

Escort of Following is a repetition of A.M. 1935/18th and BRISBANE STAR, 2145/18th (begins):- F.O.C. Gib. from Admty. Escort of BRISBANE STAR has been ordered to Gibraltar for CITY OF convoy to U.K. Request escort if possible. Ship probably does not hold Gibraltar approach route. My 1830/18 to BRISBANE STAR refers. T.O.O. CAPETOWN.

My 1935/18 (Ends): (Begins) F.O.C. Gib. from Admty. My 1935/18 applies to CITY OF CAPETOWN also. My 2030/18 to CITY OF CAPETOWN refers. T.O.O. 2145A/18 (Ends). 2. Only escort available is TYNEDALE which I originally intended to reinforce W.3.28 to prudent limit of endurance replacing REDOUBT. 3. Request instructions. (F.O. Gib. 1145A/19 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.) Reply: C. in C. Med. 1503A/19.

HENGIST,	Intend to sail HENGIST, QUANNET, L.C.Ts. 15,16,19,
QUANNET-	Oran at 1600/19. (2) Escort M.Ls. 556 and 564.
L.C.Ts.	(3) Route 8, 13, 109, 69. (4) S. of A. 7 knots. (5) Codeword "Sparrow". (6) Communications.
	(F.O. Gib. 2151A/19 to C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Cran (R) C.C.F., C.F.W.)

PUNTA ALMINA. Spanish PUNTA ALMINA 1080 G.T. National and Swiss colours ships name and "Bilbao Switzerland" painted on side sailed 1405/19th for Genoa by approved route speed 7¹/₂ knots. Not to be interfered with this voyage. (F.O. Gib. 1410A/19 to S. & A. Area G. etc.)

MALCOLM and WITCH arrived 19th March. (S.N.O.C.A. 1530/19 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. Arrivals Casablanca. C. in C. Med.)

LLANGIBBY CASTLE. Boatswain. Your 1740/17. Agree Hugill accompanying Reardon. Request you report date and time of arrival. (Hd. of M. (I) 1628A/19 to N.A. Lisbon).

Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND. Your 1559/13th arrived. (F.O.Gib. 1706A/19 to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

/X . K. 3. . .

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North Atlantic - Contd.

X . K. 3.

N.U. Alter course forthwith for all positions (X) 41.22 N 15.50 W. thence (R) omit (Q) (2)stragglers route unaltered. (F.O. Gib. 1749A/19 to Escort X.K.3 for Commodore (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty, BORAGE, DIANELLA, LUNENBURG.)

LADY HOGARTH unable maintain S. of A. At present 12 miles astern proceeding independently to R/V at 85 knots. My P.C. and S. 35° 47' 30" N, 06° 55' W, 267°, Cape Passero. (PENTSTEMON 1800A/19 to F.O. Gibraltar.) PENTSTEMON, LADY HOGARTH.

HUNTER, My 1825/18 sailed. (C.M.S. F.F. 1823/19 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty, C. in C. Med, Aluslo, Gib.) STALKER.

Arrivals LORD NUFFIELD with 2 M/Vs from Melilla. Movements, Departures Cable Ship MARIE LOUIS MACKAY M.L. 173 cable repairs in Straits. M.T.B. 635 for Algiers. Gibraltar. French Ship LA BOUDEUSE French Submarine ANTIOPE, LA VESTALE, for Oran. PENTSTEMON, VETCH, SPEEDWELL STELLA CARINA, LADY HOGARTH to R/V U.G.S.6 and escort to Oran. M/L's 556, 564, L.C.T's 15,16,19 B.D.V. QUANNET TUG HENGIST for Oran. U.S. P.O's 481, 482 for Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gib. 1950A/19 to Admty. etc.)

Expect me 0745/20th March. (HOLCOMBE 2025A/19 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.O. Force 'H') See also Mediterranean 1935A/19. HOLCOMBE.

March 19th. Arrivals: MALCOLM and WITCH. Departures: U.S.S. LUDLOW, ROE, WOOLSEY, H.M.S. HUNTER and STALKER for Gibraltar. U.S.S. Movements, Casablanca. EDISON, escort S.S. MONTEREY 400 miles en route. U.S.S.C. 525 with HEBE II for Agadir. (S.N.O.C.A. 2030/19 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch F.O.C. Gib. Admty.)

ROMAIN German controlled French ROMAIN believed left Valencia 1700 today for Marseilles. (S.O. (I) Gib. 2040A/19 to S.O. (I) Med. S.O. (I) Malta). (F.O.C. Gib. 2124/19 to TRIDENT).

M.T.B.635. M.T.B. 635 sailed 0700 routed as in my 1146A/18 E.T.A. Algiers 0930A/20. (F.O.C. Gib. 2252A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

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South Atlantic.

NEPAL.
Sailed NEPAL to Fremantle through position Z 026° S. 046° E. to Port Louis, Mauritius, E.T.A. 0500Z/22nd. Thence Diego Garcia E.T.A. 0830Z/24th. Thence Fremantle E.T.A. a.m. 2nd April. (2) S. of A. 22 knots to Mauritius,
25 knots to Diego Garcia, and 14½ knots to Fremantle.
(3) Shift W/T organization to Group N.U. at 1900Z/20th.
A.C.N.B. is requested to instruct NEPAL when to shift to Western Australia W/T organization.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 0714Z/19 to Admty... C. in C. S.A. C. in C. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0714Z/19 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Cdre. W. Australia, N.O.I.C. Mauritius N.O.I.C. Diego Garcia, (R) NEPAL.)

MAURETANIA.

Sailing H.M.T. MAURETANIA 0900Z/19th E.T.A. Freetown 1400Z/26th March speed (A) 19¹/₂ knots (B) 21¹/₂ knots. (Ocean route) First "Chop" 22nd March. Books held. Requirement at Freetown.

(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 0908Z/19 to Admty. etc.) MAURETANIA (A) sailed a.m. March 19 for U.K. via Freetown. (S.T.O. Capetown, 1315Z/19, 1539C/19 to Admty.)

AMRA.

Hospital Ship AMRA arrived. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 0917C/19 to Admty.)

BUTSER.

My position 0900Z/19th 025° 03' N. 018° 33' W. Course and Speed 217° 10. Am proceeding to arrive St. Vincent p.m. 21st as in your 1955Z/11th and not 22nd as in your 1632Z/10th para. 11.

Request confirmation. Weather report. (BUTSER, 0930Z/19 to F.O.W.A.) Your 0930Z/19th. You should arrive St. Vincent C.V. p.m. 22nd March. My 1955Z/11th was incorrectly coded. (F.O.C.W.A., 1617Z/19 to BUTSER)

Proceed to Bathurst to refuel. Further orders ARETHUSA. following. (F.O.W.A., 1052Z/19 to ARETHUSA, N.O.I.C. Bathurst Gambia, Admty. Com. Dakar.) Cancel my 1052Z/19. Proceed direct St. Vincent (Cape Varde Is.) Authorities have been warned you have been delayed. (F.O.W.A., 1617Z/19, to ARETHUSA, (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst (Gambia), Comar, Dakar, Admty.)

U.S.A.T. Departure 18th U.S. Army transport BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RETHERS. (R.O.Para. 1104/19 to Admty.)

Situation / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Situation Reports.

Position at 2000Z/19th.

SUSSEX, QUAIL, QUEENBOROUGH, RAIDER W.S.27 017° 30' S. 010° E. to 020° S. 010° E. thence 023° S. 012° 30' E. 12.5. COVENTRY CITY with C.N.13 028° 55' S. 015° 50' E.

to Walvis Bay, $8\frac{1}{2}$. NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD with N.C.7 (? 032°) 35'S. 017°25'E. to Capetown 8. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with D.C.15 034°55'S. 019°30' E. to Capetown 8. E. to Capetown 8. SPHENE, INDIAN STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER escorting BRITISH JUDGE (?034°) 20'S. 025° 25'E. to Capetown 6½. HERTFORDSHIRE, ST LOMAN, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.10, 034° 10'S. 026° 10'E. to Durban 8. WAYLAND. CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with C.D.9, 031° 15'S. (?030°) 25'E. to Durban 9. GENISTA, LE TIGER 032° 40'S. 037° 30'E. to 033° S. 036°E. thence Durban 9. JASMINE (? M.L) 380, 382, 383, 829, 384 Lourenco Marques to Tulear ll. QUEEN OF BERMUDA, QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND 038° S. 028° E. to 039° S. 020° E. 14¹/₂. (C. in C. S.A., 1118C/19 to Areas Q. and J.) Situation at 2001Z/19th. Situation at 2001Z/19th. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, (? SPIREA), MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM (corrupt group) with 0.S.44 22 (? 18) 17.28 to 56.18 03 thence (?29 or 179) 8.5. PELICAN, WEAR, SP(?E)Y, ROTHER. SENNEN, F.S. COMMANDANT DROGOU with S.L.126, 25.53 17.23 059 7. Fr. Sloop M/S GAZELLE ADMIRAL (?MOUCHEZ) with D.69, (? 18) 47 16.37 (?86 or 332) 6. BIRDLIP about 24.01 18.01 to join D.69 in position 20.30 17. (222) at 1500Z/20th (?22) at 1500Z/20th. BUTSER 25.53 17.23 219 11. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 11 N. 30 (?West) 15.5. CILICIA on patrol about 06 N. 23 W. 14. ARETHUSA about 14.00 24.00 095° 20. FANDANGO escorting CONSBRO about 08.50 14.01 304 4. ORFASY escorting Bathurst to Dakar 7. (F.O.W.A., 1201Z/19 to A.I.G.149) DESPATCH on patrol about 03° N. 21° W. 20.4 allied naval units on patrol between Ascension and St. Pauls Rocks. CYCLAMEN, ARRAN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.L's with T.S.33 off Takoradi to W. 8. ARMERIA, BELLWORT about Ol.Ol 03.00 E. to Takoradi 12.5 Situation at 2000Z/19. (F.O.W.A. 1222Z/19 to Area P.)

BOREAS. S.R. 3.

Intend sailing BOREAS in convoy S.R.3 on 21st March. BOREAS will be due for boiler cleaning and requires new side to lubricating oil tank. (F.O.C.W.A., 1134Z/19 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Capt. D. Freetown)

ANTELOPE / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

ANTELOPE.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1244/14th and 1122/15th ANTELOPE has not arrived Dakar. (Comar, Dakar, 1152Z/19 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W.A. Admty. C. in C. Med. S.N.O. Casablanca.)

P.614. P.615.

Propose exchange of duties of P.614 and P.615 should take place in April submarines sailing on 22nd of that month from Capetown and Freetown respectively. (F.O.C.W.A., 1403Z/19 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. F.O.(S) Capt. D. Freetown, P.614, P.615)

CONSBRO, PANORAMA. My 1722Z/19/2/43. CONSBRO sailed for Dakar 19th March. PANORAMA has docked and is expected to commission about 24th March. Both vessels then proceeding in accordance with your 1850/17/2/43. Date will be reported. (F.O.C.W.A., 1411Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.C.X.F., F.O.C.N.A., B.D.O., W.A.)

SONTAY, Your 0747/17. At request of Dechief who had consulted Mideast arrangements have been made for Italian protected and invalided personnel to embark 300 in MAUNGANUI and 400 in AMRA. 400 have already gone in TAIREA. Balance in Italian sick. Union will be about 300 for which SONTAY would

provide a suitable means for transport. SONTAY should be ready to leave Durban about 27th March and can possibly maintain 11 knots. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1558C/19 to D.S.T.)

ROCHESTER, FORTOL, BURDOCK, BUTSER.

(1) ROCHESTER detached FORTOL escorted by BURDOCK on 20th March to proceed to St. Vincent (Cape Verde Is). (2) BURDOCK is to report to N.O.I.C. West Africa at O800Z/21st, position, fuel remaining FORTOL, and E.T.A. at St. Vincent. (3) FORTOL is to discharge all cargoes remaining (4) BURDOCK is to proceed to Bathurst from St. Vincent without

entering harbour. (5) BUTSER will escort FORTOL to Freetown. (N.O.I.C. W.Af., 1640Z/19 to ROCHESTER, BURDOCK. (R) Escort O.S.44, Admty. BUTSER)

Convoy T.S.23.

Sailing telegram 1600Z/19th March (Route) S. of A. 6.5 knots. E.T.A. Freetown a.m. 25th March. (List of ships etc.) (N.C.S.O., Takoradi, 1650Z/19)

Movements / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 19th March: RUMBA, SARABANDE, DUNCTON, H.M.Tug MASTERFUL, PORTSDOWN. Departure. CYCLAMEN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, ARRAN, M/L 305, M/L 256 with T.S.35, Fast Escort Vessel, E.T.A. Freetown a.m. on 25th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1731Z/19 to R.A.W.A. etc.)

ARMERIA.

My P.C. and S. at 1800Z/19th, 001° 21' N. 001° 46' E. 315° 14 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi 1430Z tomorrow 20th. (ARMERIA, 1901Z/19 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)

ARETHUSA.

No Allied Ships are routed near you east of O40° W. Subsequent shipping information will be provided by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (F.O.W.A., 1905Z/19 to ARETHUSA (R) N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O. W.At., Admty.) Arrival 19th ARETHUSA. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 2350/19 to Admty.)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

GERALDTON. Departure. (Cdre. Aden, 0451Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

UNBROKEN. Expect me Marsamxett 1130 (?A), p.46 (UNRUFFLED) UNRUFFLED. in company. (P.42 (UNBROKEN), 0846A/19 to V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, (R) P.46 (UNRUFFLED))

Arrived M.T.B's 65, 75, 76. (V.A. Malta, 0950A/19 to Admty. etc.) M.T.B's.

TALMAFollowing for information.My 1906/9th March(ItalianTALMA at 0945B/19 March in 03326' N. 033° 28'Repatriations)east was attacked by Italian 3 engined aircraft. Stick of bombs dropped which missed. (2) Follow-Bombed. ing message was broadcast in P/L afternoon 500 k/cs "British Merchant ship TALMA with Italian Naval prisoners for exchange on board

has been bombed by Italian aircraft. Italians are requested to respect safe conduct granted by their Government." (C. in C. Levant, 1046B/19 to B.N.A. Ankara, (R) Admty. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, S.N.O.L.A. C.S.A. Mersina, Minister of State Cairo)

HIGHLAND

Admty.1140/16th March (revision of rules governing number of passengers carried in ships in convoy and independent), your 1607/22nd Feb. not to Admty. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN ex Suez about 28th March allocated embark following CHIEFTAIN, Numbers. personnel for Durban. Army 250 R.A.F. 250 Greek air force 125 Merchant navy 150 civilians 45 P.O.W.1000 German. (2) Must total embarkation apart from P.O.W. be limited to 250? (P.S.T.O. Egypt, 1204Z/19 to C. in C. E.F. Admty. F.O.C.R.S.)

TURBULENT, SARACEN.

Try and be in position TURBULENT 035°. Focal Point C.110 miles by 2100/19th. P.247 (SARACEN) 109. Focal Point C.112 mile by 0600/20th (?4) 208° 26 miles sector 2. (Capt. (S) 8, 1208A/19 to TURBULENT, P.247 (SARACEN), (R) 8th S/M.F. C. in C. Med., Capt. Focal Point C.112 miles (S) 10.)

My 1208. (1) TURBULENT withdraw after 0001 20th and report E.T.A.038° 45' 009° 35' which should not be before 2000/20th. (2) P.247 (SARACEN) has freedom in zone A after 1200/20th until entering zone B. at 0600/21st. (Capt. (S) 8, 1238A/19 to S/M's named) See also 2258A/19.

Use / ...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Use of Smoke by Convoys. My 2025A/3rd Feb. (see "Technical") not to F.O.H. or R.A.D. Home Fleet. Can you now provide further details? Admiralty are particularly anxious to exploit smoke to the full as a means of thwarting attack by enemy aircraft. (D.T.S.D. Approved by A.C.N.S.(W), 1211A/19 to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. H.F., F.O.H. R.A.D. H.F.) Reply: C. in C. Med, 1720A/24.

E.T.15.

Sailed, DELANE, Algiers, 32, KB, MELAMPUS, Gibraltar, 31, N.K.B. S.O. Escort pass to Cdre. and escort. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1320A/19 to S.O. Escort E.T.15, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O. C. Gibraltar. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. Connav.)

ADVENTURE, minestorage, Mers el Kebir. Your 1912/18th. Tunnel storage for small arms is ready now, light rail track being laid to complete within 1 week. Request ADVENTURE may be sailed to arrive Mers el Kebir about lst April. (C. in C. Med., 1521A/19 to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. Force, H. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, ADVENTURE.)

T.E.19.

Algiers Section arrived (9 ships). Forward Section sailed as in my 1829A/18th. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 1427A/19 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone, Com. N.O.B. (R) Connav, C. in C. Med., Admty. S.O.I.S.)

Convoy Programme. (C. in C. Med., 1503A/19 to F.O. Gib., S.N.O.C.A. etc.) See Lion Copy. Amended, 1827A/23, q.v.

Escort of BRISBANE STAR, CITY OF CAPETOWN. Your 1145. C. in C. Med. has no information of whereabouts of these ships, ALGOMA and NASTURTIUM should be used at your discretion according to U-Boat situation subsequently proceeding to U.K. with M.K.F.ll. TYNEDALE is required for K.M.S.ll. (C. in C. Med. 1503/A/19 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

Request / ...

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.)

MESSAGE 15031/19th March IN

MOST SECRET

Date 19.3.43 Recd. 2349

Meditermen Conon Proframme.

From C. in C. Mediterranean

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CABLE

Addressed F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A. N.C.I.C. Oran, Com. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Bone. Repeated F.O.C. W.Af., Admiralty, CONNAV. The following convoy programme is intended

Read in 7 columns (all dates .pril) for castbound convoys.

Convoy Gibraltar	Oran	<u>Algiers</u>	Bougic	Philippe- ville	Bone
TE 20 1st KMS 12 5th UGS.6 A 7th TE 21 11th UGS. 7 17th TE 22 24th	2nd 7th 9th 13th 18th 26th	3rd 8th 14th 20th 27th	4th 9th 15th 21st 28th	4th 9th 15th 21st 28th	lıth 9th 15th 21st 28th

Read in 7 columns (all dates April unless otherwise stated) for westbound convoys.

Bone Philippe- Bougie Algiers Oran Gibraltar Convoy ville E.T. 16 Mar. 28th Mar. 28th Mar. 29th Mar. 30th Mar. 31st. April A 4th G.U.S.6 E.T. 17 4th M.K.S. 11 9th E.T. 18 15th 8th 6th 7th 5th 4th 13th 11 th 12th 9th 10th 19th 17th 18th 16th 15th 25th24th 11.K.S.12 21st 23 rd22nd 21st 26th 27th -G.U.S. 64. and -

15031/19

(amended by 1827 A/23,

/ is received ? ipril 1st intended

Advance Copy D.C. D.O.D. (F) D.T.D.

1st S.L. (2) V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S. (H) A.C.N.S. (F)(2) A.C.N.S. (UT)(2) U.W.R. N.A. Mails D.O.D. (F)(2) D.O.D. (H)(2) D.T.D. (3)

B

D.T.D. (M) Head of M. (10) D.D.I.C. (2) D. of P. (2) D. of S.T. (2) I.P. (2) W.D. Duty Capt. (2) Admiral Blake (2) U.S.N. (2)

Ad. Mack D. of P.(Q) C.C.O. (2)

1

q.v.)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

1.00

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Request you will sail 2 Hunt Destroyers to Gibraltar for service required in F.O.I.C. Escort of BRISBANE STAR, Gibraltar 1145/19th not to S.O. Force H. (C. in C. Med., 1604/19 to S.O. Force H. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.) CITY OF CAPETOWN. (Contd.) Intend sailing TORBAY 1830/20th routed through 038° 10' 003° 09' at 0215/21st 038° 10' 009° TORBAY. 25' at 0300/23rd thence patrol in the Tyrrhenean Sea. (Capt. (S) 8, 1515A/19 to (? C. in C. Med.) (R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers) S/M's Arrived UNBROKEN (P.42), UNRUFFLED (P.46) Malta. sailed RORQUAL. (V.A.Malta, 1538A/19 to Admty. etc.) STURGEON, URSULA transferred 7th S/M Flotilla STURGEON, as from p.m. J1st Feb. and p.m. 22nd Feb. respectively. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) transferred to 10th S/M Flotilla as from p.m. 24th Feb. (Capt. (S) 8, 1545A/19 to F.O. (S) (R) Admty., Capt. (S) 7th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10th S/M.⁴. URSULA, UNSHAKEN. C. in C. Med.) HAYDON. Proceed forthwith at best speed to Gibraltar. (?Route) through position 72. Report E.T.A. to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Acknowledge. (S.O. Force 'H', 1629A/19 to HAYDON, (R) C. in C. Med., ILEX, Capt. D.6, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, CALPE, Com. N.O.B. Oran) As soon as trial is satisfactory proceed at CALPE. best speed to given route through position 72. Report E.T.A. to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Acknowledge. (S.O. Force H, 1634A/19 to CALPE (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, HAYDON, ILEX, Capt.(D) 6. Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

HOLCOMBE. Cancel my 1634A not to HOLCOMBE. Proceed as soon as ready Gibraltar at best speed. Route through position 70. Report E.T.A. to F.O. Gibraltar. Acknowledge. (S.O. Force H, 1935A/19 to HOLCOMBE, Capt. D.6. C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, CALPE, HAYDON, ILEX, FARNDALE, Com. N.O.B. Oran)

M.K.S.10 / ...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

M.K.S.10.
F.O.I.S. is requested to sail M.K.S.10 at 1800/23 escorted by ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE, MANOWAR.
(2) Speed of ships, 7 knots, of advance, 6¹/₂ knots.
(3) Route through 96.36, 99,92.036° 52' N.
003° 05' E. 64.49, 93.72, 37 lettered P to Y. Stragglers route as convoy.
(4) Sections join and detach with local escorts as follows:- Philippeville in 037° 14' N. 006° 55' E. at 0200/24th. Bougie in 99 at 1500/24th. Algiers, enters harbour sailing again at 1000/25th. Oran in 057° 00' N. 000° 48' W at 1900/26th. Gibraltar in 57 at 0600/28th. (5) All times A. (6) Fighter protection, priority 2, codeword "Riband". (7) Route from position 57 through Q.K.A. Codeword "Riband". (7) Route from position 57 through Q.K.A. 87 then standard ocean route lettered A to E stragglers route lettered F to L omitting I. S. of A. 7½ knots. (8) Ocean escorts BROADWAY, SHERWOOD, CHAMBLY, PRIMROSE, MORDEN, DRUM-HELLER, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC. (9) First two letters of W/T call sign X.H. Outcon 430. (C. in C. Med., 1635A/19 to F.O's I.C. etc.)

ROMAIN.

Arrivals 18th German (ex French)ROMAIN, will sail 19th 1700 for Marseilles, oranges, onions. (Valencia, 1640/19 to Admty.)

P.R.U.

P.R.U. March 19th visuals 1440 Taranto 2 BB J.R.U. March 19th Visuals 1440 Taranto 2 bb
J.Cr. 1525 Messina no major Naval Unit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1641A/19 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. March 19th visuals 1430 Naples no major
Naval Unit. 1500 Castellamare 10/10 Cloud.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1702A/19 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

SPLENDID, TRIBUNE.

P.228 (SPLENDID) try and be in position 278° focal point F. 64 miles from 0400/20th to 1000/20th then proceed to Zone C. TRIBUNE be in position 295° focal point F 76 miles from 0300/20th to 0600/20th then proceed as previously ordered to Zone F. (Capt.(S) 8. 1642A/19 to P.228 (SPLENDID) TRIBUNE, (R) 8th S/M.F. Capt.(S) 10, C. in C. Med.) Cancelled by 2258A/19 q.v.

S.S. OCEAN SEAMAN damaged by enemy action 16th OCEAN SEAMAN. March. Personnel casualties. (Cdre.Algiers, 1647A/19 to Admty.)

PAPANICOLIS, Further information 0245/11th LILY entered Aegean 0745/18th. (Capt. (S) 1, 1652B/19 to G.S. PAPANICOLIS (R) Capt (S) CORINTHIA. information.

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. AL562 (or 568?) 19th March. Part 1. Offensive. Night 18/19, very bad weather and heavy rain over Malta prevented offensive operations. Day 19th 4 Spitfires despatched on offensive sweeps over Sicily

returned owing to bad weather, low cloud and rain prevented further offensive operations. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 19. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned before reaching Malta. Part 5. Operations by aircraft of other Commands. Night 18/19 1 Liberator 343 Squadron from Mid East bombed docks area West of Naples town and landed at Malta owing to engine trouble. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1815/19)

U.G.F.6.

Arrived (list of ships). (Cdre. Oran, 1857A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.11.

A.M.1410/5 - Convoy K.M.S.11. Following ships did not sail. HARMATRIS, BRIKA. Following ships returned: STAD HAARLEM, EMPIRE KESTREL, TRIONA, MARSA. (D.O.D.(H) 1911A/19 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Haifa.

Arrivals 19th March, ABDIEL, DAWLISH, ISLAY, CUMBRAE, M.L.350 Greek destroyer AETOS Free French M.L's 1143 and 1164. Departure 19th March M.L.1038. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 1912B/19 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

M.E.20.

Sailed Convoy M.E.20. PETARD, G.S. QUEEN OLGA, HURWORTH, HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1946A/19 to Admty. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Libya.)

INTENT, CONSBRO. Your 1654/14. Allied C. in C. concurs in Tug INTENT towing CONSBRO as proposed. (C. in C. Med., 1947A/19 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib, Alusnob, Freetown, B.A.D.)

Movements, Oran. Todays arrivals were CARLISLE, WISHART, KLO, HUSSAR, CIRCE, ADRIAS (G-S) CLACTON, BUDE, VENOMOUS, VERITY. Todays departures were VENOMOUS, VERITY. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1952A/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movements / ...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrived BICESTER, LOOKOUT. Departures ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, MAN O WAR, FELIXSTOWE, WHEATLAND, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, CARLISLE French Chasseur III. (Cdre. Algiers, 2019A/19 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived BEAUFORT and tug FAVOURITE. (N.O.I.C. Toburk, 2253B/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

TRIBUNE, SPLENDID, SARACEN. Cancel my 1642. TRIBUNE, P.228 (SPLENDID) proceed forthwith to zone F and C respectively. My 1208 and my 1238, P.247 (SARACEN) proceed forthwith to patrol vicinity 037° 58' 011° 50' until 1200 tomorrow Saturday then proceed zone B. (Capt. (S) 8, 2258A/19 to 8th S/M.F.(R) Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med., RORQUAL.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one destroyer and one large vessel 39° 59' N. 14° 00' E. 290° 12 knots. Request instructions. (A/C. CXC/V, 2300/19 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

WARNING: - This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST	SECRET	M	E	S	S	Â	G	E	

16522/19th March IN Date 20,3,43. Recd.16002.

From Algiers.

CYPHER.

Addressed Usfor, Mideast, Britman Washington, Armindia Delhi, P.A.I.C. Landforces Melbourne, Dechief Pretoria, Dechief Capetown, Force Nairobi, H.M.Ambassador, Madrid (Pass to U.S. Ambassador, Madrid) Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak) (Paraphrased test passed by For. Off.) Resident Minister, Achimota (Paraphrased text passed by Colonial Office) Defender Wellington (for Puttick) (Paraphrased text passed by War Office).

Saturation Reports.

No. 7649. LINREP No. 30. Dated 19th March, 1943.

Operations Summary 15 to 17 March.

1. Eighth Army. Normal patrol activity continued throughout the period.

2. Two Corps. On 16 March, our armored forces moved southeast from Periana and commenced to concentrate northeast of Gafsa. On 17 March, our infantry moved towards Gafsa and occupied the high ground west, north and east of the town. The town was occupied with little opposition and contact was made with French forces moving from the southwest. Our patrols pushed forward toward El Guettar and Ston de Sened.

3. FirstArmy. The enemy continued his attacks on 17 March on our positions at Ston de Tamera and made some progress to the north of the road where the positions of the Corps Franc D'Afrique were penetrated. The enemy then turned south and after a counter attack had failed to restore the position, our forces withdrew to positions covering Djebel Abiod, Heavy casualties have been suffered on both sides.

4, Naval. A force of cruisers and destroyers carried out a sweep towards Sicily during the night 12/13 March. Fleet air arm aircraft from Malta hit 1 tanker, sank an ammunition ship and probably hit 1 other ship between 12/14 March. Mines were laid in the approaches to Bizerta. 3 ships in westward convoy were hit by torpedo from a U boat: all reached port.

/5. Air

5. Air. On 17 March, all bombing missions were cancelled owing to weather. On 15 and 16 March, heavy and successful attacks were made on enemy landing grounds between Sfax and Gabes. Enemy shipping was attacked between Tunisia and Sicily, and several direct hits were observed. The Western desert air forces made many attacks on enemy positions in the March line.

-2-

6. Liaison, General Borgeret, Secretary General of the War Committee has resigned, also Rigault, Secretary for Political Affairs, has resigned.

A series of Ordinances have been proclaimed, which lay the foundation for enforcement of Girauds new deal, These include repeal of the 1870 Cremieux law. All public photographs and posters of Marshall Petain have been ordered romoved, While difficulties of such drastic change are apparent, the democratic principle is clearly secognised. General acceptance among French population has been noted, with only a minority of those who cling to the cult of the Marshall complaining. From De Gaulle, the next step toward union is expected.

Advance copy D.O.D.(H) Duty Capt.D.D.I.C. Received from War Office 1200/21st March.

Circulation,

Brigadier Jacob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord C.6 Tels. War Office. A.M.C.S.(C) Mr.Strang Foreign Office. Mr.Radcliffe, Min. of Information

Duty Capt. (2) Hd. of M. D.N.I. (4) I.P. (2) D.P.D. C.N.I. W.D. Admiral Blake D.D.O.D. (M) D.A.W.T. D.T.S.D. D.G.D. D. of P. (Q) Ad. Mack(4)

1st Lora 1st S.L. (2) 4th S.L. 5th S.L. D.C.N.A.E. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S. (A) A.C.N.S. (F) (2) A.C.N.S. (W) U.W.R. D.O.D. (F) (2) D.O.D. (H) (2) D.D.I.C. (2) D. of P. (2)

31 4 101

MEK.

787 19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements

BRITTANY left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0225Z/19 to C. in C. E.F.) Departure CLIVE. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0311Z/19 to Admty. etc). Arrival U.S.S. TRINITY. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0526Z/19 to Admty). Departure 1238/19 EMILE BAUDOT, MAGNOLIA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1246Z/19 to Admty).

W.S.26 B.

Colombo portion W.S. 26 B arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0234/19 to Admty).

WEST POINT, Polish families for Mexico. Expect to sail WEST POINT 24th March (corrupt group) D.S.T. is requested to confirm ship will return via Bombay to embark Polish families for Mexico. Captain is prepared to embark up to 1,000 families provided at least 200 additional male staff are provided to assist in the galleys and with the Commissariat.
(P.S.T.O.I., 0625Z/19 to C. in C. E.F.(R) F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. M.E., D.S.T. B.A.D., Cdre. Aden)

A/S LOOPS

Positions of two H. D. A's and indicator loops given in your 0856/21st Feb. were proposed but not approved (A.M. 1213A/24th Nov. refers). (2) Positions will conform to proposals of A.M. 1241B/17th July, para. 5. (F.O. Ceylon, 0815Z/19 to C. in C. E.F., (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Trinco).

CAP ST. JACQUES Transport CAP ST. JACQUES sailed 17th March ERINPURA. (numbers) Requirements at Aden. Transport ERINPURA sailed 18th March (numbers). (Requirements at Aden). (D.S.T.O. P.G., 0856Z/19 to D.S.T.O. Suez).

BIRMINGHAM

(1) From records here BIRMINGHAM undocked 27th October and is less than 5 months out of dock. Your 0922/18th refers.

(2) Am not prepared to ask dislocation of Simonstown's docking programme of BIRMINGHAM but have no objection if this can be arranged without dislocating or delaying your departure.

(3) Simonstown pass via Durban to BIRMINGHAM on arrival. (C. in C. E.F., 0907Z/19 to BIRMINGHAM (R) C. in C. S.A. C.S. Simonstown).

Movements summary No. 49 19th. MAURITIUS and BIRMINGHAM left Kilindini 18th due Durban 21st.
 ALBATROSS left Kilindini 18th calling Mogadishu 20th. DANTE 22nd due Bombay 27th.
 CAPETOWN destination Bahrein 17th due Bombay 20th.

/(4)...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movement Summary No.49 19th. (Contd.) (4) WORCESTERSHIRE left Colombo 18th to MOMP
24th (?with) Convoy O.W.5 leaving Fremantle
20th. KANIMBLA left Colombo 19th due Sydney
5rd April. (6) FROBISHER left Aden 16th due
Kilindini 20th. (7) HAWKINS leaves Bombay
20th due Kilindini 25th. (8) QUIBERON left
Kilindini 17th calling Diego Garcia 21st due

20th due Kliindini 25th. (8) QUIBERON left Kilindini 17th calling Diego Garcia 21st due
Fremantle 29th. (9) NEPAL leaves (? Durban) 19th due
Reunion Is., 22nd thence Mauritius, Diego Garcia and Fremantle.
The following Y Messages are cancelled: 220Y of 8th, 221 Y of 10th, 224 Y of 15th, 226 Y of 16th.
(C. in C. E.F., 1136Z/19 to E.F.228Y, Admty. C. in C. S.A.
F.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

Ptongwe N.A.D. jetty. Naval Armament Depot, Ptongwe, opposite Kilindini, now in operation with unsatisfactory improvised loading facilities in lieu of permanent jetty. Full investigation by A.C.E. reveals that only practicable solution for permanent jetty is reinforced concrete. (Details)

(6) In view of recent considerable decrease in shipping requiring berth alongside at Kilindini and of apparently probable continuation this state I strongly recommend that serious consideration be given to question of temporary diversion Contractors' efforts from deep water berths to Armament Depot jetty, and very early decision communicated. (A.S. Kilindini, 1148Z/19 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.E.A. D.D.A.S.E.F.)

"Monsters" Your 0529/16. Are all questions now cleared Communications. by A.M.1050/16th March? (D.S.D., 1212A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

Movements, Colombo. Colombo Departure 19th March. 0005Z VERBENA 0750Z LISMORE, 0740Z KANIMBLA. Arrivals 0014Z ? LISMORE. 0155Z ZUIDERKRUIS, 0250Z TULIP. (F.O. Ceylon, 1500Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Disposition U-Boats No.6. Japanese: 1 possibly Akyab area 15th, 1 by D/F off Marmagoa 18th, 1 doubtful 240 miles west of Karachi 14th, attack in Gulf of Oman 15th March possibly U-Boat. German one by D/F near 028° S. 057° E. 14th. (C. in C. E.F., 1350Z/19 to E.F. 229Y (R) Admty. etc.)

Suspected / ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (Contd.)

Suspected U-Boat Attacked. S.N.O. Persian Gulf reports SOBKRA attacked with depth charge an object in position 025° 48' N. 056° 59' E. at 1536Z/13th March. Further attack on the same object by SOLVRA at 1315Z/14th March and H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ at

dawn 15th. Bubbles and oil came up all night 15th. Sample of oil recovered by SOBKRA proved on analysis to be diesel. S.N.O. Persian Gulf consideres if object was a U-Boat it was definitely destroyed. (2) I have (? "no" omitted) knowledge any vessel wrecked in this vicinity upon which attack could have been made. (C. in C. E.F., 1552Z/19 to Admty. (R) S.N.O.P.G.)

DEVONSHIRE, GAMBIA. Ref. para. 5 of A.M.0043/9 Dec. 1942. Request your intentions with regard to DEVONSHIRE and GAMBIA. (D.O.D.(F), 1615A/19 to C. in C. E.F.)

HOMEFORD grounding.

"Ota" vessel HOMEFORD. Vessel recently aground about 120 miles North Mombasa subsequently refloated towed Mombasa by Navy. Lloyds survey not completed but damage believed slight. (G.O.C. in C. E. Af., 1700C/19 to W.O.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SASKATOON. QUESNEL.

QUESNEL in company E.T.A. Halifax 1100Z/19th. Boiler hours. (SASKATOON 0020Z/19 to C.O.A.C.)

U.G.S.6A.

1. Sailing telegram U.G.S.6A part 1. 2. 1930Z/19 point Z seaward end of Swept Channel. 3. Time at position A 202 300Z. S.O.A. 9 knots. 5. A. 38.02 N. 68.50 W. B. 35.01 N. 66.07 W. C. 32.46 N. 64.45 W.

6. T.G. 60.1. U.S.S. STRIVE, S.O. U.S.S. STAFF, Speed, steady. Sustained.

(Port Director New York 0048Z/19 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet C. and R.)

Movements, Norfolk, New York.

New York arrived 17 March Norfolk L.S.T. 410, 424, 417, 428. New York, departed in convoy H.X. 230 H.M.S. WOLFE. (N.S.H.Q. 0305Z/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

/ This is re-encipherment of Cominch 1251/15. Vessels Begins. "Action N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Info. Admiralty. From Cominch. Concur N.S.H.Q. 1613Z/13." (Cominch 0436/19 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.) See also Admty. 1234A/19. sunk in St. Lawrence 1942.

U.S.A.T.

×

Arrival March 19th F.P. 133 (U.S.A.T. FERRY.) (B.R.L.O. Georgetown 0840/19 to Admty. etc.)

distress. (H.X. 229A.)

SVEND FOYN / SS. SVEND FOYN struck iceberg 058° 05' 044° 15'. Requires two tugs. HASTINGS standing by. (E.G. 40 in H.M.S. ABERDEEN 0923Z/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) Admty. etc.) SVEND FOYN holed and stopped among icebergs in

058° 05' N. 043° 50' W.* Unable to raise steam and already has 3 feet of water over engine-room and stokehold plates. 111 passengers and 84 crew on board. Has requested me to ask for 3 tugs including salvage tugs at least as position is serious.

When may tugs be expected? Weather report. (HASTINGS 1230Z/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. ABERDEEN.) *W.D.Note Different longitude. HASTINGS 1230/19th has been passed to Comtask 24 and C.T.G.

24.8.

(F.O.N.F. 1649Z/19 to A.C.I.C. (R) Admty. etc.) STORIS, MODOC now en route assist in rescue of personnel SS. SVEND FOYN. My 1745Z/19th. These ships can not be spared to attempt towing operations. No salvage vessels available to me. (C.T. 24 2115Z/19 to C.T.G. 24.8.2. MODOC, S.O.P.A. Greenland. Cominch C. and R. C. in C.At. Fleet. C.T.G. 24.6 C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. E.G.40.)

/This...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

SVEND FOYN distress. (H.X. 229A.) This is a re-encypherment of S.O.P.A. Greenland's 1920/4 Addressed to for action to FRED LEE, ALGONQUIN, AIVIK, information C.T.F. 24, C.T.G. 24.6 being passed to Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. for information, text follows:-Proceed best speed to assistance ship disabled at 58.5 N. 43.59 W. has 111 passenger, 84 crew, no steam, 3 feet of water engine room and stoke hold, will give name of ship when known. FRED LEE and AIVIK proceed on duty assigned when

when known. FRED LEE and AIVIK proceed on duty assigned when released by ALGONCUIN. C.T.F. 24 pass to nearest known authori-ties. Dangerous bergs in vicinity. Salvage will be needed. (St. Johns N.F. 2303/19 to Admty.)

HERMA	U/B.	M.A.4 E.W. B.N.W.F. (HERMA) chased by submarin	ne
		06° 20' N. 52° 11' W. at 1350 G.M.T.	
		(Kingston Jamaica 1006R/19 to Admty.)	

S/M sighted 23° 24' N. 80° 02' W. at 1241Z. U/B. (Kingston Jamaica 1008R/19 to Admty.)

/ C.O.S.(W) 538 re acceleration of V.L.R. and L.R. Washington programmes. (Air Min. 1110Z/19 to Britman, Washington.) See Lion Copy. Conference.

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T. 19th.	Ship. ACHILLES ARETHUSA	Position. $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. leaving St. Vincent (C.V.)	Course 071° 294°	Speed. 18 14 1 /2
	CARNARVON CASTLE.	(C.V.) ll° N. 30° W.	Patrol	Blank
	FOLKESTONE WESTON TOTLAND	$22\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 56° W.	063°	11
	Floating do CHESHIRE (D.O.D.(F)	ock)) 34½°S. 51½°W. 1120Z/19 to Opnav (R) Comm	076° aveu.)	Б

U/B.

> S/M sighted Lat. 39.50 N. Long. 71.50 W. Q.T. (Halifax W/T 1200 G.C.T/19 to Admty.)

Vessels Your 1613Z/13th March. Regretted that it is not sunk in possible to agree to your proposal as this would St. Lawrence (a) be contrary to Government decision against 1942. giving details of merchant shipping losses and (b) give information useful to the enemy. (D.T.D. 1234A/19 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Cominch.)

/S.C.123...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

S.C.123.

C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 in WHIMBREL, (H/F D/F) plus WHITEHALL, VANESSA, GENTIAN, HEATHER, SWEETBRIAR and CLEMATIS designated Ocean Escorts for S.C. 123. C.T.U. No. 24.4.1., in BOGUE plus GEORGE E. BADGER and BELKNAP designated Mid.Ocean Carrier

Group.

(C.T. 24 1305Z/19 to Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. etc.) S.C.123. T.U. 24.12.1. SALISBURY (S.O.) CHELSEA will sail as support group with S.C. 123. (F.O.N.F. 1951Z/19 to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.T.F. 24., C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. Admty. C.T.G. 24.7., 24.6., Cmdre. Londonderry.)

B.Y.M.S.

Charleston departed 1535Q/18 for Norfolk for drydock B.Y.M.S. 843, 844. (N.S.H.Q. 1310Z/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

1. IROQUOIS sails St. Johns N.F. 1400Z/19th to Scapa in accordance with Admty. 1046A/8 (route). IROQUOIS. 3. S.O.A. 20 knots. (F.O.N.F. 1348Z/19 to C. in C.H.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

A.T.39. Sailing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND (A.T. 39) to R/V in 55.50 N. 10.01Z W. at 0615/31st via (Route.) "Chop" 40° W. to be included in sailing telegram. (Cominch C. and R. 1526/19 to U.S.Port Director New York (R) F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C. in C.At. Fleet, C. in C.W.A. C.T. 24., Admty. C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q.)

S/M estimates (Cominch 1528/19, 1529/19, 1616/19, 1617/19, U.S. S/M 1618/19.) Notices.

U/B attacked by A/C.

S/M sighted by A/C vicinity Seal Islands 043° 25' 066° 01' at 1545/19th. (C.O.A.C. 1602Z/19 to GB7A.) Following is a recyphered version of my 1745/19th

Following is a recyphered version of my 1745/19th (Begins) "My 1602/19th. Aircraft carried out attack at 1555Z/19th 145° 5 miles from Seal Islands. No visible results." (Ends.) (C.O.A.C. 1755Z/19 to GB7A.) My 1602Z/19th. When first sighted C/T awash and submerging on course 280° speed 10 - 12 knots in 043°. 19' N. 065° 56' W. 4 depth charges set to 25 feet released from 150 ft. 30 seconds after U-Boat submerged, no evidence of damage. (C.O.A.C. 2046Z/19 to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

/U/B...

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War Diary.	19.3.1943. Friday.
	FOREIGN STATIONS.
	TOMBICK DIATIONS
	America & West Indies - Contd.
U/B.	S/M sighted lat. 39.5 N. Long. 71.5 W. at 1220
	G.C.T/19th. (Halifax N.S. 1615/19 to Admty. etc.)
Movements, Santa Maria.	U.S. Submarine Chasers 497, 530 and 993 arrived and left March 19th on patrol.
	(R.O. Santa Maria 1615/19 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
Towage of A.F.D.24.	Services of Senior Officers in MILFORD escorts and tugs of A.F.D. 24 are greatly appreciated.
ATTODICTO	Please express my utmost thanks to all concerned. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 1630/19 to Admty.)
	(0. III 0.0.0.11000 1000/15 00 Admog.)
Air Attacks	Cominch 2135Z/15. Request you obtain following details of attack by U.S.N. aircraft:-
on U/Bs	A. Type of Depth Charge. B. Mark of Fuse. C. Depth Setting.
14-15/3.	(D.T.M. 1714A/19 to B.A.D.)
	Reply (B.A.D. 2057Z/20.)
Atlantic	Your 2219/12 and 1540/18. (Results of convoy
Convoys Schedules,	conference.) Concur. Cominch pass to Cmdres. All Seafrontlant.
Designations.	(D.T.D. Approved 1st S.L. 1747A/19 to Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)
U.G.S.6A.	U.G.S.6A departed New York complete except L.S.T. 364 which will follow on stragglers route.
	(Port Director New York 1800Z/19 to C. in C.U.S. Fleet C. and R. (R) C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, Com.
	Eastseafron. Admty. etc.)
DUNDAS.	E.T.A. 0230Z/20th Boiler hours.
	(DUNDAS 1832Z/19 to C.O.A.C. (R) Capt. D.Halifax.)
Movements,	Bermuda arrival U.S.S. STOCKTON. Departure U.S.S.
Bermuda.	TILLMAN escorting U.S.S. SALAMONIE. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 18390/19 to Admty.)
	Amended 08090/20.
TCONDEDOGA	Intercent from St. Incia Dedia (basing)
TICONDEROGA. U/B.	Intercept from St. Lucia Radio (begins) "SSSS TICONDEROGA 11.38 N. 60.20 W. S/M sighted
	at 2215 G.M.T" (Ends.) (Kingston Jam., 1845R/19 to Admty.)
	/BRANTFORD

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

E.T.A. 0930Z/20th. Boiler hours. No urgent defects. Escorting CANARA from O.N. 170. BRANTFORD. (BRAMTFORD 1930Z/19 to C.O.A.C.)

U/B.

My 2315Z/18th. (Re sub sighted by shore watcher, 2100/18.) Reliability considered C.4. (C.O.A.C. 1940Z/19 to C.T.F. 24.)

S.C. 124. 1. Sailing telegram part 1, S.C. 124. 2. Position B at 2200Z/20 March. Com Comeasseafron pass to C.O.A.C. for information. 3. 5. 8. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafron's

1321/2 March except position B 1 hour later. 6. Task unit 24.18.3 FENNEL, (S.O.) MONCTON. THREE RIVERS. (Port Director New York 2006Z/19 to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R. etc.)

Canadian N.W.Atlantic Command. Personal for Admiral King and 1st S.L. Cominch serial 0046 on dated 14th, reference A/S measures in the Atlantic. I concur in A.C.C. one appendix A. and the R.C.N. will be ready to effect the recommended shift of command on the 31st March. It is intended that the title of C.O.Atlantic

Coast shall be changed to that of Commander Chief Canadian North West Atlantic at the same time. 2. I concur in A.C.C. 2 appendix B regarding periodic exchange of information as to assignment of escort vessels and accept the proposal that this information be limited to escorts assigned to the Atlantic and to West Coast Mercantile Coastal convoys North W. San Francisco. (C.N.S. Canada 2027Z/19 to Cominch, Admty. (R) C.A.S. Ottawa.)

Connav Serial 19. EMPIRE PUNA jammed in ice 15th Shipping March position 52.00 N. 50.25 W. straggler O.N. Casualties. 170. EMPIRE GRANITE collision Hudson River New York March 18th. Sinking. (Cominch C. and R. 2101/19 to Comnaveu.)

L.S.Ts.

Norfolk departed 0059/19 for New York L.S.T. 418, 419, 425, 426. (N.S.H.Q. 2124Z/19 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Sub. attack and sighting All times Z. A. ANEMONE attacks sub. 54.28 N. 25. 34 W. 0410/19 HIGHLANDER attacks another 0445/19 same area. Plane attacks sub. course 090 54.18 N. summary. 26.15 W. 0824/19. British plane sights sub.

/course...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Sub. attack and sighting summary. (Contd.)

course 010 54.40 N. 25.48 W. 1216/19. British plane sights sub. 53.08 N. 27.12 W. 1712/18. British plane sights sub. on surface course 360 53.02 N. 26.32 W. 1825/18. British plane sights sub. 52.20 N. 26.52 W. 1745/18. British plane sights sub. course 090 53.35 N. 29.13 W. 1800/18.

R.A.F. plane attacks sub. on surface course 045 52.12 N. 27.40 W. 2006/18. R.A.F. plane sights sub. on surface 53.15 N. 20 W. 2038/18. British plane sights sub. course 070 53.10 N. 29.25 W. 1650/18. British plane sights sub. course

07, 53.02 N. 26.50 W. 1722/18. C. SS. HERMA chased by sub. 06.20 N. 52.11 W. 1350/19. R.A.F. plane attacks sub. course W. 43.18 N. 65.55 W. 1555/19. Plane sights sub. 43.25 N. 66.01 W. 1545/19. Ferry plane sights sub. course West 18.36 N. 67.08 W. 2145/18. D. Shore watcher sights sub. 47 N. 52.50 W. 2100/18. Fishermen sight sub. 27.12 S. 48.26 W. 1000/18. Numerous contacts reported 39.50 N. 72 W. a.m/19. Y.M.S. 38 makes sound contact 23.24 N. 80.02 W. 1210/19. C.G. 83317 makes sound contact area 23.05 N. 83.10 W. 1400/19. C.G. 83312 makes sound contact 34.55

N. 75.31 W. 1838/19.

(Cominch 2228Z/19 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Support Groups.

C. in C.W.A. 2239Z/19 to A.C.I.C. F.O.N.F. see Home Commands.

T.U.24.18.9

E.T.A. Halifax 1100Z/20 P.C. and S. 042° 58' N. 066° 19' W. 078° 13 knots. LACHINE main engine circulating pump serviced. Boiler hours FORT-WILLIAM, MULGRAVE, Whaler requiring repairs. (C.T.U. 24.18.9 2301Z/19 to C.O.A.C. (R) D. Halifax.)

E.T.A. Ambrose Light Vessel 0400Z/21st. 0.N. 170. Fuel required COBALT, SNOWBERRY, PORT HOPE, intend detaching SOVAC, Pendant 66 for Philadelphia at position ZZ. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.18.10 2303Z/19 to C.E.S.F. Cmdre. 3rd. U.S. New Dist. New York. Port Director New York, (R) C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. TRYON. (D.N.I. Wellington 0306Z/19 to Admty.)

/U.S.S....

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 SECRE	T MESSAGE	1110Z/19th March OUT
Addrossed	Britman, Washington.	Dat <u>o 19.3.43.</u>
	Washington.	Washington Conference :
(Cyphar	Washington Conference: Increase of VLR. airortt.

From Air Ministry.

OZ.801. 19th March, 1943.

MOST IM EDIATE.

95F

Following from Chiefs of Staff No.C.O.S.(W)538.

Your J.S.M.817 March 17. Froceedings of Anti-Submarine Conference have not yet reached us. Until they have been studied here we cannot express a considered opinion on the recommendations or on the ways and means of carrying them out.

2. As you rightly point out, an increase in the anti-submarine forces available' for work in the North Atlantic involves much more than the mere transfer of aircraft from one duty to another. Questions of modification and provision of special equipment are involved together with the effect of these factors on range. In addition, there is the need to match aircraft with trained crows which is almost certainly the overall limiting factor.

3. On instructions from the Anti-U-Boat Warfare Committee of the Cabinot we have already been examining urgently the possibility of accelerating our own V.L.R. and L.R. Programmes and of increasing the proportion of V.L.R. There is also a possibility of Canada providing a V.L.R. squadron. By these means we hope to raise the British and Canadian V.L.R.force to 135 unit equipment aircraft by the late summer. So far as the United States contribution is concerned, we have already been informed (Marcus 175 March 8th) that a force of 72 V.L.R.aircraft will be available in the Newfoundland area by July. Adding to this the 24 American V.L.R.aircraft to be established in North-West Africa we reach a total of 231 unit equipment aircraft against the target of 260 V.L.R.aircraft for the whole Atlantic including the Caribbean and South America.

4. We suggest that the proper action at this stage would be for the United States Chiefs of Staff to initiate a similar review to ascertain whether

the

the margin of 29 V.L.R.aircraft can be found by an acceleration or extension of their existing V.L.R.programme.

5. Owing to the limitations of training facilities and of modifications to aircraft we believe that the measures of acceleration referred to above will be at least as effective in augmenting the V.L.R.force as the diversion of of aircraft from the bombing of Germany.

6. We entirely support your view that study by Combined Staff Flamors should consider all ropeat all theatres, but we hope deficit can be made up as in para. 4 above. In any case we would repeat that it would be premature for the Combined Planners to start work until the proceedings of the recent Conference in Washington have been studied here.

1110Z/19

Received from Air Ministry -1820/19 Air Min. circulation:-

Brig. Jacob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord C.6.Tels.War Office A.M.C.S.(C)

lst Lord lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. 5th S.L. D.C.N.A.E. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(F)(2) A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) N.A.Mails P.A.S.(S) D.O.D.(F)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2)

TI LA Fat

FK

D.N.I.(4) D.of P.(2) D.C. D.D.I.C.(2) D.of P.(Q) Hd.of M.(2) I.P.(2) W.D. Admiral Blake D.A.W.T.



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(新報)

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Movements. (Contd.)

U.S.S. GOLD STAR departed Port Phillip 15th for Sydney (N.S.W.) (A.C.N.B. 1148Z/19 to Admty. Connav.) Arrivals Sydney (N.S.W.) 17th U.S.N.T. HENRY T. ALLEN, 18th U.S. ship GOLD STAR. (A.C.N.B. 1149Z/19 to Admty. Connav.) Arrival Milne Bay 17th: GLENELG for Orobay BOWEN for Port Moresby. Darwin 17th INVERELL for Thursday Island. Port Moresby 17th BROOME for Townsville. Palm Island 15th U.S.D. RALPH TALBOT for Melbourne. Thetank Island 18th U.S.D. PATTERSON for Brisbane.

(A.C.N.B. 1151Z/19 to Admty. etc.)

Digest Serial No. 422. 18th March.

Three Catalinas attacked Buka Aerodrome night 17th/18th with unobserved results. One bombed Kahili.

2. Six vessels including one heavy cruiser one large cargo vessel sighted Kavieng Harbour morning 18th.

3. Forenoon R/C Rabaul reported (?usual) shipping in harbour photos covering half area only reveal 35 vessels including 21 M/Vs. totalling 100,000 tons, 1 medium and four small tankers, three destroyers, four submarines, two submarine chasers.

Morning R/C Fortress sighted one serviceable Zero on Cape 4. Gloucester strip which appeared in good condition. Another Fortress strafed two large loaded barges this area. 5. One 500 ton vessel sighted in Dampier Strait headed towards Rooke Island morning.

7. Photos Wewak Harbour afternoon reveal one submarine chaser, 5 merchantmen under 1,000 tons. One large vessel sighted half submerged off Kairiru Island.

8. 12 Liberators in 2 waves 9 Beaufighters escorted by 16 Lightnings attacked Madang morning starting heavy fires in town area and thoroughly strafing runway. Photos early a fternoon reveal work continuing on runway and dispersal area. 9. Same 9 Beaufighters later strafed buildings at Alexishafen where noon photos show work continuing on dispersal area and unfilled craters in runway.

10. Six Bostons attacked building area Salamua morning starting fires and destroying buildings.

11. Three Hudsons attacked Koepang Aerodrome night 7th with unobserved results.

12. Liberator over Ambon morning 18th intercepted by ten fighters and destroyed four plus two probably and damaged one. Twelve cargovessels sighted Ambon Bay. Photos show five vessels 4 to 8,000 tons two ships 2 to 4,000 tons and four below 1,000 tons. One other 200 ton merchantman seen few miles south of Ambon. 13. After noon Liberator dropped half bomb load Timika (Est of Kaukenau) where runway developing and other half Langgoer (Kai Islands.)

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0845Z/19.)

/Ammunition...

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19.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Ammunition.

C. in C.E.F. etc.)

A.C.N.B. is requested to arrange dispatch of following ammunition to be taken from Eastern Fleet reserves. To Noumea (New Caledonia) (details).

To Pearl Harbour as for Noumea.

Request A.C.N.B. will consign all ammunition to C. in C.
 Pacific Fleet and will inform him of transport arrangements.
 Foregoing action will leave (details) of Eastern Fleet reserve remaining in Australia. B.A.D. is requested to inform U.S.
 Authorities and pass to VICTORIOUS. B.A.D's 2321Z/10 to Admty.
 only refers.
 (D.G.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (W) 1139A/19 to A.C.N.B. B.A.D. (R)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 1414A/19, 1430A/19.)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER and METEOR (see 17th March) were ordered at 0249A to return to Plymouth forthwith. (Arrived 1447A/21.)

Convoy Routes. 2. The Admiralty propose to route convoys through the Bay of Biscay as far to the eastward as possible in order to assist the provision of air Cover. F.O.(S) is asked to consider the reduction of our own standard submarine routes from four to three by the cancellation of route "Blue," and he made the necessary signal to give effect to this on 22nd March.

3. Ships from East coast ports for O.N.S.,O.S. and O.G. convoys are now to be routed to Oban in order to relieve congestion at Loch Ewe. (See 14th March.)

Baltic.

Aircraft attacks on U/Bs. 4. N.A. Stockholm reports that after the suspension of convoys during the ice period in the Gulf of Finland, a convoy with air and surface escort from German ports has again been seen in the vicinity of Sassnitz recently.

5. Thirteen aircraft provided cover for convoy H.X. 229 today. Aircraft made a large number of attacks on U-Boats today in the area 300 to 400 miles west of Achill Head. Attacks are reported at 0030, 0850, 0938, 0955, 1427 and 1800. The latter attack by an aircraft of 201 Squadron, took place in 54.47 N. 23.03 W. 420 miles west of Achill Head. The attack was made from 30 ft. with 6 depth charges, but no results were seen owing to spray. After this had subsided the bows of the U-Boat reared in the air, appeared to hang for three minutes, and then slid backwards into the sea.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. MARISO was torpedoed and sunk at 0430Z today in 13.20 S. 37.25 W. (about 90 miles East of Bahia) by a U-Boat reported to be German.

/7 ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

7. C. in C.S.A. reported on 23rd March that Panamanian SS. NORTUN was torpedoed and sunk at 0340A today in 27.35 S. 14.22 E. (about 300 niles south of Walvis Bay) after dispersal from Convoy C.N.13.

Mediterranean.

MALAYA.

8. The battleship MALAYA (2nd Battle Squadron Home Fleet), which arrived at Gibraltar on 17th March from Freetown, where she had escorted W.S.27, is to remain under the command of C. in C.Mediterranean temporarily, and for the time being may be attached to Force H.

Air Operations. 9. Last night, a special equipment Albacore from Malta dropped bombs on 2 southbound F-Boats in 38.35 N. 16.37 E., but results were not observed. A Malta Wellington last night attacked with torpedo a 3-4000 ton M/V escorted by a destroyer in 39.30 N. 17.06 E. No results were seen. 18 B.25s. bombed Gabes today. 15 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 22 U.S. Lightnings were despatched to search for shipping in the Sicilian Channel. Four southbound merchant ships escorted by two naval vessels were attacked 48 miles N.N.E. of Cape Bon; one vessel was set on fire and near misses were made on another.

East Indies.

Shipping relaxations in Indian Ocean. 10. C. in C.E.F. reports that requirements for movements of essential personnel have recently shown a tendency to increase and the number of ocean escorts in his command has decreased. He intends as a permanent policy on the East Indies Station, to adopt certain relaxations in the orders regarding the number of passengers to be carried in ships sailing unescorted, and also to sail ships of 12 knots and over unescorted in future. Owing to objections by C. in C.S.A.

800

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Shipping relaxations in Indian Ocean. (Contd.) (24th March) under present conditions, these relaxations do not apply to ships proceeding into the South Atlantic Station from or through the East Indies Station (25th March.)

America & West Indies.

Convoy C.U.l. 11. Convoy C.U.1. (9 tankers for U.K.) left Curacao this afternoon escorted by ATTACKER and 3 destroyers.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. A Liberator this forenoon attacked a destroyer and two merchant vessels approaching Kaimana (S.W.side of New Guinea), and obtained a probable hit and one near miss on one of the merchant ships. After dark, three Hudsons attacked what was probably the same vessels in Kaimana Bay and started fires in one of the ships and on the jetty.

801 1: 20.3.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

17th M.G.B. Flotilla Conversion.

Your 1732/16. Additional "D"-Type M.T.B.s will be allocated to your Command in the near future and, as such additional boats will probably be available before M.G.B.s of the 17th M.G.B. Flotilla could be converted to carry torpedoes, the latter proposal is not approved. (D.D.O.D.(C), 1048A/20 to C. in C. Nore.)

Route "Blue". It is desired to route convoys through Bay of Biscay as far to eastward as possible in order to assist provision of air cover. (2) Request you will consider reduction of our own standard submarine routes from four to three by cancellation of Route "Blue". (A.C.N.S.(H), 1549A/20 to F.O.S.)

9th M.T.B. The 9th M.T.B. Flotilla is re-allocated to Flotilla. Dover. (D.D.O.D.(C), 1608A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Movements.

Add para. (H) P.556 exercising S/M Movements. My 1714/19. off Plymouth 1300 to 1700/20th.

(F.O.S., 0001A/20) My 1111/19. Sailed (JUNON) (S.O.S/M, Lerwick, 1010A/20.) Vessels returned to harbour due to defect in My 1010/20th. main engines of escort.

(S.O.S/M. Lerwick, 1157A/20 to A.C.O.S.) My 1714/19. Add new para (J) SEA NYMPH and TRUCULENT leave Lerwick at 1700 and 2100/20, respectively probably on surface to N.E.

(F.O.S., 1207A/20 to Admty.)

Intend sailing SOKOL and UPROAR escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from vicinity Pladda Island at 2300A/22 March to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 1400A/24. (2) Thence submarines to westward. LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting UNA, ULTIMATUM, and P.556 to Clyde. E.T.A. 2000A/26. (Capt. (S) 3, 1207A/20) Intend to sail TEMPLAP escorted by COPROPAGE from U.A.

Intend to sail TEMPLAR escorted by COREOPSIS from Holy Loch 1230A/22 March West of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1000A/24. (Capt. (S) 3, 1215A/20 to F.O.S.) My 1157/20. Vessels will sail 0630A/21 routed and speeds as in my 1111/19th. E.T.A. 1330A/22nd.

(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 1549A/20)

S/M movements tonight. SOKOL escorted by LA CAPR: southbound from Minches to Clyde. GRAPH escorted by CO sailing Lough Foyle 2050A/20 for Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1622A/20) My 1714/19. After Lerwick amend to read probably SOKOL escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE GRAPH escorted by COLUMBINE

at 0630/21 for Dundee. (F.O.S., 1624A/20 to Admty.)

Positions / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements (Contd.)

S/M Movements. Positions of submarines at O8OOA/21 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) SOKOL escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Ailsa Craig due Holy Loch 1400/21. (B) GRAPH escorted by COLUMBINE

Loch 1400/21. (B) GRAPH escorted by COLUMBINE arriving Holy Loch from Londonderry. (C) UNA 47° 38' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 26' W., thence to Eastward, daily advance 110 miles. (D) UNRULY 44° 50' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N. 12° 26' W. at 0500/22. (E) HERRING in zones K.505 and K.501 south of 44° 25' N. (F) SHAD in zone K.508. (G) SEA NYMPH 62° 04' N. 01° 06' E. probably on surface through 68° 30' N. 10° 10' E. (H) TRUCULENT 61° 50' N. 00° 01' E. probably on surface through 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E. (J) JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Sumburgh Head proceeding to Dundee. (F.0.S.1704A/20 to Admty.) My 1508/19. Sailed (GRAPH) (Cdre. Londonderry, 1955A/20)

(Cdre. Londonderry, 1955A/20)

DASHER.

Scapa arrival DASHER, ORWELL, INGLEFIELD. (A.C.O.S. 0746A/16) DASHER is to sail 1700 today and proceed by searched channel to Scapa adjusting route as necessary to arrive Hoxa Gate at 0800 tomorrow. INGLEFIED INGLEFIELD and ORWELL are to sail independently when ready overtaking DASHER taking destroyers under her and screening DASHER. orders on joining. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1055A/20).

INDOMITABLE.

Scapa departures at 1503/20 INDOMITABLE, PATH-FINDER, PENN, and PANTHER. (A.C.O.S., 1524/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

IROQUOIS.

Pass through 055° N. 050° W. and 055° N. 022° W. Look out for torpedoed ships or survivors. (C. in C. W.A., 2320A/20 to IROQUOIS)

1 - " 1 Operations.

Operation "Regulation" and Convoy K.M.S.11.

Return to Plymouth forthwith passing through position as in para. 2 of my 1905/19. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0249A/20 to NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR, MUSKETEER)

Coastal Patrols.

"Arena" returned. Your 1831/19. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0732/20) My 1104A/19 "Device" arrived 0740A/20. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0758A/20)

(1) / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols (1) Intend M.L's 205 (SO) and 255 to patrol tonight on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' and 02° 25' W. (2) Leaving harbour at 1945 via Q.Z.S. 582 for patrol and leaving patrol Line at dawn/21. (5) Object anti E/Boat patrol. Code word "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1110A/28) (1) M.G.B's 550 and 524 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start Point 10 miles. (2) Objective to intercept E-Boats attacking convoys. (5) Leave Dartmouth 1950/20 for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0600/21. Codeword "Corncrake". Codeword "Corncrake"

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1329A/20) My 1110A/20. "Device" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1952A/20)

Lofoten S/M Patrol. Request you will sail submarines from Lerwick as follows: (1) SEA NYMPH at 1700/20 by route Orange through 068° 30', 010° 10' to patrol zone K.150. (2) TRUCULENT at 2100/20th by route Black through 069° 10', 010° 29' to patrol zone K.151. (3) Submarine to proceed on surface until within 60 miles of Norwegian coast. (Capt. (S) 9, 0921A/20 to S.0.S/M. Lerwick) F.0.S.1401/19. Request you will inform Puscier outboutd

Request you will inform Russian authorities that these temporary submarine patrols zones have been instituted. (2) Zones K.150 and K.151 will be filled from the 23rd March and K.148 from the 27th. (3) The patrol will be augmented by 2 or more S/Ms commencing about 5th April, when, however, owing to light conditions submarine will be withdrawn to the outer zones.

(D.O.D.(H), 2325A/20 to S.B.N.O. North Russia)

Operation postponed until 0900/21 My 1623/19. Operation owing to weather. "Desert". (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1024/20)

Operation "Sapper".

C. in C. Plymouth's 1553A/19. Operation completed. (N.O.I.C. Dertmouth, 1357/20)

Exercises.

Home Fleet Exercise.

Scapa departure at 0800. BELFA GLASGOW, INTREPID, ECHO, BRECON. BELFAST, HOWE, (A.C.O.S., 0810A/20) Hvalf jord departures KENT and BERMUDA at 0911, ANSON, MATCHLESS, ICARUS, PIORUN at 1047. (A.C.I.C., 1107A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

C. in C. / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Home Fleet		in C.			/20).	Position	062°	27'
Exercise.		016° 3							
(Contd.)	(C.	S.10.,	2210	DA/20	to	A.C.	I.C.)		

Landing Craft Exercises.

Landing craft exercises by day and night will be carried out in lower Loch Fyne north of 55° 55' N from 22nd to 27th March. Ships taking part GLENGYLE (S.O), PRINCE CHARLES, PRINS ALBERT, SISTER ANNE and two M.L'S M/V RATORY S.S. LAPLAND. Aircraft will be taking part and flares will be dropped. (R.A.V., 1142A/20)

Allied Air Activity.

A/S Sweep.

Expect 2 Catalina aircraft on A/S sweep in your area between 0930 and 1500. (A.C.I.C., 0316A/20 to Escorts S.J.I., S.I) (1) 2 Catalina aircraft will carry out A/S (2) You may see one Hudson disperse 0930 flying south and returning at 1230. (A.C.I.C., 0517A/20 to U.R.67, R.U.66).

Request ice R/C. Denmark Strait to Jan Mayen. (C. in C. H.F., 1005A/20 to A.C.I.C.) Ice R/C.

A/C for DASHER.

Your 2347/18. To avoid splitting the Squadron request all 10 aircraft of 891 Squadron may accompany DASHER. (D.N.A.O., 1229A/20 to V.A.A. H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Following from Jan Mayen. westerly direction. A/C heard 1020, Jan Mayen. (A.C.I.C., 1013A/20).

JUNON report A.l reports that B. and V. and JU.87 carry out daily low-flying patrol in Me Patrols in Me Fiord. No patrol observed by JUNON 14th March, Fiord. possibly as it was a Sunday. (F.O.S., 1039A/20 to Admty.)

Your 1205A/20. Hostile A/C over Convoy Convoy K.M.S.11. shadowed only. (BROADWAY, 1345Z/20 to Admty.)

Convoy / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy Position of convoy was probably reported by F.W.200 aircraft at 1445. (D.D.I.C., 1603A/20 to Escorts K.M.F.11) K.M.F.11.

Scapa. At 1708/20. R.A.F. Observer Post at Stronsay reported a JU.88 diving out of cloud at 300 feet course N. At 1711 it was plotted over N. Ronaldsay 2,000 feet and altered course S.E. When 50 miles N.E. from 'A' Buoy turned E. and when 70 miles

turned N.E. At 1730 it was 40 miles S.S.E. of Sumburgh, course N.E. under 1000 feet. Fighters failed to intercept. Photographs of Flow most improbable. (A.C.O.S., 1757/20)

Mining.

Iceland.

This is N.O.B. Iceland's 1818/19. As the circular area lying within 5 miles of 64.05 N. 23.34 W. is dangerous due to enemy mines shipping approaching Reykjavik should be routed via (A) 63.36 N. 22.29 W. (B) 63.53 N. 22.57 W. (C) 64.06 N. 22.57 W. until sweeping operations are completed when this message will be cancelled. (Connav, 0005/20 to Admty.)

Operation Q.L.9.

(1) Weather permitting carry out operation
Q.L.(9) tonight with available M.L's, alternative operation Q.U. (8).
(2) Supporting forces. (a) One unit 8th M.G.B's

(a) One unit 8th M.G.B's close escort with freedom of action after M.L's are clear to attack targets located by other units. (b) One unit M.T.B's vicinity 52° 06' N. 03° 58' E. with freedom of action to operate between Hook and Scheveningen when M.L's are clear. (C. in C. Nore, 1019A/20 to BEEHIVE)

S.N.90 A.

Seidis Fjord departure at 1015/20 SCOTT. (A.C.I.C., 1232A/20)

Western Channel clearance. Width increased to 4.8 miles. One mine cut and exploded in 50° 10' 30" N. 03° 17' 24" W. One anti-sweeping device complete with cutters and sinker recovered. (M/S.4. 1932A/20 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence.

Baltic.

After suspension of Convoys during Ice period in Gulf of Finland, Convoy with Air and Surface Escort from German Ports has again been seen in vicinity of Sassnitz recently. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1701/20).

Photographic R/C 1230 to-day shewed -Bordeaux. Bordeaux: 3 NARVIK Class destroyers. Le Verdon: 1 NARVIK Class destroyer. Le Verdon. (D.D.I.C., 2312A/20.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats Reported. Am over enemy S/M in 54° 17' N. 21° 24' W. Am over enemy 5/M in 54 17 N. 21 24 W. (A/C. R5BJ, 0030A/20 to 15 Group) Am over Enemy S/M in 54° 37' N. 19° 58' W. (A/C H. of 423 Sqdn., 0938/20 to 15 Group) Indefinite D/F bearings between 0607Z and 0855Z

indicate U-Boats probably still shadowing either or both convoys.

I.C., 1123A/20 to SHERBROOKE, S.C.122, H.X. 229) D/F at 20002Z, indicates U-Boat in your vicinity which (D.D.I.C., may have reported you. (D.D.I.C., 2157A/20 to ACHILLES)

U-Boats Attacked. Am over enemy submarine 54° 38' N. 19° 21' W. (A/C. Z of 201 Sqdn., 0855/20 and 0927/20 to 15 Group)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C. Z. of 201 Sqdn, 0855/20 to 15 Group) Am over Enemy Submarine in 54° O4' N. 21° 57' W. (A/C. F. of 423 Sqdn. 1002/20 and 1015/20 to 15 Group) Have attacked Enemy Unit with depth charges. (A/C.F. of 423 Sqdn. 1004/20 to 45 and 15 Groups) Am over Enemy S/M in 54° 22' N. 19° 50' W. (A/C. YJ3F., 1427A/20 to 15 Group) Have attacked Enemy Submarine

Have attacked Enemy Submarine. (A/C. YJ3F., 1430A/20 to 15 Group)

Following read: Am over enemy S/M in position 54° 47' N. 23.03 W.

(A/C.201 Sqdn. Duty T. 1800/20 to 15 Group)

Have attacked enemy with dive bombs and estimate two hits.

(A/C 5PTT, 1810A/20 to 15 Group) Result of attack hit probable.

(A/C 5PTT, 1910/20)

Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. Am over enemy S/M. (A/C. 5PTT, 1923/20).

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20.3.1943. Baturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

BARRA HEAD. Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM sailed at 0300/20 to assistance of SS. BARRA HEAD with engine trouble. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0745/20.)

ANTHONY. ANTHONY arrived Rosyth with defects. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0927A/20) My 0925/20 and 0927/20. Sails 0800/21, E.T.A. Hoxa, 1930/21. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2156A/20)

ARIGUANI. Scapa arrival H.M. Tug FREEBOOTER. (A.C.O.S., 0930/20)

P.556. My 0015/7. Anticipate P.556 will be ready to sail a.m. 21st. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0950/20)

- GOWRIE. My 1643/19. Sailing delayed three hours through compressor trouble. (N.C.S.O. Glasgow, 1201/20)
- KITTIWAKE. KITTIWAKE placed at 8 hours notice to repair boiler tubes. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1403A/20)

UnknownDistress 3rd Grade bearing 118°.Ship.(Ongar Radio, 1819/20 to Wick W/T)

ABDERDEEN. E.G.40's 2357/18. ABERDEEN can be taken in hand at Liverpool, for damage repairs. (D.O.D.(H), 2100A/20 to Cdre. Londonderry)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A.38.

Sailed QUEEN ELIZABETH in accordance with my 1018A/18. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0554A/20)

X.K.3.

Estimated P.C.S. on convoy at 0800A/20, 40.35 N. 15.18 W. to 41.22 N. 15.50 W, thence 49.20, 14.35, $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (C. in C. W.A., 0420A/20 to BORAGE, DIANELLA, LUNENBERG).

T.A. 38 A/ ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

T.A.38 A.

PASTEUR is required to be ready to sail p.m. 29/3 as convoy T.A. 38 (A). (2) She will embark to full capacity in Liverpool on 28/3 and 29/3. (D.S.T., 0454A/20) PASTEUR will be ready to leave Liverpool on 29th March.

(2) F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship independently to Halifax. (3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection. (4) Admiralty will promulgate route. (D.O.D.(H), 2030A/20 to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.S. 11. STAD HAARLEM. Your Oll5/20. Cancel my 1159/19. (C. in C. W.A., 0706A/20 to Admty.) Arrived Clyde STAD HAARLEM ex K.M.S.ll. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1930/20) STAD HAARLEM returned Clyde escorted by BRYONY. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1714A/20)

Local Authorities anxious to send about 21 Russians including about 15 women and children Passengers from North Russia. to U.K. in the next convoy. But only 4 berths available due to repatriation of merchant seamen

survivors from ships damaged in harbour. As it is still our policy to allow Russians into our country may about 17 merchant seamen take passage in H.M. Ships to enable all Russians to go in convoy. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0825A/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

S.C.122, CARRAS. ZAMALEK. C. in C. W.A's 1643/19. Sailed JONQUIL, Tug SAUCY.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 0830A/20)

Ships for Iceland will be diverted to Loch Ewe (2) INGHAM, BABBITT and UPSHUR are to leave S.C.122 and H.X.229 at daylight tomorrow and proceed to Londonderry to land survivors and replenish fuel and depth charges. (3) Report without delay number of

survivors on board and from which ship rescued. (C. in C. W.A. 1405Z/20) My 1405/20 and 1409/20. N.O.I.C. Aultbea

N.O.I.C. Aultbea is to sail ships to Iceland when ready, escorted by INGHAM, BABBITT and UPSHUR.

(C. in C. W.A. 1410Z/20)

Propose to detach ZAMALEK escorted by GODESA at daylight tomorrow for Clyde. ZAMALEK has urgent Hospital cases and GODESA 180 survivors.

(HAVELOCK, 1550Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 1643/19. CARRAS not now considered salvageable. At 0827/19 BUTTERCUP informed me that she could be saved. Subsequently he modified his opinion, but owing to S/M situation omitted to inform me until he had decoded Cdre. Londonderry's 0830/20.

(HAVELOCK, 1612Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Your / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (cont)

Your 1550/20 approved.

S.C.122. CARRAS. ZAMALEK. (Contd.)

(C. in C. W.A., 1956A/20 to HAVELOCK) Return to base, JONQUIL to Londonderry, SAUCY to Campbeltown. (C. in C. W.A., 2158A/20 to JONQUIL) Your 1420Z/20. Should merchant ships for Iceland be sent to Loch Ewe and American escorts detached to Londonderry. (C.T.U. 24.1.19, 2224Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 2158A/20. My P.C.S. at 2300A, 055° 03' N. 011° 26' W, 222° or 268° 10.

(JONQUIL, 2310A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

HORORATA. Both evaporators defective, must receive 50 tons water from S.S. HORORATA today. Request Air protection p.m. today. My P.C.S. O48° 17' N. 019° 26' W. 007°, 13 knots. (BURWELL, 0930Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 0930/20. Regret no aircraft available.
(C. in C. W.A. 1210A/20 to BURWELL) Alter forthwith for (G) omitting (F) (C. in C. W.A. 1853A/20 to BURWELL)

S.C.121. COULMORE.

E.T.A. Towarip Point 1900A/20. Request tugs meet COULMORE. Impossible to use ship's anchors. (SAMSONIA, 1000A/20 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Clyde arrivals S.S. COULMORE in tow of tugs SAMSONIA and EMINENT. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1828A/20).

Station of A/C Carriers in Atlantic Convoys.

It is intended that when an aircraft carrier is with a convoy she should take up a position astern of the escort oiler in Commodore's column and that remaining positions in this column should not be filled up. Aircraft carriers may be operated with any trans-

Atlantic convoy from early April and observing that remaining positions in Commodore's column are normally filled up by important ships which

it would be undesirable to move, it is requested that instructions be issued that in every trans-Atlantic convoy except for Commodore and escort oiler no other ship should be given position in this column on the A one form. (3) When a carrier is not present the Commodore should fill up the gap at his discretion. (4) Admty are requested to make similar arrangements with C. in C. U.S. Fleet and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa D.C. Convoys.

(C. in C. W.A., 1015A/20 to Admty.)

JOAQUIN MILLER / ...

810 11-20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

JOAQUIN MILLER.

S.S. JOAQUIN MILLER reported as having been aground on Haisborough and now proceeding South. Vessel has apparently broken convoy and if encountered is to be brought to Southend. M.L. from Yarmouth may be in contact and should be ordered to return to Base. Estimated position at 1100 in the vicinity of number four buoy. (C. in C. Nore, 1052A/20 to FERNIE).

My 1800/8 and 2035/14. Following tankers have been selected to sail as escort tankers in O.N. 174. GULFWING, FAGERFJELL. (D.T.D., 1146A/20). 0.N.174.

Admiralty's 2212/18. para. 3 concur. Request Escort you will comply. (C. in C. W.A. 1211A/20 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) Oilers for Atlantic Convoys.

A.M.1408/14. Ships from East Coast ports for O.N.S. O.S. and O.G. Convoys are now to be routed to Oban. 0.N.S, O.S, and 0.G. (D.T.D., 1359A/20) Convoys.

Intend sailing transports PRAGUE and AMSTERDAM PRAGUE. at 0428/24 from Cromarty 17 knots routed Q.Z.S.150, 552, to 55 buoy thence 5 miles East of Fair Island. E.T.A. Lerwick 1528. Request escort and fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 1551A/20 to C. in C. Rosyth) AMSTERDAM.

My P.C.S. at 1400Z, 054° 20' N. 019° 27' W. 064° 14.5. Expect to join during night. H.X.229. MV R/T transmitter out of order. (SHERBROOKE, 1600Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.) H.X.229. Survivors on board ANEMONE 158, PENNYWORT 127, BEVERLEY 31, VOLUNTEER 68. Intend to detach TEKOA at daylight 21st in about 014° W. ANEMONE, PENNYWORT, escorting to 007° W, thence proceeding to Londonderry. (HIGHLANDER, 1602Z/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

EMPIRE JILL.

EMPIRE JILL is sailing from Barrow for Portsmouth on 23rd March with an important cargo. (2) Requested you arrange escort. (D.O.D.(F), 1747A/20 to C. in C. W.A.)

Atlantic / ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Atlantic Convoy Support Groups.

To save time in getting important reinforcements to sea fully seized of Western Approaches orders and instructions etc. and in anticipation of their temporary transfer to my operational derry a.m. 22nd. or as soon as practicable after that date. Capt. (D) 17 will arrive Londonderry to meet these ships.

MILNE with PERRYLAND to arrive Liverpool by a.m. 25th March. Remaining destroyers to arrive Londonderry a.m.26th. If these movements are practicable I anticipate one supporting group should be available in the U-Boat danger area by 26th. and a second by 30th March. It will also assist if HALCYON and GOLIATH may be available at Milford Haven and ready for sea by 31st March. (C. in C. W.A. 1951A/20 to C. in C. H.F.) If the movements proposed in my 1951/20 are carried out

the following dispositions are intended. The dates given are those on which support groups enter the Eastern end of U-Boat area. 26 March one support group consisting of 6 Fleet destroyers. 30 March second support group of Western Approaches escorts. 30 March a second support group of five fleet destroyers. 11th April first support group of Western Approaches escorts. 20th April second support group of Western Approaches escorts. The three remaining Fleet destroyers from Home Fleet will be available as a small support group from 50 March to 9th April by which time they will be required as escorts for BITER, BITER should be ready for service about 18th April. HALCYON and SALAMANDER will be used in lieu of corvettes for convoy A of A.M.2006/19 March. The two corvettes gained from this convoy and four gained from Russian convoy will be used to temporarily augment 6 B and C escort group. (C. in C. W.A. 2258A/20 to Admty.)

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE should be ready to sail Clyde 26. March (2) Approximately 1000 personnel will be embarked at Tail of the Bank on 24. March and 25.March. (D.S.T. 2115A/20)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Shore Stations.

Watchkeepers. Resulting from a proposal received at Admty. that Watchkeepers in shore establishments should work in three watches, all authorities at home were informed that while it was considered that in many cases complements could be reduced to a

three watch basis, Admty. was not prepared to issue a specific general instruction to that effect, it being realised that a four watch system is often reduced to three watches on account of sickness, etc. 2. Cs. in C. and F.Os. I/C abroad are requested to give this matter their consideration and to take any steps practicable towards reducing the number of Watchkeepers in shore establishments in their Commands. (Head of N. Approved 2nd S.L., 1809A/20 to Cs. in C. etc.)

North Atlantic.

UNRULY After crossing 43.01 N. at 0500/22nd pass through following positions at time stated (T) 36.51 09.13 at 0235/26th. (U) 36.37 07.24 at 0045/27th (V) 35.53 06.15 at 0930/27th. (W) 35.49 18.06 06½ at 1020/27 thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87. All times zone minus 1 positions north and west. 2. S. of A. diving by day 103 miles per 24 hours after passing (U) proceeding on surface at your discretion at 7½ knots. Do not cross meridian 006° 40' W. before 0700/27th but thereafter increase speed to 10 knots.
3. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 0045/27th thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of 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. (F.O., Gibraltar, Ol2OA/20 to UNRULY (P.49), (R) F.O.(S) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3.)

HENGIST. L.C.T. Convoy.

L.C.T.19 Bone. Weather conditions worse. Am returning to Straits of Gibraltar with convoy. (HENGIST, 0545A/20 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.) See also 1725A/21.

MAYRANT.

Your 0404/20th (N.T. in W.D.) U.S.S. MAYRANT direct to proceed to rescue Catalina plane then rejoin convoy if practicable otherwise proceed to arrive Casablanca during day time. MAYRANT guarding Washington and Gibraltar schedule and 2333 kc/s. (C.T.F.23. 0620A/20 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Cmdr. Morocco Sea Frontier.)

/U/B ...

1 4

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U/B.

A.M. 0250A/20. Further bearings indicate position in vicinity of 42° 30' N. 11° W. (D.D.I.C., 0810A/20 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

EMPIRE PRIDE.

My 0045/19. (NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA escorting EMPIRE PRIDE.) Ships recalled and arrived Gibraltar 0825/20. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0919A/20 to Admty.)

K.M.S.11. K.M.S.ll, intend to sail ORKLA for Philippeville. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1043A/20 to Escorts K.M.S.ll pass to Cmdre. (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Admty., Connav.)

G.U.F.6.

Intend sailing to join TAMAROA 14¹/₂ knots, 134 feet. Request Pendant number and destination. Agreed -S.T.O. and M.W.T.R.

(F.O, Gibraltar, 1109A/20 to F.O.I.C. Oran S.N.O. Casablanca (R) Connav. etc.) Delayed, see 0953A/25.

W.S.28 ASHANTI.

Convoy W.S.28, 16 ships, will only have 4 destroyers escorting after parting company from K.M.F.11 2. ASHANTI estimated to be ready for sea

1700/20th. Should she be sailed as additional escort of W.S.28 to ?Prudent limit of endurance. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1112A/20 to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O. Force H. Capt. (D) 6.) Reply: Yes. (C. in C. Med., 1246A/20.)

1958A/20th. L.S.T. convoy, C.T.U.62, 35,33 10.13 to Gibraltar 8. 2. S/M ULTOR 39.12 10.35 155° diving by day 2, surfacing by night 8.2. 3. U.G. 6, T.F. (?63) 34.44 08.44 to Casablanca 9. Situation Reports. 3. U.G.S.

6, T.F. (?63) 34.44 08.44 to Casablanca 9. 4. U.G.S.6. Mediterranean section, 35.50 07.57 through 35.50 06.50 thence through (?Straits) 9½. 5. S.C.525, one M/V, (?31)3 09.58 coastwise to Agadir 6. 6. W.S.28, K.M.F.11, WREN 37.59 11.53 through 36.10 09.59 at 0700/21 thence W.S.28 proceeds 189° 12½ and K.M.F.11 proceeds (?097°) 12½. 7. BONITO, GRAYLING 11 small craft, 38.57 12.22 through 36.30 10.02 thence 103° 10. 8. One U.S. destroyer 31.47 11.28 to Casablanca 15. (F.O.C.N.A. 1135A/20.) My 1135A/20th add new paragraphs. (9) HAYDON and HOLCOMBE sailed 1330/20th, HAYDON to R/V one M/V in approx. 034° 43' 009° 05', HOLCOMBE to R/V one M/V in approx. 035° 52' 007° 50'. (10) MALCOLM, WITCH sail from Casablanca p.m. 20th to R/V W.S.28 at 0700/21st.

at 0700/21st.

(F.O., Gibraltar, 1422A/20) My 1135/20th and my 1422/20th add new para. (11) QUADRANT, WOLVERINE, sailed 1800/20th to R/V W.S.28 at 0700/21st 17¹/₂ knots. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1715A/20.)

Situation at 1955/20. (2) DZIK, 40.07 11.23 152° surface by night 7¹/₂ diving by day 2. (3) S/M SHAKESPEARE 41.01 10.34 through 40.01' 10.50 at 0500/21st' thence 158°. Surface by night 7, diving by day 2.

/(4)...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Reports (Contd.) L.S.T.A., C.T.U. (?24), 35.33 10.13 to Gibraltar 8. (5) X.K.3. VILLE DE QUEBEC 41.42 15.49 006° 6½. ANTELOPE returns Gibraltar at prudent limit of endurance. (8) S.L.126 PELICAN 027° 38' 014° 13' through 027° 58' 013° 30' thence 024° 7½. (9) K.M.S. (?11) BROADWAY 042° 21' 015° (?01') through 040° 01' 015° 01' thence 135° 7. (10) One U.S. Destroyer 031° 47' (?026°) 28' to Casablanca 15. (11) GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE (Corrupt group) 041° 20' 015° 37' 1.37°, 8. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1157A/20.) Area Y. Situation 2002A/20th. G.U.S.5, T.F.65, 28.01 28.30 270° 9. 2. UGANDA 32.59 25.20 through 26.10 23.14 thence southbound 18. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1236A/20.)

(V.A. Gibraltar, 1236A/20.)

R.S.3. Intend sailing for Freetown for Capetown EMPIRE ACE, EMPIRE DENNIS, EMPIRE OBERON; for Takoradi, SILVER BEECH; for Suez, EMPIRE CHUB: for Kilindini, ALLIGATOR, CROCODILE. Agreed M.W.T.R. and

S.T.O. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1153A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

W.S.28 K.M.F.11.

W.S.28 K.M.F.ll.
Request you will sail, MALCOLM and WITCH as necessary to R/V combined convoy W.S.28 K.M.F.ll in position (e) 036° 10' N. 009° 59' W. at 0700/ 21st. My 1220/20th refers. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1212A/20 to N.O.I.C.Casablanca.
(R) Admty., MALCOLM, QUADRANT (R.A.W.Af.) 745 Ships escorting

W.S.28 Escorts of K.M.F.11.)

QUADRANT, WOLVERINE, WITCH, MALCOLM R/V with combined convoys in position (E) at 0700/21st. (ii) Convoys are not to split until all escorts for W.S.28 have met. W.S.28 should continue with K.M.F.11 until escorts have met, then proceed to (F). (iii) K.M.F.ll is to stream paravane as convenient before crossing 07 West and recover as convenient after passing

crossing 07 webb and 101 (?Gibraltar). (F.O. Gibraltar, 1220A/20 to Ships escorting W.S.28, K.M.F. 11, for Commodore, (R) Admty., C.in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Casablanca.) Sailed QUADRANT, WOLVERINE to R/V and escort W.S.28. Q.L.A.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 1820A/20 to F.O.W.Af., (R) Admty., C. in C. Med. N.O.I/C. Casablanca ComarDakar.)

U/B attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 36.56 N. 02.09 E. only periscope sighted, and when first sighted was on course 340° estimated speed 4 knots. Attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 52 P/D, 1215/20.)

Gibraltar Landslip.

Very heavy land-slip last night on east side of Rock. 400 yards of Herbert Miles Road from 100 yards south of Forth Bridge to White Rock just

exclusive deeply buried. No casualties. No defences damaged other than wire. Probable considerable time to restore road communication. Completion and use of bulk petro storage system for R.A.F. will also be affected and possible

/delayed...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar	delayed.	Inform	Chiefs	of	Staff.
Land-slip.	(Govr., G	ibraltar,	1230A/	20,	to W.O.)
Contd.					

BALDUR.

R. German 61 arrived late 19th commenced loading 20th. Have arranged special night watch and will keep you informed. (Consul Bilbao, 1243/20 to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Your 1243/20th. Please do not include M.E.W. in these signals or make any reference in them to special arrangements. (B.N.A. Madrid, 2026/20 to Bilbao.(R) Admty.)

REDOUBT. Intend sailing REDOUBT on completion of repairs A.M./23 for Freetown at best speed. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1250A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., etc.)

HUNTER, STALKER.
HUNTER and STALKER arrived. (2) Request their future movements. (3) Intend HUNTER going to twelve hours' notice for 48 hours to make good defects. (4) Neither ship has aircraft to
operate on passage. Intend supplying two Swordfish to
HUNTER and loading both ships with damaged aircraft for U.K.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1320A/20 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)
Reply: C. in C. Med. 1653A/20.

Dinghy.

Royal (? Air Force) aircraft carried out search A.M. today for Dinghy reported by (?Air) Attache, Argentia, west of Sines. No result. (N.A. Lisbon, 1609A/20 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) Admty.)

VILLE DE
QUEBEC.One Focke-Wolf sighted at 1407Z my P.C. and S.
041° 20' 015° 48' 320° 6.5 altering at 1530 to
250°. Am being shadowed. Weather report.
(VILLE DE QUEBEC, 1613A/20 to V.A.Gib.)

ULSTER ULSTER MONARCH also sailed in convoy K.M.F.ll with MONARCH. 397 personnel on board for Gibraltar. (D.S.T. 2050A/20 to D.S.T.O. Gibraltar, (R) P.S.T.O. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements. Arrivals - ESPIEGLE, CADMUS, ALBACORE, from M/S Sweep. Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, M.L. 173 from cable operations in Straits. VERITY, VENOMOUS ex U.G.F.6. HAYDON, HOLCOMBE from Oran, HUNTER, STALKER from Casablanca. LOOKOUT from Algiers. Departures - HAYDON to R/V SS. BRISBANE STAR and escort to

/Gibraltar...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements. Contd. Gibraltar. (3 groups missing) ABUHZVOUS SS. CITY OF CAPETOWN and escort to Gibraltar. VENOMOUS to R/V and act as additional escort to U.G.S.6 to Oran. (F. O. Gibraltar, 2145/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

KENYA.

Intend sailing KENYA for Freetown at 0400/22nd March S. of A. 18 knots. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2303A/20 to F.O.C. West Africa, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

1. "

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ALMANZORA.

P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1233/18. My 2150/17 refers. Unless C. in C. S. Atlantic can arrange her outward movement to Durban ALMANZORA will have to turn round at Capetown. This would be inconvenient so far as onward conveyance of troops is concerned but would have to be accepted.

(D.S.T. 0135A/20 to P.S.T.O. Capetown C. in C. S.A.)

SONTAY.

My 0747/17. On the assumption, which appears possible, that SONTAY has to be used for this purpose, we will require to know urgently, to communicate to enemy governments, following information (details). 2. P.S.T.O. Capetown and C. in C. E.F.

requested to report. (D.S.T. 0459A/20 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. E.F.)

C. D. 9.

Arrived WAYLAND, CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY with Convoy C.D.9. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0714Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Situation

Situation at 1959Z/20th.

Reports. Reports. INKPEN escorting off Freetown to south east $10\frac{1}{2}$. DESPATCH about 006° Ol min 018° OO min to Freetown 19. CYCLAMEN, ARRAN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.Ls with T.S.33 about 004° 17 min 004° 54 min 265° 7. CILICIA on patrol about position 006° N.023° W, 14. 4 Allied naval units in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area. (R.A.W.A. 10167/20)

(R.A.W.A. 1016Z/20)

(R.A.W.A. 10162/20) SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S. 27 022° 00' S. 011° 45' E to 023° 00' S. 012° 30' E. thence to Capetown 12¹/₂ knots ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY with C.N.13 025° 45' S. 014° 30' E to Walvis Bay 8. SPHENE, INDIAN STAR, ARCTIC EXPLORER escorting BRITISH JUDGE 054° 30' S. 022° 15' E. to Capetown 6¹/₂ NORTHERN CHIEF 034° 20' S. 025° 30' E. to Capetown 10. HERTFORDSHIRE, ST. LOMAN, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN with C.D.10 031° 50' S. 029° 45' E. to Durban 8. CATTERICK, FREESIA, NORWICH CITY with D.N. 26 031° 10' S. 032° 50' E. to 033° S. 036° E. 8. CATTERICK returning to Durban at 23002 20 knots. LE TIGRE 031° 20' CATTERICK returning to Durban at 2300Z 20 knots. LE TIGRE 031° 20' S. 033 40' E. to join convoy D.N. 26 9. GENISTA 027° 05' 034° 30' to (St. Helena) 12. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 039° 00' 020° 20' to 040° 12' 142. QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND 039° 00' 020° 20' to Capetown 20. (C. in C.J. At. S. 1144C/20) Situation at 2004Z/20th.

Situation at 2004Z/20th. F.S. GAZELLE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ with D.69 about 019° 42' 017° 10' to north 4.9. BIRDLIP about 021° 00' 017° 30' to join D.69. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM with 0.S.44 019° 30' 018° 01' 180° 8¹/₂. BURDOC(?K) escorting about 020° 20' 019° 28' 237° 8. BUTSER 021° 22' 021° 32' 217° 7. ARETHUSA about 019° 01' 030° 01' 293.14²/₂. F.S. GLOIRE off Dakar 241° 20. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 011° N. 030° W. 15²/₂. FANDANGO escorting CONSBRO about 009° 42' 015° 20' 304° 4. HERO off Freetown to 011° 01' 017° 18' thence 385° 24.

385° 24.

(F.O.C.W.A.1146Z/20.)

/MELLO...

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20. 3. 1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

MELLO.

B.A.D. 2123/13th. If MELLO (Portuguese, carrying German Stowaways) intercepted intend to send her into Dakar or Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 1113/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.) Not approved (Admty. 1340A/21).

QUEEN OF BE RMUDA. F.O.C.W.Af's 1107/6 March.

Destination for QUEEN OF BERMUDA in U.K. is Clyde. 2. After disembarkation of passengers F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship to Southampton for conversion to Troop Transport.

3. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to QUEEN OF BERMUDA on arrival. (D.O.D. (F) 1121A/20 to F.O.C.W.A, F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Dispositions.

Weekly state of S.A. Stn. 20th March. To Sierra Leone with W.S. 27 SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER, Capetown to Walvis Bay with C.N.13

ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY. Cape area NORTHERN DAWN, WELLARD, CAPE WARWICK, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. Durban to Freetown QUEEN OF

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. Durban to Freetown QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Durban to Capetown. QUILLIUM, FOXHOUND, SPHENE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN CHIEF. Durban area HERTFORDSHIRE, ST. LOMAN, NORWICH CITY, LE TIGER, CHITRAL, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, QUALITY, GENISTA, FREESIA, CATTERICK, WAYLAND. LOURENCO Marques to Tulear, JASMINE M.Ls. 380, 382, 383, 829. Walvis Bay, NORTHERN ISLES. Saldanha Bay. FERNMOOR, SPINDRIFT, NORTHERN DUKE, DRANGEY, STELLA POLARIS, MANCHESTER CITY, CHALLENGER, FRITILLARY M.L. 830, Simonstown NORMAN, BLACKMOOR P. (?552) P.614 LADY ROSEMARY, ST. ZENO, M.L.381 M.L. 1150. Port Elizabeth, KHETI (A.S.I.S.) PACHECO (A.S.I.S.) CECILE MAPLESON. East London, SATSA, STORNWRACK. Durban EREBUS, NAPIER, CANTON, ROTHERHAM, WARSPITE, NIGELLA, PRUDENT, LADY ELSA, VIVIANA, MEAD, SONDRA, SARKA. (C. in C. S.A. 1146C/20 to C. in C. E.F. etc.) Weekly state West Africa Station, 20 March. Cape Blanco

Weekly state West Africa Station, 20 March. Cape Blanco Area. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM (with 0.5.44) BURDOCK, Cape Verde Is. area, ARETHUSA. Freetown area. DESPATCH, CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, HERO. Freetown, CORINTHIAN, BOREAS, BRIDGEWATER, HYDRANGEA, PETUNIA, CROCUS, THYME S/M. P. 615. Takoradi area CYCLAMEN, BELLWORT, ARMERIA.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1416Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

GLOIRE,

French Cruiser GLOIRE leaves Dakar at 19COZ/20th. Patrol. March to patrol area bound by following points. (A) 009° 01' N. 028° 00' W. (B) 007° 01' N. 026° 00'W. (C) 005° 01' N. 030° 00' W. (D) 007° 58' N. 030° 28' W. estimated speed making good 19' knots. Anticipate French Cruiser GLOIRE will leave patrol on 24th March

to return Dakar. (F.O.C.W.A. 1150Z/20 to Admty. (R) CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA, GLOIRE, Comar, Dakar, Comsolantfor.)

/RACEHORSE ...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

RACEHORSE.

RACEHORSE. Sailed RACEHORSE by route R.9 to position (D) 034° 35' S. 025° 28' E. thence Simonstown through position (E) 034° 55' S. 019° 50' E. S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. 0830Z/22nd. (ii) Shifting to group S.L. at 2300Z/20th. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1151Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival 19th U.S.A. Tender. HUMBOLDT, Brazilian Light Cruiser BAHIA, minelayer CABEDELLO CAMAQUAM. Bahia. (R.O. Bahia 1232Z/20 to Admty.)

HERO.

Arrival 1710/19th March.

(S.O. (I) Freetown 1341Z/20 to Admty.) 1. Intend to sail HERO at 1700Z/20th March for Gibraltar

for onward sailing to U.K. HERO refuelling at Bathurst. 2. Route Bathurst. A. Oll' Ol' N. Ol7° 18' W. B. Ol3° 13' N. Ol7° 22' thence Bathurst estimated speed made good 22 knots, E.T.A. Bathurst 1400Z/21st March. 3. (Route Bathurst to Gibraltar.) estimated speed made good 19 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200Z/25th March.
4. HERO shifts W/T around 1600A/23rd March.
5. A.M. 1732/7th refers. (F.O.C.W.A. 1443Z/20 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst. C. in C. Med. HERO (? C. in C.W.A.) C. in C. Portsmouth. Com. Dakar, \$.N.O. Casablanca.)

EMPRESS OF Ref. torpedoing of EMPRESS OF CANADA, following points arise. CANADA (sunk 13 March)As far as known, no other fast transports proceed-ing at 17 knots and over unescorted have been torpedoed except DUCHESS OF ATHOLL, LACONIA,

ORONSAY, and ORCADES, who were all casualties between Capetown and Freetown northward bound. 2. Whilst this may be pure coincidence and bad luck possibility of leakage of information on this route exists. Survivors suggest security in South Africa bad, and further suggest that Italian military doctor who had complete liberty on board could have homed U-boats onto ship. This officer was taken on board U-boat. There is no real evidence to support this story but consider steps should be taken to prevent any possibility of such an occurence. 3. EMPRESS OF CANADA was diverted by my 1047/11 232/11 (1) and 1030/13 and torpedoed at 2359/13. Request possibility of compromise of general security of one-ship tables be considered. (F.O.C.W.A. 1418Z/20 to Admty.) Reply: Admty.1301A/26, p (035

BENALDER, MASTERFUL, SARABANDE.

Your 1606Z/14th. If SARABANDE can be made available as escort propose sailing BENALDER in tow of MASTERFUL 1800Z/23rd to Walvis Bay. S. of A. 5 to 6 knots. Agreed M.O.W.T.R. Takoradi. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1501Z/20 to F.O.C. West Africa (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc.) Reply 10182/21.

3.4

820

20. 3. 1943. Saturday.

War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

RACEHORSE. (N.O.I.C. Durban 15112/20 see 1521B/21).

Transports.

Your 2150/17 para 2

It now appears that unless further India personnel are diverted to Mideast STRATHMORE, STRATHAIRD and CAPETOWN CASTLE will have to sail with vacant accommodation for Suez, amounting to 3500.

2. Request confirmation on that above interpretation is correct. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1520C/20 to D.S.T.) Reply 0514A/23.

- DESPATCH. Present position 005° 03' N. 018° 32' W. E.T.A. 1030Z/21st. Weather report. (DESPATCH 1600Z/20 to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Admty.)
- UGANDA. Route from J, 26.10 N. 23.14 W. to K, 09.01 N. 18.11 W. thence Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 1605Z/20 to UGANDA (R) Admty, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)
- MEMPHIS, DAVIS. Arrival 20th March U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. (R.O. Pernambuco 1801Z/20 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O. (I) Freetown).
- INKPEN. Departure 1000/20th March, INKPEN escorting WILLIAM GASTON U.S. to Robertsport. (S.O. (I) Sierra Leone 18112/20 to Admty. (R) R.O. Monrovia.)
- ARMERIA. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1815Z/20 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)
- ST. LOMAN. ST. LOMAN returned to East London for repair to defective condenser tube and main dynamo. (N.L.O. East London 1838Z/20 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy W.S.28. (D.S.T. 2055A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.) Following troop transports sailed from U.K. on 16 March in Convoy W.S.28. (Pendant numbers not included as convoy will be reorganized by Commodore after departure of K.M.F.11):-List, destinations. Personnel on board. (D.S.T. 2210A/20 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

/ARETHUSA...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ARETHUSA.

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Sailed St. Vincent C.V. 2100Z/20th. E.T.A. Bermuda 1100Z/27th. Speed made good 15 knots. Intend shifting to Washington broadcast 1200Z/23rd Admty. pass to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.A. Cdr. E.S.F, B.A.D, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet. (ARETHUSA 2101Z/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.)

FELIX ROUSSEL. P.S.T.O. India's 0655/12. Presume you will embark up to 500 P.O.W. in FELIX ROUSSEL for U.K. (D.S.T. 2124A/20 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D.S.T.O. Durban.)

1.54

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

My P.C. and S. at Ol00/20th 032° 42' N. 023° 15'E. 125° 142 knots. TETCOTT. (TETCOTT, 0102B/20 to A.I.G. 72.)

Enemy Unit. Following received Addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C CXC/K. P.C. and S. of enemy 39.30 N. 17.05 E. 300° 7. (Alexandria, OlO5A/20 to Admty.)

K.M.F.11.

Convoy K.M.F. 11 sailed from U.K. 16th March comprising following troopships (list, 8 ships,

personnel on board etc.) 3. RANGITATA after disembarkation etc. at Algiers should proceed to Casablanca via Oran to join G.U.F. convoy for New York. A.M. 1802/21/2 refers. All other vessels should return direct to U.K. (D.S.T. 0146A/20 to P.S.T.O. Med.)

K.M.F.11. Onward route from position E to F. 35.49 N. 07. Ol W. through Q.K.A.87 to G. Europa Point position 57 at 0001A/22nd where Gibraltar section detaches with local escort. S. of A. 13¹/₂. 2. From G. through 73,80 and 20, 36.52 N. 03.05 E., letters H to L omitting I to Algiers. E.T.A. 0800A/23rd. No ships for Oran. 4. Fighter protection priority 1 3. Codeword "Sateen".

(C. in C. Med., 1057A/20 to WREN escorts of Convoy K.M.F. 11 (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admty, Connav.) See also 2130A/20.

T.E.19.

Arrivals. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0255A/20 to N.O.I.C. Algiers.) (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1130A/20 to C. in C. Med.)

OVULA. OVULA has boiler defect unable to proceed any

OVULA has boiler defect unable to proceed any further. I am in the vicinity (standing by (?) and have ordered HURWORTH to proceed to R/V remainder. My P.C. and S. 034° 37' N. 014° 58' E.
OlO° 10½ knots. Request codeword and fighter escort. Have retained one fighter from "Liquid" escort. E.T.A. 1500A.
(PETARD, 0700A/20 to V.A. Malta (R) S.N.O. Inshore Sqdn.
Eastern Med., N.O.I.C. Libya.) Arrived PETARD and QUEEN OLGA with OVULA (tanker).
(V A Melte 1636/20 to Admite C in C. Levent

(V.A. Malta, 1636/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med. C. in C.Levant,

Arrivals 19th March. Greek Destroyers PINDOS, Movements PAUL CONDOURIOTIS, French Sloop COMMANDANE DOMINE. Alexandria. Departures 19th March. WOLBOROUGH, JAVELIN, ISIS, Greek Destroyer SPETSAI. Arrived and sailed 19th March, ORION, JERVIS, KELVIN. (S.O. (I) Alexandria, 0914B/20 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

/Bi...

823

20.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bi Weekly Opsum No.109 Part 3. 18 Mar. 17 B.24s despatched to make last light attack on shipping and harbour installations at Naples. 2 aircraft returned early 3 brought bombs back. Remainder found Naples almost completely hidden by low cloud. Bombs were dropped on harbour through cloud but no results

observed except 1 medium fire in town area. 1 B.24 landed Malta 1 B.24 missing. 708 - 500 lb H.E. at 1730 hours. 19 Mar. Low cloud prevented offensive operations. Hospital ship carrying Italian prisoners of war to Turkey for repatriation reported bombed. 1 Italian aircraft believed Cant Z 1007 about 80 miles South of Cyprus. No damage.

(H.Q.R.A.F. M.E., 0918Z/20.)

P. 54.

Arrived. (V.A.Malta, 1026A/20 to Admty. etc.)

Pass to N.C.Os. M.K.S.10, intend to sail (list M.K.S.10. 4 ships.) (N.D.I.C. Philippeville, 1031A/20 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

M.Ls.

19th March, arrival M.L. 384, M.L. 1038, departure M.L. 350. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 1035B/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

BIRGIT (German.)

My 1732/19. (N.T. in W.D.) German BIRGIT arrived 20th in transit for Constanza. Confirmed vessel formerly Danish, tonnage corresponds. Perkins states there is no claim on this vessel.

(R) S.O. (I) Levant, D. of N.I.) Comment:- BIRGIT is ex Danish 1971 G.T. and was run under the name of STE ETIENNE by Vichy before she was handed over to the Axis about October 1942. She was reported to have arrived Genoa from Marseilles some time before 15th December under German flag, and at Piracus on 12th March.

P.R.U.

March 20th, Visuals. 0840, Taranto, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1136A/20 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. March 20th visuals. 1600 Taranto 2 battleships 3 cruisers.

(V.A. Malta, 1813A/20 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy Units.

Following sights by Spitfire. (1) 0920A/20th, l large and 2 mediam M/ships l destroyer off Paola course 350° 9 knots. (2) 0940/20th, l large M/ship 1 escort vessel leaving Messina course 25° 10 knots. (Capt. S.10, 1223A/20 to 8 S.F. (R) Capt S.8. C. in C.Med.)

/Following...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Contd.

Following sights by Spitfire this afternoon (1) 1335 7 miles South of Scalea 3 (three) merchant ships one destroyer coast crawling North 5 knots. (2) 1530 10 miles North of Scalea one fully laden small Merchant ship coast

crawling South. (? omitted, 1713A/20 to 8th S. F. (R) Capt. (S) 8 C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10.)

Your 1112/20th, (ASHANTI to be sailed as additional escort to W.S.28.) Yes. W.S.28 ASHANTI. (C. in C. Med. 1246A/20 to F.O. Gibraltar.)

Onward routeing pass 038° 08' 007° 59' at 2100/20th SAHIB. and then proceed course 75° to patrol in zone D. (Capt. S.8., 1258A/20 to (P.212) SAHIB. (R) 8th S.F. RORQUAL Capt (S) 10.)

Pass 038° 45' 009° 35' at 0100/21st thence through 037° 58' 003° 49' at 0001/23rd to R/V escort in 036° 58' 003° 11' at 0630/23rd. TURBULENT.

(Capt. S.8., 1320A/20 to TURBULENT (R) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10 C. in C. Med.)

Your 1046/19. Swiss Legation have been requested to bring the incident to the immediate notice of Bombing of TALMA the Italian Government. with (Head of M.I., 1445A/20 to C. in C. Levant, (R) N.A. Ankara.) Italian repatriates.

E.T.15.

Algiers Section arrived less TRITON. Ships sailed as in my 1546A/17th less CLAN MCINNES, LIBERIAN, ZAAN. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 1540A/20 to N.O.I.C.'s Bone Philippeville, Bougie, F.O.C. Gibraltar, etc.)

PARTHIAN. PARTHIAN leaves 000° Rasbig 5 miles at 1800B/21st March routed through A. 034° 34' N. 029° 57' E. at 1800B/22nd. B. 035° 37' N. 027° 51' E. at 0430B/23rd. to operate in Aegean East of line running 326° from 035° 20' N. 026° 54' E. to latitude of Cape Doro with freedom of action (?North) of this latitude. S. of A. 11¹/₂ knots proceeding on surface during daylight 22nd March. (Capt. S.1. 1553B/20 to C. in C. Levant (R) R.A.(D) Med. C.F.E., Capt., (S) 10, G.S. PAPANICOLIS.)

/TRIDENT...

825

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIDENT.

Leave patrol passing 038° 57' 000° 15' at 2230/21st 038° 34' 000° 40' at 0130/22nd 038° 18' 002° 50' at 2230/22nd, thence R/V with escort

Algiers in 036° 58' 003° 11' at 0630/23rd. 2. TURBULENT from N.E. arrives same R/V at same time. 3. All position N. and E. (Capt. S.8., 1604A/20 to TRIDENT. (R) 8th S.F. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers.)

Situation Report Black Sea. l. Sea (A) No fleet activity to report (B) No report of (S/M?) successes received but patrols are still being carried out. 2. Air (A) Russia aircraft continue attack enemy troops etc. and ports in Taman and Kerch Peninsulas. 2. F. barges have been sunk and two Junkers 88 and one M.E. 109 destroyed. 5. Tuapse. All wharves, moles, have been damaged and breakwaters have breaches in them. One minesweeper and one merchant vessel sunk at loop end of harbour. A tanker was on fire (? outside) harbour on March 13th and still burning March 15th. Port does not appear to be in use. (N.L.O. Black Sea, 1630C/20 to Admty., C. in C. Med. Admiral Miles, N.S.O. (I) Istanbul.)

SIBYL, TORBAY. Your escort will be RONALDSHAY. 2. TORBAY leaving Algiers 1830/20th through 038° 10' 003° 09' thence 090°. (Capt. S.8., 1644A/20 to P.217 (SIBYL))

HUNTER, STALKER. Your 1320/20th. Request you will sail HUNTER and STALKER to U.K. in M.K.F.ll. (C. in C. Med., 1653A/20 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.(R) Admty.)

ARGONAUT. Your 1344/13. Intend to sail ARGONAUT independently via Ponta Delgada and Bermuda. Expected date of arrival at refitting port 15th April. (C. in C. Med., 1702A/20 to B.A.M.R. Washington. (R) Admty.,F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements 20th March Port Said arrived SPETSAI, WOLBOROUGH. Port Said. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1803B/20 to Admty. etc.)

MALAYA. Cancel para 3 of A.M. 2351/16th Feb., not to S.O. Force H. MALAYA is to remain under your command temporarily and for the time being may be attached to Force H. 2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to MALAYA. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) (O.D.1069/43), 1815A/20 to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C.H.F., etc.)

/WEST...

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

WEST POINT.

Have following to embark ex Middle East in WEST POINT. 3. Request confirmation these personnel may be embarked in view B.A.D.'s 1809/18/3 para. (3) (N.T. in W.D.) (P.S.T.O.M.E., 1815B/20 to D.S.T.) U.S. Authorities agree (B.A.D., 1617/21.)

Movements. Arrival 20th March M.L. 384, M.L. 385, departure 20th March CUMBRAE G.D. AETOS, M.Ls. 350, 384, Haifa. 385, ABDIEL. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 1857B/20 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Situation report No. 13.

Tripoli (L) 12 enemy aircraft attacked harbour 1955 19th March without warning, all important telephones having been cut shortly before raid. British OCEAN VOYAGER and Greek VARVARA hit and

sunk, 6400 tons of petrol and ammunition remaining in these ships being destroyed. DERWENT hit after raid by one of large explosions from these ships, both boiler rooms flooded and ship beached. Four aircraft destroyed by A/A defences, one of which crashed on OCEAN VOYAGER. About 25 bombs fell in harbour area, circling torpedoes suspected. Details awaited. Para. 2. My 1950 18th March. Para. 3 KAYING foundered in heavy weather during night of 18/19th January (March intended.). Convoy of four merchant ships from Malta and five merchant ships and a tanker for Tripoli (L) on passage to Alexandria and Port Said. Para. 4. British TALMA under safe conduct with Italian Prisoners of war for exchange bombed by single Italian aircraft when south of Cyprus. No damage. My 1046/19th March refers. Admiral Cowan and Captain Walter are amongst 42 Naval officers returning. Part two my 1916 follows from C. in C. Levant. (not received in W.D.)

(C. in C. Levant 1916B/20 to Admty.)

Today's arrivals: ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL Movements, ULSTERMAN, OAKLEY, ZETLAND. Oran. (Com., N.O.B. Oran, 2010/20 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Algiers.

Arrived M.M.S.68, 81, LAPAGERIA, M.T.B. 635, M.L.338, French F.P.V. JARRET. Departures LOOKOUT, BICESTER, ROUSAY, M.M.S.9 S/M. TORBAY. (Cdre., Algiers, 2011A/20 to Admty. etc.)

AI.577 20th March C.S.R. Night 19th/20th March. Part 1 Offensive. 6. Intruder Mosquitoes made Malta Air Report. successful attacks on railway traffic in Sicily

and Southern Italy. 3 of the Mosquitoes patrolled over Southern Italy where the goods yards at Metaponto was set on fire, a large vessel off Metaponto strafed and damaged, and a fire caused in the station at Nocera 7 Wellingtons and 4 Albacores made armed searches Terinese.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Contd. for enemy shipping in the Rizzuto Palermo and Naples Areas but no good target was found. l special Equipment Albacore dropped 2 x 250 lb. bombs on 2 south bound F Boats 38° 35' N. 16° 37'E. but results were not observed. l Wellington

but results were not observed. 1 Wellington found 1 M/V 3/4000 tons escorted by 1 D/R 39° 30'N. 17° 06' E. course 300°. Wellington attacked with 1 torpedo which ran well but no results were seen. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2059Z/20.)

K.M.F.ll. Intend detaching WHADDON KRAKOWIAK and EGGESFORD after split to proceed Gibraltar to fuel, rejoining on completion. On their return intend detaching GOATHLAND, DOUGLAS and BADSWORTH to refuel, overtaking on completion. (S.O. 2nd Escort Group in WREN, 2130A/20 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals BROCKLESBY, ATHERSTONE, QUANTOCK, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE, MAN O' WAR. (F.O.I.S., 2143A/20 to C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Situation report No. 72. 1. M.T.B.s from Malta operated south of Marittimo during night 17th/18th March; no encounters. 2. On 18th March BICESTER and LOOKOUT carried out U-boat hunt in 37.23 N. 04.13 E. and O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA in 37.04 N. and

05.07 E. No successful result. 3. 20th group were attacked by 6 aircraft north of Cape de Garde whilst sweeping on 18th March, one aircraft shot down by NEGRO. 4. TAURUS reports sinking by gunfire 100 ton sailing vessel off Villefranche at 1501/2. At 1721/10 sank 2,000 ton ship off Sete with torpedo, and at 0932/13 sank tug and lighter by gunfire near Toulon. (C. in C. Med., 2200A/20 to Admty.)

SOUTHERN SEA. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2222B/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 medium vessels 40.12 N., 14.06 E. 345° 8 knots. (A/C KT 1 via Alexandria W/T, 2242A/20.)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Disguised Raiders, Procedure for H.M. Ships.

Request reply to my 0922/3rd January. (C. in C. E.F., 0552Z/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

Departure 0230Z HAWKINS. Arrival 0600Z CAPETOWN. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0606Z/20 to Admty.) Arrival SCOUT. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0625Z/20 to Admty.) FROBISHER arrived.

(F.O.C. E.Af., 0821Z/20 to Admty.) Departure SITAKHOOND. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 0900Z/20 to Admty.) Colombo departures 20th 0830Z HOXA. (F.O. Ceylon, 1200Z/20 to Admty.)

B.P. 721

Karachi portion B.P. $72\frac{1}{2}$ sailed 1030Z/20th to R/V 0251Z/18th from N.C.S.O. Karachi refers to PUNJAB 0155Z/20th amending E.T.A. BELPAREIL knots 11, 22 23 Ind. Ship 7. (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 1039Z/20 to Admty.)

India Air Report.

(B) Offensive R/C 19th March. 4 Hurricanes sank tug and damaged lighter Myingyan. (A. H.Q. India, 1100Z/20 to Air Min.)

Passengers.

Numbers of / Following relaxations to rulings given in A.M. 1140/16th are authorised for East Indies Station. (a) 12 knots and over but less than 15 knots, unescorted.

(b) Passenger certificate or 75% of boat's capacity which ever is the greater.

(c) 250 of each service.

in C. E.F. to be informed on each occasion. C. (2) No limitation other than that imposed by passenger certificate or 75% of boat's capacity which ever is greater to be placed on numbers travelling in ships employed on Indian coastal trade, and on "Pilgrim" traffic in Red Sea, Persian Gulf, and Arabian Sea.

(3) Naval authorities are to inform N.C.S.Os., S.T.Os., military and R.A.F. authorities in their areas of above traffic. (C. in C. E.F., 1441Z/20 to E.I. Station 190C, (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Requirements for movement of essential personnel have recently shown a tendency to increase and number of ocean escorts in my command has decreased. (2) In order to meet anticipated requirements and at the same time to conform as far as possible with the rules laid down in your 1140/16th I consider that following relaxations are necessary in East Indies Station as a matter of permanent policy.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Numbers of Passengers. (Contd.) Your 1140/16th para. 10 refers. (3) and (4) (Relaxations quoted in paras. 1 (a), (b) and (c) and para. 2 of 1441Z/20.) (5)Relaxations in para. 3 required since nearly all ships continually operating in East Indies Station for which troop accommodation is needed

are under 15 knot ships but in most cases 12 knots or over. (6) Some of these movements carry ships into adjacent stations and agreement of C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Levant, and A.C.N.B. is therefore requested. (7) Intend to employ above relaxations pending your further

decision in this matter. (C. in C. E.F., 1447Z/20 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.

R.S.F., C. in C. S.A., N.B. Melbourne, F.O.C.R.I.N.) Concur, in para. 3. (A.C.N.B., 0330Z/23.)

Eastern Fleet Bases. JAN DE WAELE. Review of staff requirements for Eastern Fleet bases which you will receive shortly confirms interim information regarding Addu Atoll boom defences vide my 1856A/3. (2) Request therefore you will sail boom trawler JAN DE WAELE to Levant as early as practicable.

JAN DE WAELE to Levant as early as practicable. Expected date of departure to be reported. (Director of Boom Defence, Approved by A.C.N.S. (F), 2138A/20 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

H.X. and S.C. Your 1805/17. Our estimate for March presenters Convoys, is much less than your figure of 545. Understan Understand Sparks is sending details of New York Assembly proposed, direct to London. Canadian and Newfoundland leaders for four convoys commencing S.C.124

estimated at 49. Although the average per convoy is not expected to exceed 60 it is appreciated that bunching may occur. 2. Cominch concurrence in upper limit of 70 will be signalled as soon as obtained.

(B.A.D. 0025Z/20 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

T.A.38 B. (STIRLING CASTLE.)

STIRLING CASTLE as convoy T.A. 38 (B) sailed from U.K. 17/3 for New York. 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaff Washington and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.

3. She will load for U.K. in New York and return to U.K. via North Africa in U.G.F. 7. (D. of S.T. 0125A/20 to B.A.D. B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

SVEND FOYN distress (H.X. 229A.) Following is repetition S.O.P.A. Greenland despatch to FREDERICK LEE, ALGONQUIN, AIVIK. (C.O.A.C. 0130Z/20 to HASTINGS, (R) E.G.40.)

* See 2303/19. In view of submarine sighted vicinity G.S. 21 and despatch of ALGONQUIN, FREDERICK LEE and ?(AIVIK) AIVALITK from Greenland to assistance of SVEND FOYN C.T.U. 24.8.2 in STORIS follows at best speed. Direct MODOC proceed to

assistance SVEND FOYN.

(C.T. 24 0235Z/20 to C.T.U. 24.8.2. (R) Commander Greenland Patrol Cominch, C. and R. MODOC, TAMPA, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.W.A. C.C.N.F. C.O.A.C. E.G.40.) SVEND FOYN observed position at 1500Z/19 058° 38' N. 043° 10' W. Estimate drifting about 225° at one knot. Request phill compand in receve and calvage work he informed

ships concerned in rescue and salvage work be informed. (HASTINGS 0602Z/20 to C.T. 24. (R) N.S.H.Q. Cominch, C. and R. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet U.S. O.T.U. 24.8.2., C.T.Group U.S. 24.6. S.O.P.A. Greenland, ABERDEEN, C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

U.S. S/M Estimate 20th March. U.S. S/MNotice.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 0322/20, 0730/20, 1521/20, 1522/20, 1551/20, 1552/20, 1553/20.)

L.C.I.(L) 269.

Norfolk arrived 10th L.C.I. (L) 269. (N.S.H.Q. 0415Z/20 to Admty.)

/N.W....

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20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FORCIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

designation of Groups.

N.W.Atlantic Your 1714/15th March. It is preferred that Command British groups should retain their present desginations for the sake of tradition and continuity.

> 2. Concur in proposal to abolish U.S. Navy Task Unit Designation.

3. Your proposal to form 7 groups in order that 5 may be kept operational and to refit complete groups at a time is being examined.

4. At first sight it would appear that owing to damage repairs and the fact that no two ships require exactly the same amount of servicing the result would be to reduce the proportion of time spent by individual escorts on trade protection. 5. A further signal will be made. (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 0448A/20 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Cominch, C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

U/B.

Intercept by Kingston W/T from Hileah Florida Submarine contact 0500 G.M.T. 23° 18' N. 83° 00' W. (Kingston 0605R/20 to Admty.)

0.T.3. Sailing telegram. 1. O.T. 3. 2. Departure Aruba 2130Z March 20th. 3. Estimated time passing first ocean position 1530Z March 22nd. S.O.A. 12.5 knots. "Chop" date 40° W. 0330Z March 27th. "Chop" date 10° W. 0530Z April 2nd.

4. Blank. 5. Ocean route of convoys. All positions N. and W. C. 18.40 63.29 D. 20.55 55.45 E. 23.09 46.39 F. 24.52 36.20 G. 25.57 25.30 H. 33.55 18.10 J. 35.15 09.45 K. 33.59 08.05 6. T. Group Number 61.1. U.S. Destroyer DUPONT, U.S.S. DICKERSON, U.S. Destroyer ELLIS. 1. All ships are U.S. Flag.

11. Cargoes are as follows. (details.)

12. First port of arrival North Africa Port or Gibraltar. (C.A.F.A.C. 0700/20 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Connav, Admty. Cmdr. Carib. SF. U.S.N.O. Base at Trinidad, Pass to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) V.A. Gibraltar.)

My 1839/19th March. Add to departures U.S.S. STOCKTON escorting U.S.T. URUGUAY. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 0809Q/20 to Admty.) Movements, Bermuda.

Air Report.

20th March 2303. Enemy sightings 1 Hudson of 36 QT.U Greenwood sighted and attacked enemy U-Boat in (43° 19' or 32° 19'?)N. 65° 56' W. at 1541. C/T and periscope seen. A/C dropped 4 D/Cs. 30 feet ahead of swirl from height of 150 ft. 30 seconds after U-Boat submerged. No visible sign damage. (A.O.C.E.A.C. Halifax 0847/20 to Air Min.)

/Movements...

832

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements,	My 1615/19th U.S. S/M Chaser 497 returned for
Santa	engine repairs 19th.
Maria.	(R.O. Santa Maria 0910/20 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival 20th U.S. Destroyer BIDDLE. (Harbour Master Barbados, 0915/20 to Admty.) Arrival 20th U.S. P.C. 567 from Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados 1110/20 to Admty.)

Departure HAMILTON for St. Johns N.F. Arrivals NIAGARA, DUNDAS, BRANTFORD ex O.N. 170 KENORA ex S.C. 123.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax 1345Z/20 to Admty.)

Arrival 20th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA escorted by U.S. Ship Submarine Chaser 608.

(B.R.O. Georgetown 1900/20 to Admty.) San Francisco 17th U.S.A.T. TORRENS (Nor.) for Noumea. (N.S.H.Q. 2205Z/20 to Admty.)

C.U.1.

Departures 20th ATTACKER, GORLESTON (?NESS) and EXE escorting C.U.l. (S.B. N.O. Curacao 0930QR/20 to Admty. (R) S.B. N. O. W. At. B. A. D. N.S. H. Q. S. O. (I) Kingston.)

T.F.60.

Taskforce 60 Cmdr . J.H. Leppert constituted as follows:-Mindiv 17, P.Cs 559, 545, 626, S.Cs 696, 697, 639, 638, 676, 977. Y.M.S. 13,34, 82, 226, MAUMEE, ARAPAHO. Escort Convoy Tugs 6A consisting of 17 A.K.S.2

A.Os. plus 16 U.S. LSTS 8 British LSTS, 30 U.S. L.C.I.(L)s. to North African Ports and Gibraltar.

Follow route in Cominch (C. and R.) 151517. Operational control shifts from Cinclant to Admiralty at 40° W. long. and then to C. in C.Med. at 10° W. On arrival African Waters and when Escort duty completed Taskforce 60 dissolved. Then direct P.S.C. S.C.S.

Y.M.S.S. report Comnavnaw for duty and Mindiv 17 report Comnavnaw for temporary duty. Direct MAUMEE and ARAPAHO report Com Moroccan Sea-

From for dispatch to U.S. Waters as directed later by Me. Communications in accordance with Lantflt 8 A change 1. This is Cinclant 192121 to N.O.B. Bermuda for action Comnaveu (pass to Admiralty) Cominch, Comnavnaw Com Nowest Africa Seafrom Commoroccan Seafron for information; deliver these orders to Comdr. J.H. Leppert U.S.N. when he arrives Bermuda with Taskgroup 60.2. (Comnaveu 201022 to Admty.)

/Movements...

833

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary.

Ship. ARETHUSA		· 2810		Course 294°	Speed 14 ¹ / ₂
CARNARVON)	(posic	ion dou . 30°	W.	Patrol	Blank
CASTLE)	TT 1/			1 4 9 1 9 1	D T CHAR
CILICIA			w.	Patrol	Blank
DESPATCH		. 23°		Patrol	
CHESHIRE with)	34° S	• 49 ¹ / ₂ °	W.	075°	5
Floating Dock)					Sec. 1
FOLKESTONE)	a.10	10		0010	
WESTON }	242 1	. 51 ¹ / ₂ °	₩.	064°	11
TOTLAND	29 ¹ / ₂ ° N	6710	187	136°	10
21 L.C.I(L)s (D.O.D.(F) 1055					10
(D.O.D.(L) TODO	4/20 00	opnav	(A)	oumiaveu.)	

A/S WUB and MALABAR, proposed amalgamation. A/S WUB will soon be predominant naval activity in Bermuda with MALABAR a very small unit comple-mentary to it and therefore not justifiable as separate establishment. Division of requirements and resources causes unnecessary complications and

loss of efficiency. 2. Propose present MALABAR and A/S WUB be amalgamated in one establishment called MALABAR under command of C.O. A/S WUB. by relinquishing Command of MALABAR and disciplinary functions Admiral Tylor will be better able to perform his increasing duties in Dockyard and as Commodore in Charge Bermuda. 3. Request early approval so that change may be made before A/S base begins training. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 1314Q/20 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Attacks on U/Bs.	In view of the forthcoming change in command relations for the escort of H.X. S.C. and O.N.
re assess-	convoys, it is considered that it would be most
ment.	satisfactory if all assessments of attacks on
	U-Boats were made by Admiralty instead of Cominch.
	2. Request your comments.
	(N.S.H.Q. 1446Z/20 to Admty.)

Your 1826/3, B.A.M.R. 1600/18 re release of GREENWICH advise further on return of N.O.I.C. GREENWICH. from N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 1510Z/20 to F.O.N.F. (R) B.A.M.R. Admty. C.O.A.C.)

Solops 9. On 17th enemy shipping in Buin Area including one 8 inch Cruiser, 3 Destroyers and 6 Merchant Ships. Same day P.R.U. showed 48 fighters, 4 bombers and 2 floating planes at Kahili. 4 Fighters at Ballale and 5 Zero at Faisi. (B.A.D. 1541Z/20 to Admty. C. in C.E.F.)

/O.N. 172...

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

0.N. 172.

O.N. 172. E.T.A. Westomp O700Z/21st. Convoy speed 10½ knots. Your 1155/20th are SUMMERSIDE and (groups missed) St. Johns N.F., they have plenty of fuel to reach Halifax. Weather report. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13 1547Z/20 to C.T.F. 24. (R) F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. ST. CLAIR.)

J.I.V. accommodation. Nour 5039 cipher 9 March (1550R/9.) Admiralty considering question. (W.O. 1610A/20 to Cmdr..,North Caribbean Area.)

U.G.Convoys Schedule. My 1825/16. Amend last part para. 1 to read voyage duration 19 days. G.U.S. 6 sail Casablanca April 12. G.U.S. 6A April 23. Thence every 15 days. Cycle (?60) days. (Cominch C. and R. 1659/20 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

SNOWBERRY. My 1949/18. Request you notify B.A.M.R. SNOWBERRY'S E.T.A. Charleston. (C.O.A.C. 1741Z/20 to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. N.M.C.J.S. N.S.H.Q. B.A.M.R.)

BAZELY. Departed Boston 1400Q/20th en route for New York via (?Cape Cod) Canal Buzzards Bay (?and) Long Island Sound. Speed 12 knots. Guard 4410 k/cs. Request pilot at City Island. (Cmdr. North Atlantic 1855Z/20 to C.E.S.F. (R) Cominch, Admty. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, Cdt. 3rd N.Y.Nav. Dist. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.O.B. Newport.)

H.H.X. 230. 1. H.H.X. 230 sailing telegram. 2. Gate 1800Z/20. 5. As C.E.S.F. 2131/12. (C.O.A.C. 1901Z/20, 1905Z/20 to Admty.)

Atlantic Convoys Schedules, designations.

/ Following is C. in C.Atlantic Fleet 0339/20. Ref. Cominch 1540/18th. When the ships of Iceland (C) shuttle are relieved by the British, issue orders so as to accomplish the following: U.S.S. BABBITT, U.S.S. UPSHUR to proceed Londonderry and report to C.T.G. 24.7 to be included in escort group for U.C. C.U. conveys

in escort group for U.C. - C.U. convoys. Upon arrival of C.U.l in U.K. plan on basis that C.T.G. 24.7 will become Escort Control Officer at Londonderry for U.C/C.U.convoy escorts and will use numerical designation 21.2.3 for this purpose.

When U.S.S. DUANE and U.S.S. LEA are ready, direct them to report BOGUE for duty, DUANE about April 1st, LEA about April 15th. (Comnaveu 2007/20 to Admty.)

1 -

835

20.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & Mest Indies - Contd.

Sub attack and sighting summary.

All times Z. para. (C) D.D. 343 attacks sound contact 23.18 N. 83 W. 0400/20. Navy plane sights sub on surface 18.18 N. 69.32 W. 1628/20. A.T.C. Plane sights sub 02.50 N. 29.42 W. 1258/20. Plane sights sub course 110 06.51 S. 25.45 W. 1220/19. TICONDEROGA sights sub 11.38 N. 60.20 W. 2215/19. Para D. MONOMY attacks sound contact 41.40 N. 64.10 W.

p.m. 19th S.C. 1013 and S.C. 630 attack sub area 39.40 N. 71.30 W. about 2345/19. (Cominch 2023Z/20 to Admty.)

Surface vessel attacking S/M in 043° 29' N. 067° U/B attacked. 06' W. (C.O.A.C. 2045Z/20 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.) Considered non-sub. (C.O.A.C. 0044Z/21.)

J.S.M. 826 20th March. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 488 and 518. Information for Russia. Remarks on information for Russia. (J.S.M. Washington 2053Z/20 to War Cabinet Offices)

Air attacks on U/Bs. 14/15th March. Weight 350 lbs. B. Mark 17 Mod. 1. C. 25 feet. (B.A.D. 2057Z/20 to Admty.)

New York departed 19th L.S.Ts. 411, 413, 409,407 368, 367 and 323 to Bermuda. L.S.Ts. (N.S.H.Q. 2101Z/20 to Admty.)

WEST POINT, Polish families Your 1931/4 to D. of S.T. only. Is there any development regarding para. 2. We are anxious to use WEST POINT for Polish civilians if at all possible. in Persia 2. Your para. 3. It is unlikely that NIEUW for Mexico. AMSTERDAM will return to U.S.A. from the Indian Ocean.

3. Ref. P.S.T.O.M.E. 0922/3. Would there be any objection to embarking German P.O.W. if Polish civilians are not embarked. We presume that in any case Service personnel en route to U.K. can be embarked. (D. of S.T. 2127A/20 to B.A.D. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E. C. in C.E.F. S.S.T.O. Suez, F.O.R.S.C.A.) Reply B.A.D. 1617/21.

/St. Johns...

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 two/20th March

SECRET

From: B.A.D.

Date 21.3.43. Recd. 0405.

IT

Maval Cypher X Plug by cable.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated N.S.H.Q. B.A.T.M.

IMPORTATT.

St John's Base, Warship and M/V repairs.

182. Your 2340/6

Advantage has been taken of my visit to Ottawa to discuss St.John's requirements. Mr.Seal has also been present.

2. It is clear that by next winter there will be a critical shortage of repair facilities both for merchant and warships on the East Coast of Canada and Pewfoundland. N.S.H.Q. say that they can at present only foresee Maval facilities sufficient for their own/escort force. By next winter we must envisage not only a considerable increase of R.M. Escort Vessels requiring servicing, but also we hope a substantially larger number of Merchant Ships employed on Porth Atlantic run.

3. In view of rapidly increasing U.S.Escort Forces we cannot be sure of any substantial help in maintaining our escort vessels in U.S. Ports.

4. Seal has recommended, and I warmly concur, that a combined British, Canadian and U.S. Committee should sit forthwith to examine this problem as a whole embracing Merchant and Warship. repairs on the whole Eastern Coast North of the U.S. Canadian Boundary. We would bring in U.S. because of the necessity of making the most of Argentia' E.G. for A.V.G's, and to emphasise the fact that this is a problem which because it lies at the root of the successful prosecution of the war, concerns them as much as it concerns us.

5. As regards St.John's capecial problems, Seal reports that his discussions with the F.O.I.C. St. John, who has been prosent at Ottawa, have shown that the Harbour can hold up to approximately 50 Escert Vessels of assorted types, either alongside our new jettics or at Trots and 50 Merchant Ships mainly at Trots. H.S.H.Q. are at one with us in thinking that as first priority we must develope running repair facilities sufficient to ensure that 50 Escert Vessels can be turned round in the Port with minimum delay, without encreaching more than can possibly be avoided on the Fewfoundland Government Yard, which is primarily for emergency repairs of Merchant Ships.

'6. We cannot say yet exactly what additional facilities or personnel would be required for the above. With the additional men for the new facilities now projected, we think, however, there can be no doubt that we ought to proceed with the programme of Barrack and Hospital extension in my 1521 5th Feb. The training facilities involved in that programme ought I submit also to be put in hand.

-

. _ /7 If you

7. If you approve proceeding on the above lines, Seal, accompanied by Hunter and representatives of U.S.H.Q. proposes to fly to St. John's early in April to draw up an agreed scheme for the development of repair facilities and to finalise the Barrack extension, etc., proposals.

8. The total cost will be between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000, I.E. The \$3,800,000 in my:1521 5th Feb plus a margin for additional repair facilities.

9. In all our discussions the urgency has been apparent of proceeding at once if we are to be sure of additional facilities at St. Johns by next winter, when the real crunch is likely to come. It is obvious that the Geographical position of St.Johns makes it essential that it should be developed to the utmost, both as a base for running repairs for escorts, and a refuge port including emergency repairs for escorts and Merchant Ships. We should not, therefore, wait for the findings of the Committee proposed in Para 4 which can deal with the siting and development of the residue of our requirements.

10. M.S.H.Q. also say that we must order Lumber now if we are to get it quickly. There is apparently no system of priority allocation for Lumber in Canada. Request, therefore, immediate approval to order \$ 1,000,000 worth of Lumber as d first instalment, on the understanding that if the scheme is not approved, it will be used for other Government purposes.

22192/20. Air Branch. 1st Lord. D.T.D.(4) lst S.L.(2) D.T.D.(M) T. D.T.D.(C) D. of P.(3) D.F.S.L. D.P.S.(2) C.W.(2) 2nd S.L. 3rd S.L. D.T.S.D. C.E.in C. D.57.0.B. D.of L.D.(3) 4th S.L. D.J.I.(5) 5th S.L. W.G.F. V.C. M.S. D.J.C. D.M.S. A.C. M.S. (H) A.C. M.S. (F) A.C. M.S. (F) A.C. M.S. (UT)(2) A.C. M.S. (A) A.C. M.S. (W) E. in C. D.M.S.Citadel. D. 1./S.W. D. 1./S.M. A.S. (M. S) M. S. (6) D.of S.(3) D.W.R.N.S. M.F.(L) P/L. Civil Lord. M.D.G. D. M. A.O. Sec .-Ad. Blake.(4) D. A. W.T. Controller (M.S.R) D.A.M.R. Vice Controller (M.S.R.) D.C.F.A.E. C.C.C.S. I.P.(3) W.D. D.C.F.A.E. Dep.Contr.(3) P.A.S.(S) P.A.S.(PR) P.A.S.(F) L. 12 King C.E.in C. D.(4) D.M.C.(2) H.A. 2nd S.L.(2))Bath U.W.R. D.in C. by Ops. (3) O.D.(5) O.I.C.(2) M.(10)(fur action) D.of S. Courier. D. A/S. M. (2) M.F. P. D.M.R. S.W.R. D.M.B. 1.S.(C)

(2)

1128

DC .

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.

IN

835B

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date: 23.3.43. Recd: 2215.

1745Z/22 March.

NAVAL CYPHER (X) BY CAELE.

Addressed Admiralty. Repeated N.S.H.Q. B.A.T.M.

218. My 2219/20. Amend paragraph 2 second sentence to read as follows. N.S.H.Q. say that they can at present only foresee additional Naval facilities sufficient for their own increased escort force.

1745Z/22.

+ re. Visit of B.A.D. to Ottawa.

lst Lord. lst S.L. (2) D.F.S.L. 2nd S.L. 3rd S.L. 4th S.L. 5th S.L. C.E. in C. D.57 O.B. 5th S.L. V.C.N.S. D. A.C.N.S.(H) E A.C.N.S.(F) D. A.C.N.S.(F) D. A.C.N.S.(A) D. A.C.N.S.(W) A.C.N.S.(U.T.)(2) Civil Lord. D.N.C. E.in C. D. A/S.W. D. A/S.M. Sec. A.S. (M.S.) M.A.S. (6) Dep.Sec. M.A. Controller (M.S.R.) Vice Controller (M.S.R.) Vice Controller (M, S.R.) D.C.N.A.E. P.A.S.(S) D.M.A.O. P.A.S.(F) D.A.W.T. P.A.S.(P.R.) D.A.C.R. N.A.2nd S.L.(2) D.A.M.R. U.W.R. Ops.(3) O.D.(5) O.I.C.(2) M.(10) (for action) D.M.R. D.M.A.O. D.A.W.T. D.A.C.R.(4) D.M.R. D.M.B. A.S. (C) D.T.D. (4) D.T.D. (M) D.T.D. (C) D. of P. (3) D.T.S.D. D.T.S.D.

Air Branch N. D. P. S. (2) C. W. (2) D. of L. D. (3) D.N.I.(5) W.G.F. D.M.S. D.M.S.Citadel D.of S.(3) D.W.R.N.S. M.F.(L) P/L M.D.G. Ad.Blake (4) C.C.C.S. I.P.(3) W.D. Dep.Contr. (3) L. C.E. in C. D.(4) Bath D.N.C. (2) by E.in C.)Courier D.OI S. D.A/S.M.(2) M.F. P. S.W.R.

OMJ.

836

20.3.1943. <u>Saturday</u>.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

St. Johns (B.A.D. 2219Z/20 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.T.M.) Base Warship and M/V Repairs.

Australia & New Zealand.

0.W.3.

1. 0.W.3. (Sailing telegram.)
2. 0100Z/20th. 3. 0900Z/2nd April. 4. 10.5 knots.
5. X. 26° 40' S. 102° 00' E. Y. 12° 10' S. 83°
20' E. Z. 03° 55' S. 78° 40' E.
6. ADELAIDE to M.O.M.P. thence WORCESTERSHIRE.
(N.C.S.O. Fremantle 0205Z/20, 0210Z/20 to Admty.)

LE TRIOM-PHANT. F.S. LE PRIOMPHANT 2300Z/19 (Begins) On mission 0700Z/19. Sydney 2215Z/19. (Ends.) (Sydney 0329Z/20 to F.N.F.L. London (R) H.C.P. Tahiti.)

Movements.

Arrival Port Moresby 18th WARRAMUNGA 19th BOWEN Brisbane 18th Fremantle BUNGAREE. Departure Townsville 19th VENDETTA for Milne Bay. (A.C.N.B. 06392/20 to Admtv.)

(A.C.N.B. 0639Z/20 to Admty.) Hired Transport KATOOMBA arrived Townsville 20th March. U.S. Transport BANTAM departed Townsville 17th due Fall River 20th Hired Transport TAROONA departed Townsville 19th due Fall River 21st.U.S.Transport BONTEKOE departed Bowen 20th due Gladstone 21st.

(A.C.N.B. 1159Z/20 to Admty.) Departure Auckland ATREUS, E.T.A. Wellington 1900Z/22. (D.N.I.Wellington 2100Z/20 to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 423. 19th March. Morning R/C Fortress strafed large barge anchored inshore near Cape Gloucester where second Fortress later machine-gunned 4 small barges beached and third R/C Fortress dropped incendiaries fuel dump area afternoon. 2. Second aircraft also strafed small vessel Lorengau Harbour at noon.

3. Fourth search Fortress strafed 2 barges ashore Arawe before noon. Returned later and bombed area hitting possible ammunition store.

4. Night R/C sighted ocean going submarine 100 miles east of Lae

/course...

837

20.3.1943. Saturday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand

Digest Serial No. 423 March 19th. (Contd.) course 270° before midnight 18th. Ground observer reported submarine unloading Lae Harbour dusk 19th with 8 barges plying between ship and shore. Five B.25s attacked later scoring four direct hits from 75 feet with 500 pound 5 second delay bombs. Submarine exploded with terrific concussion.

6. Eighteen enemy bombers escorted by 32 zeros bombed Porlock Harbour (Papuan Coast) midday, damaging wharf and one launch. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0735Z/20.)

Solops 9.

(B.A.D. 1541Z/20 to Admty. C. in C.E.F.) See America and West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 1400A/20, 1406A/20.)

838

21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER and METEOR returned today to Plymouth from Operation "Regulation" and convoy protection on the U.K. - Gibraltar convoy route. NEWFOUNDLAND and METEOR sailed again at 1855A today after fuelling, for the same duties.

2. Air R/C reports that the NARVIK class destroyer and 2 T.Bs. have left Le Havre and 4 NARVIK destroyers are now in the Gironde.

North Atlantic.

K.M.S.11

3. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH was damaged when convoy K.M.S.ll was bombed this afternoon in about 39.28 N. 12.38 W. (about 160 miles west of Lisbon) After trying to keep with the convoy she made for Lisbon, but sank at 1900/22.

Mediterranean.

4. At 1502 today S/M SPLENDID in 38.15 N. 14.10 E. (E.N.E. of Cefalu, north coast of Sicily) fired 3 torpedoes at a damaged 3,000 ton eastbound tanker in tow. One hit was made and it is believed the tanker sank.

5. RORQUAL laid mines in the approaches to Trapani today.

Cyrenaican maintenance service.

6. P.S.T.O. M.E., in a message today gives some details of the maintenance service of the Army in Cyrenaica which has lately been re-organised.

/Air...

839

21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Air operations.

7. At Oll3 today a Wellington from Malta sighted in the Marittimo area in 38.04 N. 11.51 E. 8 unidentified vessels steering east and hit with 2 torpedoes a vessel believed to be a large destroyer.

Seven out of 10 B.24s bombed Naples last night; haze and cloud prevented detailed observation of results, but hits were seen on the moles and on the railway yards and ships were seen burning. 17 B.25s attacked Gabes.

Australia & New Zealand.

8. Before midnight today a Catalina attacked a vessel reported as a large destroyer 20 miles south of Gasmata and damaged the vessel, which was last seen trailing oil, heading north at 10 knots.

During the forenoon a reconnaissance Liberator sank by direct hit a 500 ton ship near the shore east of Cape Gloucester.

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 1111/19 as amended by my 1549/20 sailed (JUNON).

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 0704A/21.)

Submarines leave Scilly Isles at 1400A/24 diving by day 105 miles a day to 043° N. routed as follows

(A) SOKOL, "Red" E.T.A. 0630A/30. (B) UPROAR "Green" E.T.A. 1500A/30.

(Capt. S.3 1305A/21 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Position of submarines at O800A/22 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) HERRING in zone K.505 (B) SHAD in zone K.508.
(C) UNA 49° 23' N. 12° 35' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N.
12° 26' W. and 49° 30' N. 09° 00' W. daily advance 110 miles. (D) TEMPLAR escorted by COREOPSIS leaves Holy Loch 1230/22 through Minches and west of Orkneys. E.T.A. Lerwick 1000/24. (E) SOKOL and UPROAR escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leave vicinity Pladda Island 2300/22nd. Speed 10 knots, due 360° Round Island 7 miles at 14 0/24.

(F) JUNON escorted by LOCH MONTEITH vicinity Girdleness for Dundee.

(G) TRUCULENT 65° 15' N. 04° 27' E. probably on surface, speed
10 knots, through 69° 00' N. 09° 56' E.
(H) SEA MYMPH 65° 13' N. 05° 10' E. probably on surface, speed
9 knots through 68° 30' N. 10° 10' E.
(J) 0.14 escorted by M.L. 454 leaves Dundee 1200/22 for Independent

exercises and main engine trials in Tay Sanctuary returning to harbour a.m. 24th. 0.14 will keep to westward of Q.Z.S. 322 auring dark hours.

(F.O.S. 1734A/21 to Admty.)

North Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic Atlantic: Area Iceland (C) : HOWE, BELFAST, GLASGOW, 2 dispositions. destroyers. Area Scapa: KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, Area Clyde: FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE. Area Plymouth: NEWFOUNDLAND, ACHILLES, 2 destroyers. Area Milford: ADVENTURE. Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, KENYA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, ABDIEL, 7 destroyers. (D.O.D.H. 1220A/21 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

INDOMITABLE.

Arrived Clyde V.A.A.H.F. in INDOMITABLE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1443A/21.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1329/20. M gunboat patrol withdrawn. (C. in C.Plymouth 0344A/21 to Escorts P.W. 311.) My 1110A/20. "Device" returned to Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0748A/21.)

/Weather...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 53 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. between

(Contd.) Leaving Weymouth at 2000 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol line and leaving patrol line at dawn/22nd. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device." (F.O.I.C. Portland 1002A/21.) 1. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail the following force and give latest intelligence.

 M.G.Bs. 616 (S.O. 608. M.T.Bs. 243 (S.O.) 242.
 Object. Destruction of enemy shipping.
 S il from Newhaven at 2000/21 and proceed through passage two in Q.Z.X. 771 to sweep enemy coastal route between Le

Treport and Cap D'antifer. 5. Return. Through passage twoto grive off Newhaven by daylight. 6. Code word "Advent."

(C. in C.Portsmouth 1143A/21.) 2 M.G.Bs. and 2 M.T.Bs. from Newhaven patrolling to Southwards.

2. Chasseurs 11 (S.O.) and 13 patrollin Southward of E.A.5. 3. TANATSIDE and KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. M.L. 572 at St. Helens.

4. M.G.B. 54 (S.O.) and 53 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 1212A/21.) My 1002A/21. "Device" sailed 2000A/21. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2008A/21.)

Operation / It is urgent that METEOR should arrive with or "Regulation." soon after you. If METEOR is detached send MUSKETEER to relieve her.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1027A/21 to NEWFOUNDLAND.)

Arrived NEWFOUNDLAND, MUSKETEER, METEOR. (C. in C.Plymouth 1447A/21.) NEWFOUNDLAND takes METEOR under his orders. On completion fuelling at about 1830 today proceed by following route, S.O.A. to be not less than 18 knots.

2. Route after daylight Q.Z.mess: S 278 and 389 to position A. 50.10 N. 6. 01 W. B. 50.11 N. 20.01 W. C. 45.50 N. 22.02 W. 3. Object A. Operation "Regulation." B. Protection of convoys. 4. Movements from position C. will be ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. NEWFOUNDLAND is to detach METEOR to Plymouth when fuel shortage necessitates.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1553A/21.) NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR sailed for patrol. (C. in C.Plymouth 1855A/21.)

Carry out V.P.-X. 1. Through 062° 24' N. 003° 00' E. to patrol X, Operation V.P.-X possibly leaving through V. 2. M.T.Bs. 618 and 627. 3. Balta 0900A/22 or the first suitable day

4. Three. 5. No. 6. No. 7. 045° Out Skerries thereafter. 110 miles. (A.C.O.S. 1255/21 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Home Fleet Exercise completed. Exercise. (V.A.2 1420A/21.) Proceed to Scapa. (V.A.2 1435A/21 to C.S.1.) Hvalfjord arrival at 2127/21 C.S.10 in BELFAST. (A.C.I.C. 2157A/21.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/S Sweep. 2 Hudsons will be engaged on A/S sweep between 061° 30' N. and 062° 30' N. and 014° 00' W. and 019° 00' W. from 0930 until 1200. (A.C.I.C. 0421A/21 to Ships)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

• H.E. 111 flew low over "Vattarnes" 064° 56' N. 013° 40' W. at 0910/21 approaching from N.E. and disappearing course South. (A.C.I.C. 1041A/21.)

Mining.

Operation "Hostile." Request two M.G.Bs. of Force J may be sailed to arrive Plymouth by 25th March as provisionally arranged to take part in mining operation which will be known as operation "Hostile." (C. in C.Plymouth 1119A/21.)

4th M/S F. Intend parting company with 4th M.S.F. at sea about 1400 tomorrow and proceeding in KELLETT to Falmouth for onward routeing to Milford Haven. E.T.A. Falmouth 2100. (M/S 4 1846A/21 to C. ir C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Havre. Gironde. Air R/C report. Narvik Destroyer and 2 T.Bs. have left Le Havre 4 Narvik Destroyers now in the Gironde. (C. in C.Plymouth 1653A/21 to A.I.G. 31.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings of transmission obtained at Ol402 indicate that convoy X.K.3 or possibly convoy K.M.S. 11 may have been reported. 4,070 k/cs is a frequency hitherto unknown. (D.D.I.C. 0342A/21 to Convoy Escorts.) Am over enemy S/M in 46.12 N. 7.59 W. (A/C 311 Sqdn. Duty X T.O.R. 0933/21 to 19 Group.)

/Preliminary...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. (Contd.)

Preliminary D/F bearings at 1306Z/21 indicate U-Boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1455A/21 to Escorts H.X. 229.) Am over enemy submarine in 45.00 N.09.43 W. Am over enemy submarine in 43.00 N.09. (A/C 5D9K 1615/21 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 47.23 N. 08.45 W. (A/C R5JQ 1903/21 to 19 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 46.47 N. 7.35 W. (A/C T. of 172 Sqdn. 2205/21 to 19 Group.) My 2(2?)05 Submarine has dived. No attack. Am

Am resuming patrol.

(A/C 133 Sqdn. 2225/21 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 45.20 N. 08.00 W. (A/C 33 Sqdn Duty T 2300/21 to 19 Group.) Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 47° 03' N. 07° 22' W. probably a submarine. (A/C NL2E 2315/21 to 19 Group.)

Navigational.

Brightlingsea. Port closed owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 0850A/21.) Port open. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1037A/21.)

Technical.

31st M.T.B. Flotilla.

Pending supply of modification to exhaust system of D class M.T.Bs. now in service in 31st Flotilla. This Flotilla can only be considered as 30. operational. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 1144A/21 to C. in C.Nore.)

Casualties & Defects.

M.T.B. 619. A.M. 1740/18. Intend sailing M.T.B. 619 to Peterhead for refit at 0700/22. E.T.A. 1800/22. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1107A/21.)

EGLANTINE.

Main Auxiliary steam pipe for main circulating pump and both bilge and service pumps blown. Temporary repairs effected. E.T.A. Reykjavik 0900Z/22. (EGLANTINE 1355Z/21.)

Intercept. 1314 G.M.T. De Valencia Radio G C K S.O.S. Following from IRISH ELM at 1210 G.M.T. Heard Automatic life boat S.O.S.QSA 1. Signals continued until 1245 end. IRISH ELM. (Humber Radio 1415/21 to Immingham.)

/KING HAAKON

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

KING HAAKON VII.

Norwegian Submarine Chaser KING HAAKON 7 has defective cylinder block for Port Diesel Generator. Intend to sail vessel to arrive Liverpool a.m. 26th. Vessel is unfit for long passage until repairs are completed. (Capt. S.7 1937A/21 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 229. Survivors from MATHEW LUCKENBACH. Arrived MANSFIELD with survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0117A/21.) Have 68 survivors from MATHEW LUCKENBACH. No hospital cases. Survivors include 42 crew, one Naval Officer, and 25 armed guard ratings. All A71 hands saved.

(INGHAM 0207Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.)

Proceeding independently to Moville. P.C.and S. at 0900Z, 056° 06' N. 013° 58' W. 100° 13 knots. Have no survivors on board.

(BABBITT 0915Z/21 to C. in C.W.A.)

ANEMONE and PENNYWORT are to proceed Greenock to land survivors. VOLUNTEER is to proceed to Liverpool and BEVERLEY to Londonderry. Ships addressed are to signal to F.O.I.C. concerned immediately number of survivors on board and from which ship rescued. ANEMONE to signal details of survivors in

TEKOA. (C. in C.W.A. 1041A/21.) Ships for Loch Ewe are to be escorted to 57° N. thence independently. (C. in C.W.A. 1530A/21 to HIGHLANDER.)

of Signal Code-times.

Expression / The following method of expressing time and date in all signals (with the exception of those passed between ships in convoy), both to and from Merchant ships, will be brought into force on Thursday, April 1st:-A. The Time of Origin is to be in G.M.T. and is to be denoted

by a six-figure group followed by the letter "Z". The first pair of digits will denote the date, the second pair the hours, and the third pair the minutes. The letter "Z" will indicate G.M.T.

B. The first two digits denoting the date, may be omitted if not required. C. The Month and Year may be added if necessary. D. Any times included in the text of the message (other than reference to the T.O.O. previous message) are to continue to be expressed as a four-figure group as hitherto. They are to be followed by "Z", indicating G.M.T. and if necessary the date and month month.

2. The above instructions also apply to messages passed between ships in convoy, except that both Times of Origin and times in the text are to be expressed in Convoy time and the letter "Z" is to be omitted.

(D.S.D. 04207/21 to B.A.M.S.)

/BEACON ...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

BEACON HILL.	Group 1 comprising BEACON HILL, MARATHON and
	BERING with Icebreaker KRASSIN sailed Molotovsk
BERING.	2325A/20 for Kola.
KRASSIN.	(S.B0. Archangel 0818A/21.)

A.M. 1747/20. Request you sail ACANTHUS to arrive Barrow p.m. 22nd, to escort EMPIRE JILL EMPIRE JILL. to Portsmouth. (C. in C.W.A. 1017A/21 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

H.X. 229A. At daylight 22nd alter course direct to Z omitting C.C. No amendment to stragglers route. ABERDEEN pass to BIBB. (C. in C.W.A. 1044Z/21 to Escorts H.X. 229A.)

Commodore Londonderry 1929/19 is passed to you for information. The torpedo fired at number K.M.S.10. FORT PASCOYAC 13 exploded in her A.N.D. gear causing damage (torpedoed 6th March.) to ship's side as near miss. A direct hit would have occurred had the control net not been in use. (C. in C.W.A. 1105A/21 to Admty.)

Atlantic Convoy Support Groups.

Sail Capt. D.17 in OFFA at 0730 tomorrow for Moville at 25 knots. (C. in C.W.A. 1210A/21 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.) Request you will comply with C. in C.W.A. 1951/20.

(C. in C.H.F. 1449A/21 to R.A .D.) Your 1951/20. It is intended to sail ONSLAUGHT, OBEDIENT, ORWELL to arrive Londonderry about 1100 tomorrow and IMPULSIVE, ORIBI to arrive a.m. 23rd. 2. Captain D. 3rd in MILNE will be sailing to arrive Londonderry

by a.m. 25th 3. It is hoped that remaining destroyers will arrive Londonderry a.m. 26th March but this date is dependent on completion of defects in INGLEFIELD and arrival of IROQUOIS from Canada.

4. Arrangements are being made to fit additional depth charge stowage to bring total up to at least 70 but this may not be completed in the case of IMPULSIVE.

(R.A.D.H.F. 1540A/21 to C. in C.W.A.) Sailed ONSLAUGHT, OBEDIENT, ORWELL to Moville. E.T.A. 1100A/22 (R.A.D. 2106A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

3.D. 38.	Route K. 062° 50' N. 022° 30' W. L. 60.01. 15.02 M. 55.35 07.00. Thence Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 1227A/21 to A.C.I.C.)
K.M.S.11.	Cancel my 1817/14. COWSLIP is delayed at London- derry with defects. (C. in C.W.A. 1258A/21.)

/H.X. 229B...

1 m. m.

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

H.X. 229B. Sail AQUAMARINE to R/V H.X. 229B escorted by HIGHLANDER. H.X. 229 E.T.A. position A 1430A/22. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1548A/21 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

E.N.7 MARIE. To Belfast for Dublin MARIE (Belgian), coal, kite balloon. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1550A/21 to Admty.)

- H.X. 228. Capt. D. Greenock's 2346/15 and 1840/16 are passed to you for information. A noticeable feature of attack was absence of warning by R.D.F. or A/S. (C. in C.W.A. 1616A/21 to Admty.)
- O.N. 174. Sailed ESCAPADE, GARLAND, BURZA, AZALEA, ROSELYS, NARCISSUS, RENONCULE for exercise and subsequently for O.N. 174. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1724A/21.)

HORORATA. My 2059A/18. Destination of HORORATA is Liverpool. If not required further, escort to 007° W. then proceed Londonderry. (C. in C.W.A. 1817A/21 to BURWELL.)

S.C. 122. Survivors from GRANVILLE (sunk 17th March.) A. LAVENDER has following survivors from SS. GRANVILLE. Details. All ships boats and rafts accounted for and left floating, together with one inverted invasion-barge considered possible danger to navigation (?) 33-14 (D) sunk. (LAVENDER 2100A/21 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements. Casablanca.

March 20th arrived Casablanca. U.S.S. P.C.481 and 482. D.D. LULLOK and WOOLSEY, all from Gibraltar. D.D.s HOBBY and CHAMPLIN from U.G.S. Departed Casa. H.M.S. MALCOLM and WITCH. (C.M.S.F.F. (S.N.O.C.A.) 0037/21 to Admty). Casa. Section U.G.S. VAIX arrived with T.F.63. Ship composition will follow. (See 0825Z/22).

(C.M.S.F.F., 1530Z/21 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gib. etc.

W.S.28 ASHANTI. ASHANTI sailed 0130, S.O.A.25 knots, to join W.S.28 as additional escort to prudent limit of endurance and then returns to Gibraltar. Q.L.A. 165. (F.O. Gibraltar, 0132A/21 to Ships escorting W.S.28 escorts of convoy K.M.F.11 for Cdre. (R) WOLVERINE, Admty. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, QUADRANT).

COWSLIP

My 1435/20 to you only. Report your position course and speed forthwith. My position course and speed are (?) 040° 32' 013° 15' 155° 8 knots. (BROADWAY 0900Z/21 to COWSLIP (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med).

PENTSTEMON, LADY HOGARTH unable to maintain speed of convoy now out of sight. Request substitute and LADY necessary instructions passed to LADY HOGARTH My P.C. and S. 284° Spartel 9, 090° 83. HOGARTH, U.G.S.6. (PENTSTEMON, 1045A/21 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) LADY HOGARTH).

Situation 2002A/21st. UGANDA 026° 02' 023° 12' Situation 164° 18. Reports. 2. Portuguese destroyer LIMA leaving Ponta

Delgada 21st for Lisbon 18.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1049A/21). Situation 1958/21st. S/M UNRULY crosses 43.01 12.26 at 0500/22nd thence 158° 7½/2. (2) Polish S/M DZIK 38.36 10.22 152° 7½/2. (3) S/M ULTOR 37.34 09.36 through 36.51 09.13 at 0145/22nd

thence 099° 8.2/2.

(4) KENYA sails from Gib. 0400/22nd through Q.K.A.87 thence 226° 18.

(5) S/M SHAKESPEARE 39.26 10.32 158° 7/2.
(6) L.S.T. convoy, C.T.U. 62, 35.49 06.15 to Gib. 8.
(7) K.M.F.11, WREN 35.49 06.26 through Straits 132.
(8) BONITO, GRAYLING, 10 small craft, 36.02 07.28 to Gib. 10.
(9) AUK, 2 P.C. sailed a.m./21st from Casablanca to R/V S.L. 126 in 31.21 11.48 at 0800/22nd and escort 4 merchant ships 72. (10) Portuguese gunboat LAGOS and 3 submarines (?at anchor)
vicinity Cezimbra from 22nd until 27th.
(11) C.G.20, one U.S. destroyer, 2 P.C.2 French escorts, sailed
Casablanca 0900/22nd through Q.K.A.92 thence 33.7.

/(12)...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Reports. (contd).

(12) HAYDON 34.47 08.55 to Gibraltar 20.(13) R.S.3. CADMUS, CONVOLVULUS, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE ARCTIC RANGER sailed 1700/22nd westbound $7\frac{1}{2}$. (V.A. Gibraltar, 1053A/21). Situation 2002A/21. G.U.S.5, T.F.65, 028° 01' 032° 31' 270° 9.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1151A/21).

Situation 1959A/21st. 3. W.S.28 MALCOLM 33.29 10.33 through 30.01 11.12 thence 228° 121.

4. S.L. 126 H.M.S. PELICAN 30.02 12.28 through 31.57 11.29 thence 337 712.

5. (see 2024A/21). 6. K.M.S. 11. BROA

K. M. S. 11, BROADWAY, 39.56 12.39 152° 7. GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, 39.01 12.48 137° 8. 7.

(F.O.C.N.A., 1153A/21). My 1133/21 (1153/21 intended) Para.5(U.S.S. AUK 2 P.Cs) Amend to read (E) 039° 22' 012° 24' 151° 7.75. (F.O. Gibraltar, 2024A/21)

SAN MIGUEL. SAN MIGUEL (Portuguese) 10 knots sailed 2200 20th for Oporto, Ponta Delgada, and Philadelphia. (route). (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1151/21 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.N.A.)

Your 0246/19th. Diversions A. Yes, but only on a scale to cover U.S. convoy of O.S. and and ships and convoys requiring action from S.L. convoys. Casablanca. B. 02272 series and Indship held. Incon and Outcon for certain convoys only. One-ship pads not held. (2) Reason for my 1600/18 was the last 3 words in para. one of your 2309/16th., March, which otherwise appeared redundant.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1243A/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. W.A., F.O.C.W.A.F)

Fuel WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND. E.T.A. for fuel Ponta Delgada. a.m./27th. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1250A/21 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada San Miguel, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., B.N.A. Lisbon). Amended E.T.A. 1020A/26. (F.O. Gib. 1102A/23)

 KENYA Intend to sail KENYA for Freetown at 0400/22.
 (2) Route through Q.K.A. 87 thence (A) 35° 45' N.
 06° 30' W. (B) 28° 58' N. 14° 39' W.
 (C) 27° 48' N. 15° 01' W. (D) 26° 10' N. 15° 54'
 W. thence as routed by F.O.C.W.Af. S. of A. 18 knots. (3) Codeword "Thrush". (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1315A/21 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. S.N.O.C.A., C. in C. Med).

/K. M. S. 11...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

K. M. S. 11

K.M.S. 11 shadowed by enemy aircraft. (C.2., 1323Z/21 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty).

R.S.3

Intend to sail convoy R.S.3 at 1800 (10 Groups Missing) 20th plus cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER (Cdre) for Bathurst. (3) Escort CADMUS S.O. CONVOLVULUS, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, ARCTIC

RANGER. (4) (Route). S. of A. 72 knots (5) M.O.M.P. position (0) at 1200/27 when S. of A. 7½ knots (5) M.O.M.P. position (0) at 1200/27 when escort changes over. (6) Stragglers route as convoy - lettered (A to H) (7) LADY DENISON PENDER detached position (Q) at 1800/30. F.O.C. West Africa is requested arrange escort to Bathurst (8) Onward route for S.R.3 from (O) through (N) (M) (L) and Q.K.A. 87 (9) Codewords R.S.3 "Tram" S.R.3 "Omnibus" (10) first two letters W/T call sign L.K. (ii) BRIDGEWATER pass to escorts in company. (F.O. Gibraltar 1507A/21 to Escorts S.R.3 F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Comar Dakar). Addition, see 1246A/22.

HENGIST L.C.T. Convoy.

M.L. 556, HENGIST and L.C.T.s. 15, 16, 19 returned owing to bad weather. (2) Intend to sail M.L. 556, and L.C.T.s in tow of HENGIST, EMPIRE NED, EMPIRE FRED with convoy T.E.197 leaving 0800/23. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1725A/21 to F.O.I.C. Oran, C. in C. Med. (R) C.C.F., C.F.W.)

X.K.3 enemy A/C. Five F.W. 200 are active from Bordeaux. Position of convoy was probably reported at 1630. (D.D.I.C., 1731A/21 to Escorts to X.K.3 (R)

(D.D.I.C., 1731A/21 to Escorts to X.K.3 (R) F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.etc).
X.K.3 at 0800Z/21st 043° 10'. N. 016° 25' W. course 340° speed 6½ knots. GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE 041° 50' N. 015° 04' W. course 143° speed 8½ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar Wednesday p.m. X.K.3 is being shadowed by enemy aircraft.
(GAVOTTE, 2200Z/21 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar). P.C. and S. X.K.3 at 2000Z 044° 42' 016° 15' 002° 7 and ANTELOPE 043° 46' 015° 45' 149° 13. E.T.A. 0630A/24. Convoy sighted by F.W.200 at 1550Z. Acknowledge. Weather report. (ANTELOPE, 2230Z/21 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth).

C. in C. Plymouth).

K.M.S.11, CITY OF damaged.

K.M.S.11. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH damaged by bomb near waterline, one hold leaking. Will try to CHRISTCHURCH. make Gibraltar with convoy but if absolutely lamaged. necessary will detach unescorted for Lisbon during dark hours tonight. Further report tomorrow. Please warn Minister. Weather report 39° 28' N. 12° 38' W. (C.2., 18152/21 to V.A. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

/Movements...

850

21.3.1943. Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals M.L. 556 tug HENGIST L.C.T.s 15, 16, 19 returned from passage to Oran. HOLCOMBE recalled from West. LADY HOGARTH ex U.G.S.6. Departures VERITY to R/V U.G.S.6 as additional escort to Oran. HOLCOMBE to R/V U.G.S.6 VANOC R/V U.G.S.6. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2005A/21 to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Casablanca. Arrivals T.F.63 with U.G.S.6, U.S.S. EDISON from SS. MONTEREY. Departures U.S.S. TRIPPE en route to Safi. P.C. 475 en route to join D. 69. ASPIRANT BRUN (Fr.) en route Port Etienne. March 21 Warships. Also departed U.S.S. AUK P.C.472 and P.C.473 to join S.L. 126. (S.N.O.C.A., 2045/21 to Admty etc).

MAX ALBRECHT.

M.L. strong searchlight entered Ferrol 2130 March 20th, went alongside German tanker MAX ALBRETCHT. This morning 21st no longer in port. (Corunna, 2315/21 to Admty. (R) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid).

SERPA PINTO, Your 1931/19 (1921/19 intended) Yes. M/V survivors. Request SERPA PINTO May call at Gibraltar if practicable to disembark survivors. N.C.S.O. Lisbon pass to B.N.A. Lisbon. (V.A. Gibraltar, 2352A/21 to N.C.S.O. Lisbon).

851

War Diary.

21.3.1943. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

etc.)

SOLARIUM.

Departure Pointe Noire 2300Z/20th tanker SOLARIUM routed in accordance with your 11412/19th which was received by Land Line after ship had left Congo River. Aircraft diverted ship to Pointe Noire.

(B.N.L.O.W.A. 0915A/21 to R.A. W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. N.S.H.G. Connav. R.N.O. Lagos.)

Your 1141Z/19 received a.m. (?21st). After ships departure. SOLARIUM sails in accordance with your 1436Z (?17th) to Bahia. (Vice Consul, Matadi 1215/21 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. Connav. C. in C. S.A. R.N.O. Lagos. B.N.L.O. W.A.)

A.M. 0705A/21 not to F.O.C. W.A. Very indefinate D/F bearings on 5025 k/cs. at 2137Z/20 indicate Italian U-boat in Cape Verde Islands area. (D.D.I.C. 0929A/21 to ARETHUSA (R) F.O.C.W.A.) U-boat, ARETHUSA.

ARGO.

FORTOL, BUTSER. Oiler FORTOL arrived St. Vincent 16002/22nd March to lay down 1216 tons oil fuel. Trawler BUTSER will escort FORTOL to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A.F.1017Z/21 to N.C.S.O. St. Vincent Cape Verde for British Consul. (R) N.A. Lisbon, Admty, etc.)

My 1737/17. Sailing of ARGO deferred. Further signal will be made. (see 18242/23). (Comar, Dakar, 10082/21 to F.O.C.W.A, F.O.C. Gib.

BENALDER, Your 1501Z/20th. Approved subject to concurrence MASTERFUL, of C. in C.S.A. C. in C.S.A. is requested to relieve SARABANDE SARABANDE. as far north as possible. (R.A.W.A. 1018Z/21 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, M.W.T.R. W.Af.)

HERO.

Departure 1830/20th March. (S.O. (I) Freetown 11002/21 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, C. in C. Med. etc.)

Summary of impressions after visit. (G.O. C. in C. W. Africa 1145/21 to W.O.) See Lion Copy. French Forces, Dakar.

Situation Reports.

Position at 20002/21st. SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S.27 26.50 13.45 E. to 21.30 S. 15.30 E. 122. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 47.00 S. 12.00 E. to 35° S. 06° W. 142. NORTHERN CHIEF 34.55 S. 20.30 E. to Capetown 10. RACEHORSE 34.45 S.23.30

WARNING.

This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside the British or Allied Government Pervices.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE

1145/21st Mar. IN

From: G.O.C. in C.West Africa.

Date 22.3.43. Recd: 0655

Cipher

Addressed: The War Office.

109852 0/57481 cipher 21 Mar.

First. Brief summery impressions Dakar visit. You will appreciate that impressions are from visit of only 24 hours. Fuller report follows air mail.

Second. French appear genuinely pleased that state of semi-hostility with us has ceased. This feeling perhaps more due prospects improved conditions and greater security than desire continue war actively against Germans. Army suffering pathy induced by fall France lack purpose and voice static defence in tropics. Tour land defence indicated completely static position warfare mentality. Naval personnel manning coast defence guns appeared have tone and general bearing above that of truy

Third. Service personalities. One. Barrau combined Commander in Chief. Genuinely cordial and pleased at changed conditions. Seems very tired and has probably ged too much to be effective driving force. Two. Firy commanding Army. Looks more German than French. Makes no effort to be cordial. Probably dislikes us. R-outed unpopular. Particularly having regard his record I have no confidence that he is really on our side. Three. Collinet commanding Navy. Thoroughly control of the personality states and the suspect undercurrent of dislike though he appeared grateful for some help arranged in Army co-operation training.

Fourth. I also had interview with Boisson whose attitude although polite seemed somewhat frigid.

Fifth. More junior Frenck Army officers. In important factor appears shyness at meeting British officers for fear we might rake up past. Of course tried dispel this but frequent contact alone will cure.

Sixth/

851A

French Forces, Bakker, Morale. Visit 9 G.O.C. - C. W.A. - 2 -

Sixth. General. It will take French West Africa long time to get over effects last two and a half years. Real improvement in French Vest African Army only likely after participation of part of its in Some successful action in North Africa. As result visit Concral Barray and Lare exchanging lision officers who should assist routine communication and generally help towards better understanding.

1115/21

Recd. in Mar Rog. at 1135/25.

Ist Lord Ist S.L.(2)
Ist Lord Ist S.L. (2) D.F.S.L. 5th S.L. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S. (F) (2) A.C.N.S. (V) Sec. Parl. Sec. N.A. Mails P.A.S. (S) D.O.D. (F) (2) D.O.D. (F) (2) D.O.D. (F) (2) D.O.D. (F) (2) D.N.I. (4) D.N.I. (4) D. N.I. (4) D. O.T P. (2) Duty Captain D.D. I.C. (2) I. O. (P) (0) Hd. of M. (2) I. P. (2) Ad. Blake N.I.D.20 M.Er. Mr. Waldock
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2) A.C.N.S. (V)
Sec.
N.A. Mails
P.A.S. (S) D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (Z)
D. N. 1. (4) D. Of P. (2)
Duty Captain
D. of P.(0)
Ha. of M. (2)
Id Blake
N. I. D. 20
M.Br. Mr. Waldock D.J.D. (2) P.N.L.O.
Palla Jas O.

1.2.2

War Office circulation: M.I.3, 3a for action, 5, 17 M.O.1, 4. M.I.L. Admiralty Air Ministry Colonial Office Foreign Office.

JH

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

1305/21st March

IN

851 B.

FROM: P.S.T.O. M.E.

DATE: 22.3.43. RECD: 0515

Naval Cypher (X) by Cable

ADDRESSED: Admiralty for D.S.T.

992.

Inpole + Benghasi. shipping sequerements for maintenance.

Your 0229/12. Regret delay in replying but this due to reorganisation of Cyrenaican maintenance service.

2. Tobruk. With exception one more voyage of MYRTEL with 3000 tons water and one small collier with bunkers for escort vessels anticipated all maintenance will be effected by rail.

3. Benghazi. Army requirements by sea for April amount to 22500 tons composed of 9000 tons bulk petrol 5000 tons cased petrol and 8500 tons stores.

4. These requirements will be met by allocation in respect of bulk petrol by HERMES ARMILLA and BASSETHOUND and in respect of cased petrol and stores by three or four small fitted cased petrol carriers and five or six small storeships collier for small bunker replenishments and escort requirements will probably be required for inclusion in alternate convoys. Small vessels are preferable due limited draught in inner harbour at Benghazi.

5. Benghazi ships will be allocated to three convoys sailing direct from Alexandria at twelve day intervals. This entails a ship being at Alexandria for sixteen days for repairs loading and waiting escort on passages for eight days and at Benghazi discharging backloading and waiting escort for twelve days that is a turnround of 36 days.

/6. Tripoli. ...

6. Tripoli. Army requirements by sea remain at average of 4,000 tons daily excluding bulk petrol. These requirements are being maintained with difficulty due to limitations imposed at Tripoli to vessels length 450 feet and draught 24 feet also to stoppages at Tripoli due to air raids. Commencement of loading of vessels on return to base ports is frequently delayed on account of repairs resulting from Marine damage and enemy action. Majority of vessels are required to include from 2,000 to 3,000 tons cased petrol in their cargoes which slows down loading,

7. Tripoli service entails employment of 23 ocean going vessels and 9 small vessels of speed of over 9 knots. These are allocated to 4 convoys sailing direct from Alexandria at approximately 11 days intervals. This entails a ship loading for 10 days or 20 days depending on size of ship at Alexandria, Port Said or Suez, on passages for 9 days and at Tripoli for 15 days discharging and backloading while awaiting escort, that is a turnround of 34 days or 44 days.

8. Loading of some vessels at Suez necessitated by desirability to reduce railing petrol from Suez to Alexandria.

9. Paragraph (B) of your 0229/12 is confirmed. The repair situation is constantly and closely watched and controlled by the Middle East Ship Repair Committee.

D. of L.D.(3)

Agreed Murrant and G.H.Q. M.E.F.

1305/21

lst Lord lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. 3rd S.L. 4th S.L. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(F)(2) A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) U.W.R. D. of P.(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D. of S.T.(2) Admiral Blake (4) D.O.D.(F)(2) D.N.I.(4)

10.

D.A/S.W. I.P.(2) W.D. Duty Capt.(2) Hd. of M.(7) D.T.S.D. D.D.I.C.(2) D. of P.(Q) D.T.D.(3) D.T.D.(3) D.T.D.(M) D.T.D.(C) Admiral Mack (4)

2,

852

21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Contd.

East to Capetown 20. RINGDOVE, IMMORTELLE, TURFFORTEIN, with C.D.10 off Durban to arrive HILDESAY 30.00 S. 33.00 E. to Durban 7. about dawn. FREESIA, LE TIGER (corrupt group) 07.28 N. 26.3245 S. 35.20 E. to 33 S. 36 E. then dispersing and escort returns to Durban 8. GENISTA with L.M.D.

convoy 28.10 S. 32.50 E. to Durban 8. (C. in C.S.A. 1146B/21).

INKPEN off Robert Port. 2 M.L. off Freetown to Robert Port. 1 M.L. escorting off Liberian coast to Robert Port. 1 M.L. escorting off Port Bouet to Takoradi. CYCLAMEN, ARRAN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.LE. with T.S. 33 CO4° O9' OO6° 12' 265° 5½. CILICIA about O05° 25' O21° 23' to Freetown 14

4 Allied Naval Units in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.

(R.A.W.A.12112/21.)

Situation Report at 2000Z/21st. UGANDA 025° 56' 023° 09' 164° 18. French Sloop M/S GAZELLE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, BIRDLIP, with D.69 about 021° 39' 017° 07' to north within 10 miles of coast 4.9. BURDOCK, BUTSER, escort 018° 13' 022° 27' 242° 8½. ARETHUSA 019° 10' 030° 27' 293° 15. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM with 0.3.44 015° 22' 017° 59' to 014° 03' 017° 58' thence 159° 9. French Sloop M/S IA GRACIEUSE escorting off Daker to 159° 9. French Sloop M/S IA GRACIEUSE escorting off Dakar to join 0.S.44. DUNKERY two M.Ls. escorting off Bathurst to join 0.S.44. FANDANGO B.D.V. CONSBRO 011° 54' 017° 24' 356° 52. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, HYDRANGEA, THYME two M.Ls. with S.R. 3 009° 04' 014° 45' 293° 7³/₄. HERO off Bathurst to 014° 50' 017° 49' thence 001° 19. French Cruiser GLOIRE 010° 53' 024° altering through 009° 00' 028° 01' thence to patrol about position 007° 00' 023° 30' 19. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position 011° 00' 030° 00' 15¹/₂.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1258Z/21).

Movements,	Departure	21st Braz.	Light	Cruiser	BAHIA escort
Bahia.	vessel RI	O RANCO esc	orting	southbou	ind convoy.
	(R.O. Bah:	ia 1225Z/21	to Ada	nty.)	

MAURITIUS. BIRMINGHAM. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1241Z/21 to Admty. etc.)

MELLO, interception.

My 1125A/16 which is now being passed to you was originally erroneously routed to Capetown instead of Freetown. Mistake was in Admiralty. (D.S.O. 1255A/21 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capetown

C. & C.O.)

Your 1113/20 not approved. For political reasons SS. MELLO must not be diverted, vide my 1125/16 para 2. (D.E.W.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F). 1340A/21 to F.O.C.W.A.

(R) B.A.D.

Amend previous instructions. If Portugal ship MELLO is encountered and conditions are suitable for boarding, ship should be boarded and search made for four German Naval Machinists reported to be stowaway. do not permit boarding. Ship may not be diverted if conditions

(F.O.W.A. 1533/21 to French Cruiser GLOIRE (R) Admty, Comar, Dakar.)

/CARNARVON CASTLE ...

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21. 3. 1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. patrol. MELLO interception. 1. At 1200Z/22nd commence new patrol bounded by
following points.
E. 009° 02' N. 027° 54' W.
F. 010° 01' N. 027° 01' W.
G. 008° 12' N. 023° 21' W.
H. 006° 10' N. 024° 22' W.

2. MONTE ALTUBE (Spanish) MONTE SERANTES (Spanish) and MELLO (Portugal) are proceeding to the North East through this area. MELLO speed is about 9 knots. Ship left Buenos Aires on 6th March for Lisbon.

3. Report has been received that four German Naval Machinists are stowaways in MELLO. If intercepted and conditions permit boarding, MELLO is to be searched for these stowaways. If conditions do not permit boarding ship is not repeat not to be diverted. Action taken is to be reported.

4. CARNARVON CASTLE leave patrol at position G. at 23592/24th and return to Freetown.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 1529/21 to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Admty. Comar, Dakar, Comsolant (?Cdr. Service Force Atlantic Fleet.)).

S.R. 3.

 Following ships did not sail in convoy S.R.3. as number of ships was limited to 12 ships. RUTENFJEII JURKO TOPIC. Ref. D.S.T.O. Freetown's 1747Z/19, GABON now proceeding Lagos. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1302Z/21 to Admty.)
 Convoy S.R.3, list, destinations, etc. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1303Z/21 to Admty.)

RACEHORSE.

RSE. Following is repetition of my 1511 (?Z) 20th. (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins) Sailed RACEHORSE by route R.9 to position (d) (?149°) 35' S. 025° 28' E. thence Simonstown through position. (e) 034° 55' S, 019° 50' E. S. of A. 20 knots, 08307/22nd. 2. Shifting to group S.L. at 05007 (20th (7.1.))

E.T.A. 0830Z/22nd. 2. Shifting to group S.L. at 2300Z/20th (Ends.) (N.O.I.C. Durban 1521B/21 to Admty. etc.)

U-boat.

U.S. transit aircraft reports S/M in 02° 53' N. 10° 53' W. at 1446Z/21. Reliability unknown. (F.O.C.W.A.1540Z/21 to Admty.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 21st. BELLWORT. Departure BELLWORT, ARMERIA escorting HAI LEE, Freetown a.m. 24th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 17052/21 to Admty. etc.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy

Following has been read: Have gained contact Units. Units. With 3 Destroyers 3 medium vessels and their P.C. and S. are 37.44N, 11.26 E. 080° 10. (A/C. BUDF via Alexandria W/T, 0050A/21) Following has been read: P.C. and S. of 4 (? escort vessels) position 37.48 N. 11.36 E. course 250°

speed 8. Following read:

(A/C. F.F.D.J. via Alex. Radio, Ol3OA/21) Following read P.C. and S. of 4 medium sized merchant ships and 2
(? Escort Vessels) 37.40 N. 11.38 E. 260° 8.
(A/C. BUDF via Alexandria W/T, Ol35A/21) Following received: P.C. and S. of 6 enemy vessels
37.37 N. 11.26 E. 260° 10 knots. (A/C BUDX via Alex. W/T, O350A/21)

E.T.15.

Sailed as in my 1000A/18th less E.T.15. VILLE DE STRASBOURG. (Comnob, Oran 0800A/21 to C. in C. Med. (W) (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav.)

20th arrivals - IERAX, M.L.350, 384, 385. Departures 384, 385. (S.O.I. Beirut, 0805Z/21 to Admty.) Movements, Beirut.

Arrival CERES. CERES. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 0852Z/21 to Admty.)

Convoy T.E.19. (F.O.I.S., 0918A/21 to Cdre. Algiers (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet, F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. Connav.)

Arrival 20th TETCOTT. Movements, Departures 20th ANTWERP Greek Destroyer PAUL Alexandria. COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.I. Alexandria, 0920B/21 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Following is repetition of my 0910B/21st (Begins) - Addressed A.I.G. 76, N.O.I.C. Tripoli, Syria, C.F.E., R.A.(D) M, PAPANICOLIS G.S., Capt. (S) 10th, Capt. (S) 1st. My 0948/19th and 1555/20th. PARTHIAN sailed 24 hours late PARTHIAN. (Ends). (Capt. (S) 1st. 1016B/21 to PAPANICOLIS G.S. Capt. (S) 10th)

P.R.U. / ...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

is intended.

from Gibraltar. M.K.S. 12 April 29th. M.K.S. 13 May 18th. M.K.S. 14 June 7th.

Convoy.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

P.R.U.

March 21st visuals. 0840 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1116A/21 to C. in C. Med. etc.

M.T.B.s.

5 M.T.B.s from Malta will be operating in Marittimo area tonight. They have orders not Marittimo area tonight. They have orders not to attack S/Ms. (Capt. (S) 10. 1121A/21 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) 8th S/M.F.) Sailed M.T.B.s 61, 84, 95 on operations, and P.44. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1521A/21 to Admty. C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.S.)

P.44 (UNITED) P.44 (UNITED) leaves Malta 1500A/ 21st by usual route passing P at 1200A/23rd thence to patrol as ordered by you. (Capt. (S) 10, 1124A/21 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, S/Ms on Patrol)

SAHIB. SARACEN. P.212 (SAHIB) proceed through zone D to patrol in zone E. (2) P.247 patrols in zone B may withdraw (without relief ?) into zone D after dawn 22nd. (3) Congratulations on Lumby's D.S.O. (Capt. (S) 8, 1152A/21 to P.212 (SAHIB) P.247 (SARACEN) (R) 8th S/M.Flot. Capt. (S) 10)

Your 0315/19 (N.T. in W.D.). Following programme

Date sailing Date of Arrival

at C.O.M.P. Blank. May 20th. June 9th.

M.K.S. Convoys, Programme.

MALAYA, Force H.

MALAYA is to form part of Force "H". (C. in C. Med. 1205A/21 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Force 'H', F.O.12 C.S., Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

and thereafter every 15 days. (C. in C. Med., 1156/21 to Admty. (R) Connav, F.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. W.A. S.N.O.C.A.

Movements, Malta.

Arrived ORION, JAVELIN and KELVIN. (V.A.Malta, 1219A/21 to Admty. etc.) Sailed EURYALUS, KELVIN, JAVELIN. (V.A. Malta, 1821A/21 to Admty. etc.)

TALMA / ...

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

TALMA. (Italian

Transfer of Prisoners of War at Mersin is being delayed by weather. If TALMA unable to sail Repatriat-ions). extend time of safe conduct. Further information will follow as soon as known. (C. in C. Levant, 1701B/21 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Ankara, C.S.A. Mersin.) Departure 21st at 2150 B. H.M. Transport TALMA. (Missing group) Port Said, after completion of exchange

group) Port Said, after completion of exchange. (C.S.A. Mersin, 2315/21 to C. in C. Levant, Admty. (Missing group) B.N. Ankara, S.N.O.L.A., N.O.I.C. Port Said, C.S.A. Alexandretta.)

P.47.

Intend sailing P.47 at 1830/23rd routed through 038° 15' 003° 54' at 0600/24th 038° 33' 010° 14' at 0500/27th thence patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea. (Capt. (S) 8, 1740A/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M. Flot. Capt. (S) 10.)

Salvage Pontoons.

N.C.X.F. 2355/24th Dec. and your 2016/27th Dec. and 1640/3rd Jan. and N.O.I.C. Massawa 0933/29th Dec. and 1504/29th Dec. and V.A. Malta 2331/25th Feb.

Request six salvage pontoons assigned to Capt. Ellsberg this area but not shipped be made available and shipped to Malta for urgent salvage operations. (C. in C. Med. 1750A/21 to C. in C. Levant, (R) V.A. Malta, Admty. N.O.I.C. Massawa.)

HUNTER, STALKER.

F.O.C. Gibraltar 1320/20. Request replacements for two Swordfish supplied to HUNTER may be sent to Gibraltar at earlies opportunity. (2) To avoid depleting Gibraltar reserves can arrangements be made in future for auxiliary carriers proceeding from U.S.A. via Gibraltar to carry minimum A/H aircraft for their own protection vide A.M.

1815/16, November.
(C. in C. Med. 1808A/21 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar) In order to provide A/S protection during passage to U.K. request you will consider providing T.B.R. aircraft to HUNTER and STALKER if you have pilots and aircraft available.
(D.O.D.(H) 575, Approved A.C.N.S.(H), 1910A/21 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat reported between Cyprus and Beirut and one south of Haifa. (Capt. (S) 1st 1847B/21 to PAPANICOLIS, (R) PARTHIAN)

Air Raid / ...

857

21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd).

Air Raid, Tripoli VARVARA sunk, DERWENT Damaged.

Attack on Tripli (L) Harbour. Preliminary report in my 1916/20th. Twelve JU.88's approach-OCEAN VOYAGER ed Harbour simultaneously at 200 ft. from East and were not detected by R.D.F. No evidence yet to confirm that telephone wires were cut. (2) OCEAN VOYAGER hit by or 4 bombs, became heavily on fire and blew up at 0100/20th five

cables west of entrance. Harbour was immediately enveloped in a line of drifting fires which spread to southern beach and all round DERWENT. Pieces of OCEAN VOYAGER were found in the city one mile Not confirmed yet that aircraft fell on this ship. away. (3) VARVARA hit by 2 bombs, ammunition caught fire and ship sank 2½ cables southwest of entrance at 0400/20/3 burning fiercely. (4) In addition 25 bombs dropped in Harbour 10 circling torpedoes have been accounted for.* One struck DERWENT, both boiler rooms and engine room flooded, magazines flooded when threatened by drifting fire. (5) Superficial damage to nearly all ships, boats, Lighters and tugs as a result of explosions. A wave followed explosions, causing all boats and lighters to break adrift. All H.M.Ships and 4 merchant ships left Harbour soon after the explosion, many steaming through a wall of fire. (6) Circling torpedoes. 4 landed in field (5 rendered safe, 1 exploded). 2 exploded on rocks outside Harbour, 2 exploded later in Harbour (1 by rifle fire from merchant vessel) and another towed out of Harbour and exploded. Torpedoes of usual type. (7) Casualties known so far. DERWENT and Schooner SAMIKA, 5 killed, 16 injured. Merchant ships, 20 killed, 10 injured. C.O. of DERWENT transferred to EASTON as S.O. of returning convoy. (8) A/A claim 5 aircraft destroyed, 1 probable. (C. in C. Levant, 1923B/21 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A.M. R.A.L. F.O.I.C. Gib. Comla, C.S.15, F.O.R.S.C.A. Com. D. Levant C. in C. E.F. EASTON.)

Movements. Oran.	Departures OAKLEY, ZETLAND, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROVAL SCOTSMAN. Arrivals. WILTON, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, M.L.564. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1952A/21 to Admty. etc.)
Movements, Algiers.	Algiers arrivals ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, M.M.S.134, S/M SIBYL (P.217) (Com. Algiers, 2002A/21 to Admty. etc.)
ANDES.	My 0510/16/2 to P.S.T.O. X.F. N.C.S.O. New York states no advice of ANDES requirements signalled to him. Request you arrange for all S.T.O's in your area to comoly in future on all ships sailing direct to American ports. (D. of.S.T. 2016A/21 to P.S.T.O. Med. (W)

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN/

Nº 3 more, see page 937.

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, Passengers numbers.

Your 0757/21st not understood. Relevant para. A.M.1140/16th regarding vessels of 15 knots and over under heading (c) received here as follows. 250 of each service. Total of service personnel will exceed 250. (2) This is understood to limit total number of all service personnel allowed to embark to 250. (P.S.T.O. M.E. 2030A/21 to C. in C. E.F.(R) Admty. F.O.C.R.S.F.) Reply: Admty. 1636A/25.

Enemy Unit. Following has been read Air H.Q. Malta. P.C. and S. of one schooner 37.10 N, 11.58 E. 180° 5 knots on patrol. (A/C FBP/C via Alexandria, 2033A/21)

Malta Air Report. Might 20/21st March CSR. Part 1 Offensive. Night 20/21st March. 9 Wellingtons 5 Beauforts and 4 Albacores R.N.A.S. made armed shipping searches covering Taranto, Marittimo and Naples area. 1 Wellington in Marittimo area sighted at Ol15 hrs. 8 unidentified vessels 38° O4' N. 11° 51' E. course East and scored hits with 2 torpedoes on probable

large destroyer. At 0145 hrs. End of Section 1 Section 2 follows. (N.T. in W.D.) (A.H.Q. Malta, 2111Z/21)

Movements, Port Said. 21st arrivals. AETOS, CUMBRAE, ANTWERP, CONDOURIOTIS, R.F.A. BADARPUR. Departures: VULCAN, SPETSAI, MIAOULES. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2120B/21 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrived JERVIS, ISIS. Tobruk. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2123B/21 to Admty.)

Movements, Benghazi. Sailed PRIMULA, SKUD 5, FALK, KAI, AGHIOS, GEORGIOS, M.L.1122. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2143B/21 to Admty.)

Enemy Units. Following has been read. A.O.C. in C. Malta. P.C. and S. of medium sized M/V and 2 destroyers, 39.40 N. 13.32 E. course 000° speed 10 knots. (A/C. FBCP via Alexandria, 2250A/21) P.C. and S. of 1 enemy medium sized M/V. 2 enemy destroyers and 1 enemy M.T.B. 39° 50' N. 13° 45' E. 045°

15 knots. (A/C. FBCP via Alexandria, 2350A/21 to A.O. C. in C. Malta.)

Following/ ...

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21. <u>3.19</u>43. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units (Contd.) Following has been read: P.C. and S. of l enemy destroyer 58° 15' N. 12° 45' E. 270° 20 knots. (A/C CYCR via Alexandria 2355A/21 to A.O.C. in C. Malta)

SAHIB.

Be in position 292° focal point F 57 miles by 0230/22nd. Freedom 210° 26 miles sector 2. Proceed zone E after 0500/22nd. (Capt. (S) 8, 2314A/21 to P.212(SAHIB), (R) 8th S/M RORQUAL, Capt. (S) 10th S/M.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U-boat.

Sighted S/M 24.53 N. 63.24 E, course E.N.E. Submerged at 0300Z. Smoke sighted E.N.E. (A/C GV (via Flowerdown) 0225Z/21 to S.N.O. P.G. Karachi, F.O.C.R.I.N. Hormuz.)

SITAKHOOND. Delayed by weather. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0430Z/21 to Admty, C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Convoy B.M.46. Colombo portion B.M.46 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 0618Z/21 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal 5 48 (a) WARSPITE refitting at Durban RESOLUTION, REVENCE at Kilindini. (c) No change (d) BIRMINGHAM on passage to U.K. MAURITIUS at Durban, FROBISHER, CARADOC at Kilindini. HAWKINS at Kilindini,

CERES at Aden. Others no change. (e) Convoy escorting and unit training. (C. in C. E.F. 0654Z/21 to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A. A.C.N.B. F.O.I.C. Ceylon, Admty.)

GAMBIA, DEVONSHIRE. Intend to sail GAMBIA for U.K. on arrival of KENYA on Station about second half of April. 2. DEVONSHIRE will be sailed for U.K. on arrival of NEWCASTLE or SUFFOLK whichever is the earlier. 3. Your 1615A/19th refers. (C. in C.E.F. 07492/21 to Admty. (R) C.S.4.)

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, number of passengers. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN comes into class of 15 knot and over ships A.M. 1140/16th March so that provided requirements under passenger certificate and/or boat capacity are met there is no objection to embarkation of personnel quoted in para.l of your 1204/19th. (C. in C.E.F. 0757/21 to P.S.T.O.E.M.E. (R) Admty. F.O. R.S.C.A.) Reply P.S.T.O.M.E. 2030A/21.

Convoys B.P.727 P.B.31. Departure 0500Z ASTER with B.P. 72³/₄. Arrival, 0730Z MARYBOROUGH. BENGAL, with P.B. 31. (S.O.I. Bombay 0830Z/21 to Admty.)

BADORA. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Madras 1032Z/21 to Admty.)

ConvoyBombay portion arrived.P.B.31.(N.C.S.O. Bombay 10532/21 to Admty. etc.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

?U/B

My 2045/20th. Now considered to be non-Submarine contact. (C.O.A.C., 0044Z/21 to G.B.7 A. (R), C.T.F.24. Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.G. 24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

Movements Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. ALBEMARLE and GOLDSBOROUGH. Bermuda. (S.B.N.O.W.At., O123Z/21 to Admty.)

U/B.

S/M sighted by coast watcher at 1330Z/20th off Burnt Island in 047° 34' N. 058° 53' W. course easterly. Reliability B.3. (C.0.A.C., 0244Z/21 to G.B.7A., C.T.F.24.) Amended 0037Z/22.

Movements. Arrival 21st. U.S.E.D. Tug COMSTOCK. (Harbour Master Barbados., 0637/21 to Admty.) Arrival 21st U.S. S/M Chaser 522. (Harbour Master Barbados, 0639/21 to Admty.) Departure NIAGARA to escort H.H.X. 230, STRATFORD for St. Johns N.F. SASKATOON, KENORA for New York estimated stay 3 days. Arrivals LEAMINGTON, RIMOUSKI escorting J.H.42 R. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 14362/21 to Admty., etc.)

IROQUOIS. My P.C. and S. 051° 45' N. 036° 57' W. 074° 20' Weather report. (IROQUOIS, 0700A/21 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0820/21, 1525/21, 1526/21, 1615/21, 1616/21, 1617/21, 2352/21.)

U.S.S/M Notice. S/M Estimate 21st March.

14.1

MAYFLOWER. E.T.A. St. Johns, N.F. 1500Z/15th (Sic.) Boiler hours.

(MAYFLOWER, 0835Z/21 to F.O.N.F.)

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T.	Ship ARETHUSA CARNARVON CASTLE	Position 21 ¹ / ₂ ° N. 36° W. 11° N. 30° W.	Course 294° Patrol	Speed. 15
21st March.	FOLKESTONE) TOTLAND	$26\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $47\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.		Blank.
	WESTON) 22 L.C.I.(L)s	27° N. 58° W.	090°	10
	CILICIA CHESHIRE with)	06° N. 24° W.	Patrol	Blank.
(D.O.D.(F),	Floating Dock) T.A.38 0956Z/21 to Opnav,	33 ¹ 2° S. 47° W. 62° N. 29° W. , (R) Comnaveu.)	075° 267°	5 26

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B

Periscope sighted by coast watcher in 047° 36' N. 053° 12' W. at 2245Z/20th. Reliability B - 3. (C.O.A.C., 1130Z/21 to A.I.G.302.)

Fast U.C./C.U. Convoys Cycle. Request information if possible as to (corrupt group) cycle contemplate for fast UC/C.U. convoys. Frequency affects base staff requirements at Curacao. (N.C.SO. Curacao, 1151QR/21 to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. W.At.)

?U/B. Shore-watcher reports sighting possible S/M
47° 46' N. 54° 05' W. at 0730/20. Reliability
B.2.
(Halifax 1327Z/21 to C.T.F. 24. Amended
1927Z/22.)

ARETHUSA, information. You may encounter convoy of L.C.I.(L)s during the night 23/24. (N.S.H.Q. 1554Z/21 to ARETHUSA, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty.) Cancelled see N.S.H.Q. 1355Z/22.

U/B.

S/M sighted 18° 38' N. 72° 44' W. at 1830 G.C.T. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1615R/21 to Admty.)

WEST POINT Polish civilians from Persia. Prisoners of War. Your 2127/20. 1. U.S. Authorities cannot arrange on-carriage of Poles from Panama, therefore they may not be embarked in WEST POINT. See my 1601/20. 2. Prisoners of war and service personnel en route to U.K. may be embarked up to limits given in my 1809/18. 3. P.S.T.O. M.E's 1815/20 U.S. Authorities agree. (D. D. 1617/01 to D. of 0. M.E. D. 0. M.E.

(B.A.D. 1617/21 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E. C. in C.E.F., S.S.T.O Suez, F.O.C.Red Sea, P.S.T.O. India, F.O.R.S.C.A. G.H.Q.M.E.)

BAZELY. Arrived New York 13150/21st en route Bermuda. (C.E.S.F. 1756/21 to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

/SVEND...

863

21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

SVEND FOYN This is a re-encypherment of MODOC's 1120/20. C.T.U. 24.8.2 (Begins) Proceeding to Cape Farewell on FREDERICK LEE formed by Ice to effect transfer of survivors from ALGONQUIN, 13 HASTINGS distress (H.X.229A) 16 FREDERICK LEE 20 AIVIK 37 MODOC 24. Seven boats accounted for eight and last believed gone down.with ship. ALGONQUIN to take twelve bodies to Greenland. (C.T.F. 24 1811Z/21 to C. in C.W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

B.Y.M.S.

San Pedro departed 0051/20 B.Y.M.S. 11, 12, 20, Balboa 3rd April via Manzanillo (Mex.) 24th and Corinto 29, knots 10.5 (N.S.H.Q. 1846Z/21 to Aamty. (R) B.A.D.)

SNOWBERRY. SNOWBERRY expects to depart New York 24th arriving Charleston 26th. (C.E.S.F. 1904/21 to B.A.M.R. (R) C.O.A.C. Commandant U.S. Navy Yard, Charleston, Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. Naval Member C.J.S. Washington, N.S.H.Q. C.T.G. 02.3., C.T.G. 02.4., C.T.G. 02.9 C.T.G. 02.5., C.T.G. 02.6.)

E.T.A. 0815Z/22nd. Boiler hours, (corrupt group) Corvettes JED, MALBAIE, WOODSTOCK, BITTERSWEET, EYEBRIHT major defects. BURNHAM, 7 oil fuel tanks leaking from sea. LA MALBAIE, dome and oscillator carried away. BITTERSWEET, lost dome. (BURNHAM 1905Z/21 to F.O.C.N.F. (R) Capt. D. St. Johns N.F. GREENWICH, M.X. Capt.) defects.

Departed Ambrose 1230Z/21. ?ANDES. (Port Director New York 1932Z/21 to Cominch C. and R. C.E.S.F. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

U/B.

Master of coasting vessel reports sighting submarines in vicinity 46° 54' N. 56° 04' W. steering west at 0100/21st. (C.O.A.C. 1950Z/21 to G.B.7A C.T.F. 24.)

Sub. attack All times Z. Para. C. Panair plane sights submarine 39° 30' N. 72° 15' W. 1502/21. (Cominch 2000/21 to Admty.)

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21.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

No. 424 March 20th.

Digest Serial/ Forenoon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully attacked 8 ship convoy 45 miles W.N.W. Rabaul course 90°. Photos show convoy comprised 5 Merchant Vessels, one tanker, 2 probable small escort vessels. 2. Photos shipping Kavieng 18th (refer Digest No. 422) confirm presence heavy cruiser probably AOBA Class.

3. Liberator in perfect visibility reported sighting no shipping Wewak Harbour noon. 6. Unescorted 4 ship convoy sighted 3° 35' N. 144° 15' E. course

S.E.

7. 1 Liberator attacked 1 destroyer, 2 medium merchant vessels approaching Kaimana forenoon scoring 1 probable hit 1 near miss on 1 merchantman. 3 Hudsons attacked probably same vessels after dark Kaimana Bay starting fires in 1 ship and on jetty.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0751Z/21.)

Movements.

Arrival Townsville 19th SWAN, Sydney 20th U.S. Ship BUCHANAN, Fremantle 18th U.S. WILLIAM B. PRESTON.

Departure Milne Bay 20th KATOOMBA for Port Moresby.

Dunk Island 20th HOBART for Sydney. Port Moresby 19th BOWEN for Milne Bay.

Cairns 20th KAPUNDA for Port Moresby.

Townsville 20th SWAN for Brisbane, ARUNTA for Port Moresby, PIRIE for Milne Bay.

Brisbane 20th MORESBY for Sydney.

Fremantle 20th ADELAIDE on escort duty. (A.C.N.B. 0831Z/21st to Admty.)

U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN arrived Townsville 20th. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT arrived Port Moresby 21st. H/T DUNTROON departed Port Moresby 20th due Townsville 22nd. H/T KATOOMBA departed Townsville 20th due Brisbane 24th. R.F.A. BISHOPDALE, U.S.Transport CREMER departed Townsville 20th due Port Moresby 23rd. (A.C.N.B. 1614Z/21 to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated dispositions of U-Boats. (D.D.I.C. 1346A/21, 1355A/21.)

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation	1. M.T.Bs. 618 and 627 sailed from Lerwick	
VP - X.	today, to carry out this operation. They	
	returned to Lerwick at 1630/23 (See A.C.O.S.	
	1910/23).	

Norway S/M / 2. The Russians wish to institute a patrol of 3 S/Ms at a time against enemy convoys in the Patrols. Narvik coastal area. S.B.N.O. North Russia has informed them of our Lofoten Is. area S/M patrol and suggests that Soviet S/Ms should operate to northward of lat. 68° 50' N. and British to southward of that latitude.

Biscay.

Enemy convoy 3. San Sebastian reports that about 1815 G.M.T./ in Bay of 21 what appeared to be an enemy convoy of 2 small and 4 medium to large cargo ships fully loaded was sighted off San Sebastian in territorial waters, steaming westward slowly. The escort of 3 destroyers kept outside territorial waters. Aircraft escorted the convoy as far as San Sebastian where they turned back. It is thought that some of the larger ships may be blockade runners. HERRING was ordered to move to the neighbourhood of 43.30 N. 11.01 W. and on 23rd March NEWFOUNDLAND and METEOR (see 21st March) were ordered to positions to intercept.

> /4. 69 Fortresses and 18 Liberators of the U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked the Naval Dockyard at Wilhelmshaven today, dropping 205 tons of bombs. A number of encounters with enemy aircraft are reported, the enemy casualties being provisionally assessed at 26 : 11 : 10. U.S. aircraft are missing. 3

5. Whitleys on A/S patrols west of the Bay of Biscay today sighted 7 U-boats between 1152 and 1503, four of which were attacked. At 0057 today a Wellington of 138 Squadron Coastal Command attacked a U-boat in 46.47 N. 09.58 W. (240 miles S.W. of Bishops Rock). The U-boat was sighted on the surface by Leigh Light and attacked whilst submerging by six depth charges from 70 feet. Following a large explosion, the full length of the U-boat was seen, but the conning tower was not visible and it is thought the Keel was uppermost. The aircraft circled the area and saw two patches of very large air bubbles. Amond printly much of The 1843

6. Strikes at Belfast will delay the completion of ONYX, BRUISER, BOXER and RATTLER.

866

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

U-boat sunk. 7. An Army B.24 plane dropped four 650 lb. charges on a fully surfaced 740 ton submarine of U.88 type in 30.15 N. 18.13 W. (200 miles W.S.W. of Madeira) at 1335A today. Two of the charges straddled the conning tower. After 11 seconds the U-boat sank stern first in 55 seconds at an angle of 45° leaving wreckage and oil. Nine survivors were last seen clinging to a cylindrical object. The aircraft dropped a life raft and departed after 30 minutes, when a brown paintlike substance was rising to the surface. C. in C. Med., considers that the U-boat was certainly destroyed.

South Atlantic.

8. A ship made a distress message at 2053Z today in 00.20 S. 07.(?8) 50 W.

9. F.O.C.W.Africa reports that the U.S. Naval Observer informs him that all U.S. personnel and equipment for construction of works at Freetown are to be withdrawn in the immediate future (see 27th Feb).. The position created will be disastrous for the development of Freetown even as a convoy assembly port alone, which it must always remain.

In the event, the Americans continued work during April (See G.O.C. in C. W. Africa 031535ZA April)

Mediterranean.

10. PALADIN and QUEEN OLGA sailed from Malta at 1537A today to carry out a sweep in the Gulf of Hammamet tonight but had to return on account of engine trouble in PALADIN.

11. RORQUAL has completed a minelaying operation off Cape San Vito.

4......

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

12. To assist the 8th Army attack, APHIS, at OlOO today, carried out a bombardment of Gabes; there was no opposition.

Air Operations. 13. Two Mosquitoes patrolling the north coast of Sicily last night caused an explosion and fire in a 1,000 ton tramp steamer, damaged one of two E-boats and attacked other small vessels off Cefalu.

At 0045 a Wellington obtained a possible hit with torpedo on an 8,000 ton merchant ship escorted by 2 destroyers 5 miles south of Punta Carena, Capri. At 0105 a bomb carrying Wellington attacked the same merchant ship, and flashes were seen from its stern.

Beauforts at 0128 attacked 2 escorted merchant ships in 39.10 N. 10.50 E. but did not see the result.

Four Liberators bombed Naples last night; detailed results were not seen, but hits were seen on oil refineries.

22 B.17s escorted by 20 P.38s bombed Bizerta docks today: near misses were seen on one ship. 24 U.S. Fortresses escorted by U.S. Lightnings attacked shipping in Palermo harbour today. One direct hit was made on a ship and several near misses amongst shipping.

Mines off Tripoli.

14. Minesweepers cut 16 mines northwest of Tripoli (L) today.

America & West Indies.

15. The U.S. Navy Dept. have promulgated new rules for the carrying of passengers in unescorted ships.

16. The C. in C. U.S. Fleet is of opinion that heavy loss of life in a convoy will have grave repercussions.

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

17. Cominch reports that on 22nd Feb. U.S.S. LANSDOWNE attacked a sound contact in 09.12 S. 159.50 E. and brought up oil. On the following day fresh bubbling oil was seen and the slick was about 400 x 3,000 yards in area.

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Strike at Belfast. ONYX, BRUISER. BOXER. RATTLER.

Shipyard Welders in Messrs. Harland and Wolff have been on strike since 18th March. Also Carters in Belfast have commenced strike today. These strikes will affect completion dates of short-dated new constructions at Belfast as follows.

(W.P.S. Belfast, 1525A/22 to Admty).

Escorts for / The question of the employment of small escort Landing vessels in the Irish Sea is under consideration. In view of the present lull in enemy aircraft activity in this area the provision of escorts purely for A/A defence is considered unnecessary except in special cases such as category 1 ships Craft.

and ocean convoys. If certain contemplated reductions in escort craft are brought into effect the escorting of landing craft in this area will become impossible except on rare occasions where there may be special circumstances. Request it may be confirmed that normally landing craft will not require escort in W.A. Coastal areas. Alternatively if this is unacceptable request some indication may be given of the scale of escorting required during the coming summer in order that provision may be made.

(C. in C. W.A., 1547A/22 to Admty).

Movements.

Voyage of

Request actual route taken, weather experienced L.C.I.(L) 169. by L.C.I.(L) 169, and any information of value to following flight may be signalled as soon as possible. Information required by B.A.D. Washington.

(D.O.D. H., 0012A/22 to C. in C. Plymouth). Your 0012A/22.

Actual route taken (Daily positions 5th to 20th March). 1. 2. Remarks on voyage. (a) Value of preliminary run to Bermuda to get over very prevalent seasickness and to discover minor defects in ships prior to long ocean passage was again demonstrated.

(b) Routeing as originally laid down was too far to the south and east, thus sending flotilla through area of head winds. L.C.I.(L)s cannot be driven to windward for extensive periods without damage. If wind accompanied by corresponding head sea they have to be treated, to all intents and purposes, as square-rigged sailing-ships, and will not make good much better than 6 points off the wind on each tack. On this passage nothing but winds between N.N.E. and S.S.E. were encountered in spite of deviations from route in accordance with Cominch's 1510/9th March to look for westerly winds. This accounts for slow passage and some hull defects.

(c) One ship separated from Flotilla was attacked by F.W. A/C three times in three hours in about 42° 50' N. 14° 52' W. Suggest route should be west of 20° W. until latitude 45° N. is reached. This is also desirable for weather conditions in any but winter months.

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements

Voyage of L.C.I.(L)169. (contd).

(d) Inexperience of officers and ships' companies led directly to 3 ships becoming separated through bad station-keeping, bad steering, and inability to read or make signals. It is considered essential to include at least a small proportion of experienced seamen if losses of L.C.I's due to straggling, the perils of the sea,

and enemy action are to be avoided. (e) Provision of escort with sufficient gunpower to prevent unhindered attack by enemy submarine on the surface is considered desirable, at least in those parts of the voyage where such attacks are most to be expected.

Communications. Details. All signals were made to the 3. flotilla recoded in S.O's cypher. Thus all signals had to be passed to ships in company by V/S, a most uncertain and lengthy procedure with inexperienced signalmen. Suggest that routine signals of interest to all ships be made in code decypherable by all. The 3 ships which were separated were unable to receive re-routeing instructions.

It is considered very desirable that Cs. in C. concerned in the passage of groups such as this should be fully informed as to communications available, and any special instructions which have been given at the point of departure. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2256/22 to Admty).

HOWE

Hvalfjord arrival at 0335 HOWE with INTREPID, BRECON, and ECHO. (A.C.I.C., 0507/A/22).

GLASGOW

Hvalfjord arrival 1010 GLASGOW. (A.C.I.C., 1051A/22).

S/M Movements. Your 1111/19 as amended by your 1549/20. Arrived (JUNON).

(Capt. S.9., 1231/22 to S.O. S/M Lerwick). Sailed TEMPLAR escorted by COREOPSIS for Lerwick. E.T.A. 1000A/24th.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1304A/22).

My 1734/21. Cancel para. (J). Sailing delayed (0.14).

(F.O.S., 1426A/22 to Admty). Intend to sail P.556 and BLACKFISH escorted by LUNDY at 1330/23 to Falmouth. They are leaving Falmouth at 0600/24 to R/V LA CAPRICIEUSE in 000° Round Island 7 at 1400/24 and proceed with her to Clyde.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1723/22).

Positions of submarines at O800A/23 and movements for following 24 hours

(a) TRUCULENT 68° 48' N., 09° 33' E. probably on surface
(b) SEANYMPH 68° 24' N. 09° 58' E. probably on surface through 68° 30' N. 10° 10' E. to patrol in Zone K. 150.
(c) TEMPLAR escorted by COREOPSIS vicinity Skerry Vore through Minches and West of Orkneys E.T.A. Lerwick 1000/24.

(d) UPROAR and SOKOL escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Calf of Man southbound speed 10 knots due 000° Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24.

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (contd).

(e) 0.14 escorted by M.L. 454 leaves Dundee 1200/23 to carry out exercises and engine-trials in Tay Sanctuary returning to Dundee a.m./25th 0.14 will keep to westward of Q.Z.S. 322 during

dark hours. (f) UNA 49° 30' N. 10° 10' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N., 09° 00' W. thence probably on surface to R/V in 000° Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24. (g) HERRING in Zone K.505.

(h) SHAD in Zone K. 508.

(j) P.556 and BLACKFISH escorted by LUNDY leave Plymouth 1300/23rd for Falmouth and sail from Falmouth so as to R/V in 000° Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24.

(F.O.S., 1749A/22).

Sailed SOKOL to R/V with UPROAR and LA CAPRICIEUSE at 2300A/22 in vicinity of Pladda, thence in accordance with S.3's 1207A/20.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1856A/22).

:511 P. 311 escorted by COREOPSIS northbound from Clyde tonight. SOKOL and P.31 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE sailing from Clyde at 2300A/22 southbound.

(C. in C. W.A., 2021A/22 to VIMY). My 1749/22 para. (G). Amend to read HERRING proceeding from Zone K.501 to patrol in vicinity of 43° 30' N. 011° 01' W. (F.O.S., 2356A/22 to Admty).

DASHER

Scapa departure DASHER and BLANKNEY. E.T.A. Greenock 1800/23. (A.C.O.S., 1606/22).

F.O.S. charge documents F.S.A.6 dated 4th Route and December 1942. Cancel all references to route Area "Blue". "Blue" and bombing restriction areas "Blue". Admiralty's 1549/20 refers. (F.O.S., 1934A/22).

Scapa arrival ANSON, BERWICK, PIORUN, ICARUS, ANSON, MATCHLESS. BERWICK. (A.C.O.S., 2119A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

Operations.

My 1002A/21. "Device" returned at 0625 owing to Coastal weather. Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0645A/22)

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Scapa arrivals KENT, BERMUDA. KENT, (A.C.O.S., 1829/22 to A.C.I.C.). BERMUDA.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrola. (Contd).

(1) 2 M.G.Bs. 2 M.T.Bs. standing by striking force at Newhaven when ordered to sea. M.Ls. 14 and 10 patrol southward of E.A.5 Buoy. (3) M.L. 464 at St. Helens (I.O.W.) KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth (I.O.W.). (4) 2 M.Ls. from Portland patrol from 050° 17' N. 001° 50' W. to 050° 20' N. 002° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1454A/22).

Patrols tonight. 2 M.G.Bs. each Z.51, Z.52, Z.53 moving to Z.53, Z.54, Z.55 at 2230. 3 Motor Gunboats each Z.10, Z.12 moving to Z.13, Z.15 at 2330. 2 M.Ls. Z.19. 2 Rescue M.Ls. Z.17 3 Motor Torpedo Boats Terschelling. 4 M.T.Bs. Texel. 2 M.Ls., 9 Motor Gunboats, 4 M.T.Bs. vicinity of Scheveningen.

(C. in C. Nore, 1618A/22). M.Ls. 139 and 143 at Bullock Bank from 2015. M.T.Bs. 25, 38 and 35 at No. 4 Buoy from 2030 to 0100/23. M.G.Bs. S.l. and S. 3. at V.G.S. Buoy from 2015 to 0530/23. (V.A. Dover, 1733A/22).

- My 1255/21. M.T.B. 618 and 627 sailed 0840/22nd. (A.C.O.S., 0920/22 to Admty). Operation V.P. - X.
- Returning, operation completed. Operation (Ship at Sea, 1200/22 to Lerwick C.C.O.)

/ Russians wish to institute a patrol of 3 S/Ms Norway at a time against enemy convoys in Narvik coastal area. I have informed them of arrangements given in your 1401/19 and your 2325/20 and suggested Coastal S/M Patrol. Soviet S/Ms should operate to northward of latitude 68° 50' N and British to southward of that latitude. Do you agree. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1736A/22 to F.O.S.)

Biscay S/M Patrol. 2. Proceed with utmost despatch to patrol vicinity 043° 30', 011° 01'. 3. Some of larger ships mentioned in my 2249 may be outward bound blockade runners. No friendly aircraft patrol tonight in your 4. vicinity. (F.O.S., 2334A/22 to HERRING).

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland 253/2 of 28th August, 1942. Following is a repetition of my 1334/5 to Admty. Begins. Admiralty letter M. 051495/42 of 22nd October, A/C in Iceland. 1942. Owing to reduced number of Aircraft now

/available...

Prig 100 873

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in Iceland. (contd).

available in Iceland and limitations of their performance in the prevailing conditions the plan envisaged is too ambitious and could not be adhered to. The plan is now being revised to conform with the numbers and types of aircraft actually available. Ends. (A.C.I.C., 1455A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard 0905/ 0935 along south and north coasts. Weather foggy. (A.C.I.C., 2049A/22). My 2049. Consider that this A/C was a Catalina on ice R/C. (A.C.I.C., 2311A/22 to Admty).

Scapa.

At 1700/22 Ju.88 plotted 50 miles S.E. of A buoy. Course N.W. Height 34,000 feet. A/C passed over Flow (1710-1715) from Broughness turning East at Howton Head. A/C was engaged by gun sites firing 252 rounds and intercepted by fighter but no strikes claimed. At 1725 A/C was plotted to 140° Fair Isle 30 miles. Course N.E. height under 1000 feet. Photographs of Flow most probable.

(A.C.O.S., 2200/22 and 0951/23).

Mining.

Nore command.	Mines rendered safe in Nore Command week ended 20th March. One British L Mk. IV. (R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 1042A/22).
Q. L. 9	 (1) Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L.(9) tonight with 51st M.L.F. backed up by available M.G.Bs. of 6th Flotilla. (2) Supporting forces as ordered in my 1019/20. (C. in C. Nore, 1121A/22 to BEEHIVE). Departure M.G.Bs. 67, 59, 64, 61, 58, 63. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1824A/22)
Q. U. 8	My 1802/26th November, 1942 amend para. (7) to read: (7) Q.U. (8) to eastward buoy report in 052° 10' 30" N. 004° 03' 00" E. (C. in C. Nore, 1123A/22 to BEEHIVE)
Humber	One ground mine believed self-detonated 0140/22 in 070° H.l. buoy 2 miles. (F.O. Humber, 1717/22).

/Iceland...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Iceland

Your 1802/18. Before commencing Clearance Operations request you will give preference to defining Northern and Southern limits of minefield with a high percentage search as soon as practicable with five Fleet M/S now in your command. (A.C.N.S. H., 2105A/22 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

on 21st March.

Convoy off About 1815 G.M.T./21st apparently enemy convoy San Sabastian of 2 small and 4 medium to large cargo ships fully loaded was sighted off San Sebastian in territorial waters steaming westward slowly. Escort of 3 destroyers kept outside territorial waters and abreast of convoy. Also one twin engine probably light bomber and 2 smaller probably fighters covering convoy but turned back when convoy opposite San Sebastian. (San Sebastian, 1010/22 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

U-boats.

U-boats reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 46.47 N. 09.58 W. (A/C 138 Sqdn. Duty G. 0057A/22 to 19 Group). Am over enemy submarine in 45.20 N. 06.50 W. (A/C 7 Sqdn. Duty U. 0140A/22 to 19 Group). Am over enemy S/M in 63.34 N. 02.52 W. (A/C A5FE 1135/22).

Am over enemy S/M in(position indecypherable) (A/C Q, 1152/22 to 19 Group). Am over enemy submarine in 46.29 N. 09° 00' W. (A/C D3UJ 1300/22 to 19 Group). Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 47° 10' N.

09° 00' W.

(A/C 1314/22 to 19 Group).

Am over enemy submarine in 47.00 N. 08.50 W. (A/C D3UO 1405/22 to 19 Group).

D/F bearings at 1825Z indicate U-boat may have reported you. (D.D.I.C., 2016A/22 to Escorts X.K.3).

U-boats attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 44.46 N. 08.00 W. (A/C D3UP 1330/22 to 19 Group). Enemy submarine previously reported periscope only sighted position 46° 10' N. 09° 10' W. (A/C D3UJ 1342/22 to 19 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Result unobserved. (A/C D3UP 1354/22 to 19 Group). Am over enemy S/M in 45.25 N. 08.30 W. (A/C D3UA 1435/22 to 19 Group). Have attacked unidentified enemy vessel with depth charges. (A/C D3UA 1440/22 to 19 Group). Am over enemy S/M in 48.05 N. 10.05 W. (A/C D3UQ 1503/22 to 19 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Unknown number of hits.

(A/C D34Q 1504/22 to 19 Group).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

Harwich Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0646/22).

Yarmouth.

Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0731A/22). My 0731. Port open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0917A/22).

Lowestoft. Port open. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0929A/22).

Wick

Wick Harbour open. (R.N.O. Wick, 1630A/22).

Technical.

Oiling at
Sea.Your 1306A/12 to V.A.A. H.F., The following
escort carriers have been inspected:- ACTIVITY
ARCHER.ACTIVITY,
ARCHER.ARCHER. Particulars of fittings.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1626A/22 to C. in C. W.A.)

Acoustic New torpedo having acoustic direction-control, Torpedo. is in use by some German U-boats. Particulars. (D.T.M., 2131A/22 to Cs. in C.)

Casualties & Defects.

NOLISEMENT Sailed Rescue Tug SEINE to assist SS. NOLISEMENT reported aground E.N.E. of Port St. Mary's. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 0844A/22).

KING HAAKON VII. VII. Your 1937/21. Regret it is not convenient to accept KING HAAKON VII. Suggest procedure laid down in A.F.O.4418/42 be followed. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1000A/22 to Capt. S.7).

BURZA BURZA is delayed at Londonderry with defects. Anticipate ship will be ready to sail a.m./23rd. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1202A/22).

SHERBROOKE
Urgent defect horse power engine top and bottom end pounding.
2. Number one boiler longitudinal border leaking R/T transmitter out of order. (?Request) to proceed straight to Londonderry. (SHERBROOKE, 1637A/22 to C.T.24.7).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

PRAGUE. AMSTERDAM. Your 1531A/20. CHIDDINGFOLD will provide escort. (A.C.O.S., 0015/22 to N.O.I.C. Invergordon). Intend sailing transport AMSTERDAM, PRAGUE and escort at 0445/25 speed 17 knots for Invergordon E.T.A. 1545/25. Routed 5 miles east Sumburgh Head,

35 buoy Q. Z.S. 352, 150. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 1025A/22).

H.X. 229

Arrived BABBITT. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0820A/22). Arrived INGHAM, UPSHUR. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1030A/22). Sailed AQUAMARINE to meet H.X. 229. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1040A/22).

Iceland Shuttle Service. Your 0339/20. It is not intended to replace U.S. ships on Iceland (C) Shuttle Service. Ships proceeding to and from Iceland will do so via Loch Ewe in U.R. and R.U. convoys. Cominch 2219/ 12 March refers. (D.O.D. H., 1030Z/22 to C. in C. Lant).

AtlanticYour 1540/21 and my 1951/20. Request Capt. (D)3Convoy Supportin MILNE be sailed to Liverpool.and Escort(C. in C. W.A., 1208A/22 to R.A.D. H.F.)Groups.Admiralty's 0448/20.

1. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's proposal to have two additional C groups refitting or working up would presumably mean that the five groups operating

would be reduced to the bare minimum. 2. Should ships of the operating groups suffer damage it would be necessary to replace them from the spare groups, and the group system would degenerate into a kaleidescope.

3. Furthermore, in order to retain the entity of the spare groups, it would be necessary for the groups to remain spare for the duration of the longest refit thus causing considerable wastage of potential escort strength. I consider that the only way to maintain a satisfactory group system is to use all available ships to make the groups as strong as possible. Adjusting refits as well as may be to prevent undue loss of strength in any one group.

(C. in C. W.A., 1235A/22 to Admty). Following temporary groups are formed to act as support groups.

Third Escort Group OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORIBI, ORWELL, ONSLAUGHT, ICARUS.

Fourth Escort Group MILNE, MATCHLESS, PIORUN, ECLIPSE, IMPULSIVE. Fifth Escort Group BITER, INGLEFIELD, OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE.

(C. in C. W.A., 1559A/22). N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1714/15.

1. The present time seems opportune for raising the question of R.N. Ships operating with A and C Groups.

2. While I have every desire to avoid undue dislocation of the Group System, I consider that it would be advantageous from the point of view of administration, refitting and leave if these ships could return to my Command.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic 3. It is suggested therefore that when new C Groups are being formed consideration should be Convoy given to the replacement of R.N. ships by R.C.N. Support and Escort Groups. Ships. (contd). 4. If these ships were returned to my Command my intention would be to form a B Group to replace a C Group and to use anything over to strengthen existing groups as seemed most

advisable at the time. (C. in C. W.A., 2344A/22 to Admty).

Convoy F.S.68. 4 destroyers carrying out exercises between 4 buoy and 3 A Buoy. F.S. convoy anchored in fog in vicinity of Number 3 buoy.

(C. in C. Nore, 1052A/22 to LEDBURY). Part company from F.S.68 so as to arrive at Harwich before dark today.

(C. in C. Nore, 1451A/22 to VEGA) F.S.68 anchored from B.7 northwards, thick fog. Visibility at B.8 buoy 8 miles to seaward.

(WESTMINSTER, 1526A/22). 1 (One) mile south west of B.8 visibility 6 miles. Have 19 ships of F.S.68 in sight all anchored well to north west of Swept channel. Request instructions whether I should leave them unescorted to comply your 1451/22. (VEGA, 1793A/22 to C. in C. Nore).

U.R.68

U.R.68. Sailing of U.R.68 is to be postponed until a.m./24th to enable ships from S.C.U.122 to be included.

(2) N.O.I.C. Aultbea is requested to sail convoy accordingly and to signal a R/V in the vicinity of OlO° W. at which INGHAM, BABBITT and UPSHUR will join at 1000Z/25. (3) C.T.G. 24.7 is requested to sail INGHAM if ready, BABBITT and UPSHUR to R/V as in para. (2). (C. in C. W.A., 1219Z/22).

X.K.3

On crossing latitude 50° N. detach DESTINY towing WIVERN escorted by DIANELLA and BORAGE to Plymouth. 2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route. (D.O.D. H., 1247A/22 to Escorts X.K.3).

Instructions contained in C.B. 03058 (3), I.C.O.C. A.N.D. gear. 68 para. 3, in course of distribution, have been amended by A.M. 1541/12 since going to press. 2. Commodores of convoys are to be informed. (D.T.D., 1302A/22).

S.D. 38

Intend to sail LETITIA escorted by ITCHEN and SABRE at 2300/22 routed as in C. in C. W.A., 1227/21. (A.C.I.C., 1313A/22 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

/W.P. 311...

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

TANATSIDE is to proceed Plymouth forthwith. WENSLEYDALE to take S.O. of escort. W.P. 311 (C. in C. Plymouth, 1321A/22).

K.M.S.12. A.M. 1833A/18. Both times now postponed 24 hours.

(D.T.D., 1347A/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Convoy K.M.S.12 consisting of ships for

destinations shown will leave U.K. from Clyde on 30th March. For Gibraltar EMPIRE WYCLIF, FORT LIVINGSTONE, TORE JARL, MARSA, PERIBONKA, META, GLAISDALE. For Oran, FLUOR SPAR, FORT ELLICE, CITY OF CHRISTIANIA, WILLIAM M. STEWART, EMPIRE RUSKIN P.L.M. 21. For Algiers CITY OF VENICE, CITY OF NORWICH, OCEAN WAYFARER, OCEAN VISCOUNT, MAHSUD, OCEAN TRADER, EMPIRE HEATH, OCEAN

MERCHANT.

For Bougie OCEAN LIBERTY, OCEAN VETERAN. For Philippeville OCEAN VIGIL, NOLISEMENT. EMPIRE CAMERON. For Bone. CEFN-Y-BRYN, OCEAN VOLGAR, FORT SIMPSON, FORT BOURBON, OCEAN VIRTUE, TRIONA. For Tangier and Seville EMPIRE KESTREL, MIRIAM.

For Huelva BRIKA, REDGATE.

For Lisbon and Melilla BAXTERGATE.

For Lisbon BARON FORBES.

2. SS. EMPIRE WYCLIF FORT LIVINGSTON, PERIBONKA carry aircraft in addition to their other cargo.

3. Speed of the slowest ship 8 knots.

4. EMPIRE HEATH will operate as a C.A.M. ship.

Escorts. 5.

(D.O.D. H., 1438A/22).

C. in C. W.A. 1032/9th March. KATY (Nor). arrived New York March 21 with convoy O.N. 170. Ship was not torpedoed. 0. N. 170, KATY. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1609Z/22).

R.U.67

(1) 2002/22. (2) QUADRILLE (S.O.) SPRITE, VELETA (3) 7 knots (4) As in my 1241/21. (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 2121A/22).

GODETIA and Rescue Ship ZAMELEK arrived Clyde, S.C.122. both with survivors. Survivors (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2318A/22). from CARRAS.

H. D. M.L. 1229, saved from CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH.

. . .

CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH had three H. D.M.L.'s secured on deck. By 1645/22 the stern was awash and it was decided to abandon ship. The lashings of the h.D.M.L.'s were cast off and after the crew had been taken on board the escort, H.M.C.S. MORDEN, the latter fired into the forward part of the CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH so that she would sink horizontally and give the H.D.M.L.'s a chance to float off undamaged. At 1940, the ship took her final plunge. Two of the H.D.M.L.'s floated off, but one had broken her back. The other, H.D.M.L. 1229, was intact and was manned by volunteers from MORDEN, who started her engines and got her under way. She proceeded in company with MORDEN, in spite of "a strong gale", maintaining 9 knots, and reached Gibraltar on March 24.

TRUE LE LE LE LE COMPANY

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(Coastal Forces Periodical Review, C. p. 04272/(2), p. 29).

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TORDENE, R.S.3.

Your 1202/17. Suggest TORDENE R/V convoy R.S.3 position 34.20 N. 08.05 1800A/23. Advise. (S.N.O.C.A. 0225/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. C. in C. Med.)

R.S.3 your 0225/22, concur, subject to agreement of F.O.I.C. Gib.

(D.T.D. 1718A/22 to S.N.O.C.A.)

KENYA.

My 1315A/21 sailed KENYA, Q.L.A.165. (F.O.C. Gib. 0410A/22 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

My 1815/21. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH proceeding Lisbon now. Estimated speed 7 knots. Position 038° 38' Oll° 28'. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH. (Bomb damage (C.2. 0430Z/22 to V.A. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. 21 March.)

C. in C. W.A, Admty.) My 0430, not to MORDEN. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH very low by the stern making 6 knots. MORDEN standing by. (C.2. 0705Z/22 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty.

C. in C. Med. MORDEN.)

Rescue Tug JAUNTY escorted by NASTURTIUM sailed 1230/22nd S. of A. 11 knots to assist CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH. (2) Keep me informed of situation.

(F.O.C. Gib. 1235A/22 to MORDEN (R) Admty, C. in C. Med.

Escorts K.M.S.11.) Your 1907A/22nd. (N.T. in W.D.) Salvage Tug not required. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH sank 1900. Have survivors on board.

Salvage 1 M.L. Steaming in coy. Course 168° speed 9 knots, shall endeavour to rejoin K.M.S.11. (MORDEN 2055A/22 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A, Admty. C.2.)

K.M.F.11. Movements, Gibraltar. K.M.F.11, arrived ULSTER MONARCH, DOUGLAS. Arrived fuelled and sailed to rejoin, WHADDON, EGGESFORD, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, BADSWORTH. (F.O. Gib. 0545/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

U.G.S. Convoy. My 1530Z/21.* (List of M/Vs.) Task Force 63 WAINWRIGHT, MAYRANT, ROWAN, RHIND, TRIPPE, CHAMPLIN, HOBBY, last two N.S.W. in Task Force 67. ALCOA GUARD, BENJAMIN HARTISON, MOLLY FITCHER, RICHARD HALEY, WYOMING, did not arrive. (S.N.O.C.A. 08252/22 to Admty. etc.)* (VAIX arrived with TF.63. Ship composition will follow.)

T.E.19 (Y). Intend sailing for Oran PAUL DES ROUSIERS, SIDI BRAHIM, L.T.C. 15,16, and 19, H.M.S. HENGIST, Rescue Tugs EMPIRE FRED and EMPIRE NED. For Mostaganem, SIDI BEL ABBES, G.G. LEPINE. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O.

(F.O. Gib. 0933A/22 to F.O.I.C. Oran (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Conta.

LARIAT.

Expect complete fitting sprayer tip and engine trial LARIAT p.m. 25th. Request orders and routeing instructions. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 0954C/22 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. N.A. Lisbon.)

Intend sailing cable ship LADY DENISON-PENDER in R.S.3. for Bathurst. 2. LADY DENISON-PENDER LADY DENISON-PENDER. is required to repair the Bathurst St.Vincent and Bathurst Sierra Leone cable.

3. LADY DENISON-PENDER urgently requires 24 hours docking. I am informed by French N.L.O. Gib. that docking at Dakar could be arranged. 4. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to Comar, Dakar. (F.O. Gib. 1004A/22 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

RHINO.

1525/19 sailed D.D. in U.S.S. RHINO Gibraltar. (C.M.S.F.F. 1006Z/22 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Alusno Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Admty. Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

E.T.15.

E.T.15 arrived plus DAISY MOLLER (19 ships in all) (F.O.C. Gib. 1027A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.

E.T.15. My 1027A/22nd, cancel ref. to DAISY MOLLER, 18 ships only arrived. (F.O. Gib. 1742A/22.)

Situation

Situation 2000A/22nd.

Reports. S/M passes Peare 37.49 09.42 through 36.51 09.13 at 0600/23rd thence 099° 7/2. (2) Polish S/M DZIK 37.05 09.20 through 36.51 09.13 at 2200/22nd thence 099° 7½/2. (3) S/M ULTOR 36.41 07.52 through 36.37 07.24 at 2310/22nd and 35 (2.17) 06 15 (aroun microed) 0200(23rd theorem 0.200)

(3) 5/m oblick So.41 07.52 through So.57 07.24 at 2510/22nd and 35 (? 17) 06.15 (group missed) 0800/23rd thence Gibraltar 8.2/2. (4) KENYA 33.09 09.45 through 28.58 14.39 and 27.48 15.01 thence 206° 18. (5) K.M.S.11, BROADWAY, 36.40 10.30 through 36.00 10.00 thence through Straits 7. (6) U.S. AUK, 2 P.C., COMMANDANT DROGOU 4 Merchant ships 32.15 10.26 through 33.55 07.53 where one P.C. 2 Merchant ships ozerts to 20 through 50.05 of 55 where proceed Gibraltar 7¹/₂. (7) Portuguese gunboat LAGOS 3 S/Ms exercising off Cezimbra 22nd to 27th. (8)C(?G) 20, 1 U.S. destroyer 2 P.C. 2 French escorts 34.42 07.17 through 35.48 06.26 to Gibraltar 7. (9) ANTELOPE (E) 39.30 12.23 through 37.01 (09'?) 30 thence 109° 13.(10) R.S.3, CADMUS, sails from Gibraltar 1800/22nd through 35.45 (? 06) 30 thence 222° 7¹/₂. (11) HAARLEM sails 1930/22nd westbound direct to Lisbon 8. (12) REDOUBT sails a.m. 23rd through 35.45 06.30 and 33.24 08.59 thence 216° 20. (see amendment 1913A/22). (13) ABDIEL left Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon (? 8) knots.
(14) HERO 19.18 17.43 through 23.44 16.20 thence 036° 19.
(15) NASTURTIUM, JAUNTY sailed Gibraltar 1300/22nd through 225° Cape St. Vincent 5 to vicinity Lisbon 12. (F.O. Gib. 1148A/22.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Contd.

My 1148A/22nd para (12). Amend to read REDOUBT, ULSTER MONARCH sail 1200/23rd through 35.45 06.30 thence 225° 15¹/₂. (V.A. Gib. 1913A/22.)

Add new para 16 to my 1148/22nd. L.S.T. convoy C.T.U. 62, 35.39 N. 08.42 W. 086° 8.

(F.O. Gib. 2326A/22) Further addition, see 0602A/23. Situation at 1959A/22nd.

G.U.S.5, T.F.65, 28.01 36.31 through 28.00 38.00 thence 304° 9. 2. WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND 28.19 42.52 064° 11. (F.O. Gib. 1151A/22) Situation 2001A/22nd.

H.M. S/M UNRULY 42.24 12.08 155.7 A/2. (4) S.L.126, PELICAN 32.45 11.51 337.7¹/₂. (6) W.S.28, MALCOLM 29.00 12.29 through 26.59 14.58 thence 216,12¹/₂. (8) Portuguese Destroyer LIMA left Ponta Delgada 21st for Lisbon 18 knots. (9) GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE (E) 39 (?33) 12.50 143,8¹/₂.

(F.O. Gib. 1202A/22.)

L.C.Is. L.C.I's will be 3rd day and 2nd hour late on my L.S.Ts. T.F. 62. 1606 March 2nd. L.S.Ts. 3rd day and 18th hour late.

(C.T.F.62 1200Z/22 to F.O.C. Gib.) Your 1200Z/22nd MATTEOLE, CHICKADEE and MORENOCLOS examination station for Pilots. 2. Organise L.C.Is. in Group 1 to 4 of 6 craft each for berthing. 3. Organise L.S.Ts. in 5 groups namely A and B of 3 British craft each, C.D. and E. of 4,3, and 3, U.S. craft respectively. 4. Navigating Officer in M/L will meet each Group South of obstruction in Q-K.A. 78 Para 1. 5. Berth instructions follow in later signal. 6. Vessels with urgent defects requiring dockyard assistance should be in Group 4 B. and E.

(F.O. Gib. 2350A/22 to C.T.U.64.) Amended by 2221A/23 q.V.

S/Ms, Information,	NASTURTIUM and 1 Tug sailed 1300/22nd routed 225° St. Vincent 5 vicinity Lisbon 12 knots.	
NASTURTIUN.	(F.O.C. Gib. 1237/22 to ULTOR (P.53) DZIK, SHAKESPEARE (P.221), UNRULY (P.49)	

DOUGLAS.

DOUGLAS entered Gibraltar a.m. 22nd for fuel and examination to port propeller damaged in U.K. before sailing.

2. Ship fit to proceed limited to 22 knots. 3. Intend sailing DOUGLAS for Algiers at 1330/22nd routed through 16, 82, 39, 100, 14, S. of A. 18 knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1245A/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

U/B

Am over enemy S/M which when first seen was on surface in 30.18 N. 18.08. W. (A/C 2B7EY via O. in C. W.A.1235Z/22.)

/Convoy...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy R.S.3.

My 1507/21st Para 7, add ALLIGATOR, CROCODILE as neither have endurance to make Freetown. 2. BRIDGEWATER pass to escort in company. (F.O. Gib. 1246A/22 to F.O.C. W.A. Escorts S.R.3, (R) Admty, Comar, Dakar, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

R.S.3 sailed as in my 1153/20 plus LAGOSIAN and MOANDA for Takoradi less EMPIRE CHUB, EMPIRE ACE, DENIS and OBERON have no W/T remainder hold S.P. 02272 (22) and (23). (F.O. Gib. 1835A/22 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

BORDSEE, March 22nd. German vessels BORDSEE and SPERBER (see Lloyds Register) in future to be known as 64 65 respectively arrived March 22nd to load Iron ore. German 61 (BALDUR) expected complete SPERBER, BALDUR. loading 26th. (Consul Bilbao 1315/22 to Admty. (R) M. of E.W. B.N.A. Madrid, S.O. (I) Gib.)

Arrival 21st 5, 27, 12, 10, 18, 4, 3, 11. Arrival 22nd German BORDSEE (64) German SPERBER Shipping Bilbao. (65). Departure 20th, 24, 1, 16, 25, 8. Repeat S.O. (I) Gib. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) (Consul Bilbao 1330/22 to Bank Block, London.)

Convoy

G.U.F.6. G.U.F.6. G.U.F.6. HITCHI Sall G.U.F.6 Casablanca Section (six ships) escorted in T.F.64, NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, WOOLSEY, LUDLOW, EDISON, BUCK, WILKES, SWANSON, ROE, BRISTOL, NICHOLSON at 1000A/25 to R/V with Med. Section position 34° 58' N. 07° 43' W. at 1700/25 thence accordance Adm. 1913A/19 3. of A. 13.5 knots destination of all ships New York. First Chop"10°W.01002/26 second "Chop" 40° W. 05002/3. Intend sail G.U.F.6 Casablanca Section (six ships)

(C.M.S.F. 1405A/22 to Connav, Admty, C. in C. Med.)

Swiss MALOJA and Swiss chartered Spanish vessels INDAUCHU and PUNTA ALMINA leave Genoa 26th for Swiss Shipping. Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 1544A/22 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.11. U/B.

A.C.I.39 (?) At 1508Z aircraft sighted periscope near convoy in 037° 10' 010° 44'. BROADWAY, SHERWOOD, hunting. DRUMHELLER relieving former. SHERWOOD now reports periscope again sighted (?), Hunt continuing (?). Weather report. (C.2. 1645Z/22 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.C. Gib, N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

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K.M.S.11.	My 1645/22nd, hunt abandoned 1803 so as to	
U/B•	rejoin by dark. Contact lost.	
Contd.	(C.2. 1832Z/22 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med etc.)	•

Intend sailing ULSTER MONARCH escorted by REDOUBT for Freetown at 1200/23rd. 2. (Route). 3. SALVENT. 4. Communications. ULSTER MONARCH, REDOUBT. (F.O.Gib. 1737A/22 to F.O.C.W.A. N.O.I.C.Casablanca Comar, Dakar, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.

Convoy R. S. 3.

My 1507/21st, convoy R.S.3 sailed. (F.O.C. Gib. 1751A/22 to F.Q., W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Comar, Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Convoy.

Your 1927Z/21. (N.T. in W.D.). Route for U.S.S. MATTOLE and convoy: (RE 3502 0901 to RK 3658 6955). 2. Stragglers Route. 3. Concur in inclusion of JOHN MCLAUGHLIN,

FRANCIS PARKMAN, CHAS. N. HALL and LOU GEHRIG. 4. S.N.O.C.A. or F.O.I.C. Gib. pass to E.N. Convoy Commodore end Convoy Vice Commodore S.N.O.C.A. pass C.T.F.67. (D.O.D. (H) 1824A/22 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) Cinclant, F.O.I.C. Gib. Connav, C. in C. Med. N.O.B. Oran, Convoy Vice Commodore C.T.F.67. E.N. Convoy Commodore.)

Spanish Fishing

Your 2237A/19th Feb. (re Spanish fishing vessels bought by Germans.) 55° N. At 1715Z/22nd in 036° 52' 010° 36' LAGAN closed two Spanish fishing Vessels. vessels F. 983 CIJON CANARIAS 3, and F. 984 L. 3. CIJON CANARIAS 4. Both had 12 men on deck and efficient looking wireless aerial. Funnel markings projected. (As received.) Not boarded owing to known proximity of U-boats. (C.2. 1825Z/22 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

TACTICIAN.

P.M. 24th intend sailing TACTICIAN for working up patrol in exercises north of latitude Cape De Creus west of longitude 005° 50' E. outside 100 fathom line. Capt. (S) is requested to assume operational control at 0140/26th.

S. of A. 11 knots, 145 miles per day. (2) (Route). (F.O. Gib. 1857A/22, 1903A/22 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, TACTICIAN.) Cancelled by 1701/25, q.v.

Movements, Casablanca.

March 22, warships, U.S.S. RHIND P.C. 474 French LA SENTINELLE and FRUCTIDOR departed with C.G.20 for Gib. (C.M.S.F.F. Casablanca 1900Z/22 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gib. Admty.)

/Survivor...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

Survivor Stowaways in BURWELL. Your 1236/18th March. Ministry of Marine mentioned incident in friendly spirit and asked that (we should?) endeavour in future to prevent stowaways embarking in H.M. ships as this laid Portuguese Government open to protest under Hague Convention 1907, No. 13, article 18. (N.A. Lisbon 1910A/22 to Ponta Delgada (R) Admty.)

S/Ms. information HAARLAM. HAARLA

British Tanker, Tangier. (MAIDEN) Spanish authorities have objected to this Tanker remaining more than 24 hours in Tangier because they class her as an armed vessel of war. Agents were able to arrange for her to remain in port to complete loading on this occasion only. Essential on next visit here tanker should dismantle her guns otherwise Spanish Authorities

are likely to insist on her leaving Tangier within 24 hours. I have on this occassion purposely not intervened with M. of T. who have suggested permission should be asked next time by me for any extension of visit over 24 hours, as I do not want to make it appear Tanker is a war vessel or is in any way connected with R.N. I hope you are satisfied owners anti sabotage measures are being taken on board. Risk of sabotage is always present against British ship in Tangier and 100% precautions should be taken whilst vessel is in our waters. (Gib. 1930/22 to Admty.) See also 1430A/25 1729/25.

Movements, Gibraltar.

ts, Arrivals, French ship LA BOUDEUSE from Oran. HAYDON ar. recalled from escort duties west. LIDDESDALE, BICESTER, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA, TANGO, KING SOL with convoy E.T.15. Departures. HAYDON for Mers al Kabin NASTUDTUM

with convoy E.T.15. Departures, HAYDON for Mers el Kebir. NASTURTIUM Tug JAUNTY to assistance of S.S. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, DOUGLAS for Algiers. HAARLEM escort duties Lisbon/Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gib.1955A/22 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

NASTURTIUM.

Your 2010A/22nd. My E.T.A. off Lisbon 1400A/23rd at earliest. (NASTURTIUM 2200A/22 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) MORDEN.)

FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, WESTON. E.T.A. Ponta Delgada for fuelling at 0920Z/26th. TOTLAND, WESTON in company. Request necessary authorities may be informed. Admiralty pass to C.A.F.A.C. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Weather report. (FOLKESTONE, 2203Z/22 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admtw

(FOLKESTONE, 2203Z/22 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. GORLESTON, C.A.F.A.C.)

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North Atlantic - Contd.

1

U/B Report of attack on enemy submarine in 30-15
Sunk N. 18-13 W. at 1335A/22nd March. Army B.24 plane dropped four 650 pound charges on fully surfaced sub. on course 180 speed 10. Two charges straddled C/T. Sub. continued, course 11 seconds then disappeared stern first in 55 seconds bow in air 45°. Wreckage strewn in 200 foot circle oil slick 300 ft. by 600 ft. Plane dropped life raft and remained vicinity 30'. On departure brown coloured paint-like substance rising to surface Three men were in C/T one attempted man A/A. Nine survivors last seen clinging to cylindrical object. Submarine painted white, no markings, C/T streamlined aft to deck, (?one) gun forward, one in C/T bow very sharp. Believed 500 ton size. Evaluation A. Gibraltar pass to Admiralty also pass to F.O.C.W.A. (S.N.O.C.A. 2235Z/22 to C. in C. Med. F.O. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.) "Almost certain kill". See C. in C. Med. 1245A/23.

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HILDESAY

Returned to Durban with defects. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 0714Z/22 to Admty. etc).

Movements.

Capetown arrivals 21st QUILLIAM, FOXHOUND. (C. in C. S.A., 0717B/22 to Admty). BUTSER and oiler FORTOL arrival 22nd. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent, 1120/22 to Admty). Capetown arrival 22nd RACEHORSE. (C. in C. S.A., 1156B/22 to Admty). Departure 21st S/M Chaser GURUPY. (R.O. Bahia 1203Z/22 to Admty).

0.8.44

Sailed VENDOME, ULRIKHOLM, SORVARD, HEIMVARD 2130Z/21st escorted by Fr. M/S LA GRACIEUSE to join O.S. 44. (Comar Dakar, 08222/22 to F.O.C.W.A.F., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, ROCHESTER, Admty. N.O.I.C. Casablanca,

C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib). My 0822/22nd. Merchant ships sailed with original signal letters as follows. VENDOME, FNNT, HEIMVARD, LCUY,

ULRIKHOLM, MPFP, SORVARD, LCZR. (Comar Dakar, 1044Z/22 to R.A.W.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, ROCHESTER, Admty. N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med).

Freetown, U.S. withdrawal. Information received from U.S. Naval Observer that all U.S. personnel for construction of works at Freetown are to be withdrawn in immediate future for service elsewhere.

2. All construction equipment and tools as well as refrigerators, cooking appliances etc.,

are being taken. 3. Position created will be disastrous for development of Freetown even as a convoy assembly port alone, which it must always remain, this particularly as in view intended removal of constructional equipment. 4. Removal of cooking and living equipment will also render Kissy Barracks useless for Navy until replacements can be sent.

5. Ernestly request re-consideration be given to removal of material.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1107Z/22 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., Cdre. Freetown, Resmin Accra, Governor Sierra Leone).

Convoy C. M. 40. C. M. 40 A to Kilindini, B. to Bombay.
 1100Z/22nd. (4) 92 knots to Kilindini, 10 knots from 6° S. to Bombay. (5) (Route).
 (6) WAYLAND, CHITRAL, CANTON, A/S escort NAPIER, CATTERICK, QUALITY. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1132Z/22 to Admty etc).

/Sailed...

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Convoy C.M. 40. (contd).

Sailed WAYLAND, CHITRAL, CANTON, NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK escorting convoy C.M.40 in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban, 1132/22.

(2) NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK part company in 22° S. and return to Durban.

(3) WAYLAND, CHITRAL, CANTON shift W/T organisa-tion to Group V at 1415Z/28 March. (4) WAYLAND, and CHITRAL and Kilindini Section part company in vicinity of 6°S. and proceed direct to Kilindini. E.T.A.

1600Z/31st March.

(5) CANTON escorts Bombay Section.
(6) WAYLAND does not hold S.P. 02360(26).

(Com. i/c Durban, 1151Z/22 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., etc).

Convoy C.M. 40 A sailed 22nd March for Kilindini E.T.A.

Convoy C. M. 40 A salled 22nd March for Killindini E.T.A.
31st March. Total personnel on board (1) for Killindini
(2) for Aden. (3) for Mid. East in (A) KHEDIVE ISMAIL
(B) DEVONSHIRE (C) EMPIRE WOODLARK (D) CAP TOURANE (E) PULASKI.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1644B/22 to D.S.T.O. Killindini).
Convoy C.M. 40 B sailed 22nd March for Bombay E.T.A. 10th
April. Personnel on board (1) for India. (2) for Iraq (3)
for Ceylon in (a) EMPIRE TROOPER, (b) CITY OF LONDON (c) CITY OF
CANTERBURY, (d) DILWARA.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 1651B/22 to S.S.T.O. Bombay). (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1651B/22 to S.S.T.O. Bombay).

Situation

Reports.

Position at 2000Z/22nd.

SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY. RAIDER with S.O. of Escort (?W).S. 27 031 35' S. 015° 35' E. to Capetown 12½ knots.

D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with C.A. 15 035° 40' S. 019° 20' E. to 040°

D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with C.A.15 035 40' S. 019 20' E. to 040 OO' S. 022° 50' E. 10. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 037° 20' S. 002° 00' E. to 035° S.006° W. 16.5 FREESIA 030° 50' S. 032° 30' E. to Durban 12 knots. NORWICH CITY, LE TIGER, 031° 20' S. 033° 15' E. to Durban 9. CANTON, CHITRAL, QUALITY, CATTERICK, NAPIER. WAYLAND with C.M. 40 024° 40' S. 032° 45' E. to 029° 20' S. 039° (?19') E. 11. BIRMINGHAM 032° 10' S. 029° 40' E. to Capetown 22. (?19') E. 11. (C. in C. S.A., 1205B/22). Situation at 1958Z/22nd.

F.S. M/S GAZELLE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, BIRDLIP with D.69 about 23.33 16.23 to north within 10 miles of coast (?5). HERO 20.53 17.40 to 22.41 17.37 thence 36.19. UGANDA 18.59 21.02 164 18. ARETHUSA (?21).45 37.00 to 23.01 40.01 thence with H (?150) about 15.29 (?24).37 to Bathurst (?12). ROCHESTER, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, SCARBOROUGH, MIGNONETTE F.S. M/S LA GRACIEUSE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, DUNKERY 2 M.Ls. with O.S. 44 11.55 17.09 159 82. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, HYDRANGEA, THYME 2 M.Ls. with S.R.3 10.14 17.36 to 10.26 18.00 and 12.00 18.43 thence Zamboanga 8. CILICIA 07.30 16.10 to Freetown 14. FANDANGO escorting about 13.47 17.33 to Dakar 5. French Cruiser GLOIRE on patrol about 07.30 28.00 20. PETUNIA, CORINTHIAN 2 motor launches escorting off Freetown to R/V with 0.S.44 p.m./23rd. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1253Z/22).

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Situation Reports. (contd). Add to my 1253Z/22 HYDRANGEA about 009° 04' 014° 40' to Freetown 8. (F.O.C.W.Af. 1748Z/22). Situation at 2001Z/22nd. CYCLAMEN, ARRAN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.Ls. with T.S. 33 04.24 08.22 299 52.

ARMERIA, BELLWORT escorting 03.34 07.08 to 03.30 07.40 thence 302 12¹/₂. INKPEN one M.L. off Robert Port one M.L. on passage Freetown to Robert Port. One on passage Robert Port to Freetown. 4. Allied Naval Units in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1254Z/22).

Movenents Recife, B.J.3 Series No. 23 convoy B.J.3 sailed Bahia 0830Z/21st NORTELOIDE, ARATAIA, TAQUI, CAHY, Brazilian, for Rio de Janeiro 25th. (Asst. S.O.(I) Recife, 1302Z/22 to Admty). Series No. 24 following ships sailing Pernambuco

O800Z/22nd escorted by BUTTERMERE:- FARRAPO, ITAHITE, 2 Brazilian, for Natal, BRASILUSO, TUPIARA, 2 Brazilian for Fernando de Norohna. (Asst. S.O.(I) Recife, 1310Z/22 to Admty).

?WASTWATER

Following from WASTWATER? (begins). Arrived Pernambuco 1400Z/22nd. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1411Z/22 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W. Africa, N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.N.S.O. Officer Rio de Janeiro, B.A.D.)

U/B Campaign off South Africa. Concur in issue of statement proposed in para. 3 of your 1834/18. (Head of M. app. 1st Lord, 1527A/22 to C. in C. S.A.)

S.R.3 Departure 0703/21. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, HYDRANGEA, THYME, M.Ls. 302 and 287 escorting S.R.3. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1656Z/22 to Admty).

U/B S/M reported by U.S. Army Aircraft at 11302/22 position 02.20 N. 15.30 W. (F.O.C.W.Af., 17132/22 to Admty).

BIRMINGHAM Sailed BIRMINGHAM to Simonstown route R ship to position (D) 034° 45' S. 025° 35' E. then through (E) 035° 00' S. 020° 00' E. S. of A. 20 knots, E.T.A. 0900B/24.

2. Shift W/T organisation to group S.L. at 2300B/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1722B/22 to Admty. C. in C. S.A., R.N. Air Station Tanga, C. in C. E.F., Naval Liaison Officer East London N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. Capetown).

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HYDRANGEA refit.

Intend to sail HYDRANGEA to U.K. to refit as additional escort to S.L. 127. Request that refitting port for HYDRANGEA may be communicated. (F.O.C.W.Af., 1750/22 to Admty. (R) Capt. D. Freetown).

FELIX ROUSSEL. Your 2124/20. In view of P.S.T.O. India's 0615/19 now received giving numbers on board for U.K. it appears impracticable to embark P.O.Ws in FELIX ROUSSEL for unescorted voyage.

(2) Also doubtful if Union authorities will be prepared to send to Capetown by rail any additional P.O.Ws. to those referred to in your 1330/16 (?1530/16) Railway congestion is still acute. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1817/22 to D. of S.T. (R) D.S.T.O. Durban).

SARABANDE

Sailed SARABANDE Coastal to Port Bouet. E.T.A. 0700Z/23rd March returning Takoradi, E.T.A. 0700Z 24th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1819Z/22 to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty R.N.O. Lagos).

CHARON. GLENBEG.

Vessel very lively, depth of water 14 feet forward 17/2 feet aft, on sandstone, draft 15 feet forward 19 feet aft. Towing tomorrow 23rd with CHARON and GLENBEG top equinnoxtial tide if fail to float then shall return to Lagos for diver. T.N.T. compressor and pump. Salvage Officer (ends). (CHARON, 1900Z/22 to F.O.I.C.W.Af. (R) .R.N.O. Lagos).

Arrival 22nd March U.S. Cruiser OMAHA Movements U.S. Des. MOFFETT U.S. Transports POLLUX and Pernambuco. MONTEREY. (R.O. Pernambuco, 1958Z/22 to Admty. (R)

SOS.

Following has been read S O S. 00° 20' S. 07° 50' W. (Freetown W/T T.O.R. 2053Z/22). De VPU (Sierra Leone Radio). S O S 00.20 S. 08.50 W. 2053 G.M.T./22 Ends. (Valentia Radio, 2118/22 to Admty).

S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown).

Your 1555/18th just received. 1200A/21. (D.O.D. (F) 2220A/22 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar). UGANDA

890

22**.3.1943.** Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PAKENHAM, PETARD.

M, Sailed PAKENHAM and PETARD. (V.A.Malta 0052/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of (?fast) enemy convoy, V.N.T.C. 2502 indecypherable in W.D. 060° 15 knots. (A/C FBC/P 0140/22 to H.Q. R.A.F. Malta.) P.C. and S. of 2 M/Vs,3 destroyers, 39.10 N. 10.50 E. 160° 8 knots. (A/C FD0/T 0228/22 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one medium vessel (not exceeding 10,000 tons) one small vessel (not exceeding 2,000 tons) 4 destroyers, 38.05 N. 11.10 E. 240° 8 knots, 2 medium vessels (not exceeding 10,000 tons) 3 destroyers 38.02 N. 10.45 E. 150° 8 knots. (A/C BTR/C 0635/22 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

K.M.S.11.

Onward route from H. to J. 035° 40' N. 008° 00' W. through Q.K.Z. 87 to K. Europa Point position 37. Thence 50,2,44,7 - 036° 52' N. 003° 05' E. -92, 96 lettered L. to R. to Bone. Stragglers route as convoy.

2. S.O.A. 8 knots to Algiers route as convoy. 2. S.O.A. 8 knots to Algiers then 8½. 3. Sections join and detach as follows with local escort:-Gibraltar in 37 at 0800/24th, 78 in 036° 05' N. 000° 57' W. at 1100/25th. Algiers in 036° 52' N. 003° 05' E. at 1300/26th Bougie in 037° 08' N. 005° 09' E. at 0100/27th. Philippeville in 037° 12' N. 006° 53' E. at 1100/27th Bone, E.T.A. 1800/27th. 4. Mediterranean escort TYNEDALE, LIDDESDALE, REIGHTON, WYKE, KING SOL, VISENDA, TANGO, GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange change of escort. 5. All times A. 6. Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Untrue."

(C. in C.Med. 0857A/22 to BROADWAY, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.Il. (R) A.I.G. 260.) Attack on U/B, see 1350Z/22. K.M.S.Il. Destinations as follows: Gibraltar Section unchanged. (Lists) For Oran, Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville, Bone.

(C. in C.Med. 1522A/22 to BROADWAY, Escorts Convoy K.M.S.ll.)

TALMA Repatriations. My 1701/21. TALMA sailed from Mersin four hours late and has broadcast her position as 36° 22' N. 34° 42' E. course 175, 11 knots at 0001/22. (C. in C.Levant 0909B/22' to Admty.)

Movements Alexandria Arrivals 21st ABDIEL, EXMOOR, SOUTHERN ISLES, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, PROTEA. Departure 21st ABDIEL. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0916B/22 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

PALADIN, QUEEN OLGA sweep. PALADIN, G.S. QUEEN OLGA leaving Malta 1530 today 22nd for sweep in Gulf of Hammamet during night. (V.A.Malta 1017A/22 to C. in C.Med. H.Q. R.A.F.M.E.

201 Group, H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. (R) C. in C.Levant, Admty.) Sailed PALADIN and QUEEN OLGA on operations.

(V.A.Malta 1537A/22 to Admty. etc.)

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

PALADIN,
QUKEN OLGA,
sweep.My 1017/22. Destroyers returned. PALADIN with
engine trouble.
(V.A.Malta 2303A/22 to C. in C.Med. (R) C.
in C.Levant, Admty.)

UNSEEN.

P.51 (UNSEEN) leaves Malta 1500A/22nd March by usual route through Q.K.B. 20 to Pass P at 1200A/ 24th, thence to Gibraltar as ordered by you. (Capt. S.10 1021A/22 to Capt. S.8, (R) Submarines on patrol, C. in C.Med., Capt. S.1.) Sailed (V.A.Malta 1510A/22.)

M.W. 23.

Operation M.W. 23. At 1800/21 10349 tons of general cargo had been discharged. Tanker OVULA had completed discharge of 7580 tons furnace fuel by midnight 18th March. (V.A.Malta 1025A/22 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)

M.T.Bs.

Arrived M.T.Bs. 61, 84, 95 from operation. (V.A.Malta 1029A/22 to Admty. etc.) My 1121/21st. M.T.Bs. operating in same area again tonight. They have orders not to attack S/Ms.

(Capt. S.10, 1156A/22 to Capt. S.8, (R) 8th S.F.) Sailed M.T.Bs. 84, 65, 261 on operation and S/M P.51 (UNSEEN.) (V.A.Malta 1510A/22 to A amty. etc.)

LIGHTNING, loss. A.F.O. 3700/40. Not intended to hold Board enquiry into loss of LIGHTNING as consider no useful purpose would be served. (C. in C.Med. 1037A/22 to Admty.)

Bi weekly Opsum No. 110 Part 2. Night 20/21 March. 10 B.24s despatched to bomb harbour installations at Naples. 3 returned early owing to technical troubles. Remaining 7 found haze and cloud over Naples which hampered observation of results, but bursts seen near Vittorio Emmanuele Mole and in town near railway yards. Ship seen burning inshore East of harbour but not claimed. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1051Z/22.)

Italian / Your O.E.T/21697 March 14 (1300B/14.) Repatriations Out of question to have Italian ships with Italian crews moving in those waters. Your reply should indicate not at present possible make the arrangements which are subject of petition. (W.O. 1200A/22 to Mideast for Civaffairs.)

/U/B...

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U/B.

Following read: Am over enemy S/M in 35.49 N. 02.10 W. S/M sighted on surface and observed to submerge E.S.E. 180° 8.

(A/C ZY9/G 1230A/22.) My 1230, position, course and speed of submarine are 35° 56' N. 1° 42' W. 18)° 8. (A/C ZY9/G 1245A/22.)

176 M.S. Group. C. in C.Levant 1401/3. SAHRA and SANTA are to join SWONA to form 176th M/S Auxiliary Group allocated to Malta. (D.M.S. 1251A/22 to V.A.Malta (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F.)

Tripoli and Benghazi. Reply to Admty. 0229/12 re shipping requirement for maintenance. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 1305/21 to Admty. for D.S.T.) See Lion Copy.

UNITED, SARACEN, TORBAY, THUNDERBOLT, TRIBUNE.

1. P.44 (UNITED) passes P at 1200/23rd and proceeds to patrol in Zone D West of 012° 44' E. The western half of this zone may prove profitable.
OLT, 2. P.247 (SARACEN) may withdraw to Zone D keeping east of P.44 (UNITED).
3. TORBAY from 038° 10' 009° 25' at 0300/23rd proceed through 039° 20' 011° 30' at 0300/24th thence course 90° to patrol in Zone F. P.44

and P. 212 keep well clear to southward. 4. THUNDERBOLT and TRIBUNE proceed now to Zone G and H respectively. THUNDERBOLT will be ordered to leave patrol p.m. 24th. (Capt. S.8 1316A/22 to 8th S/M F. P.44 (UNITED) RORQUAL, (R) Capt. S.10, C. in C.Med.) See also 2357A/22.

Publicity.

• Middle East Defence Committee remarks to Chief of Staff re disclosures in booklet "Battle of Egypt", and recommendations re future policy for security. (Mideast 1345Z/22.) See Lion Copy.

K.M.S.ll. attack on U/B by PRIMROSE. A.C.I. 39 Para. 3.
A. 1205Z/22nd 037° 30' 011° 01' PRIMROSE attacked firm Asdic contact with "Hedgehog" and reports underwater explosion.
B. PRIMROSE, CHAMBLY.
C. 1355Z. Contact not regained.
D. Nil. E. Weather report.
(C.2 1350Z/22 to C. in C.Plymouth, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. (?Cdre.) Londonderry).

/CANADA...

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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

IN

892A

13452/22nd March

FROM: - Mideast

DATE:- 22,3.43. RECD:- 20352

OYFICER

ADDRESSED - Air Ministry IMMEDIATE 520/79 CC/202 22nd March, 1943 disclosure

Publicity "Battle of Egypt";

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Middle East Defence Committee.

1. We are disturbed by the increasing tendency to issue popular accounts of recent operations which include details likely to give useful information to the enemy.

2. Example is Ministry of Information booklet "Battle of Egypt" which gives comprehensive order of pattle on page 16 and refers to deception on page 15. Also many applications are being received here for detailed information to enable books and articles to be written including applications from the Polish General Zajac and Mr. George Fielding Elliot from U.S.A.

3. Our deception schemes have been very effective and if the enemy is allowed to realise how wrong he was he will be more difficult to deceive in the future.

4. It is realised that from the public's point of view these publications are valuable, and that to forbid all reference to important detail may preclude their being written at all. We feel, however, that the security aspect far outweighs any other and that prejudice to future deception plans should not be risked. It should be possible to produce publications that appeal to the public without broviding the enemy with the means to check the accuracy of his intelligence.

5. We consider that the following details should as a general rule not be released -

Procise orders of battle

Equipment and personnel strengths

Locations of formations (except general reference to tactical positions in battle) ./Deception .

Deception plans.

6. If for any reason it is thought desirable from time to time to release any of the above details in London we should be grateful for an opportunity to express our views, bearing in mind the possible effect of their release on local operational and deception policy. In general we think that only the version of events authorised for release by our machinery here should be publicised.

- 2 -

7. We shall be grateful for your agreement to paragraphs 5 and 6 above.

8. Lord Moyne is forwarding to heads of service departments and to Minister of Information recommendations of a committee which has reviewed whole theid of conservice in Middle East. Subject of this conference was outside Committee's terms of reference, but above is consistent with their recommendations.

Tor Reply: on 12552 29.

13452/22

Circulation

LE LAN

. h.,

Brig. Foob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord AlM.C.S.(C) C.C.U.

S. J. S. C. I.G.S. V.G. I.G.S. D.M.O. L.Plans (2) D.D.M.O. M.J.A.S. D.M.I. D.D.M.I.(I) M.I.2.17a. D.P.R. D.D.I.P. I.F.I. C.N.S. Admiralty Head of War Registry Admiralty C.A.S. Air Ministry D. of Plans Air Ministry

Mar Office Distribution by M.O.5.

Received by hand from W.O. at 0940/23rd March

1st. Lord 1st. S.L. 2) D.F.S.L. 2) V.S.N.S. A.C.N.S. (1) A.C.N.S. (1) A.C.N.S. (1) A.C.N.S. (1) A.C.N.S. (1) A.C.N.S. (1) D.G.D. (1) D.O.D. (1) D.C. (2) D.C. (2)

D.N.I.(A) D. of F.(2) D. of P.(Q) Ho. of M.(2) D.P.D. C.N.I. Admiral Elake Admiral M. ck (A) V.D. I.P.(2)

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22.3.1943. Monday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

CANADA, hospital ship. French Admiralty wish to lend Hospital Ship CANADA to R.N. Ship now at Dakar reported fit for sea and with good equipment but deficient in nursing staff. Suggest I should arrange inspection by a Medical Officer. (C. in C.Med. 1423A/22 to Admty. (R) D. of S.T.)

EMPIRE SNIPE. A. Intend to sail by shuttle service at O63OA/23rd EMPIRE SNIPE for Bougie. B. 8½ knots. C. Thrognorthon. D.FLUELLEN and RUSKHOLM to R/V with RICHHILLTOP in position Y at 1200/23rd.

at 1200/23rd. E. Constant watch 1579 k/cs. F. Request fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1431A/22 to N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R) MAYFLOWER, Admty. V.A.Gibraltar, Connav.)

Minesweeping Alexandria. Weekly M/S summary, March 21st. Channels, anchorages and D.G. range swept daily except on 21 March when weather was unfavourable for sweeping. Negative results. (R.A.Alexandria 1446B/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.K.S.10. Intend sail from Algiers and Ports East. (List.) Request destinations. Also SAN CIRILIO (Tanker) EMPIRE GOLD (Tanker) for Gibraltar. ALCOA PILOT (U.S.), JOHN DAVENPORT (U.S.) Gibraltar for U.S.A. EMPIRE HUNTER has Phosphates. Remainder in ballast (Cdre. Algiers 1519A/22 to A.I.G. 259.)

TurkeyReply to Admty. 2036/19th March. (N.T. in W.D.)Supplies.re Turkish requests.
(N.A.Ankara 1531C/22 to Admty.)

Movements, Port Said. 22nd March Port Said arrivals nil, departures AETOS, CUMBRAE, COUNDOURIOTIS, WOLBOROUGH, R.F.A. BADARPUR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1607B/22 to Admty. etc.)

WEST POINT. B.A.D.'s 1617/21st March not to S.S.T.O. Massawa. On completion Suez about 3rd April WEST POINT should be sailed via Massawa to Australia for U.S.A. unless instructions to the contrary received B.A.D. Washington. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 1643B/22 to S.S.T.O. Suez, (R) B.A.D. F.O.C.R.S.F. G.H.Q.M.E. C. in C.E.F. P.S.T.O.India, Admty. for D. of S.T. S.S.T.O. Massawa.)

/TRIDENT...

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TRIDENT, TURBULENT, information. My 1406A. (N.T. in W.D.) small French convoy leaving Algiers to eastward at 0700/23rd. (Capt. S.8 1714A/22 to TRIDENT, TURBULENT.) 2 destroyers hunting a U-Boat north of Cape Casine have been warned of your arrival. (Capt. S.8 1936A/22 to TRIDENT, TURBULENT. (R) Cdre. Algiers Force.)

Tripoli Discharges. Discharges. For Prime Minister from L.G.A. Discharges Tripoli 20 March 1580 tons owing results enemy air attack. 21 March 3760. Also 430 personnel disembarked hospital ship and 450 embarked on 21 March. Discharges Benghazi 20 March nil owing weather, 21 March 650 tons. (Mideast T.O.O. Nil, Recd. 1725Z/22.)

Shuttle	Arrived MAMMY, TITUS, EMPIRE LASS.	
Service.	(N.O.I.C. Bougie 1730A/22 to N.O.I.C. Algiers,	
	N.O.I.C. Philippeville)	

G.U.F.6. Intend sailing in accordance with your 2131/20 ships as follows, (list of 9.) (?N.O.I.C. Oran 1730A/22 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Passenger Numbers.
Ref. Admty. 1140/16 March, request confirmation that these limitations do not apply between Suez and Aden or other Red Sea ports subject to my approval and until convoys are reinstituted in this area. Troopers No. 54633 (Q(M)2) of 6th December, 1941 refers. (F.O.R.S.C.A. 1821B/22 to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.E.F. Admty.) Agree (C. in C.Levant 1218B/23.)

VIRGINIA. Report B.4., German VIRGINIA expected to arrive Istanbul from Piraeus in transit for Bourgas next few days. About 2,000 G.R.T., resembles passenger vessel. Endeavouring to obtain further details. (S.O.I. Istanbul 1834C/22 to C. in C.Levant, S. 10, S.L., D.N.I. S.O.I. Levant.)

Malta Situation Report. Meek ending 20th March. Convoy 3 M/Vs, 1 tanker (M.W. 23) arrived safely a.m. 17 March. 2,200 Army personnel engaged convoy work 1,400 assisting R.A.F. All Pioneer Coys. working on airfields. 4. H.E.Viscount Gort returned. Maj. Gen. R.Mack Scobie left on relinquishing appointment as G.O.C. (Govr. Malta 1850Z/22 to C. in C.M.E. (R) W.O.)

/ORMONDE ...

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

ORMONDE, BANFORA, M.K.F.11.

In order to concentrate Fourth Division in Tunisia as soon as possible ORMONDE and BANFORA ex K.M.F.ll are being sent to Bone. Unless ORMONDE and BANFORA return with M.K.F.ll they may be obliged (to remain)? indefinitely.

Intend therefore to hold remaining ships of M.K.F.D until return of ORMONDE and BANFORA. M.K.F.ll would then pass Gibraltar during night of 28th/29th March. (C. in C.Med. 1857/22 to Admty, (R) F.O.Gibraltar.)

Following is a repetition of my 1856/22nd (begins) C.C.S.O. Malta ships east of Alexandria, N.O.I.C. PARTHIAN. Tripoli, C.F.E.O. PAPANICOLIS (G.S.), Capt. S.10. My 0910/21st, not to all addressees. PARTHIAN returned to harbour with defects. Sailing postponed, further signal will be made. (Ends.) (Capt. S.1 1901B/22 to Capt. S.10.)

Movements, Philippeville. Arrival OAKLEY, ZETLAND, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROUSAY. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1935A/22 to Admty.)

Malta C.S.R. Report. UNBENDING.

A.I. 586 22nd March. C.S.R. A. Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 21/22 March. 2 Mosquitoes patrolled north coast of Sicily. A tramp steamer 1000 tons off San Stefano was attacked and an explosion and fire was seen from

the stern. Two "E" boats east of Cefalu were strafed and forced to head for the coast, one of them emitting smoke. 4 other small vessels were also attacked off Cefalu. (A.H.Q. Malta 2000Z/22.)

Section 2 of my A.I. 586. (Night 21/22 continued). 5 Beauforts, 5 Wellingtons and 2 Albacores. R.N.A.S. made armed searches for enemy shipping in Marittimo, Taranto and Naples Areas. 1 Wellington aimed torpedo at 1 M/V 8000 tons in convoy with 2 D/Rs 5 miles south of Carena Point course north and scored a possible hit at 0045 hours. At 0105 hours 1 bomb carrying Wellington attacked the same M/V and flashes were seen from its stern. Beauforts experienced A.S.V. jamming but 1 of them sighted Ol28 hours a convoy of 1 large and 1 medium M/V southbound in 39° 10' N. 10° 50' E. 1 torpedo was aimed at larger M/V but owing to evasive action from flak no results were observed.

(A.H.Q. 2105Z/22.)

Section 3 of my A.I. 586. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 22nd March. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta 2135Z/22.)

Section 4 A.I. 586 22nd March. (C) Navy. Day 22nd March, 3 M.T.Bs. sailed to operate in Sicilian Channel tonight. 2 D/Rs are operating in Pantellaria tonight. UNBENDING returning from patrol reported having sunk 2 heavily laden medium sized merchant ships off East Coast of Calabria. (A.H.Q. Malta 22122/22.)

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22.3.1943. Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Algiers. Arrived S/M TROOPER, Chasseur III, ENGAGEANTE. Departures ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, FOXTROT, LAPAGERIA, POLRUAN. (Cdre. Algiers 2013A/22 to Admty. etc.)

Landing Craft ex "Torch."

ng ex h." Your 0350/24th Feb. Recent discovery made of following craft ex "Torch." L.C.M. 3 number 593, L.C.P. (R) number 907. L.C.P. (L) numbers 543, 575 and a further 2 marked X.I and X-9, number 575 was also marked X-5.

Except for the L.C.M. 3, these craft are beyond repair but engine parts are being salved and hulls broken down to provide repair materials.
 Endeavour will be made to salve the L.C.M.
 (C. in C.Med. 2031A/22. to Admty. (R) C.C.O.)

RORQUAL minelaying. Mines laid from position 038° 03' 6 N. Ol2° 30' 2 E. in direction 316° for 1.4 miles thence 294° for one mile. Expect to pass given position 0300A/24th. (RORQUAL 2042A/22 to Capt. S.8 (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10, 8th S/M Flot.)

D.6 search. Your 1339 (N.T. in W.R.) report situation. (S.O.Force H. 2128/22 to D.6 (R) SARACEN.) Your 2128. Search of area commenced 1500. ILEX attacked doubtful contact at 2140. Search continued at 2215. (D.6 2305A/22 to S.O.Force H. (R) SARACEN.)

PAKENHAM PETARD. Arrived and sailed PAKENHAM, PETARD. (N.O.I.C. Libya 2150A/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

SAMARIA. Your 1410/21st March. In view of threat from F.W. aircraft and U-Boats it is undesirable to include SAMARIA in M.K.S. convoy. Request you will arrange for her to be repaired and sailed in M.K.F. convoy at end of April. (D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 2155A/22 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers.) Reply: C. in C.Med. 1122A/23.

Movements, Tobruk. Sailed BEAUFORT, JERVIS, ISIS, REDWOOD, GENERAL BIRDWOOD. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2157B/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Oran. Departures, ESKIMO, TARTAR, ILEX, RHYL, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, WILTON, L.C.I.(L)s. 99, 102, (?S.O.) BACHAQUERO, CLACTON. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 2201A/22 to Admty. etc.)

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy Units.

P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers, 2 medium vessels 36° N. 10° E., course 050° speed 6. (A/C GLJ/X 2230A/22 to Air H.Q.Malta.)

Enemy previously reported are 2 destroyers, 2,000 ton M/V 3,000 ton M/V. Request instructions. (A/C GLJ/X 2240A/22 to Air H.Q. Malta.) P.C. and S. of 2 enemy destroyers and 2 medium vessels 36.18 N. 10.45 E., course 046, speed 6 knots.

(A/C GLJ/X 2315A/22 to Malta Air H.Q.) Aircraft reports 2 merchant vessels, 2 destroyers, P.C. and
S. at 2230A tonight 036° 05' 011° 06' 040°, 6 knots. Air
co-operation commenced 2230, torpedo aircraft strike expected

about 0130A. Proceed to intercept south of 037° 05'. (Capt. S.10 2316A/22 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) P.51 (UNSEEN).) My 2316A/22nd. M.T.Bs. in my 1156/22nd are endeavouring to intercept also.

(Capt. S.10 2333A/22 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) P.51 (UNSEEN).) Disregard position in my 2316 of 22nd. A/C X report 2315 is more accurate.

(Capt. S.10 2344A/22 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) P.51 (UNSEEN).)

Sailed ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ZETLAND, (?OAKLEY) in accordance with C. in C.Med. 1531/19th as amended by 2111A/21st. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 2335A/22 to C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Bougie, (R) Admty. V.A.Gibraltar, H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. N.O.I.C. Algiers.) Movements, Philippeville

UNITED, UNSEEN. If nothing has been sighted by 1200A/23rd proceed in accordance with Capt. S.8's 1316/22nd passing P not later than 0400A/24th. (Capt. S.10 2357A/22 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) C. C.Med. P.51 (UNSEEN), Capt. S.8, 8th S/M F.) in

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22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

JAN DE WAELE, (Boom Trawler). B.S. JAN DE WAELE is to be sailed as soon as ready in accordance with A.M. 2138A/20th. Route should be via Seychelles and Aden. Report any urgent requirement and proposed programme for B.S. JAN DE WAELE. Ship will probably require docking on arrival at destination

probably require docking on arrival at destination (F.O. Ceylon, 0700Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll. (R) Admty, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant.) Propose sailing B.S. JAN DE WAELE p.m. 25th. Routed through (A) 003° 20' S. 056° 40' thence Seychelles E.T.A. 1st April. (2) Requirements on arrival Seychelles. (3) E.T.departure Seychelles 5rd April through (B) 011° 51' N. 051° 41' thence G.A.N. E.T.A. Aden 11th April. (6) Will require docking to destination. Has no W/T equipment. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1440Z/22 to F.O.I.C. Ceylon (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

	Departure INVESTIGATOR escorting your 1 W T Paddle Steamers. E.T.A. Bombay 0601Z/26th. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0752Z/22 to Admty.)
0.₩.5.	Arrival LISMORE with 0.W.5 Bombay Section. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0802Z/22 to Admty.)

Transport SHENKING arrived 22nd. SHENKING. (S.T.O.Karachi, 0827Z/22 to P.S.T.O. India (Bombay) (R) D. of S.T.)

Para. 2 of my 0901/15th. For SUSSEX read C. in C. E.F. MAURITIUS leaves about 2nd April. (C. in C. E.F., 0843Z/22 to Admty.) returning to Kilindini.

Departure 22nd at 0930Z HOXA for Colombo. Movements. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1112Z/22 to Admty.) Left ADAMANT. (F.O.E. Africa, 1122Z/22 to Admty.)

Convoys P.A.30, P.B.32. (1) Sailing Telegram. (2) 1100Z/22nd. (3) 0400Z/23rd Y.Y. 024° 59' N. 057 (?06') E. (4) 8½ knots. (5) P.A. N.N. 024° 05' 058° 40' P.P. 022° 52' 060° 50' thence G.A.N. P.B. from D. to Q.Q. 023° 47' 065° 16' R.R. 020° 30' 066° 30' S.S. 018° 35' 069° 40'. (6) P.A. MARGUERITE P.B. HINDUSTAN, ORISSA. (15) C.F.E.T.A.055° E.

20007/26th. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 11352/22 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Minesweepers /

899

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (Contd.)

Minesweepers.

A.M.1716/27th Feb. "LL" Whalecatchers SARKA and SATSA are to

join PACKICE and SQUALL to form 175th M/S (2) Motor minesweepers 196 and 201 inclusive building in Canada are to form 122nd M.S.F. allocated to Persian Gulf. A.M.1146/18th Oct. 1942 to Ottawa only refers. (3) H.C. Ottawa pass to B.A.T.M. (D.M.S. 1255A/22 to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.N.O. Persian Gulf, N.S.H.Ottawa.)

ADAMANT.

ADAMANT sails p.m. 22nd E.T.A. Ol° 14' N. 071° 57' E. is OlOOZ/J1st. Request air and A/S Escort may be provided thence to Colombo E.T.A. 0930Z/2nd April. (C. in C. E.F. 1358/22 to F.O. Ceylon (R) F.O.E.A., Capt. S.4, F.O.S.)

UNICORN.

C. in C. E.F's 0035/10 Jan. It is intended that UNICORN should remain in Home Waters for the present. (D.O.D.(F), 1554A/22 to C. in C.E.F. C. in C. H.F. (R) V.A.A. H.F., C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.A.S. R.A.N.A.S.(N))

SONTAY.

Route for SONTAY asked for in your 0459/20

 SONTAI.
 Route for SONTAY asked for in your 0459/20

 will be from South African port. to (A) 27 00'

 S. 040° 00' E. (B) 22° 00' 041° 00' (C) 17

 00' 042° 00'. (D) 11° 00' 042° 30' thence

 to Tanga via Pemba Channel. (2) From Tanga to (E) 02° 18' S.

 046° 30' (F) 09° 52' N. 053° 52' (G) 12° 51' 051° 22'

 thence to Aden. (C. in C. E.F. 1629/22 to D. of S.T.(R) D.S.T.O. Kilindini, D.S. T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. M.E.)

Passengers Numbers.

Proposals in your 1447/20th March approved subject to agreement as in para 6. D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 2008A/22 to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.S. C. in C. S.A., A.C.N.B.)

1 900

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements.

U.S. Destroyer BIDDLE left for Trinidad. (Harbour Master Bardados, 0635/22 to Admty.) Arrival 22nd REDCAP and ORNEN III from Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados, 0755/22) Departure 22nd U.S. P.C. 567 for Trinidad.

(Harbour Master Barbados, 1211/22 to Admty.)

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T.	Ship. ARETHUSA S.S. ANDES	Position. 21 ¹ / ₂ °N. 36° W. 34° N. 65° W.	Course. 294° 098°	Speed. 15 19
22nd.	WESTON) FOLKESTONE)	28° N. 43 ¹ / ₂ °W.	065°	11
	TOTLAND) C.U.L) GORLESTON)	21° N. 61 ¹ / ₂ °W.	042°	13 3
	ATTACKER) 22 L.C.I.(L)'s CARNARVON	27° N. 53 ¹ 2°W.	090°	10
	CASTLE F.S.GLOIRE	11° N. 30° W. 07° N. 29° W.	Patrol Patrol	Blank Blank
	CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	33° S. 45° ₩.	075°	5
	T.A. 38 S.S. MONTEREY	54 ¹ / ₂ °N. 37° W. 30 ¹ / ₂ °N. 33° W.	203° 300°	26 20
	D.O.D.(F), 110	52/22 to Upnav	(R) Commaved	- /

Convoy, T.O.2.

Curacao Section arrived 1200Z/22nd. (C.A.F.A.C. 1331/22 to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)

Landing Craft Nomenclature. Feb. were discussed by C.O.S. Committee, who favour the acceptance of Admiral King's proposal in its original form, that is to alter the

individual designations of minor landing craft to landing boats. (2) The C.O.S. proposal is therefore as follows: (a) All types over 200 feet in length to be known as landing ships. (Examples of short titles - L.S.I. and L.S.T.) (b) All landing craft under 200 feet in length, which cannot be hoisted by ships, at present known as major landing craft, to be known as landing craft. (Examples of short titles - L.C.I. and L.C.T.) (c) All types that can be readily hoisted on board ships, at present known as minor landing craft, to be known as landing boats. (Examples of short titles - L.B.M. and L.B.P.) (d)All barges or lighters converted from commercial use, at present known as landing barges, to be known as landing lighters. (Examples of short titles - L.L.V. and L.L.E.). (3) It is not desired to introduce the term "Landing Boat" without changing the title of individual types, as this might cause confusion between landing boats and landing barges. (4) The Committee noted that C.C.O. and Ad. Cook agreed at Casablance to organisation that C.C.O. and Ad. Cook agreed at Casablanca to organisation

nomenclature / ...

901

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Landing nomenclatur Craft being used Nomenclature. by U.S.A. (Contd.) between Brit

being used by British, and that in column II by U.S.A. Thus, the only differences at all between British and American nomenclature would be in landing ship organisation:-British Squadron (U.S. group) British Group (U.S. flotilla)

In landing craft, landing boat and landing lighter organisation. British Flotilla (U.S. group) British Group (U.S. flotilla) (5) Request confirmation that Admiral King will accept the new comenclature in toto.

nomenclature given in column III of A.M.1215/17/1

(Britman, Washington, 13352/22 to Air Min.)

T.A.38. (QUEEN ELIZABETH) ELIZABETH) T.A.38 alter course forthwith for new (S) 52° N. 43° W. new (T) 45° N. 48° W. thence (G) omitting (L) (F) (C. in C. U.S. Fleet (C. & R.), 1335/22 to QUEEN ELIZABETH (R) C.T.F.24, C. in C. Atlantic, Adm. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. C.O. Atlantic Coast F.O.N.F.)

ARETHUSA.

Your 2101/20th cancel my 1554/21st. (N.S.H.Q. 1355Z/22 to ARETHUSA)

T.F.66.

C. in C. Lant, 1951/21 (N.T. in W.D.) Task Force 66 (Captain Bryant), ARKANSAS, Desron 15, HOUSATONIC, hereby established. Escort convoy U.G.F. 7 ready New York 2nd April to Casablanca and other North African ports.

Comservfor direct HOUSATONIC and Comdes direct Desron 15 report Captain Bryant for duty when these vessels arrive New York.

Follow route prescibed by Cominch (C. and R.) At 40° W. operational control passes from me to Admiralty; and at 10° W. to C. in C. Med. Use HOUSATONIC to fuel destroyers at sea. When directed by Commander, Moroccan Sea Frontier, return to New York escorting convoy G.U.F. 7 in accordance with Admiralty routeing. (Comnaveu, 1512/22 to Admty.)

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1512/22, 1513/22, 1545/22, 22nd March. 1546/22, 1547/22). U.S. S/M Notice.

BAZELY.

Proceed when ready direct N.O.B. Bermuda. On arrival report to Commandant for further orders. Report E.T.A. and expected time of departure to C.E.S.F. and information addressees. (C.E.S.F., 1524/22 to BAZELY repeated S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) Cdr. T.G.P. 02.5 C. in C. U.S. Fleet Admty. N.O.B. Bermuda, B.N.L.O. New York, Cdr. T. Gp. 02.3 Cdr. T. Gp. 02.9)

WARNING:

10 21.

1. . . .

This measage must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MESSAGE 16472/22nd Harch IN

From:

Dote 22.3.43. Roca. 2304.

Passengers - Numbers.

901A

Noval Cypher XD by cable,

B. A. D. Washington.

Addressed: Admiralty N.S.H.Q, F.C.C.West Africa C.in C. South Atlantic C.in C.Eastern Fleet C.in C.Med. C. in C. Levant C. in C. Western Approaches N. Z. N. B. A.C.N.B. F.O.C.R.I.N. S.B.N.O. W.At.

813. Admiralty's 1140/16. Navy department are prohulgating these new British rules to their authorities as necessary. Cancel my 1519/15 August 1942, net to all addresses the following revised U.S. Rules are promulgated by Navy Department.

2. Following are revised rules for U.S. operated ships in the Atlantic. They apply both in waters under U.S. strategic control and in these under British strategic control.

(A) In all cases life-saving capacity shall be provided for at least 125 per cent of the combined number of passengers and crew.

(B) Ships in trade convoys may carry passengers up to the limit of the accommodations of the ship except that women and children shall not be carri-in excess of half the lifeboat capacity of the ship.

(3) A maximum of 500 prisoners of war may be carried on unescorted ships of fifteen knots and over and none on ships of less than fifteen knots. Adequate guards must be furnished when prisoners of war are embarked.

(D) Women not connected with the war effort and children (the latter under sixteen y ars of age) shall not travel on any unescorted ship.

(E) Unescorted ships may carry the following lumbers of service personnel government employees, employees of a Government contractor or other persons connected with the war effort.

Speed/

State and la para

A130

-2-

Speed.

10 knots or less.

More than 10 knots and less than 15 knots.

> 15 knots and over but less than 20 knots.

20 knots and over

Number of Possengers.

12 Passengers,

100 Passengers.

250 Passengers.

up to the limit of the accommodations of the ships.

British operated ships may carry British passengers in U.S. Atlantic strategic waters in accordance with British Rules as set forth in Admiralty's 1140/16. U.S.Personnel travelling on unescorted British ships will be limited to the number prescribed by rules for U.S.Ships. They may be considered as a separate category under British rules.

4. U.S. and British ships in the Pacific may carry passen ors as prescribed by the Commander in Chief U.S.Pacific Fleet. In cases where a departure from British rules for a British ship would later require an escorted move in a British area the matter should be referred to the Admiratty.

5. U.S.Authorities request that the above rules be promulgated to acgnizant authorities and that these rules be made effective immediately.

Note: Para.4 is in accordance with Admiral R s 1156/16 (not to other addressees)

1647Z/22.

Advance copy D.C. D.O.D.(F) D.T.D.

1 st Lord 1 st S.L. (2) D.F.S.L. 2nd S.L. 4th S.L. A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(F) (2) A.C.N.S.(UT) (2) A.C.N.S. (UT) (2) D.C.D. (H) (2) D.C.D. (H) (2) D.C.S. (S) D.C. (2) I.T. (2) D. Of P. (2) Hd. of M. (1 J) D.T.D. (4)

1140/16 Most Secret.



America

D.T.D.(M) D.T.D.(C) D. of S.T.(2) D.N.I.(4) Hd. of N.L. D.D.I.C.(2) W.D.

1. 902

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Passengers.

Revised U.S. rules re numbers allowed in ships in trade convoys and sailing independently. (B.A.D., 1647Z/22 to Admty. etc.)

MARISO (Dutch) Sunk 20th March.

MARISO torpedoed and sunk 0430Z/20th in 013° 20' S. 037° 25' W. C.O. and W/T operator taken prisoner by U-Boat which was stated to be German 750 tons Class. Ship was bound for Saldanha Bay, Durban and Alexandria. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 1737Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. W.Af., N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Aircraft Carriers, position in Convoy.

Proposed that when an aircraft carrier is stationed in convoy, she should take up a position astern of the escort oiler in Commodore's column and that remaining positions in this column should not be filled up. (2) Aircraft carriers may be operated with any trans-Atlantic convoy from early April and observing that remaining positions

in Commodore's column are normally filled up by important ships which it would be undesirable to move, it is requested that instructions be issued that in every trans-Atlantic convoy except for Commodore and escort oiler no other ship should be given position in this column on the A.l form. (3) When a carrier is not present the Commodore should fill up the gap at his discretion. (4) It you concur request instructions may be issued accordingly. (A.C.N.S.(UT), 1918A/22 to Opnav, (R) Connav, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., C.T.24. C. in C. W.A.)

ARETHUSA.

Direct N.O.B. Bermuda to route ARETHUSA onward to Charleston when ready about 27th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2047/22 to Cinclant (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty. Com. 6 F.O.C. W.Af., C.E.S.F.)

Sub.

Sub.All times Z.Attack andPara. C. Brazilian plane sights sub. 15.41 S.Sighting38.29 W. 1230/22. Plane sights sub. 10.50. N.Summary.55.57 W. 1730/21.Para. D. Coast Guard Vessel sights sub.43.42 N. 64.11 W. 0600/22. Army plane makesRadar contact 23.40 N. 81.17 W. 1700/21.Coastal vessel sights sub. 46.55 N. 56.05 W. 0100/21. Navyplane sights sub. Wake. 18.38 N. 72.44 W. 1815/21. PC boatmakes sound contacts 09.30 N. 79.55 W. 2350/21. PY - 20 attackssound contact, 51.20 N. 79.35 W. 1935/19.(Cominch, 2101/22 to Admty.) All times Z.

A.T.39. / ...

903

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

A.T. 39. Sailing telegram Part 1. (1) A.T. 39. (2) 2000Z/25rd. Point Z. seaward end swept channel. (3) 0350Z/24 at position C. Speed advance 19¹/₂ (5). C.38.40 71.01
D. 41.15 56.20, É. 41.50 41.10 F. 45.30 23.01 G. 55.50 15.35
R/V 0615Z/31 with British escort 55.50 N. 10.01 W.
H. 55.50 08.30 thence in accordance with direction of C. in C.
W.A. (6) Air escort only. (7) 1 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.
(15) Fighter protection code word "Sleeve" with associated 3 letter call sign B A N 1. (16) "Chop" and Radio shift 5 letter call sign B A N 1. (16) "Chop" and Radio shift 0600Z/27th.

(Port Director New York, 2120Z/22 to Admty.)

P.512.

P.512 will be ready to leave Philadelphia 14th April and require a week working up at New London prior to proceeding to Halifax. (B.A.M.R. 2240Z/22 to Admty. (R) Cominch, F.O.S., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O. W.A.)

Number of Ships in Convoys.

My 0025 para. 1 (N.T. in W.D.). Sparks estimate shows probable average presenters for four remaining March convoys as about fifty. Excess

of fast over slow shows possibility of H.X. numbers exceeding the 60 limit and situation is being carefully watched. (2) Cominch is still of opinion that heavy loss of life in a convoy will have grave repercussions. A.M.2120/25 is quoted in support. (3) In view of Sparks figures it is not intended to press for the upper limit of 70 but if occasion arises each case will be dealt with individually individually. (B.A.D.2245Z/22 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U-Boat Attacks, Weekly Summary. Your 1059B/22/7. Following promising attacks reported week ending 2400Z/21 March. 14 R.C.A.F. Canso attacked submarine at 49° 58' N. 45° 34' W. Believe probable damage or possible kill. No details given.

U.S. Submarine S.52 reports the certain sinking

of a submarine March 14 and the probable sinking of another March 16. Both attacks in the Aleutians. March 19 U.S.S. BABBITT reports attacking from one to three submarines in vicinity, H.X.229 expended all but 9 depth charges in 11 attacks has evidence of serious damage or destruction of one submarine.

Belated report from Pacific. Feb. 22 U.S.S. LANSDOWNE made sound contact at 09° 12' S. 159° 50' E. made two attacks expending 18 depth charges. Observed fresh oil slick with diesel oil odour after the attacks. Following day fresh bubbling oil was observed and slick was about 400 yards wide extending about 5000 yards. (Cominch, 2259/22 to Admty.)

904

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

ConvoyU.O.81. Sydney Section convoy U.O.81 sailed 20th comprising two ships, CORINTH for Adelaide and WILLIAM J. DUANE for Bombay. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 0116Z/22 to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival Auckland 0237Z/22 U.S.S. RIXEY A.P.H. arrival Espiritu Santo 0719Z/21 U.S.S. PINKNEY. Arrival Nandi 2030Z/21 U.S.S. BALLARD. Departure Noumea 1900Z/21 U.S.S. CELENO A.K.

for Auckland E.T.A. 26th March. (D.N.I.Wellington, 0509Z/22 to Admty.)

Arrival Thursday Island 15th ECHUCA 21st INVERELL Port Moresby 21st KATOOMBA Milne Bay 20th BALLARAT 21st BOWEN VENDETTA Townsville 21st WARRAMUNGA Port Philip 21st U.S. Destroyer RALPH TALBOT. Departure Milne Bay 21st BALLARAT for Port Monesby Thursday

Departure Milne Bay 21st BALLARAT for Port Moresby, Thursday Island 19th ECHUCA for Merauke, Port Moresby 21st WARREGO for Tamara Island.

(A.C.N.B. 0941Z/22 to Admty.) Arrival Wellington. ATREUS. (D.N.I. Wellington 1435Z/22 to Admty.)

Digest Serial No.425 March 21st. Night patrol Catalina strafed Finschhafen Wharf Area before Midnight 20th. (2) Before midnight 21st Catalina attacked vessel reported as large destroyer 20 miles south Gasmata course east speed 20 knots. Ship damaged by two bombs last seen trailing oil heading north at 10 knots. (5) Forenoon B/C Liberator scored direct bit on

(5) Forenoon R/C Liberator scored direct hit on 500 ton ship near shore east of Cape Gloucester. Left listing. Vessel well camouflaged likewise 4 barges nearby. (4) Two Merchant vessels, one destroyer at Kaimana 20th (refer Digest number 424, para.7) apparently departed early hours 21st. 2 B.25 unsuccessfully attacked, mid morning 12 miles S.E. Cape Van Den Bosch course West. Afternoon one Liberator straddled one of ships then 40 miles N.W. Cape Van Den Bosch course 500°, photos taken. Forenoon strike show one 5500 ton and one 1500 ton merchantmen. Positive R/C sighted no other shipping 21st Kaimana Area. (5) Afternoon R/C Liberator unsuccessfully bombed 5 small Merchant ships 4 barges proceeding westerly along coast 16 miles west of Kaukenaue. (G.H.Q. S.W. P.A., 0642Z/22)

MONOWAI Conversion to Troop Carrier. Navy No.955 22nd March. My 1704/7th Oct. and B.A.M.R. Washington 1550/2nd Dec. As a result of further investigation it is apparent that on account of her poor stability and peculiar construction it will not be feasible to convert MONOWAI to an Armed Naval Transport as originally proposed. Following a representation by British

proposed. Following a representation by British M. of W.T. through High Comm. for U.K. in Wellington stressing urgent need for fast troop carriers between U.K. and North Africa. It was proposed that MONOWAI should be made available for conversion to an ordinary troop carrier for use in Atlantic as WAHINE was available to meet New Zealand needs. Comsopac has concurred in desirability to convert MONOWAI to an

ordinary / ...

905

22.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

MONOWAI Conversion to Troop

ordinary troop carrier but stated he considered it advisable to use her in South Pacific Area after conversion.

 to Troop after conversion.
 Carrier A reply has been given by N.Z. Government to High Com. for U.K. in the above sense stating that it must necessarily accept the decision of Comsopac and suggests that if U.K. Govt wish to take the matter further, it could be made a subject of discussion through the British Admiralty Delegation, Washington.
 MONOWAI would be made available for conversion to an ordinary troop carrier approx. one month hence.
 (N.Z.N.B., 1019M/22 to Admty.(R) B.A.M.R. Washington, H.C.N.S. London). London).

Air R/C / Analysis photo air R/C Surabaya on 15th March Surabaya. show following vessels:

Surabaya. Show following vessels: A. In harbour. 14 freighters transports (49,000 tons) 6 freighters (30,000 tons) 5 small tankers (4,700 tons). B. Moored in dock area. 1 (one) Torpedo Boat, 1 (one) S/M Chaser 1 (one) Freighter transport (5,500 tons) 1 (one) Tanker (5,000 tons - fitting out) 1 (one) gunboat 1 (one) Merchant ship (4,000 tons - Given by slipway) KONIG DER NEDERLAND. C. In dry dock. 1 (one) Torpedo Boat 1 (one) freighter transport 1 (one) destroyer (damaged) 1 (one) S/M Chaser. D. Lying sunk. 1 destroyer 2 merchant ships 6,000 tons each 2 merchant ships (4,000tons each) 1 merchant ship (2.000 tons).

ship (2,000 tons). In regard to C. 4 floating docks (including one of 14,000 tons and one of 5,000 tons estimated capacity) were in use and a further one (5,000 tons estimated capacity) appeared serviceable. 20 aircraft (including 15 twin engine bombers) were observed on Tandjong Perak aerodrome and 2 runways (1,500 yards and 1,600 yards) were also seen. (D.N.I. Melbourne, 1045Z/22 to D.N.I. Admty. C.O.I.S. E.F. Flag Liaison Officer, Delhi.)

ALSEY

Your 2202/13th. Request information regarding disposition and future movement of ALSEY. (A.C.N.B. 1104Z/22 to Admty. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

ATREUS, ALSEY.

Your 0642/2 and 2202/12 and A.M.1102/13. An pate ATREUS and ALSEY ready to sail from New Antici-Zealand waters about 1st April. Request destination. (N.Z.N.B., 1718M/22 to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. ATREUS, ALSEY)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1430A/22, 1450A/22)

906

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy Escort Supporting Groups. 1. Five supporting groups have been constituted to operate over the north Atlantic convoy routes under the control of C. in C. Western Approaches regardless of "Chop". The groups consist of destroyers and other escort vessels; escort carrier BITER forms part of the 5th Escort Group. Most of the groups, as constituted, were soon milked, however. A brief summary of instructions for the operation of the supporting groups is given in a message from C. in C. W.A. on 24th March.

Coastal force operations. 2. M.T.Bs. 629 and 628 (Northern Group) and 230, 83 and 222 (Southern Group) were ordered last night to search for a northbound enemy convoy which had been sighted by aircraft north-west of Ymuiden at 1545 yesterday. The convoy was not sighted, but at 0435 today a westbound convoy of 8 heavily escorted ships was sighted in 53.38 N. 05.02 E. (off Terschelling). The M.T.Bs. closed to attack, but were driven off by the escort one of which the M.T.Bs. report that they seriously damaged. At 0515 the M.T.Bs. returned to the attack, but only M.T.B.629 was able to fire torpedoes and no hits were seen. This M.T.B. had some hull damage and one slight casualty and M.T.B.628 slight damage.

3. During yesterday and today a total of 9 attacks were made by aircraft on U-boats in the Bay of Biscay area.
282 aircraft of Bomber Command out of 357 detailed, attacked St. Nazaire last night. Bursts were well concentrated in the dock area. One Lancaster is missing.

4. There was a sharp air raid on Murmansk from 1600 to 1630C today and on Molotovsk at 2300C. No naval damage occurred in either raid.

Operation S.N.90 A.

nC

5. R.A.(M) in MENESTHEUS with PORT GUEBEC, NEWARK, WELLS and SCOTT returned to Loch Ewe at 1130 today. CHARYBDIS returned to Scapa from covering the operation, at 0354.

Operation 6. Tw Q.L.(9) operat

6. Two M.Ls. and 5 M.G.Bs. carried out this operation successfully last night.

11

907

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

7. Operational control of O.S./S.L. convoys whilst between the parallels 43° N. and 26° 10' N. hitherto retained by the Admiralty, is delegated to F.O.C. Gibraltar.

South Atlantic.

8.

Floating dock for Capetown. CHESHIRE, who left Montevideo on 17th March escorting a floating dock for Capetown reports that owing to the state of one of the two sections of the dock the Master considers it will not survive moderately bad weather. CHESHIRE is accordingly returning towards Montevideo with the dock. The two sections of the dock arrived at Montevideo on 30 and 31 March respectively, and it was decided (ô April) to sail it via Bahia, as this route afforded best prospect of favourable winds, currents and sea conditions at this season.

Mediterranean.

WINDSOR CASTLE, sunk.

00

9. Convoy K.M.F.ll was attacked by torpedo bomber at O2O2Z today in 37.28 N. Ol.10 E. about 60 miles W.N.W. of Algiers. SS. WINDSOR CASTLE (19,141 tons) carrying 2500 troops, was torpedoed. WHADDON, EGGESFORD, and DOUGLAS stood by and tugs and fighter protection were asked for. Tug RESTIVE sailed from Oran at O810 today and SALVOR is being sent from Algiers but the ship sank at 112OA today. The loss of life is believed to be very small. The remainder of the convoy arrived at Algiers.

TURBULENT lost. 10. H.M. S/M TURBULENT is overdue at Algiers from patrol in the Tyrrhenian Sea and must be considered lost. In the absence of enemy claims Capt. S.8. considers she was mined on or after

/14th...

9.08

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

TURBULENT lost. (contd). 14th March, possibly near Maddalena, on which day TURBULENT was sighted off the east coast of Corsiss This was to have been her last patrol prior to proceeding to the U.K.

11. M.T.Bs. carrying out an offensive sweep from Bone last night attacked 4 enemy vessels, probably Siebel ferries, near Plane Island and estimate one ship hit by torpedo and one probably damaged by gunfire in the face of considerable gun opposition.M.T.B.311 detonated a mine 14 miles north of Bizerta.

GARONNE

12. Norwegian tanker GJONNE was torpedoed by aircraft in Oran Bay at OllO today. The ship was still afloat p.m./24.

13. An attack on Mers el Kebir by two or more human torpedoes appears to have been attempted at 2320A today. The personal of one was probably destroyed, of the other doubtful. No debris or bodies have been recovered.

14. UNISON reports 1 torpedo hit on a 2,000 ton M/V, probably a tanker, at 1409 in 37.57 N. 16.10 E. The vessel is believed to have sunk.

Air raid on Palermo.

60

15. 24 B.17s (Fortresses) of the 12th A.F., escorted by 25 P.38s (Lightnings) attacked shipping at Palermo today and apparently caused extensive damage. Air R/C next day showed a 3/4000 ton merchant ship carrying a deck cargo of M.T. sunk at its moorings and the remains of a 1/2000 ton merchant ship which was last seen loading deck cargo yesterday lying in a gap 350 ft. wide and 150 ft. deep which has been blown in the side of the Piave Pier, a small 1,000 ton merchant ship and a coaster have been sunk, and two small vessels blown bodily on to the St. Lucia Pier; one F-boat has been badly damaged and a 5/6000 ton merchant ship and a destroyer appear damaged. The Piave Pier has been rendered almost useless for loading ships, 2 oil tanks have been destroyed, and the seaplane hangar and Dockyard workshops have been damaged. Several enemy aircraft were destroyed and damaged. One B.17 was lost.

/Other...

r-2

909

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Other air operations.

16. 13 B.26s (Glen Martins) escorted by 33 P.38s attacked a convoy today and made several hits on a 12,000 ton troop ship, causing an explosion, setting it on fire, and left it listing badly. Another large vessel was hit and also near missed; and two direct hits were made on an escort vessel.
4 Beauforts on armed search between Marittimo and Cape Gallo at 2258 attacked with torpedo a convoy of 3 merchant ships, escorted by 2 destroyers and 4 escort vessels in 38.06 N. 12.18 E. and hit the larger, 5,000 ton merchant ship amidships. 21 B.24s bombed the railway ferry terminus at Messina today; bombs burst on the northern arm of the harbour near workshops and along railway sidings south of the harbour.
26 U.S. Fortresses escorted by 27 U.S. Lightnings attacked Bizerta harbour today.

East Indies.

17. As a temporary measure, north bound shipping from south Africa to the Gulf of Aden is being routed east of Madagascar.

China. 18. It is reported that Soviet SS. ILMEN was sunk by torpedoes on 17th Feb. in 30.56 N. 136.30 E.

America & West Indies.

Special fast 19. The escort of the U.S. tankers (maximum 12) tanker convoys which are to maintain on an 8 week cycle the (U.C/C.U.) sequence D.W.I. to U.K. to D.W.I. to New York to D.W.I. will in future be wholly a U.S.A.commitment.

910

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

JAN VAN GELDER.

JAN VAN GELDER arrived Liverpool for transfer to CARNATION on 26th. Request under what name CARNATION is to be commissioned. (JAN VAN GELDER, 1040/23 to D.N.L.O,Admty.)

22nd Trawler Group.

The 22nd Trawler Group is required for service in the Mediterranean on relief by the 26th Traw-ler Group. (2) It is requested that they may be prepared for this purpose by 15th April. (3) It is intended to withdraw these trawlers after that date as they are relieved in your Command by ships of the 26th Trawler. (D.M.S. 1532A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Sloops for Londonderry. Sloops are allocated to Londonderry as follows: (A) CRANE to 40th Group in place of LONDONDERRY. (B) PHEASANT to 42nd Group in place of BRADFORD. (C) WOODCOCK for subsequent allocation to Group. (C. in C. W.A., 1538A/23)

Landing Craft Escorts. Your 1547/22. Concur that normally landing craft will not require escort in Western Approaches Coastal Area. (D.O.D.(H), 1711A/23 to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

S/M. Movements.

My 1749/22. Cancel para (E) (0.14) (F.O.S., 1059A/23) My 1723/22. Sailed P.556, BLACKFISH, LUNDY. E.T.A. 1830/23. P.556's draught is 17 feet and she has no anchor. Destination P.556 Rothesay,

BLACKFISH Roseneath.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 1551A/25) My 1749/22 para. (C) (TEMPLAR) After Minches amend to read parting company with escort in 270° Foula 10 miles thence at best speed through 62° 00' N. 01° 00' E. and 67° 20' N. 08° 20' E.

(F.O.S., 1334A/23)

Departures. SOKOL. (Capt. 8.3, 1600A/22) Positions of submarines at 0800A/24 and movements for the

Positions of submarines at O800A/24 and movements for the following 24 hours. (A) TRUCULENT in zone K.151. (B) SEA NYMPH in zone K.150. (C) TEMPLAR vicinity 61° 05' N. 00° 50' W probably on surface speed 12 knots through 62° 01' N. 00° 10' E and 65° 50' N. 04° 45' E. (D) SOKOL and UPROAR escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Trevose Head due 000° Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24 thence independently dived by day through (1) SOKOL 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. (2) UPROAR 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 26' W. (E) UNA 49° 48' N. 07° 30' W. probably on surface, due R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 000

Round Island / ...

n 911

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (Contd.) Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24 for escort to Holy Loch. (F) BLACKFISH and P.556 escorted by LUNDY vicinity Lizard Head due R/V with LA CAPRICIEUSE in 000°. Round Island 7 miles at 1400/24 for escort to Clyde. (G) HERRING vicinity 45° 30' N. 11° 01' W. (H) SHAD in zone K.508. (F.O.S., 1654A/25, 1737A/25, 1832A/23)

ADVENTURE.

Your 2039/20. Route for ADVENTURE through Admiralty message QZL 18 to (C) 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles. (D) 050° 01' N. 015° 00' W. (E) 40.02 15.30 (F) 36.59 13.02. (G) 36.00 10.01 thence Gibraltar or as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. (C. in C. W.A. 1159A/23 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven)

MULLET, WHITING and Craft. Admiralty 2203/10. Routed A.M. 2035/17th February. Sailed A/S trawlers MULLET (S.O) and WHITING escorting. L.S. 449, 460, M.G.B. 643, 644, 645, 646, M.T.B. 651. Speed 10 knots. E.T.A. 29th March. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1233A/23 to F.O.C. Gibraltar)

COURBET.

26

Admiralty letter M.052694/43 of 26th February, 1943. Substance. Intend to move COURBET out of harbour at 0630/30 and to sail passing Needles 1700/30.

Para. 2. It is intended to sweep channels as far as Portland Prior to the movement and to sweep ahead of tow with LL sweepers so long as daylight admits.

Para. 5. Request Captain rescue tugs may be instructed to arrange for tug detailed to arrive Portsmouth by 28th March. Para. 4. It is considered that ship should be escorted by at least two H.A. destroyers and eight motor launches or trawlers. Motor launches are available in the Portsmouth Command for escort as far as Lands End and it is requested that two destroyers for escort duty should arrive Portsmouth by 29th March. Para. 5. Anticipated S. of A. five knots. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1826A/25 to Admty.)

Operations.

Biscay S/M Patrol. San Sebastian's 1010/22.
Subject to restrictions in A.M.0140/9/10/42 these ships may be attacked within territorial
(a) If they are proceeding under escort.
(b) If they are identified as enemy ore ships or blockade runners.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 0046A/25 to F.O.S.)
(F.O.S. 0412A/25 to S/M's)

912

23.5.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations

1.

Biscay S/M Patrol (Contd)

(1) Cancel my 0412/23. (2) Amend heading paragraph 8 (2) of F.S.L.2 to read begins Far Eastern blockade runners, certain specified enemy ships known to be taking refuge in or trading to Spanish port, (whether escorted or in convoy or not) (5) Far Eastern blockade runners are given in list H. of S.I.S. part (4) Section 55. (F.O.S., 1247A/23 to SHAD, HERRING)

Coastal Patrols. (1) Intend M.L.205 (S.O) and M.L.246 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N between 01° 45' W.
02° 25' W. (2) Leaving harbour at 1945 via 0.7832
for patrol line. Leave patrol line at dawn.
(3) Object: Anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland 1158A/23) 2 M.L.s from Portland patrol 050° 20' N. between 002° 25' W. and 001° 45' W. (4) ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth (I.O.W) M/L 572 at St. Helens. (5) Short notice at Newhaven M.G.B's

M/L 5/2 at St. Helens. (5) Short notice at Newnaven M.G.B'S
613, 615, M.T.B. 243.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1625A/23)

M.L's 139, 143 patrolling at Bullock Bank from 2015,
M.T.B's 25, 35, 38 at No 4 buoy from 2030 to 0130/24, M.G.B's
43 and 40 at 'V' buoy from 2015 to 0530/24.
(V.A. Dover, 1731/23)
My 1625A/23. Add para. 6. CHASSEURS 14 (S.O) and 15
patrolling southward of E.A. 5 buoy.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1815A/23)

Cancel my 1158A/23 owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1854A/23)

Norway Coastal

-1

 (1) Proceed best speed with escort to position
 (a) 270° Foula 10 miles.
 (2) Part company with Coastal(a) 270 Foula 10 miles.(2) Part company willS/Mescort in position (a) and proceed with allPatrol.despatch to patrol zone as routed Capt. (S) 9.(F.O.S., 1436A/23 to P.316)Your 1456.E.T.A. position A. 0030/24.(P.316, 1554A/23 to F.O.S.)F.O.S. 1436/23rd.From position (a) proceed by route Blackthrough 065° 30' 004° 45', thence direct patrol zone K.148.(Capt. (S) 9, 1717A/23 to P.316)

Unknown Operation.

Approved to retain 4th M.G.B. Your 1155/21. Flotilla until completion of operation 2nd April. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1535A/23 to N.O.I.C. Portland)

Attack on Enemy Convoy.

(1) 12 Group aircraft reported a northbound convoy 10' N.W. of Ymuiden at 1545/22. M.T.B's 629, 628, Northern Group and M.T.B's 230, 83, 222

Southern / ...

9.13

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Attack on Enemy Convoy (Contd.)

Southern Group were ordered to search for this convoy between Vlieland and Terschelling. M.T.B. 230 reports being delayed on passage by hostile, aircraft, reaching eastern limit of patrol, 55° 34' N. 05° 14' E. at 0318/23. When return-ing at about 0400 unit was challenged from starboard beam, then fired on with starshell and H.E.

Unit endeavoured to work round up moon, but was driven off by accurate gunfire and retired under smoke. Set for base at 0450, no enemy report having been received and M.T.B.222 being defective. (2)M.T.B. 629 reports sighting starshell at 0415 and at 0430 obtained R.D.F. contact at 6 miles. At 0435 in 53° 38' N. 05° 02' E. a westbound convoy of 8 ships with heavy escort was sighted and M.T.B's closed to attack, but were unable to fire torpedoes due to action of escort. Unit claims seriously damaging one escort and definitely hitting two others. Unit withdrew and returned to the attack at 0515. Unit was met with much starshell but reduced flak. M.T.B. 629 fired both torpedoes at 1800 yards range but no hits were observed. (5) Weather conditions. Light northerly wind, visibility 5-7
miles. (4) M.T.B.629 - one rating slightly wounded. Pom-pom.
power lead cut and some damage to hull.
M.T.B.628 slight damage to stern. (5) Operation Q.L. (9)
carried out successfully with 2 M.L's and 5 M.G.B's.
(C. in C. Nore, 1558A/23 to Admty.) Pom-pom.

Operation "Regulation" Para. 4 of my 1553/21. From position (C) proceed as necessary to position (D) 045° 15' N. 020° Ol' W. at 1000A tomorrow and thence steer 264° to longitude 022° W. (2) On reaching 022° W. pass through Positions (E) 044° 12' N. 022° Ol' W. and (F) 041° 59' N. 021° 59' W. and return to position (D) at 1000/25. (3) If fuel permits retain METEOR at least until 1200 tomorrow. (4) It is possible one or more outward bound blockade runners passed Cape Ortegal during dark hours night 22nd/23rd. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1647A/23 to NEWFOUNDLAND METEOR) (C. in C. Plymouth, 1647A/23 to NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR)

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Operation VP-X. My 1255/21 and 0920/22nd. returned Lerwick 1630/23. found closed at 0200/23rd. Small party of troops landed to open it encountered enemy sentries who called guard. Shots exchanged and one possibly 2 Germans believed killed. Boats withdrew with no casualties or damage. (A.C.O.S., 1910/23 to Admty.)

Propose to carry out operations "Pussyfoot" and Operations "Pussyfoot" "Catswhiskers" as detailed in para. one of my S.R.1566/43. and "Catswhiskers" (C.C.O., 1910A/23 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

. 914

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Russian request for Hamoden A/C. C. in C. Northern Fleet asks that 20 Hampden torpedoes now in North Russia be transferred to him. I have refused to make it an immediate action but promised to forward request for consideration if Grenadarge (? "Grenadine" intended) is abandoned. (2) Following remarks in consideration of this request: (a) In 1945 Russians report 29 torpedo aircraft sorties

against shipping on Norwegian Coast, claiming 11 Ships sunk and 1 seriously damaged. (This ?) includes 1 9000-ton Ship and 1 of 4000-tons but I think majority are quite small craft. (b) Of 36 torpedoes left here with Hampden Squadrons last Autumn about 25 have been expended. (c) Consider Russian output of aircraft torpedoes is adequate in quantity but inferior in quality and that request is made chiefly for latter reason in addition to customary "something for nothing" habit. (d) Number of Hampden planes serviceable in North Russia probably about 12. (5) Will S.A.F.O. Graznaya remark on above and also on adaptation ability of Russian Aircraft for British torpedoes, and whether Hampden can carry Russian torpedoes. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1115A/25 to Admty.)

Bomber Command Operations. On night 22/23rd. 282 A/C bombed St. Nazaire. (H.Q.B.C., 1525A/23).

Mining.

S.N.90 A.

Scapa arrivals AGAMEMNON at 0636, CHARLESTOWN at 0705, CHARYBDIS at 0345. (A.C.O.S., 0935/23 to R.A.M.). R.A.(M) arrived in MENESTHEUS. PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK, WELLS, SCOTT in company. (TRELAWNEY, 1130/23)

Iceland.

Intend SEAGULL and M/S One in HARRIER should join Minesweeper force in Iceland on completion of refit. (C. in C. H.F., 1549A/23 to A.C.I.C.)

Gallon Head hydrophones. Request MINER IV be sailed to lay hydrophones off Gallon Head after embarking gear at Port Edgar. (D.T.M., 1654A/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Sweep through Q.Z.X.771 by 9th M/S.F. Your 1550/5. It seems possible that this operation will not go undetected by enemy R.D.F. stations. Observations by means of outfit F.V.1 may enable it to be determined by behaviour of enemy R.D.F. stations whether or not flotillas

has / ...

915

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep through Q.Z.X.771 by 9th M/S.F. (Contd.)

has been detected or located. (2) Opportunity has, therefore, been taken to fit this outfit in SIDMOUTH during present boiler clean. (D.M.S. 1752A/23 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Q.U.8.

(1) Prepared to carry out operation Q.U.(8) on next suitable night with available M/L and 6th M.G.F. (C. in C. Nore, 1842A/23 to BEEHIVE)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Vessels. 2 suspicious vessels 45° 02' N. 08° 13' W. Flares dropped. (A/C. N. of 461 Sqdn. 0550/25 to 19 Group)

Following are future movements of Axis controlled Enemy Shipping. vessels.

Name.	Present Position.	Date of ((?departure)	Destination
RADBOD	Stavanger	March	23rd.	Unknown.
POMPEJI	Hamburg	March	26th.	Unknown.
TERSA	Christiansand	March	26th.	Unknown.
KARMOY	Lime	March	22nd.	Rotterdam.
LIPPE	Hamburg	March	25th.	Halden and
				Tromso.
BORGA	Hamburg	March	25 th .	Rotterdam

Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm, 1027/23)

U-Boats.

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U-Boats Reported. Am over enemy submarine in 46° 55' N. 09° 59' W. (A/C. 172 Sqdn. Duty A., 0150/23 to 19 Group H.Q.) By D/F at 1441/Z U-Boat estimated anywhere within 60 miles of 47° 00' N. 22° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 1735A/23, to NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR) Inconclusive bearings at 1957Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity,

which may have reported you.

(D.D.I.C., 2205A/23 to NEWFOUNDLAND, METEOR)

U-Boats / ...

and Baltic.

916

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats (Contd.)

U-Boats Attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 46° 17' N. 001° 35' W. (A/C.207 Sqdn. Duty X, 1110/23 to 19 Group) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C.207 Sqdn. Duty X. 1111/25 to 19 Group) On day 22nd March 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried

out A/S patrols. 7 U-Boats were sighted and 4 attacks were made. (1) The conning tower of a U-Boat was sighted at about 2½ miles distance. A/C attacked, dropping 6 depth charges 20 seconds after the U/B submerged. The first explosion was seen in the swirl of U/B, remainder along, believed track of U/B. (2) The conning tower and decks of U/B sighted at approximately 1 mile. A/C immediately attacked. At the moment of release of 6 depth charges, the stern of U/B was visible diving at a very steep angle Depth charges straddled the track of U/B about 10 yards ahead of (3) A fully sufaced U-Boat was sighted about 5 miles
 A/C attacked within 20 seconds of U/B submerging. swirl. distant. The first depth charge is believed to have struck some distance short of the swirl, while the remainder were considered to have struck up track. The actual explosions were not seen. struck up track. The actual e (4) This report is outstanding. (H.Q.B.C., 1525A/23)

Navigational.

Ice.

Your 1005/20th. Ice R/C (?report) (?last) flown by 18 Group. Visibility in the vicinity of Jan Mayen was poor. Ice appeared to run as follows. Details. Weather permitting ice R/C of Denmark Strait being flown today. (A.C.I.C., 0003A/23 to C. in C. H.F.)

Harwich.

Port closed owing to fog. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0710A/23) Port open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0830A/23)

Yarmouth. Port closed due to fog. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0729A/23.) Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 0919A/23)

Brightlingsea. Port Open. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1525/25)

Casualties and Defects.

My 1016/22. EGLANTINE has developed defects which will delay her departure until 0800. (A.C.I.C., 0001A/23) EGLANTINE.

NOLISEMENT / ...

917

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

F 1

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects (Contd.)

NOLISEMENT.

SS. NOLISEMENT refloated, in tow SEINE. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 0200A/23) H.M. Tug SEINE with SS. NOLISEMENT in tow arrived Ramsey Bay. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 0835A/23) NOLISEMENT beached South of Queens Pier Ramsey. Double bottom tanks flooded - 16 ft water No.2 hold - machinery compartment leaking. Pumps checking further flooding. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 1645A/23 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)

HYDRA.

Captain Port Edgar 1916/22. E.T.A. Loch Ewe Boom 0730/24. S. of A. 8 knots. Bilge keel has fouled starboard propeller. (HYDRA, 0913A/23 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea.)

Bath A/S fixed defence loops at Seidis Fjord Loops are out of action, through cable defects. Intend at Seidisfiord. that repairs be taken in hand by OPHIR as soon as work on Vladivostok loops has been examined. (A.C.I.C., 1047A/23 to Admty.)

WIVERN.

Admiralty 1247/22. Route from 050° 10' N. Ol4° Ol' W. to 000° Round Island 10 miles, 270° Longship 4 miles, then by Admiralty message Q.Z.S. 389, 347, 390, 278 to Plymouth. S.O. of E. X.K.3 pass to WIVERN. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1215A/23 to Escort X.K.3)

Intend to sail ADHERENT at 0500/24 to Greenock ADHERENT. E.T.A. 1000/24. For lifting of defective Capstan and to land one 18" Hawser. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1715A/23)

M.L.232 arrived Belfast with engine defects. M.L.232. (F.O.I.C. N.I., 1757A/23)

Arrived SS. CULEBRA in two of tugs ABEILLE 1 CULEBRA. and XX1 escorted by THIRLMERE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2114A/23 to A.C.I.C.)

918

23. 3. 1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

LETITIA. My 1313/22. Sailed. E.T.A. 1900/25. (A.C.I.C. 0645A/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

P.C. and S. of 1 x 6,000 ton (Spanish) merchant vessel 43.50 N. 07.50 W. 280° 7 knots. (A/C 180 Sqdn. Duty 0. 0830A/23.) MONTE JATAI (Spanish) P.C. and S. of one Merchant vessel 43.20 N. 08.57 W. 060°, 8 knots. (A/C 95 Sqdn. Duty 0. 1120/23 to 19 Group.)

0.N.S.1.

Left Hvalfjord 0815Z/23 to rejoin, speed 15 knots. (EGLANTINE 0916Z/23 to FAME.) Hvalfjord departure EGLANTINE at 0955 to overtake you. (A.C.I.C. 1056A/23 to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4.) My P.C. and S. at 1800Z/23 62.52 N. 25.18 W. 221° 14.5 Expect to join daylight 26th.

(EGLANTINE 2045/23 to C. in C.W.A.)

Convoy Support Groups.

Your 1951/20. As PIORUN is not now available FURY will take her place and will sail with Atlantic remaining destroyers p.m. 25th. (R.A.D.H.F. 1316A/23 to C. in C.W.A.) Request you will sail OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, ONSLAUGHT, IMPULSIVE, ORIBI as 3rd Escort Group as convenient p.m. tomorrow to make good 15 knots and pass through 059° 00' N. 033° 30' W. This group

is to act as support group for ocean convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 2325A/23 to Cmdre. Londonderry.)

It is intended to operate 5 supporting groups over the North Atlantic convoy routes. Initial support group will proceed to sea on 24th March. These will remain under operational control of C. in C.W.A. regardless of "Chop". These supporting groups are constituted as follows :-1st Escort Group, PELICAN, S.O. SENNEN, ROTHER, SPEY, WEAR, JED. 2nd Escort Group, STARLING, S.O., CYGNET, WREN, KITE, WHIMBREL, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER. 3rd Escort Group, OFFA, S.O., OBEDIENT, ORIBI, ORWELL, ONSLAUGHT, ICARUS. 4th Escort Group, MILNE, S.O., MATCHLESS, ECLIPSE, IMPULSIVE, FURY. 5th Escort Group, INGLEFIELD, OBDURATE and Escort Carrier BITER S.O. My 577 N. of 22nd March is cancelled. (C. in C.W.A. 2341A/23.)

My 2228/15. C.W. 165 and C.E. 163 postponed 24 hours owing to fog. C.W.165 C.E.163. (C. in C. Nore 1521A/23.)

/A.T.40...

919

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

4 1 2

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

A.T.40.

Request you will sail QUEEN ELIZABETH independently to Clyde to arrive p.m. 3rd April crossing ll° W. at daylight. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection. (D.O.D.H. 1632A/23 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

S.C. 122. Owing to congestion in anchorage you should endeavour to delay arrival until daylight. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1715A/23 to JONQUIL.)

Large Liners. D. of S.Ts. 1319/13. In view of large numbers of personnel on board the large liners returning to U.K. from the Cape request you will arrange maximum air protection. (D.O.D.H. 1804A/23 to C. in C.W.A.) Section 20(04/26.

PRAGUE. AMSTERDAM.

Spanish Ships. Intend to sail my 1025/22 one hour earlier. Amend speed to 152 knots. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1815/23 to A.C.O.S.)

Estimated movements of Spanish Ships. 21 sailed Bilbao 22nd March for Pasajes. 140 sailed Pasajes 23rd March for Bilbao. 66 sailed Seville 21st March for Gijon. 124 sailed Huelva 23rd March for Gijon. 14 sailed Corunna 14th March for Gijon. 14 sailed (F.O.S. 1859A/23 to S/Ms.)

BUREYA.

Intend to sail SPOSA as escort to U.S.S.R. BUREYA to Vijayadurg at 1900 tomorrow. (A.C.I.C. 1955A/23 to Admty.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

JAUNTY,

JAUNTY return to Gibraltar forthwith. NASTURTIUM
NASTURTIUM
NASTURTIUM proceed as requisite R/V and escort
Lisbon portion, 2 ships, K.M.S. 11 to Lisbon.
K.M.S.11 estimated in 36.50 09.04 at 1800/22nd
routed through G. 40° N. 15° W. H. 36°N10° W.
J. 35° 40' N. 08° 00' W. S.O.A. 74 knots.

2. Report is not met by 1100/23rd.

3. Lisbon portion will be detached on convoy crossing 09° W. escorted by one escort to Capt. St. Vincent. Escort then rejoins convoy. Ships proceed coastwise to Lisbon. 4. Further orders for escort duty for NASTURTIUM will be signalled.

(F.O.Gibraltar OlO4A/23 to NASTURTIUM, JAUNTY, (R) Escorts of K.M.S.ll. Admty. C. in C.Med.)

L.C.Is. L.S.Ts.

L.C.I. (?)s will be 3 days and 2 hours late on C.T.F. 32 message (?1606) March 2nd. (Re sailing of L.S.Ts. and L.C.Is. to Gibraltar.) L.S.Ts. 3 days and 18 hours late. (C.T.F. 62 03152/23 to F.O.Gibraltar.)

My 2326/22nd, add 2nd group of L.S.T. convoy A. 35.22 N. 11.53 W. through 35.30 N. 10.55 W. to Gibraltar. (F.O.Gibraltar O602A/23 to Situation Report of Area X.A.)

T.E.19 (Y)

T.E. 19 (Y) sailed as in my 0933A/22 less all H.M. ships and L.C.Ts. (F.O.Gibraltar 0328A/23 to F.O.I.C. Oran, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)

R.S.3.

Gibraltar Force pass to Escort, R.S.3. Intend sailing SS. TORDENE departing Casablanca 1000A/ 23rd escorted by one P.C. to be designated by Cmd. Escort Unit to R/V convoy R.S.3., 34.20 N. 08.05 W. 1800A/23rd thence Freetown in accordance F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1507/21st. P.C. return Casablanca from R/V. Com. Fair Wing 15 amphibian air escort to R/V mission 48. (C.M.S.F.F. 0530Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca. Cmd. Escort Unit, Com.Fair Wing 15 Admty. F.O.C.Gib. Force, C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. Escort R.S.3.)

Fuel, Ponta Delgada. My 1250/21, (WESTON, FOLKESTONE and TOTLAND). Amend E.T.A. to read 1020A/26th. (F.O.Gib. 1102A/23 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.) Amended by 2239A/24, q.v. Situation at 2000A/23rd WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, 031° 01' 036° 26' 064° 11. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1330A/23 to Situation report Area X.A.)

/Situation ...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Situation Reports.

Situation 2001A/23rd.

DZIK 36.37 07.26 through 36.37 07.24 at 2030/23rd and 35.53 06.15 at 0630/24th to 35.49 06.06.5 at 0745/24th thence Gibraltar proceed on the surface 10 after 0630/24th.

2. S/M SHAKESPEARE 36.46 08.36 submerge by day 2 on the surface by night 7, to 36.37 07.24 thence on the surface 12 through 35.53 06.15 at 1230/24th and 35.49 06.5 at 1310/24th thence Gibraltar.

3. 3 Merchant ships NASTURTIUM 37.20 08.55 coastwise to Lisbon 8. 4. K.M.S. 11, BROADWAY, 35.44 07.12 through Straits of Gibraltar 7³/₄.

SWAMH LLER (?DRUM HELLER) 36.39 08.11 116° 15 to rejoin. 5, L.S.T. convoy C.T.U. 62 (A) first group 35.45 06.53 2nd group 35.42 07.29 both to Gibraltar 9.

6. VANOC leaves Gibraltar 2300/23rd for Lisbon direct 15.

7. GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE 36.55 10.13 to Gibraltar 8¹/₂. 8. HERO 27.25 13.53 through 30.01 12.01 thence 037° 19. 9. REDOUBT. ULSTER MONARCH, 35.10 07.14 through 31.49 11.14 thence 209° 15½. 10. HAARLEM 36.55 08.58 to Tagus direct, 8. (see 1940A/23.) 11. R.S.3 CADMUS 33.59 08.28 through 33.23 09.06 thence 214° 7½.

12. ANTELOPE off Spartel to Gibraltar 16. 13. Gunboat LAGOS and 3 Portuguese submarines exercising off

Cezimbra.

14. Gibraltar section S.L. 126, AUK. . 34.08 07.43 to Gibraltar 72.

15. One P.C. off Q.K.A. 92 to Casablanca 15.
16. G.U.S. 5A PENTSTEMON passing Europa Point 1300/24th through 35.47 06.30 thence 219° 9¹/₂. (F.O.Gibraltar 1130A/23.)

Situation 2005A/23rd.

KENYA 27.48 15.01 through 26.10 15.54 thence southbound. (F.O.Gibraltar 1134A/23.)

Arrivals 1000 BONITO, GRAYLING, M.Ls. 258, 468, 494, 555, M.G.Bs. 642, 647, M.T.Bs. 656, 634, 638, 640. Movements, Gibraltar. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar 1215A/23 to Admty. etc.) Fighting French Authorities have requested that SAVORGNAN SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA may remain at Gibraltar DE BRAZZA pending further instructions. (D.O.D.(F) 1223A/23 to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af.) See also 0030A/27 to C. in C.Med.

0.S., S.L. Convoys.

Operational control of O.S., S.L. convoys while between parallels 43° N. and 26° 10' N. hitherto retained by Admiralty, is delegated to F.O.C. Gibraltar under the terms of C. in C.Med's 2007/24th Nov. (D.T.D. 1233A/23 to F.O.C.Gibraltar S.N.O.C.A. Connav, C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.S.A.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Your 2235/22. I congratulate you and U.S. Army U/B sunk Aircraft concerned in this very satisfactory U-Boat attack which seems to have been a certain 22nd March. kill. (C. in C.Med. 1245A/23 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) C. in C.A.F. Admty. C. in C.Med. Air Command, H.Q.N.W.A. A.F.)

ULTOR.

Arrival. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1511A/23 to Admty. etc.)

DRUMHELLER may overtake SHAKESPEARE. VANOC sails 2300/23rd to Cape St. Vincent and Lisbon 15 knots HAARLEM crosses ahead of SHAKESPEARE SHAKESPEARE. DZIK information. due St. Vincent 2000/23rd. (F.O.Gibraltar 1532/23 to (P.221) SHAKESPEARE, DZIK, (R) UNRULY (P.49.))

HUNTER. STALKER. Admty. 1910A/21st. Propose meeting A/S require-ments as follows:-1. 4 Swordfish from Gibraltar pool manned by 2 crews now in HUNTER and 2 over-borne crews of

813 Squadron. 2. In view of Fock-Wolfe activities on all recent Bay of Biscay convoys, 2 Seafires from Gibraltar pool in excess of 100% reserved for 885 Squadron only D.L. pilots available are those over borne in 48th Escort Group. 3. All to be operated by HUNTER which has full and trained personnel for operations and has completed flying trials. (F.O.Gibraltar 1541A/23 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. S.O.Force H. FORMIDABLE.)

C.G.20.

C.G. arrived (four ships.) (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1552A/23 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. C.O.S.N.A.C.)

T.G. 62.1.

Request you sail for Hampton Roads when ready

T.G. 02.1. Request you sail for Hampton Roads when ready Task Group 62.1, COLE, BERNADOU, DALLAS, HERBERT, escorting MATTOLE, JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, FRANCIS, PARLMUN. CHARLES M.HALG, and LOU GEHRIG. C.T.G.
62.1. Captain Wilson, (MATTOLE) route according to Admty.
1824/22 not passed by this command to Connav. S.O.A. 10 k ots.
(?C. in C.Lant?) has directed by his 1513/16 convoy limited to
4 11 knot ships plus MATTOLE and that MATTOLE not be delayed.
(S.N.O.C.A.. 1555/23 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.
Com. 5th Nav. Dist., Connav, Admty. A.H.Q.Gibraltar.)

Escort for Enemy Ore Ships.

Consul Bilbao reports from most reliable source that large Ore ships are escorted by 4 small armed Flak Ships with speed 18 to 20 knots. (N.A. Madrid 1626/23 to Admty.) Passing action being taken by W.R. to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. F.O.S. H.Q.C.C.)

/HAARLEM...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

HAARLEM.

Am hove to approx. 036° 43' N. 008° 36' W. Course 215°, speed 2 knots. Have 2 cot cases with ribs probably fractured requiring medical attention. Weather report. (HAARLEM 1640A/23 to V.A.Gibraltar.) My 1130/23rd para. 10. HAARLEM hove to in approx. (?036°) 43'

008° 36' (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1940A/23 to A.I.G. 63.)

K.M.S.11.

E.T.A. 0900A/24th. 1. Ships in company. BROADWAY, LAGAN, SHERWOOD, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, PRIMROSE, SNOWDROP, CHAMBLY, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, Boiler Hours. Urgent Defects. (Lists.)

2. MORDEN and DRUMHELLER not in company, information not available.

3. Minesweepers have had recent external Boiler cleaning only. 4. A.F.O. 2901/1941 (survivors) A. LAGAN, B. JAMAICA, F. 3 N. 3. O. 1 of (F) Norwegian. P. 1 of (F) British and one of (F) Norwegian Total 2. (C.2. 1715Z/23 to F.O.Gibraltar.)

ASHANTI.

Your 1201/23rd to F.O.C.W.Af. not to C. in C. Med. Approved subject to concurrence of C. in C.Med.

2. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to arrange for ASHANTI to fuel at Dakar and sail to Gibraltar at best speed on completion. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1745A/23 to ASHANTI (R) Admty. S.O.Force H., F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.Med.

Approved (C. in C.Med. 1326A/24.)

(F.O.(S) 1859A/23 to Submarines operating S. of 51° N. (R) H.O.C.C. C. in C. Discorting S. of Estimated movements. Spanish Ships. N. (R) H.Q.C.C. C. in C.Plymouth.)

Warships arrived Casablanca U.S.S. BISCAYNE Movements. from Lyautey, departed P.C. 480 with SS. TORDENE Casablanca. March 23rd. (S. .O.C.A. 2025/23 to C. in C.Med. (R) Cominch, Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

Movements, Gibraltar.

Arrivals VANOC, ex U.G.S. 6, U.S.S. RHIND, P.C. 474, French ships LA SENTINELLE, FRUCTITOR with C.G. 20, ALBACORE, KATHIAWAR from MS/ sweep, ANTELOPE, ex X.K.3, Tug JAUNTY ex proceeding to CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Departures ALBACORE, KUMAON, M/S Sweep, French ships LA BOUDEUSE, LA GRANDIERE, SERGEANT GOUARNE, LA SETOISE with T.E. 19 (Y). (F.O.Gibraltar 2126/23 to Admty. etc.)

/L.C.I...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

L.C.I. and L.S.T. convoy. Following is correct version of my 1931/23 addressed C.T.F. 62 repeated MATTOLE from F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. My 2350/22 amend para. 3 to read (?Both) groups A. and B. of 3 U.S. craft each and groups C.D. and E. of 4, 3 and 3 British craft respectively. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 2221A/23 to C.T.F. 62 (R) MATTOLE.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Ref.O. in C. E.F's 1452/20. (Re inclusion CHRISTIAN of CHRISTIAN HUYGENS in next C.M. convoy.) HUYGENS. Request you arrange accordingly. (D.S.T. 0231A/23 to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

Troop Convoy Durban to U.K.

My 1531/16. Intended to form a convoy sailing Durban about 16 April for U.K. comprising STRATHEDEN, ARUNDEL CASTLE and DEMPO. 2. Hoped that this will clear (details). 3. P.S.T.O.s India and Middle East should advise P.S.T.O. Capetown of numbers by categories ex their respective areas which will be available

in time. Particular reference should be made to personnel

suitable to act as P.O.W. guard. 4. All personnel for U.K. ex DOMINION MONARCH and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN should be transhipped at Durban for transfer to this convoy. 5. P.S.T.O. Capetown should report what accommodation will be available for D.S.T.O. W. Africa, taking into account other sailings about same time, namely, BRITANNIC, QUEEN MARY, AQUITANIA.

(D.S.T. 0509A/23 to P.S.T.Os.Capetown, India, Middle East.)

D. of S.Ts. 0509/23 March. Request you will make necessary arrangements for this convoy, escort being provided as in A.M. 1441714 March to C. in C. S.A. only.

D.C.D. (F) 1806A/23 to C. in C. S.A. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, F.O.C. W.A.)

Convoy C.D.11. Sailing telegram.

(2) 0730Z/23rd.
(4) 8.
(5) Coastal. Ref. position N (J?) Saldanha Bay 1-8.

(6) ARTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY.

Codeword Pasture. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 08422/23.)

KENYA.

Onward route from D. to E, 022° Ol' N. 019° OO'W, F, 010° 30' 019° OO' thence Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 1016Z/23 to KENYA (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med, Admty.)

Situation Reports. Position at 2000Z/23rd. SUSSEX, FOXHOUND, RACEHORSE, QUILLIAN with W.S. 27 034° (55'?) (South?) 019° 50' E. to Durban 12½ knots. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN, STAR, LADY ROSEMARY with C.D.11, 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. to Durban 8½. BIRMINGHAM 034° 50' S. 022° 20' E. to Simonstown 20. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 038° 20' S. 021° 20' E. to Capetown 12. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, with N.C.8, off Value Bay to Simonstown 8. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 035° 10' S. 005' 20' L 035° S.006° W. thence 008° S. 018° W.16½. (C. in C. S.A. 1059B/23 to F.O.C.W.A. Cdre. Durban, etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Contd. CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA 1 Corvette DUNKERY 2 M.Ls. with 0.S.S. 44 08.50 15.55 154° 8.25. BELLMORT, ARMERIA 05.47 11.16 302° 12.5 CYCLAMEN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.L. with T.S. 33, 05.34 10.26 299° 6. Situation at 2004Z/23rd. INKPEN 1 M.L. off Roberts Port, ARRAN off Brownall, 4 Allied Naval

Units in Ascension St. Pauls Rock area, SARABANDE off Abidjan to Takoradi. (R.A.W.A. 11497/23.)

(R.A.W.A. 1149Z/23.) Add to my 1149/23rd, M.L. 278 and 28 off Freetown to R/V with T.S.33.

(F.O.C.W.A. 2222Z/23.)

Situation at 20032/23rd. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, QUADRANT, escorting W.S. 28, 24.44 16.43 to 23.01 18.03 thence $180.12\frac{3}{4}$. BURDOCK about 14.48 20.02 to Bathurst 12. UGANDA 12.00 18.58 W. to 09.01 18.11 thence Freetown 18. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, THYME 2 M.Ls with 3.R.3 13.03 18.43 to 15.00 18.43 thence 007° 8. BUTSER escorting about 16.12 24.48 to Freetown 8. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE F.S. LA GRACIEUSE, BALSAM, COLTSFOOT one M.L. with 0.S.44, 08.56 15.50 to Freetown, 8⁴/₄. M/L 244 BARLASH about 09.21 16.08 to Freetown 7. French Cruiser GLOIRE on patrol about 07.30 28.00, 20. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.00 25.30,15 ORFASY probably escorting off Dakar to North. (F.O.C.W.A. 12082/23.)

DESPATCH.

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My 0913/8th March not to Admiralty or Comsolant. Intend DESPATCH to arrive Rio de Janeiro 8th April for docking and minor repairs. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro pass to Asst. N.A. Rio de Janeiro. (F.O.C.W.A. 1151 Z/23 to Asst. N.A. Rio de Janeiro (R) Admty, DESPATCH, Comsolant.)

MARIPOSA. Aircraft sighted U.S. MARIPOSA 1445/22nd March in 16° 56' N. 19° 51' W. (F.O.C.W.A. 1204Z/23 to Admty.)

BUTSER, FORTOL. BUTSER and Oiler FORTOL sailed 12002/23rd in accordance with your 10552/21st. (? 1017/21 intended. Re Trawler BUTSER to escort FORTOL to Freetown.) Routed through following positions: (A) 017° 20' N. 022° 30' W. (B) 010° 00' N. 018° OO' W. thence Freetown, due Freetown daylight 28th (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent C.V. 12102/23 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.)

BIRDLIP, D.69. Request BIRDLIP be detached convoy D.69 on relief by P.C.475, BIRDLIP proceeding Bathurst report position and E.T.A. (F.O.W.A. 12212/23 to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) GAZELLE, Comar, Dakar, BIRDLIP, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

/CITY OF BRISTOL

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Sailed 15 knots CITY OF BRISTOL 16¹/₂ knots SYDNEY STAR joining X.S.27 (sic) for Port Elizabeth E.T.A. 0001Z/25th. Books held. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 1304Z/23 to Admty. (R) Connav, CITY OF BRISTOL. SYDNEY STAR. C. in C. S.A. N.L.O. Port Elizabeth.)

Request reply my 1652/4th Feb. about accommodation at Wingfield. Ref. para 5, if 6 disembarked squadrons are to be accommodated, one additional Wingfield Aerodrome. large bellman type hangar will be required together with Squadron Office accommodation observing 50% one large hangar already reserved for Union Authorities. Very approx estimated gost £10,000.

(C. in C. S.A. 1312B/23 to Admty.)

Convoy N. C. 8.X.

List (13 ships.) (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1312B/23 to Admty, C. in C. S.A. N.C.S.O. Capetown. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY sailed 1300B/23rd escorting convoy N.C.8 to Saldanha Bay, E.T.A. 080CB/27. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 1313B/23 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. N.L.O. Saldanha Bay.)

W.S.27.

Position 23rd March.

(a) Arrived and berthed 23rd.

(b) Fuel stores disembarking personnel. (c) About 26th.

S.T.O. Capetown 13212/23 to Admty. for D. of S.T.

(R) D.S.T.O. Durban.) Capetown arrivals 23rd. SUSSEX, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER. Departures. 1225B/23rd. FOXHOUND, (?RACEHORSE) QUILLIAM, 1355B/23rd SUSSEX, all for escort of W.S. 27 Durban portion. (C. in C. S.A. 1555B/23, to Admty. etc.)

S.L. 127. Advance sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1517Z/23, to Admty.)

NORTUN (sunk 20 March.) Panamanian ship NORTUN torpedoed and sunk at 0340A/20th in 27° 35' S. 14° 22' E. after dispersal from convoy C.N.13. 38 survivors landed Luderitz 9 members of crew killed. (C. in C. S.A. 1636B/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Report from police at La Pedrera and at La Paloma ? U/B. Uruguay that suspicious craft possibly submarine sighted from shore 1400 local time 20th March. Craft well out to sea. Uruguayan gunboats investigating. Report graded C.4 and should be treated with reserve.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1801Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. W.A.)

/ARGO...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ARGO (3/M)FANDANGO.

My 1008/21st. Intend sailing F.S. ARGO escorted by FANDANGO for Freetown 1400Z/25th, S. of A.11, route as in my 1737/17th. E.T.A. at each point as follows:- Times G.M.T. L. 0900/26th M. 1230/26th N. 0530/27th 0.1100/27th P.1230/27th. 2. Should ARGO become separated FANDANGO is to notify F.O.C.W.A.

and Comar, Dakar by immediate signal and ARGO would continue to Freetown on her route unescorted. In this event only request R/V referred to in para. 2 of my 1737/17th. 3. All other arrangements stand as in my 1737/17th. (Comar, Dakar, 1824Z/23 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.) Delayed, see 1207Z/25

CHESHIRE, A.F.D.

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My position 34.06 S. 43.32 W. Although encountering only moderate weather one part of dock already in very poor condition. Master

considers will not survive moderately bad weathen Consider Capetown hopeless, Walvis Bay an outside chance. Any course is a gamble on weather but consider return to Montevideo offers best chance of survival and am accordingly steering west. Request instructions. (CHESHIRE, 1843Z/23 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty.) Reply 0959B/24.

UGANDA.

My position at 2000Z Oll° 07' N. 018° 42' E. E.T.A. 1700Z tomorrow 24th March. Boom at 1740Z. Intend flying off 2 Walrus aircraft to arrive Hastings 1515Z. Request high angle target on approach. (UGANDA, 1933Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

MELLO.

My 1125/16. (re 4 German stowaways reported on ship). As MELLO was searched by 4th Fleet 17th March take no further action. Stowaways not found. (D.E.W.D. 1954A/23 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. (?Set) contact 37.40 N. 2.55 E. (C/S 59BB via Flowerdown, 0135A/23 to C/S 22L) Am investigating possible conning tower in 37.40 N. 02.55 E. (C/S 59 BB, 0226/23 to C/S 22 L).

WINDSOR CASTLE, K.M.F.11 torpedoed.

Have been attacked by torpedo bomber. WINDSOR CASTLE torpedoed. (WREN, 0202Z/23 to Cdre. of convoy. C. in C. Med).

Proceed to assistance of torpedoed ship in 37.28 N. 1.10 E.

(WREN, 0254Z/23 to DOUGLAS (R) WHADDON, C. in C. Mediterranean).

Request tug and fighter protection for WINDSOR CASTLE in 37.28 N. 01.10 E. WHADDON and EGGESFORD standing by. (WREN, 0418Z/23 to C. in C. Med).

Your 02542/23, expect to arrive 08152/23.

(DOUGLAS, 0448Z/23 to WREN (R) WHADDON, C. in C. Med). Leave patrol and (?group missing) morning 21st (group missing) of operation for getting transport WINDSOR CASTLE to Algiers. Estimated position at 0821A today 037° 15' N., 001° 07' E. Further details following.

(S.O. Force H., 1125A/23 to Capt. (D) 6th (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H).

My 1125. EGGESFORD, WHADDON and DOUGLAS in company. (corrupt group) LOYAL, LAMERTON joining from eastward, FARNDALE and CALPE from westward.

Tug RESTIVE sailed from Oran at 0810 and SALVOR is being 2. sent from Algiers.

(S.O. Force H., 1139A/23 to Capt. (D) 6th (R) C. in C. Med). SS. WINDSOR CASTLE in K.M.F.ll torpedoed by aircraft at 0200A/23rd sank at 1120A/23rd. Loss of life believed very small. (C. in C. Med., 2318A/23 to Admty).

U/B

Am over enemy submarine in 37.21 N. 02.48 E. sighted on course (corrupt group) speed 15 knots. (A/C 59 PA via Gib., 0235/23). Am over enemy submarine in 37.40 N. 01.40 E. (A/C 59 PB (?) via Gib. 0430/23).

Convoy P.A.29 arrived less PALIMA straggler. P.A. 29 (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0625Z/23 to Admty).

ABDIEL

Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 0726A/23 to Admty.etc).

/HIGHLAND ...

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23. 3. 1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

HIGHLAND, CHIEFTAIN, DOMINION MONARCH, CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Your 1204/19. As HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN will not be able to take the 1000 German P.O.W. to Canada which is their destination, following arrangements will have to be made -(a) Only 500 to be embarked in HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN at Suez. These will have to tranship at Durban to DOMINION MONARCH for onward movement to New York.

(b) Balance of 500 will have to be taken to New York in CAPETOWN CASTLE. They should either (i) embark in her in Suez if this is possible within the limits of A.M.1140/16 or (ii) if this is impracticable, proceed to Bombay by other means to embark in her there.

(D.S.T.O. 0513A/23 to P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Capetown). Your 0513/23 March. As HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN proceeds

Your 0513/23 March. As HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN proceeds unescorted (my 1108/4 March refers) number to be embarked must be limited to conform with Admty. 1140/16 March. This means only a total of 440 personnel can be embarked and therefore no prisoners of war can be carried.

(P.S.T.O.M.E., 1750B/23 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O. Bombay, S.S.T.O. Capetown). Reply: 1455A/25.

Capetown). Reply: 1455A/25. Your 0513/23rd. It would appear in view of your 2150/17th March para. (2) that no prisoners of war can be embarked at Suez or Bombay as presumably crews have to be deducted from (?total) of 618 given as approx. 75% of boats capacity of CAPETOWN CASTLE in accordance with Admty's 1140/16th March. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1931B/23 to Admty. for D. of S.T. (R) S.T.O. Bombay, C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.S.Force, P.S.T.O. Egypt). Reply: D.S.T. 0352A/27.

Movements, Bougie. Shuttle service. MAMMY, TITUS and H.M.S. LAPAGERIA sailed. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0655A/23 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C., Bone, A.I.G.259).

RORQUAL, minelaying. Your 2042/22nd. Well done. Pass 038° 15' 008° Ol' at 0300/24th thence adjust speed to pass 038° 03' 003° 04' at 2300/25th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 04' at 0630/26th. Bombing restricted 10 miles either side your route

35 miles ahead and astern estimated position, assume surface speed 9½ knots. You may be meeting P.47 at about 0200/25th. (Capt. S.8., 0854A/23 to RORQUAL (R) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals March 22nd. DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN MAID, ST. MONANCE, Greek destroyer SPETSAI. Departures 22nd March AMBER, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, M.L.354, KLO, KINGSTON CYANITE. Arrived and sailed 22nd March. MIAOULES. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0910B/23 Admty. C. in C. Levant).

931

23.3.1943. War Diary Tuesday. FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean. - Contd. M.K.S.10 Pass to N.C.S.O's M.K.S.10. My 1031A/20th add 43 MEROPE for Oran. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 0931A/23 to C. in C. Med., F. F.O.I.S. etc). GRADISCA, Following from A.N.A. Departure 22nd. Italian repatriations. Hospital ship GRADISCA. C. in C. Levant please pass to other authorities concerned. (C.S.A. Mersin, 1001C/23 to Admty. C. in C. Levant (R) S.N.O.L.A.) Arrival: M.T.Bs. 84, 65, 261 from operations. (V.A. Malta, 1015A/23 to Admty. etc). M.T.Bs. 3 M.T.Bs. from Malta will be operating in the Marittimo area tonight. They have orders not to attack S/Ms. (Capt. S.10., 1215A/23 to S/Ms on patrol). Cancel my 1215/23rd. (Capt. S.10., 1553/23). G.U.S.5 A sailed in accordance with your 1105A/18 Ships as in my 0950/17 and my 1350/18th escorted G.U.S.5 A. by PENTSTEMON, VERITY, VENOMOUS, VETCH, SPEEDWELL, STELLA CARINA, POLRUAN. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1105A/23 to C. in C. Med., (W) (R) Commorseafront, Connav, Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q.) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) escorted from leaving Malta UNRIVALLED. 1500A/23rd. by usual route through Q.K.B.20 to pass position P at 1600A/25th and thence proceed to patrol as ordered by you. (Capt. S.10., 1110A/23 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) 8th S.F., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1). From Tomnavnaw. Info: Usfor. Deliver to: Task Admiralty. Oran Deliver to: Comamphornaw and Force 60, U. G. S. 6. Comcrabnaw. 1. These orders to be delivered to Cdr. J.H. Leppert, U.S.N. when he arrives Bermuda with Task Group 60.2. Task Force 60 Comdr. J.H. Leppert constituted as follows. Mindiv 17, P.Cs. 559, 545, 62 S.C.696, 697, 639, 638, 676, 977. Y.M.S.13, 34, 82, 226, MAUMEE, ARAPAHO, Escort Convoy U.G.S.6 RELE consisting of 17 A.K.2 A.O. Plus 16 U.S. L.S.Ts. 8 British L.S.Ts. 30 U.S. to North African ports and Gibraltar follow route in Cominch (Candr) 151517. 545, 626, (Candr) 151517. 2. This is a paraphrase of Cinclant's 192121 to Comannaw and others.

DO

3. Operational control shifts from Cinclant to Admiralty at 40° W. and then to Cinc Medm at 10° W. On arrival African waters and when escort duty completed Task Force 60 dissolved, then directs P.Cs. S.Cs. Y.M.S.s report Comnavnaw for duty and Mindiv 17 report Comnavnaw for temporary duty direct MAUMEE and ARAPAHO report Com Moroccan Seafron for dispatch to U.S. waters and direct by me. Communications in accordance with Lantflt Might A one change. (Allied Force Algiers, 1121Z/23 to Oran and Etousa for action). /SAMARIA...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

SAMARIA Your 2155/22. SAMARIA must proceed in slow convoy to Gibraltar as she cannot be docked here. Docking can be arranged at Gibraltar but only by delaying repairs to one other personnel ship, two cargo ships, and one destroyer. (C. in C. Med., 1122A/23 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com. Algiers).

TASSOS My 1623/10 para. A. TASSOS expected to sail for Piraeus via Salonica tomorrow March 24th. B.4. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1126C/23 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1., D.N.I.)

PAKENHAM, Arrived. PETARD. (V.A. Malta, 1129A/23 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

TURBULENT lost.

11

Regret to report TURBULENT overdue from patrol and must be considered lost. 2. TURBULENT left Algiers 24th Feb. to patrol south of 40° and east of 14° from 28th Feb. to p.m./6th March and then north of 40° E. of

13° until p.m./12th.

3. TURBULENT was ordered to leave p.m./12th March and proceed toward Giglio Island then across to east coast of Corsica and to report in due course his E.T.A. south east of Sardinia for homeward route. I expected this to be about 18th March but no report from TURBULENT was received.

4. TURBULENT was ordered to patrol in a position about 40 miles off East coast of Sardinia from 2100/19th March to 0001/20th then to withdraw and report E.T.A. south east of Sardinia. No reply was received.

5. On 20th was given onward route to Algiers to arrive 0630 today and to acknowledge. No reply was received.
6. TURBULENT was sighted off Bonifati on 1st March and also

off east coast Corsica on 14th March. 7. In absence of enemy claims I am of opinion TURBULENT was mined on or after 14th March possibly in vicinity of Maddalena. (Note circumstances attending loss of P.311).

8. Grievous loss of this outstanding submarine on her last patrol before proceeding to U.K. to refit is most keenly felt. Report in amplification follows.

9. C. in C. Levant pass to S.l. V.A. Malta pass to S.lO. (S.8., 1202A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc).

CELENO

My 1809C/17. CELENO not yet arrived Istanbul. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1215C/23 to C. in C. Levant, D.N.I., S.l, S.O.(I) Levant)

Passenger numbers C. in C. E.F's 1447Z/20. Agree F.O.R.S.C.A's 1821B/22. Propose to confirm. (C. in C. Levant, 1218B/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. S.A.S., F.O.C.R.I.N. A.C.N.B.) Approved. (Admty. 1635A/25).

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

U/B

41

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Destroyed by U.S. Army A/C. (C. in C. Med., 1245A/23) See North Atlantic.

THUNDERBOLT,
TRIBUNE,THUNDERBOLT leaves patrol through 040° 01' 012°
59' at 1600/24 039° 27' 011° 01' at 0400/25th
038° 30' 010° 43' at 2000/25th thence 266°.
2. TRIBUNE has freedom of action in Zones G and
H after 1600/24th.
3. At 0001/24th P.212 moves to Zone C. P.228
(SPLENDID) moves to Zone B. P.247 (SARACEN) moves
to Zone E.
4. P.44 (UNITED) to Zone D, keeping West of 012°
44' E.

5. P.51 (UNSEEN) on passing position P at 1200/ 24th operates in Zone A. Keep well clear mine field quoted in RORQUAL 1842/22nd.

6. P.228 (SPLENDID) when in Zone B may withdraw as necessary into Zone D East of P.44.
7. TORBAY is to proceed to Zone F. para. 3 of my 1316/22nd refers.
(Capt. S.8., 1306A/23 to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.10)

Static Smoke Defence. Intend to make following signal to Naval Cdrs. in C. and Flag Officers in Mediterranean Area:-"Admty. Message 1032A/6th Jan. War Office have now assumed responsibility for supply of smoke for static smoke screening only.

for static smoke screening only. 2. This covers No. 24 Smoke Generators for which Army authorities are in future responsible. 3. Further signal will be made when whole message is in force". (2) Request your very early concurrence and that similar instructions be issued to Army authorities. (D.L.D., Approved by 4th S.L., 1313A/23 to W.O. (R) Air Min).

K.M.S.11

For Philippeville NARVA, DUX, PORTSEA, ORPHEUS, ZENA, VILLE DE BOUGIE. For Bone, ALPERA, PENSHURT, ODYSSEUS, CARSTIR. For Algiers, DINGLEDALE, HALLANGER. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1331A/23 to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. etc).

MADRAS Arrival 0430Z. (Cdre. Aden, 1331Z/23 to Admty. etc).

Bi-weekly Opsum. No. 110 Part 3. Night 21/22 March. 5 Liberators despatched to bomb Naples. 1 aircraft returned early with engine trouble, remainder bombed objective but results unobserved. 4 large fires with black smoke seen in area of oil installations and railway depot north of harbour but not claimed. 28 X 1000 lb. H.E. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 1419Z/23).

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ARGO (oiler).

As soon as repairs are completed oiler ARGO is to be taken back on Admiralty charter and sailed for Haifa to load fuel cargo furnace oil, thence Port Said for orders. P.S.T.O. M.E., is requested to adjust charter. (C. in C. Levant, 1504A/23 to N.O.I.C. Suez (R) F.O. Red Sea Canal Area etc).

BRITISH In order to replenish stocks of submarine diesel oil, it is intended to use Oiler BRITISH SOLDIER to load full cargo at Aden. Ship can be SOLDIER. spared for this voyage after repairs at Haifa and will be docked at Massawa on way south, approx. 14th April. (C. in C. Levant, 1506B/23 to Admty. (R) M.W.T. Cairo).

Balloons, Valetta.

AX.886. 23rd March. A.H.Q. Malta report that with effect from dawn 24th March balloons may be flying over Valetta Harbour. Request all concerned be warned. (Air Min. 15112/23 as amended 14052/24 to Med. Air Command etc). Maximum height of balloons, 2,500 feet. (Air Min. 11212/26).

Governor, Malta. directive.

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To: Andrews. For: British Chiefs of Staff. From: Eisenhower. Ref: Usfor Cable 2116/16th March (Orig. by British Chiefs of Staff) (Circulated as OZ 771, 1625Z/16).

Somewhat confusing to me is new directive to 1. Governor and C. in C. Malta and does not seem to be consistent with recent action placing Malta under C. in C. Med., and Air C. in C. Med. Air Command as regards Naval and Air Forces respectively, whereas offensive operations from Malta come under C. in C. Allied Forces, North Africa, and not under Defence Committee.

2. I believe that para. 6 of the directive should provide for reference to C. in C. Allied Forces and the words "in Middle East" should be deleted in para. 7.
(Freedom, Algiers, 1522Z/23 to Usfor).
I. Z.1128. CC/203 23rd March 1943.

Following for Chiefs of Staff (R) Governor Malta, Gen. Eisenhower, Adm. Cunningham, Gen. Alexander, A.C.M. Tedder from Middle East Defence Committee.

Ref. your OZ. 771 of 16th March.

We have examined new directive to Governor Malta and offer 1. following comments.

2. We consider clear distinction should be made between operational and administrative responsibility.

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Governor, Malta directive. (contd).

3. Operational responsibility. We agree with A.C.M. Tedder's personal telegram No. 68 to C.A.S. Naval responsibility also has shifted to C. in C. Med. We feelvoice of Algiers in Malta's operational role must now predominate as we can no longer exercise guidance on operational matters

required by para. 4 of the directive. Owing to relation between operational and administrative question, however, we must be kept fully in the operational picture both by Algiers and by Malta.

4. Administrative responsibility. Until Tunisia is cleared of enemy and Mediterranean open for west to east convoys all supplies for Malta must of course come from Middle East and additional requirements over next few months can only be met at expense of other Middle East Commitments, pricipally Eighth Army. Therefore agree complete administrative control by Middle East should continue and all requirements be submitted to Middle East. Direct access by Malta to North Africa will be increasingly necessary but we must be kept fully informed. (C. in C. M.E., 1830Z/23 to Air Min).

ABDIEL, UNRI VALLED.

16

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Sailed. (V.A. Malta, 1531/23 to Admty etc).

12th A.F. Report.

From: Spaatz. To: Eaker. 1. Escorted by 25 P.38s, 24 B.17s attacked Palermo hitting shipping heavily. 1 ship blew up, the explosion being felt by our aircraft. Formation attacked by flight of 6 Me. 202s carrying relay tanks which were dropped before attacking. Also attacked by 15-20 Me. 109s, F.W. 190s and Me. 2001. 6 enemy aircraft destroyed, 2 probably destroyed, 1 damaged, 1 B.17 lost. 2. 13 B.26s escorted by 33 P.38s attacked convoy from 3500 and 7500 feet Several bits scored on 12,000 ton troop ship 7500 feet. Several hits scored on 12,000 ton troop ship causing an explosion setting it on fire and it was left listing badly. A direct hit and many near misses on another large vessel. 2 direct hits made on escort vessel. Near target B.26s attacked by 12-15 of type listed above enemy aircraft.

3 destroyed, 2 probably destroyed. 1 B.26 lost, 3 parachutes opened. 1 crash landed drome. P.38s were attacked by 30 enemy aircraft of type listed above. 5 destroyed, 7 probably destroyed one damaged 3 P.38s lost. 1 landed friendly territory. (12th Air Force, 1548Z/23).

K.M.F.11	K.M.F.ll arrived less WINDSOR CASTLE (7 ships). (Cdre. Algiers, 1613A/23 to Admty. etc).
Movements, Port Said.	23rd March, Port Said arrival, H.H.M.S. MIAOULES H.M. Transport TALMA. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1629B/23 to Admty.etc).

/ANDES...

- 936

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ANDES

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Your 2016/21 not understood. ANDES sailed from Oran last November in M.K.F.3. Has not been here since. Your 0341/16/2 was circulated to S.M.T.49's in my area on receipt. (P.S.T.O. Med. 1640A/23 to D.S.T.)

Turkey.

Vessels for Your 2036/19th March and further to my 1531/22nd March, 1943. Remarks with regard to very large number of items included in Adama list will be dependent on a knowledge of Admiralty policy with regards to provision of additional ships and vessels enumerated in my 1802/5th March, as Turkish demands

are presumably based on considerable increase in Turkish Fleet. Information regarding this policy is therefore requested at early date.

(2) Until detailed recommendation with regard to Adana list can be forwarded it is suggested that priority be given to supply of ships, vessels and equipment outstanding from Orbay Kelly Eden and other former lists if possible including provision of additional 2 destroyers and 2 subs. ordered by Turkish Govt. under the 1938 Turkish credit and at least 2 Boom Working Vessels included in Orbay list. It. is felt that supply of these ships and equipment will go a long way towards satisfying immediate needs of Turkish Navy. (N.A. Ankara, 1732C/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

M.K.S.10

My 1054A/20. Sailed less EMPIRE SNIPE plus EMPIRE BAIRN and TRITON for Algiers. All have K.B. except EMPIRE BAIRN. (F.O.I.S. 1815A/23 2120A/23 to A.I.G. 259 (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bougie). M.K.S.IO. Philippeville section sailed. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2235A/23 to C. in C. Med. etc).

My 1503/19th is amended as follows. Convoy Eastbound convoy. Programme. K.M.S. 12 amend date to read April 9th, 10th, 11th 12th and 13th. Delete T.E. 22. Amend T.E. 22 to read T.E. 21.

2. Westbound convoy. G.U.S. 6 amend date to read 10th and 11th G.U.S.6 A amend date to read 22nd and 23rd. (C. in C. Med., 1827A/23 to F.O. Gib. etc).

M.K.S.,10.

S. of A. from Algiers 8 knots. Oran section R/V at 1300A/26th. Gibraltar at 1700A/27th. (2) WHEATLAND is to detach with Algiers section. (C. in C. Med., 1833A/23 to WHEATLAND Escorts M.K.S. 10 (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav). M.K.S.10. Sailing destinations. (D.T.D., 1845A/23 to Cdre. Algiers. etc).

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta Air Report. A.I. 594 23rd March. C.S.R. Part 1. Offensive. (A) Air. Night 22/23rd March. 4 Wellingtons 2 Beauforts and 4 Albacores R.N.A.S. made armed searches for enemy shipping in Naples, Taranto, Kuriat, and Marittimo areas but no good target

was found. 1 Wellington in Gulf of Hammamet sighted 2118 hours 1 M/V 3,000 tons 1 M/V 2000 tons and 2 D/Rs 36° 15' N. 10° 35' E. course N.E. 1 special equipment Albacore and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores were despatched to attack but owing to poor visibility and A.S.V. jamming made no sighting. (A.H.Q. Malta, 1940Z/23 to Air Min. etc).

Situation report No. 14.

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To assist Eighth Army attack APHIS carried out bombardment of Gabes 0100/22nd. March. 60 rounds fired, results not observed but almost certainly in town area. No opposition. Six M.Ls. staged a feint landing North of Gabes and drew some fire. A small feint convoy was sailed towards

Cabes but enemy did not sight. (1) (2) My 1923/21 March para. 6. Three more circling torpedoes found. One hit Southern Blockship and exploded, one surfaced to harbour, towed to sea and exploded, and another ashore outside harbour.

(3) Admiralty's 1129/7 October 1942. Naval prisoner of war exchange affected Mersin 28th March. List included many officers captured at Tobruk June 1942. Four officers from SIKH. Two from Submarines TEMPEST and (?CACHALOT) includes (?C.O.) of latter and one from OSWALD. Also one officer from HEREWARD. Of ratings nearly (200) are Royal Marines. (See also 2016B/24).

4. Levant. Two U-boats operating. One sailing vessel sunk
S.W. of Haifa and another between Beirut and Cyprus on 20th
March.
(5) Submarines. PAPANICOLIS reports Caique sunk during Aegean
patrol. Details awaited.

(C. in C. Levant, 1955B/23 to Admty).

TRIDENT,Arrived submarine TRIDENT, departure S/M DOLFIJN.DOLFIJN.(Cdre. Algiers, 2031A/23 to Admty.etc).

Movements Algiers. Arrived WREN, WOODPECKER, CYGNET, GOATHLAND, DOUGLAS, KRAKOWIAK, EGGESFORD, WHADDON, BADSWORTH, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN OAKLEY, ZETLAND, L.C.I.(L) 99, 102, 177, FOXTROT. Departures LOYAL, LAMERTON, French Chasseur III, ENGAGEANTE. (Cdre. Algiers, 2033A/23 to Admty. etc).

Walrus Aircraft for French Navy. Your 1341/14. French Walrus Agreement Part 1 for training personnel in U.K. signed on 16th March. Personnel had sailed as reported in my 1957/9 March.

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Walrus Aircraft for French Navy. Agreement Part 2 for supply of aircraft and definition of cost now under consideration by French and may be signed shortly. Request confirmation that supply of first 9 aircraft to Gibraltar within 40 days has been arranged.
 Apparent divergence in policy referred to in my 2020/6 was based on fact that up to this date

no similar formal agreements had been negotiated by U.S. or British Army Authorities for transfers of Military equipment. Directive has now been received by A.F.H.Q. on general financial policy and joint interservice committee on which I am represented is handling the details. (C. in C. Med., 2035A/23 to Admty). Shipment early April, see Admty. 2050A/28.

Movements, Bone arrivals L.C.I. 161, L.C.I. 210 (Bone) departures BROCKLESBY, ATHERSTONE, QUANTOCK, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE, TRITON, MAN OF WAR. (S.O.I.S., 2117A/23 to C. in C. Med., etc).

CANADA (Hospital ship).

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Your 1423/22nd. Request M.O. should inspect tal Hospital ship CANADA. Details required. (M.D.G., 2154A/23 to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Libya. Arrived PRIMULA, FALK. Sailed M.Ls. 459, 462, 134, 168. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 2230/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Enemy Units. Following read. 2 merchant vessels 2 destroyers distance 2 miles bearing 090° from 38.08 N. 12.15 E. speed 14 knots. (A/C BUS/W via Alexandria W/T 2353/23).

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Arrived Ol39Z/23rd BRITTANY. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, Ol45Z/23 to Admty.) Departure O833Z/23rd BRITTANY. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0838Z/23 to Admty.) NEPAL arrived. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0400Z/23 toAdmty.) NEPAL sailed. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 0920Z/23 to Admty.) Departure SCOUT. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 0845Z/23 to Admty.) Left FROBISHER. (F.O.E.Af. 1226Z/23 to Admty.) Colombo arrivals 23. 0700 MAGNOLIA. (F.O. Ceylon 1545Z/23 to Admty.)

WEST POINT.

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Departures U.S.S. WEST POINT. Details of messages held not received.

(S.O.I. Bombay 0436Z/23 to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.

(S.O.I. Bombay 04362/25 to Admity., F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.A., Com. Aden, Vice Opnav., Alusno, Suez.) Revised date of sailing 23. My 0625/19 March refers. (P.S.T.O. India 06322/23 to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. M.E., D.S.T., B.A.D. Cdre. Aden, F.O.R.S.C.A.) E.T.A. Suez 04002/29th. My 0622/23rd (0632/23 intended) to C. in C.E.F. refers. Has on board ex. U.S.A. for Suez, officers 374, troops 4770, embarked Bombay British officers 19, W.Os. 4. troops 304 American troops 9 Pacutaes on annival oil Requires on arrival oil

W.Os. 4, troops 304, American troops 9. Requires on arrival
1500 tons, water 2000 tons.
(P.S.T.O. India 0635Z/23 to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A.
C. in C. E.F., D.S.T., B.A.D., Cdre Aden.) See also Vice
U.S. C.N.O. 1539/23 in America and West Indies.

Ref. P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1520/20. In order to avoid this serious waste of accommodation request Transports. you will consider whether arrangements can be made for CAPETOWN CASTLE, STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD to proceed from Suez to Bombay with the 3,500 personnel on board in

addition to the unescorted numbers. (D. of S.T. 0514A/23 to C. in C. E.F.(R) C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. Bombay, F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O.M.E., F.O.C.R.I.N. D.S.T.O., Durban.)

B.P.73, transport of troops and Polish families. Your 1015/21st and your 1425/18 March para. 1. RAJULA and ISLAMI will be despatched to you for this move. paragraph 2. VARELA, VARSOVA, SALWEEN, YOMA, KOSCIUSZKO, ASCANIUS in B.P. 73 will be available for Polish families and troops to Karachi. First two ships mentioned are not provisioned for British troops. Remaining four ships are provisioned for Polish families. Para 3. All ships of B.P.73 are Will instruct RAJULA to call Bahrein about

fully allotted. 6th April to embark this party for Basra. (P.S.T.O. India, 06292/23 to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf (R) D.S.T., P.S.T.O.M.E.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

B.M. 461.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0730Z/23rd March.

3. Pass through position (G) 00302/26th (3A) E.T.A. Colombo 04302/27th.

4. 9 knots to position (G) thence 12 knots. (5) (F) 014° 57' 073° 09' (G) 009° 58' 075° 39' (H) 008° 05' 076° 52' thence to Colombo. All ships ordered to Colombo but hold routes to destination. 6. MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0741Z/23, 0743Z/23 to Admty.)

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B.P.73. Sailing telegram. (2) 0900Z/23rd.. (3) E.T.A. position (S) 0430Z/25th (3A) crossing 062° 0030Z/26th (3B) E.T.A. west of QUOINS 0830Z/27th. (4) 11½ knots. (5) (R) 022° 21'
068° 20' (S) 024° 26' 066° 35' (T) 024° 25' 061° 37' thence P.G.W. (U) to (Z). (6) RATNAGIRI, RAJPUTANA, BATHURST. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0921Z/23, 0923Z/23 to Admty.)

SONAVATI. SONAVATI left Cocos Is. 1800Z/22nd. E.T.A. Colombo 0300Z/28th. (F.O. Ceylon 0944Z/23 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. A.C.N.B., F.L.O. Delhi.)

B.P. 73.

Sailed from Bombay 23rd for Basra, VARSOVA, YOMA, KOSCIUSZKO, ASCANIUS, SAIWEEN, VARELA. For Karachi RAJULA. All ships required Karachi on completion of disembarkation. (P.S.T.O.India 1140Z/23 to D.S.T.O. P.G. (R) D.S.T.

Section (2) A para.3 (A) As temporary measure north bound shipping from South Africa to Gulf of Aden is routed East of Madagascar. C Messages M.E.I.R.I. amendment No. 9. 9758/22nd and 1350/22nd should be 1930 and 1920 respectively. (C. in C. E.F. 13412/23 to E.I. Station 194C (R) Admty. N.Z.N.B. Opnav.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements.

URUGUAY (U.S.A.T.) arrived Norfolk, 21st. (N.S.H.Q. O106Z/23 to Admty.) Departure 23rd ORNEN III for Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados 0935/23 to Admty.)

NIEUW San Francisco arrived 22nd NIEUW AMSTERDAM. (N.S.H.Q. 0122%/23 to D. of S.T.)

Oiling at Sea. Your 1735/1 and 1828/12. Re use of Stirrup rail method. (B.A.D. 0143Z/23 to Admty.)

U/B.

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S/M sighted in 44° 32' N. 61° 39' W. at 0046Z/23rd. (C.O.A.C. 0201Z/23 to GB7A C.T.F. 24.) My 0201/23rd. FORT DE TROYON reports sighting wake of periscope astern of port wing column O.N. 171 going astern. State of sea 4. Visibility 6. (C.O.A.C. 1610Z/23 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.)

L.23.

23rd.

Movements summary 1800 G.M.T. Philadelphia arrived 2300Z/22 L.23 for refit. (N.S.H.Q. 0454Z/23 to Admty. (R) B.A.M. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.)

Ship. ARETHUSA SS. MONTEREY SS. ANDES CARNARVON CASTLE F.S.GLOIRE	Posi 23 2 332 33 11° 07°	N. N. N.	n. 412° 42° 56° 30° 29°	W. W. W. W.		Course 288° 285° 098° Patrol	Speed 15 20 19 -
CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	32 <u>1</u> °	s.	42 ¹ / ₂ °	₩.	'	075°	5
C.U.I.) GORLESTON	25 <u>1</u> °	N.	57 <u>1</u> °	₩.		0 40°	$13\frac{3}{4}$
ATTACKER) 22L.C.I.(L)s	27°	N.	49°	w.		090°	10
FOLKESTONE) TOTLAND	30 <u>1</u> °	N.	37 <u>1</u> °	₩.		06 4°	12
WESTON) TA.38 (D.O.D.(F) 1050Z/2	46° 23 to	N. Opr	462°	R) (Comnav	200° reu.)	26

H.S.C. 124.

Sailing telegram. 2. Gate 1100Z/23. 3. HOMP1400Z/24. 5. As C.E.S.F. 2102/13. 6. C.T.U. 24.18.3. 7. Total 11 ships. 8. As C.E.S.F. 2102/13. (C.O.A.C. 1210Z/23, 1212Z/23 to Admty.)

/B.Y.M.S...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S.

San Diego arrived 2200Z/22, B.Y.M.S. 13, 23 and 28. (N.S.H.Q. 1307Z/23 to Admty.) (As amended 1839Z/29.)

H.X. 230. Ccean Escort.

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C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 in HURRICANE plus WATCHMAN. ROCKINGHAM, KALE, WALLFLOWER, MEADOWSWEET, MONKSHOOD and DAHLIA designated ocean escort. HURRICANE, WATCHMAN, KALE fitted with H/F D/F. (C.T.F. 24, 1433Z/23 to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, (?C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8) C.T.G. 24.6. Escort Control Londonderry. Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.) C.T.F. 24s 1433/23. Urgent repairs to broken mast of HURRICANE necessitate ship sailing up to 24 hours late to overtake

necessitate ship sailing up to 24 hours late to overtake. (F.O.N.F. 1859Z/23 to Cominch C. and R.)

	Your 1921/7 para.				
Shipping	not yet received.				
Routeing.	origin. Your 2129				
	and from St. John	N.B.	routes t	o and fro	om
	Philadelphia and 1	vew (Orleans no		
	(N.S.H.Q. 1437Z/2	3 to	Admty.)		

Vice U.S. C.N.O. 1239/18th modified. On les Suez call at Massawa as directed by British On leaving WEST POINT. authorities at Suez. (Vice U.S. C.N.O. 1539/23 to WEST POINT.)

(Cominch 1542/23, 1543/23, 1556/23, 1557/23, S/M estimate March 23rd. 1558/23.) U.S. S/M Notice.

Boston Section arrived 1522Z/23rd. X.B. 38. (Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston 1600Z/23 to Cominch C. and R. Cdre E.S.F. C.O.A.C. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

On March 20th R/C of Buin area showed one light Solops 10. cruiser, 3 destroyers, 2 corvettes and 9 merchant vessels present. (B.A.D. 1601Z/23 to Admty. C. in C.E.F. (R) Concentric Colombo, Capt. O.S. Kilindini, F.L.O. Delhi.)

/TRACKER ...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

TRACKER.

TRACKER arrived 1130/23rd. (B.R.L.O. Balboa, 1701R/23 to Admty.)

WASTWATER and sweeps 5,6,7 and 8 departed Recife WASTWATER. 1200. Minesweepers,

Minesweepers, 1200. P.23 P.23 P.23 escorting Merchant Ship LIVINGSTON ROE to Natal routed through A. 07° 35' S. 34° 32' W. B. 05° 57' S. 34° 50' W. E.T.A. Natal 0500P/24th. After leaving LIVINGSTON ROE Recife off Natal H.M. Ships proceed to Paysandu passing through. C. 05° 00' S. 31° 00' W. D. 01°N. 20° 00' W. Engine speed throughout 9.5 knots. E.T.A. Freetown April 1st. WASTWATER shift W/T guard from N.S.S. Fox to Group F.T. at 0800Z/28th. (Com. 4th Fleet 1715/23 to Cominch C. and R. (R) V.Opnav, Admty. B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af. V.821 83 Task Force 41 U.S. Naval Observer Natal.) Observer Natal.)

BAZELY.

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Your 1524/22nd. E.T.D. 1200 G.M.T. 24th. p.m. Bermuda 1400 G.M.T./26th. (BAZELY 1822/23 to C.E.S.F.)

S.C.124. Escorts.

1. Anticipate BURNHAM will have to sail 36 or more hours late to S.C. 124. 2. In order that S.O. of group may accompany his task unit following temporary changes in C.O.s are intended in JED, BURNHAM, ROXBOROUGH, WITHERINGTON (F.O.N.F. 1828Z/23 to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. C.T.F. 24.)Concur (C. in C.W.A. 0947Z/24 to F.O.N.F.)

Departed Ambrose 1845Z/23rd. A.T.39 (Port Director New York 1906Z/23 to Admty.) (EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.)

One generator broken down. Not considered safe LACHINE. to proceed on other generator. Ship (?should) return to Halifax. (LACHINE 1925Z/23 to C.O.A.C. (R) C.T.F. 24. Connav. Admty. etc.)

Your 0330/23. Rules for numbers of passengers in Passengers ships crossing the Pacific are decided by Cincpac. Numbers. Suggest you put your proposal direct to him. (B.A.D. 1955Z/23 to A.C.N.B. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. N.Z.N.B.)

ILMEN U.S.S.R. sunk 3 torpedoes 17th Feb. 30° 56' N. 136° 30' E. Report and position confirmed ILMEN sunk 17/2. by U.S.Boarding Officer who interviewed survivors aboard KACHIRSTROI U.S.S.R. (N.S.H.Q. 2027Z/23 to Admty.)

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

G.U.Convoy Signals.

Ref. N.C.X.F. 2121/6 Feb. (Request repeat convoy sailing telegrams.) Addressees of above are assuming that routes of G.U. Convoys have

been already passed N.S.H.Q. by Admiralty convoy route signal which is not the case. Information for item 5 of all convoy sailing telegrams received states "in accordance with Admiralty signal" with no patriculars added. Request therefore N.S.H.Q. be included in addressees of G.U. Route signal and any amendments. (N.S.H.Q. 2041Z/23 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

U.S. Tankers. Your 1151/21 and 1116/22. 2. Maximum of 12 U.S. flag tankers are expected to maintain sequence D.W.I. to U.K. to D.W.I. to New York to D.W.I. and so repeated on an eight week cycle. 3. Escort will in future be wholly a U.S.A. commitment. (D.T.D. 2049A/23 to N.C.S.O. Curacao, (R) C. in C.W.A. S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D.)

SWIFT CURRENT, SARNIA.

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E.T.A. H.J. 41 0930Z/24. Boiler hours SARNIA boiler hours SAR IA urgent defect leaking condenser. (SWIFT CURRENT 2105Z/23 to F.O.N.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

All times Z. Para. C. Plane sights sub. 13.25 S. 38.24 W. p.m. 22. Sub attacked 00.20 N. 46.48 W. about 1200/23. Para. D. Sub sighted 44.32 N. 61.39 W. 0046/23. M.L. attacks sub contact 45.30 N. 64.30 W. about 2115/22. Fishing boat sights periscope area 41.10 N. 71.40 W. 2315/21. Periscope wake sighted 03.09 S. 33.08 W. 1405/21. (Cominch 2135Z/23 to Admty.)

As agreed at Washington Atlantic convoy conference Western to establish 11 western escort force groups with Escort Force Groups, an effective strength of 4 ships per group, it is transfer of necessary to transfer R.N. destroyers now in R.N. Destroyers.Western Support Force to Western Local Escort Forces. 2. Request therefore that 3 destroyers be transferred immediately and remainder about 15th April. 3. This transfer will enable C.O.A.C. Halifax to arrange a satisfactory schedule for groups escorting B.X., X.B convoys. Cominch 1255/22nd (N.T. in W.R.) refers. (N.S.H.Q. 1247Z/23 to Cominch, (R) Admty. F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. C.T.24., C.O.A.C.)

/Movements...

945

23.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements. Bermuda.

Bermuda arrivals U.S. Task Group (?60.1?) comprising U.S.S. 977 and L.S.Ts. 337, 356, 35, 233, and 234. H.M. L.S.Ts. 367 and 409 departures U.S.S. ARAPAHO. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 2152A/23 to Admty.)

00012/24 at position T. E.T.A. 0300Z/25. T.A.38 Conditions permitting propose to berth on arrival. (QUEEN (QUEEN ELIZABETH 23592/25 to C.O.A.C. (R) C. in ELIZABETH) C.U.S.Fleet C. and R. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Passengers. Numbers.

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Your 1140A/16. In view of infrequent sailings of vessels over 15 knots direct from Australia to U.K. and as monthly output of R.A.A.F. personnel for Canada and U.K. is 750, it is the intention of A.C.N.B. to continue to forward U.K. personnel to U.S.A. for on-carriage. Propose it be at discretion

of A.C.N.B. if necessity arises forward up to 250 to U.S.A. in a vessel unable to maintain 15 knots, notifying all authorities concerned.

2. Concur in para. 3 C. in C.E.F's 1447/20 as far as Australia is concerned.

3. Your 1140/16 acceptable in its entirety with the exception

of the foregoing amendments. (A.C.N.B. 0330Z/23 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.E.F. C. in C.S.A. N.Z.N.B. F.O.C.R.I.N.) Reply from B.A.D. 1955Z/23.

Digest Serial No. 426 22nd March. Liberator forenoon unsuccessfully attacked Schooner probably wireless ship in Lorengau Harbour and reported runway serviceable but nil activity.

2. Searches of shipping lanes south coast New Britain 22nd reveal no trace of destroyer attacked South of Gasmata night 21st.

4. Three small M/Vs sighted Wewak harbour area morning. 7. Three enemy aircraft raided Milne Bay early hours causing two casualties. One bomber believed damaged by our intercepting fighters. 8. Several small craft sighted Kaukenau area afternoon 21st.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 06222/23.)

/Movements...

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23.3.1943. Tuesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Movements.

Arrival Port Moresby 22nd BALLARAT, Brisbane 22nd U.S. Destroyer PATERSON. Townsville 22nd BROOME. Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd MORESBY. Departure Milne Bay 21st VENDETTA for Townsville. Thursday Island 22nd LATROBE for Darwin. (A.C.N.B. 0946Z/23 to Admty.) U.S.T. BONTEKOE arrived Gladstone 21st March. Hired transport DUNTROON arrived Townsville 22nd

DUNTROON arrived Townsville 22nd. Dutch (2 groups missed) MINJAK, TANAH departed Thursday Is. 18th March for Merauke and returned to Thursday Is. 22nd. H.T. QUEEN MARY departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd due Fremantle 26th. U.S.T. BOTH depart Portland Roads 22nd due Port Moresby 24th.

H.T. TAROONA departed Fall River 22nd due Townsville 24th. (A.C. N.B. 1452Z/23 to Admty.)

Solops 10.

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(B.A.D. 1601Z/23 to Admty.) See America and West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 1408A/23, 1429A/23.)

The arrangement of the War Diary is as follows:-

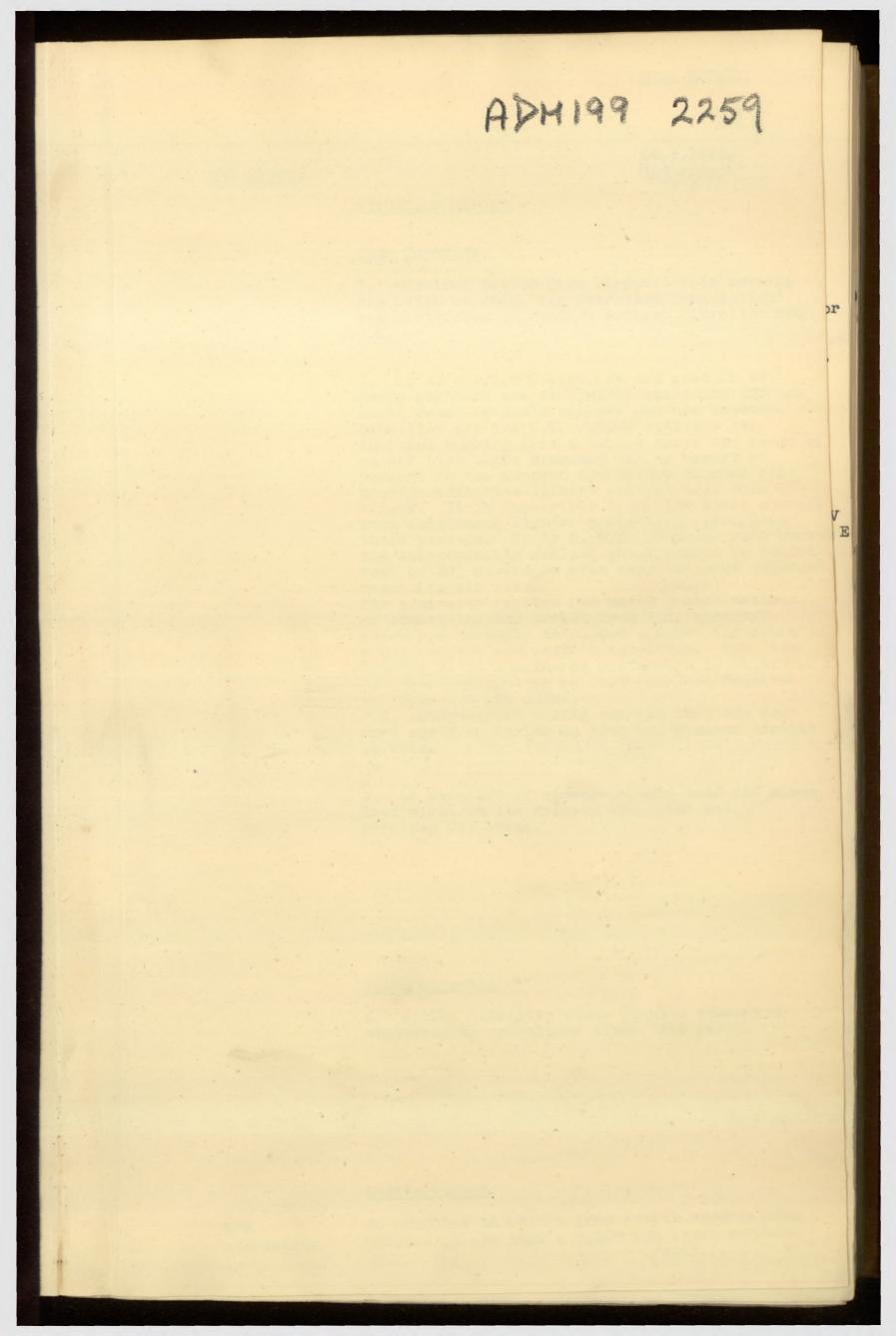
HOME COMMANDS (Classification by subjects)	111111	Policy Defence of United Kingdom Movements Operations Allied Air Activity Enemy Air Activity Mining Enemy Intelligence U-Boats Navigational Technical Casualties and Defects Shipping and Convoys
FOREIGN STATIONS (Classification by stations)	11111111	Mediterranean East Indies America and West Indies Australia and New Zealand

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

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947

24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary,

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. MYRMIDON sailed from Plymouth this morning and ORKAN at 2015, for Operation "Regulation" and protection of convoys between Gibraltar and U.K.

2. Up to 8 F.W. 200 aircraft and some Ju.88 Heavy Fighters are at present operating off the north coast of Spain against convoys between Gibraltar and the U.K. Their activity has included bombing from a height above the range of escort high angle armament and no escort at present in the Western Approaches Command can provide effective defence against this form of attack. It is impossible to provide these convoys with continuous fighter protection throughout their passage. C. in C. W.A. proposes that convoy and independently sailing ships should be routed west of 20° W, and he also asks for some guidance (page 103) regarding air cover. The Admiralty replied (26 March) that methods of combatting the threat from F.W. aircraft, which has recently developed against the Gibraltar - U.K. route, are under examination. For. the present it is considered preferable to continue to route the convoys so that they can receive the best A/S air cover.

F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA reports that she shot down one F.W. Kurier on 19th and damaged another on 20th.

3. 41 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 120 mines last night in the Frisian Is., Elbe and Schulpen Gat areas.

North Atlantic.

4. F.O.C. Gibraltar sends today a summary of minesweeping operations since 13th March.

Mediterranean.

S/M operations. 5. TROOPER on return from patrol reports that at 1556/10 she sank a 5,000 ton laden merchant /ship...

1 ... 948

24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S/M Operations. (contd). ship in convoy off Cape Milazzo. Very heavy counter attack by the convoy escorts caused minor damage. At 2046/15 she fired 4 torpedoes at a merchant vessel in convoy in the southern approaches to Naples; two explosions were heard, but results were not seen. At 1211/17 in the same area she fired torpedoes at two ships of a northbound convoy of 4 vessels and estimates one hit on the first target and possibly two on the second, or one of the latter may have been on a destroyer.

SIBYL reports sinking by torpedo an eastbound cased petrol ship which she torpedoed at 0950/14 off Palermo.

UNSEEN estimates 1 torpedo hit on a 3,500 ton M/V in a northbound convoy at 1011 in 37.52 N. 11.27 E C. in C. Levant sends today a report on the activities of Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS against caiques in the Dodecanese.

6. The departure of Force H today from Mers-el-Kebir to Gibraltar was delayed until 25 March on account of the destroyers being engaged in an A/S hunt in connection with the attempted attack on Mers-el-Kebir by human torpedoes last night.

7. Greek SS. AIS GEORGIS is reported beached at Tobruk with No. 1 hold and engine room flooded. The cause of damage is unknown. Prospects of salvage are good.

8. The resignation of Admiral Sakellariou C. in C. of the Greek Fleet has been accepted.

Air Operations. 9. 19 B.24s bombed Messina railway ferry terminus today. Hits were made on the northern arm of the harbour near the Naval fuel tanks and along the railway yards south of the ferry terminus. Fires and smoke were seen at the fuel tanks and the entire area of the railway yards is reported on fire and smoking.
21 B.17s escorted by 20 P.38 attacked shipping at Ferryville today. The entire dock area was well covered. One medium and two small merchant vessels are believed to have been hit.

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

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C

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

10. H.M. ships refitting in U.S. ports have been delayed owing to the delay in arrival of information and of material for refits. The effect on U.S. Naval ships at the same ports undergoing refits is causing the U.S. Navy Dept. concern. If this state of affairs is not remedied we may be faced with a refusal on the part of the Navy Dept. to take our ships.

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

8th M.L. Flotilla.

The 8th M.L.Flotilla is to be withdrawn from operational service forthwith and re-allocated as follows: -

A. M.L. 571 to the 1st M.L. Flotilla at Yarmouth. B. M.Ls. 161, 162, 165, 166 and 167 to ST. CHRISTOPHER for training.

C. M.L. 237 as required by Cdr. M/S Milford Haven. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to sail boats in accordance with

para. 1. (D.D.O.D.C. 1823A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

S/M Movements.

04

My 1654/23. Add Para. J. 0.14 escorted by M.L. 454 leave Dundee 0900/24 for exercises in Tay Sanctuary returning a.m. 26th. (F.O.S. 0831A/24 to Admty.) Submarines at O800A/25 and their movements until 0800A/26.

A. TRUCULENT in zone K.151. B. SEA NYMPH in zone K.150. C. TEMPLAR, 65° 08' N. 04° 10' E. probably on surface through 065° 30' N. 004° 45' E., then direct to patrol zone K.148. D. SOKOL diving by day vicinity 49° 23' N. 08° 12' W. through 49° 10' 09° 00' W., then course 270°. 105 miles in 24 hours. E. UPROAR diving by day vicinity 49° 39' N. 08° 20' W. through 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W., then 270°. 105 miles in 24 hours. F. UNA P.556, and BLACKEISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinit F. UNA. P.556. and BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity 51° 25' N. 05° 01' W. for Clyde 9 knots. G. HERRING on patrol vicinity 43° 30' N. 11° 01' W. H. SHAD in zone K.508.J. 0.14 exercising in Tay Sanctuary returning to Dundee a.m. 26th.

(F.O.S. 1624A/24.)

My 1654/23. Amend para. (H) to read SHAD proceeding from zone K. 508 towards zone K.505 during night 24th/25th keeping south of 44° 10' N. My 1624/24. Amend para. (H) to read SHAD probably in zone K. 506 proceeding to patrol in zone K.505. (F.O.S. 1814A/24 to Admty.)

ADVENTURE.

My 1303/20. Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1635A/24 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrol.

1. Intend M.L. 233 (S.O.) and M.L. 124 to
patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between Ol°
45' W. and O2° 25' W. Code word "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1100A/24.)
My 1100A/24. "Device" cancelled owing to weather. M.Ls remaining in harbour at short notice. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1711/24.)

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Regulation."

My 1747A/23. Steer forthwith to pass position (F) and thence 090°, altering as necessary to pass position (D) at 1000A tomorrow. 2. After passing through position (D) at 1000/25 steer 090° 3. Own air R/C may be expected 0800/25.

(C. in C. Plymouth 1409A/24 to NEWFOUNDLAND.) MYRMIDON is to pass gate at 1130 today and proceed by following route. S.O.A. to be 17 knots weather permitting. 2. Route by Q.Z.S. 278, 390, 347, and 389 to position P. 050° 10' N. 006° 05' W. Q. 049° 40' N. 011° 08' W. R. 045° 01' N. 014° 59' W.

Movements from R. will be signalled by C. in C.Plymouth. 3. Object. A. Operation "Regulation." B. Protection of convoys. (C. in C.Plymouth 1831A/24 to MYRMIDON.)

"Pussyfoot" and "Catswhiskers."

Operations Your 1910/23. Approved. (C. in C.Plymouth 1555A/24 to C.C.O.)

Biscay S/M Patrol.

SHAD proceed forthwith at best speed to patrol zone K. 505. Keep south of 044° N. Endeavour to remain unseen. (F.O.S. 1737A/24 to S/Ms.)

Norway Coastal S/M Patrol. Your 1501/24. Your object is to attack and report enemy main units. Very early information any movements is of vital importance. U-Boats can also be attacked provided a salvo is kept for heavy ships. (F.O.S. 2339A/24 to P.316.)

Allied Air Activity.

On day 23rd March 12 A/C bombed Nantes. Bomber (H.Q.B.C. 1430A/24.) Command Operations.

A/C in ARCHER. Depending on availability of escorts after 28th March it is proposed that ARCHER should accompany an O.N. convoy for 48 hours after leaving Oversay subsequently returning Clyde. During this period ARCHER should operate her aircraft

as much as possible by day and night and for trial purposes endeavour to remain within the convoy screen throughout. It is intended that ARCHER Squadron should be disembarked to Bally Kelly for W.A.training on 10th April. This training will last about 10 days. (C. in C.W.A. 1716A/24 to ARCHER.)

/Enemy...

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Enemy A/C shot down. For information at 1730/24th. Hostile aircraft plotted on a Deerness C.M.H. low flying aircraft plotted 140° Auskerry 15 miles, course N.W. Aircraft subsequently plotted by normal sources, N.E. from Stronsay. Fighter intercepted and shot down a Ju.88. 2 bodies were picked up, one being alive.

It is considered that the early warning given by the C.M.H. station contributed largely to the success of this interception and emphasized the urgent need for provision of the 2 additional C.M.H. sets already approved. (A.C.O.S. 2114/24 and 021177/April.)

Search for A/C.

1. An aircraft will reach 43° 20' 09° 25' at dawn 25th, thence carrying out a search for survivors from crashed Liberator aircraft.
2. If ordered proceed to rescue. Aircraft will employ homing procedure. (F.O.S. 2228A/24 to HERRING.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Scapa.

At 0105/24. Hostile A/C plotted 50 miles S.W. "A" Buoy coming from Stoer Pt. 15,000 feet passed over Pentland Firth and Southern entrances of Flow and out over Burray 0120/24, height 18,000/ 15,000. Fighter up did not engage. 51 rounds A.A. fired. 10/10 cloud. Successful R/C unlikely. (A.C.O.S. 0412/24 to Admty.)

Murmansk bombed, on 23rd March. Sharp combined high and low level raid 1600 to 1630C March 23rd. No damage or casualties ships or dock area. One military hospital in town hit. Weather calm high cloud. No balloons. (N.O.I.C. Murmansk 0655/24.)

MolotovskAir raid on Molotovsk 2500C/23.Bombs droppedbombed oninland.No damage.23rd March.(S.B.N.O. Archangel 0838A/24.)

Biscay Area. Up to 8 F.W. 200 aircraft and some Ju.88 Heavy Fighters are at present operating off the North Coast of Spain. F.W. activity may extend to the westward. (D.D.I.C. 1158A/24 to C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, NEWFOUNDLAND.)

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Your 2017A/23. Provide operational permits S.N. 123. proposing to lay on 22nd April. (R.A.M. 1600/24.)

Clearance C. in C.H.Fs. 1143A/18 para. 6. Propose that 15th M/S Flotilla comprising FRASERBURGH (S.O.) of Q.Z.X.910. BEAUMARIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, DUNBAR, PETERHEAD proceeds on 29th March to clear Q.Z.X. 910. 2. Approx. 2nd April LYME REGIS second S.O. and ARDROSSAN will rejoin Flotilla when it is proposed that

FRASERBURGH should refit.

4. Propose that consideration may be given to basing 15th M/S Flotilla at Londonderry, alternatively Oban for Q.Z.X. 910 clearance.

5. Request that C. in C.W.A. may provide two minelayers for 15th M/S Flotilla for duration of this operation. (A.C.O.S. 1621A/24 to C. in C.H.F.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER,	Photographic R/C Wilhelmshaven 1430/23 s	hows
HIPPER.	SCHEER and HIPPER still present.	
	(D.D.I.C. 0738A/24.)	

U-Boats.

U-Boats attacked. My 1059 of 22nd July.

1. Aircraft escorting convoys H.X. 229 and S.C. 122 and aircraft on A/S sweeps in the vicinity of these convoys carried out a total of 21 attacks and obtained 12 sightings in addition. Four of the attacks on 17th March were carried out by aircraft about

1000 miles from their bases in Ireland (R). 2. Aircraft on A/S Patrols in the Bay of Biscay area have made a total of 10 attacks on U-Boats, 9 of which took place on 22nd and 23rd March. Several of these attacks are reported to have been promising.

3. HIGHLANDER and ANEMONE while escorting convoy H.X. 229 carried out attacks on U-Boats sighted in 54°28' N. 25° 34' W. at 0410 and 0445 on 19th March. Many other attacks were made by escorts with this convoy and with S.C. 122 but details have not yet been received.

(D.A.S.W. 1036A/24 to Cominch.)

On day 23rd March. One A/C sighted a surfaced U-Boat which dived as the A/C attacked from the Starboard beam. Depth-charges were released between 5 and 15 seconds after the U-Boat had submerged. But no results were observed owing to rough seas.

(H.Q.B.C. 1430A/24.)

/U-Boat ...

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U-Boat reported. Unidentified visual report from fisherman of S/M 060° EIDE 2 miles at 1900 today. Vessel not submerged, proceeding East. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 2226A/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Navigational.

Ice.

C. in C.Rosyth 0949/24. Requirements for ice R/C by 18 Group Catalinas now in Iceland. Suspect there is ice in triangle, enclosed by Grimsey, Jan Mayen and Lan anaes which R/C

in your 0003/23 was unable to locate. It is desired to establish the Eastern limit of this ice. 2. Object of R/C is to discover area open to passage by fast

enemy warships.

(C. in C.H.F. 1217A/24 to A.C.I.C.)

Technical.

Oiling at

ACTIVITY now reports additional My 1626A/22. Sea. ACTIVITY. stowage for 596 tons oil referred to is at present occupied with oil drum for buoyancy purposes and also that present suction pipes would require alteration. Even if this extra

stowage-space be not utilized, main-stowage oil ample to afford 600 tons for Escort oiling observing that total endured is 42 days and reduction would bring this to approx. 30. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1102/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

REDSHANK.

Arrival from E.N. 8 REDSHANK for emergency repairs. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 0731/24.) Vessel taking water up to top of Bilge Plates, and boiler seating. Unable to pump out. Put into Peterhead for inspection, and cleaning. (REDSHANK 1025/24 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Arrived BELGIAN AIRMAN ex H.X. 229 ice damage, BELGIAN AIRMAN, AMPECTO ex O.N.S. 1, engine defects. (N.C.S.O. Iceland 0935A/23.) AMPECTO.

Unknown Ship.

Following from Sheigra Radio. Bearing Automatic AAA was 118°. (Lyness 1534/24 to Admty.) (A.C.O.S. 1644/24 and 1657/24.)

/M.T.B. 219

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

M.T.B. 219. M.T.B. 219 engine-room bilges flooded and electrical system affected by salt water after vessel had left dockyard hands. Trials postponed. (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea. 1650/24.)

L.S.T. 365 arrived Mersey from New York has cargo including tanks. Ship is believed to have L.S.T. 365. developed defects during voyage and also requires unwelding of bow doors, hatch, etc. (S.O.A.S.C. 1808A/24 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic Convoy Supporting Groups.

My 580 N. of 23rd March. Instructions for the operation of 4 surface Supporting Groups are being issued as Provisional A.C.l, Article 105. 2. Brief summary of instructions is as follows: -A. When supporting group and escort groups are in company command of all escort forces present rests with S.O. of Escort Group. B. By day supporting groups will sweep and search vicinity of convoy under their own S.O. acting on the requirements of S.O.

of Escort Group.

C. By night, supporting groups will take up night disposition on extended screen except that in the case of destroyers not fitted with R.D.F. type 271 they should be placed on the close screen and ships of Escorting Groups thus released should join the extended screen.

D. S.O. of escort should always remain with close screen to conduct operations.

E. Only ships on the close screen should carry out offensive operations such as "Raspberry."

F. If units have to be left to hunt a U-Boat or have to be detached for any purpose vessel of support group should be used. G. S.O. of escort should make his night intentions by signal in plentiful time and should keep his supporting groups well informed throughout.

(C. in C.W.A. 0125A/24 to A.I.G. 32.) Sailed Capt. D. 3 in MILNE for Liverpool. E.T. (R.A.D. 0904A/24 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.) My 2341/23. Add OPPORTUNE to 5th Escort Group. (C. in C.W.A. 1016Z/24 to A.I.G. 32.) E.T.A. 0800A/25.

A.M. 2006/19. My 1951/20. Request HALCYON, SALAMANDER may arrive Plymouth March 31st to escort convoy. (C. in C.W.A. 1237A/24 to R.A.D.H.F.)

H.X. 229A. My P.C. and S. 058° 31' N. 023° 23' W. 103° 11 Survivors from knots. Great Circle to Londonderry. Have 15 SVEND FOYN. British, 1 Norwegian survivors from SVEND FOYN. (HASTINGS 0659Z/24 to Admty.)

/Your...

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

	Shipping & Convoys.
	Your 1736/23.
H.X. 229A.	1. ABERDEEN is required at Liverpool for docking
Survivors	as soon as possible but may land S.O. of group
from SVEND	at Londonderry if desired.
FOYN. (Contd.)	2. WAVENEY may escort Liverpool portion as
	necessary before proceeding to Belfast.
	(C. in C.W.A. 1031A/24 to E.G. 40.)

North Russia. Group 2 ISRAEL PUTNAM, CITY OF OMAHA and TBILISI with Icebreakers KRASCHOPIN and MIKOYAN sailing Molotovsk 2030C/23. Position 0630C today 064° 47' N. 039° 20' E. (S.B.N.O. Archangel 0838A/24 to S.B.N.O. N.Russia.)

R.U.67. My 2121/22. BUREYA returned. (N.C.S.O. Iceland 1 22A/23.)

ELIZABETH BAKKE. IRISH FIR. Independently Routed M/Vs. 0800/24 positions Homeward Bound. ELIZABETH BAKKE 48° 30' N. 38° 45' W. S.O.A. 135 knots, routed through 45° 30' N. 31° 30' W. 45° 20' N. 21° 15' W. thence 022° Outward Bound. IRISH FIR, 49° 45' N. 17° 20' W. S.O.A. 7 knots, routed through 49° 10' N. 21° 15' W. 46° 15' N. 29° 45' W. thence 225°. (D.O.D.H. 1153A/24 to NEWFOUNDLAND.)

W.P. 315.

C. in C.Portsmouth 1826/23. Due defects it is improbable SAMSONTA can leave Clyde before p.m. March 26th at the earliest.

2. If ready in time SAMSONIA will be sailed in company with GROWLER to R/V with W.P. 315 to arrive Portsmouth p.m. March 29th.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock 1216A/24 to Admty.)

S.C. 122. Attacked by U/B 17th to 19th March.

1. Convoy consisted of 50 ships in 11 columns. 2. Escort B.5 group. HAVELOCK (S.O.) SWALE, PIMPERNEL, GODETIA, LAVENDER, BUTTERCUP, SAXIFRAGE plus at different times UPSHUR and INGHAM stationed in accordance with A.C.I. articles 130 and 131.

3. H/F D/F in HAVELOCK, UPSHUR, and rescue ship gave indication 6 U-Boats in touch with convoy. Investigation of H/F D/F bearings resulted in 8 attacks by

aircraft and 2 by B.5. 4. Weather varying from moderate to good. Visibility often extreme.

5. 8 ships were lost in 3 nights and one day attacks between 02012/17 in 52.14 N. 3215 W. and 05502/19 in 54.20, 24.12. 6. Half-"Raspberry" after each night attack produced only one contact which was well attacked by SWALE.

/7 ...

1.1

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C. 122. Attacked by U/Bs 17th to 19th March. (Contd.)

in first night attack in which 4 ships were torpedoed but it was not revealed by "Snowflakes." In subsequent attacks no "Snowflakes" were used owing to bright moonlight. 8. One U-Boat surfaced at 2356/17 near wreck torpedoed at 2208/17 and was attacked by GODETIA standing by.

7. Evidence points to U-Boat fire between columns

9. No evidence of destruction of U-Boats. 10. Communication and co-operation between air and surface escort was excellent.

11. Compared with S.C. 118 and previous experience the absence of R.D.F. contact by surface escort is remarkable although R.D.F. conditions were normal. (Capt. D.Liverpool 1315/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

0.S. 45.

1. FANTOME is to act as additional escort and is to proceed Gib. from position A.F. 2. BLACK SWAN is to carry out duties of S.O. of Escort.

(C. in C.W.A. 1537A/24.) R.F.A. ENNERDALE is loading 600 tons Admiralty furnace oil and will be available for oiling escorts in O.S. 45. 2. Similar opportunities for provision of escort oilers in O.S. convoys are unlikely to recur.

(D.T.D. 1541A/24 to C. in C.W.A.) Cancel A.M. 1715/13. Request you will include FANTOME as additional escort for 0.S. 45 arranging for her to break off as necessary to proceed to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.H. 1559A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

PRAGUE,	My 1025/22. Add K/Bs flown.
AMSTERDAM.	(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1542A/24.)
	Intena to sail my 1025/22 one hour earlier.
	Amend speed to 152 knots.
	(N.O.I.C. Lerwick 1815/24 to A.C.O.S.)

Following received. Repeat Admiralty 1804A/23. (C. in C.W.A. 1601A/24 to C. in C.Plymouth.) Large Liners.

K.M.S.12. Admty. 1438/22. 1. EGRET is to proceed to Greenock for convoy conference and sail thence with convoy. 2. Remaining escorts are to join from Londonderry at Oversay R/V. (C. in C.W.A. 1635A/24.)

Route of Gibraltar Convoys.

Recent activity by F.W. 200 aircraft on convoys between Gibraltar and U.K. has included bombing from height above range of escort high-angle armament and no escort at present in my command can provide effective defence against this form

of attack. It is impossible to provide these convoys with continuous fighter protection throughout passage. As result it is possible that A/S air protection may be driven off and it is for consideration whether these convoys should be /routed...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Route of Gibraltar Convoys. (Contd.)

routed west of 020° W. With reference to D. of S.T. 1319/13 and Admiralty 1158/23 it is suggested these independent ships should also be routed west of 020° W. Reference A.M. 1804/23 a ruling is requested as to the intended meaning of maximum air cover. Is it intended to divert

V.L.R. aircraft from convoy to independent ships. Such a step would in my opinion expose our trans-Atlantic trade to unnecessarily increased attack which we can ill afford. (C. in C.W.A. 1940A/24 to Admty.)

18th March.

H.X. 229. Attacked by U/Bs. on 16th., 17th and Preliminary report HIGHLANDER, VOLUNTEER, BEVERLEY, ANEMONE, PENNYWORT, MANSFIELD, VIMY all times G.M.T. General. Four attacks made by night and two by day.. Attacks appeared to develop from starboard bow but majority of U-Boats sighted appeared to be coming up from astern. It is not considered that the weather affected the conditions of attack. Illuminants were not used owing to the bright moon and

excellent visibility. excellent visibility. 2. First attack at 1342/16th March, close H/F D/F bearing was obtained fine on the port bow. MANSFIELD was sent to investigate and convoy was altered 90° to starboard. Convoy was back on original course by 2000, at which time escorts in company were VOLUNTEER, BEVERLEY, PENNYWORT, ANEMONE. At 2215 two white rockets were observed and operation Half "Raspberry" carried out. Nothing was seen and S.O. assumed false alarm, until 2245 when PENNYWORT reported picking up survivors from No. 101 (ELIN K.)

3. Second attack. At 2334 with PENNYWORT still astern picking up survivors two white rockets seen Half "Raspberry" executed. Three ships torpedoed ZAANLAND No. 103 and JAMES OGLETHORPE No. 93 and WILLIAM EUSTIS No. 22 operation "Observant" was carried out but nothing sighted. ANEMONE four miles on port quarter sighted and attacked U-Boat with no result. Second U-Boat was sighted half an hour later which was attacked by ANEMONE who after short search set course to rejoin as convoy was short of escorts.

4. Third attack at 0230 MANSFIELD rejoined convoy then screened only by BEVERLEY the other three being astern picking up survivors. At 0259/17th March two more ships were torpedoed and survivors were sighted in boats astern of the convoy by BEVERLEY but left for the other escorts who were coming up from astern to rescue.

5. Fourth attack VOLUNTEER had just rejoined the convoy at 0456 when two more ships were torpedoed on starboard side of convoy. At 0517 MANSFIELD attacked contact. The following ships were sunk in the third and fourth attacks. SOUTHERN PRINCESS No. 72 NARIVA NO. 91, IRENE DU PONT No. 81, HARRY LUCKENBACH No. 111, and MANSFIELD was ordered to carry out"Observant" and pick up survivors leaving the convoy with only two escorts. 6. Fifth attack VOLUNTEER position "P" BEVERLEY in position "E" MANSFIELD about three miles astern proceeding to position "S" when at 1305 TERKOELEI No. 104 and CORACERO No. 82 were torpedoed from the starboard side. Escort swept with no result and convoy made two emergency turns to port. At 1355 BEVERLEY sighted U-Boat on the horizon and proceeded to close. She later sighted second U-Boat and attacked both, one being considered severely

/damaged...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 229. Attacked by U/Bs. on 16th, 17th and 18th March. (Contd.) damaged. At 1630/17 Liberator aircraft arrived and patrolled until 2045 when he reported six U-Boats astern of convoy. He was ordered to attack them before returning to base. No attacks developed that night. At 0700/18 MANSFIELD left due to shortage of fuel and water leaving four escorts with the convoy.

7. Sixth attack. At 1552/18 WALTER Q. GRESHAM No. 21 and CANADIAN STAR No. 33 were torpedoed. 'Artichoke' was carried our and a U-Boat was

sighted by merchant ship in between the 2nd and 3rd columns. "Observant" was carried out by PENNYWORT and while doing so obtained Asdic contact which was attacked with no results At 1905/18 HIGHLANDER joined and took over Senior Officer. 8. Attempted attack on convoy. At 1405 ANEMONE sighted U-Boat three miles astern of convoy. Six attacks were carried out and it is considered that U-Boat was damaged. A short time later at 0447 HIGHLANDER detected U-Boat coming in on port bow. Four attacks were carried out with promising results. 9. Survivors from JAMES OGLETHORPE reported that shortly before she was torpedoed, U-Boat was sighted astern but master refused to open fire and did not make W/T report to escorts. 10. Summary. U-Boats attacked seven times of which six were successful. 12 merchant vessels were torpedoed. Three U-Boats were possibly damaged. Chief cause of sinkings is attributed (A) Only four escorts over critical period. HIGHLANDER was delayed due to defects, WITHERINGTON did not join due to stress of weather. MANSFIELD joined but was absent searching. (B) Lack of Rescue ship which resulted in escorts being absent from convoy picking up survivors. (Cdre. Londonderry 2103A/24 to C. in C.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

UNRULY.

Estimate position at 0700/24th 040° 09' N. 010° 56' W. thereafter speed advance 105 miles per day. E.T.A. position U, 0500/27th. From this time a speed of 10 knots can be maintained. Weather. (UNRULY 0050A/24 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Capt. (S) 8th.)
Your 0050A/24th approved. Bombing restrictions adjusted.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1846/24 to P. 49 (UNRULY)).
VANOC, NASTURTIUM and HAARLEM patrolling off Lisbon awaiting three M.Vs for escort coastwise to Gibraltar at 8 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 2146/24 to P.49 (UNRULY)).

A/C missing.	A Liberator Aircraft on passage from Gibraltar.to U.K. was lest heard of 70 miles West of Finisterre at 1300/23. Ships on passage are to keep a look out between this position and U.K. (D.C. for D.O.D. 0050A/24, 0943A/24 to A.I.G.62.)
BIRDLIP P.C.475.	Pass following to BIRDLIP. Proceed Bathurst when relieved by P.C.475. Report position and E.T.A. (S.N.O. Casablanca O6122/24 to P.C.475. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)
R.S.3 TORDENE.	F.O.I.C. Gib. pass to escorts of R.S.3. Cancel my 0530/23rd (Sailing S.S. TORDENE). R/V not affected. MORDEN returned to Casablanca. Will sail earliest opportunity southbound convoy. (C.M.S.F. 0850/24 to Escorts of R.S.3, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.A.F.)
L.S.T. Convoy.	U.S. Destroyer BERNADOU in company with MORENO and L.S.T. 363, E.T.A. boom 1000Z. Request tug and pilot. (C.T.F.62 0910/24 to F.O.I.C. Gib.) See also 1234A/24.
LARIAT.	Your 0954/22nd March. Sail LARIAT for Gibraltar, (route). (F.O. Gibraltar 1008A/24 to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)
K.M.S.11.	Gibraltar Section arrived plus MARS, total 15 ships. (F.O. Gib. 1112A/24 to Admty.)
Situation Reports.	Situation 2001A/24th. 3/M UNRULY 039° 45' 010° 41' 158° 7½/2. 2. REDOUBT, ULSTER, MONARCH, 30.33 12.02 through 28.08 13.37 thence to 219° 15½. 3. R.S.S. OADMUS, 31.33 10.35 214° 10.35 214° 7½. 4. D.69 GAZELLE, 26.55 14.05 through 28.13 13.01 5.
6. Three Swedis (F.O.C.N.A. 112	ICAN 038° 37' 014° 12' 356° 8. h Relief ships 35.27 13.09 266° 13. 7A/24.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Situation Reports. Contd.

Situation 1959A/24th. WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND 32.53 31.49 through 33.21 30.42 thence 044° 11. 2. Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 42.16 21.59 through 41.59 21.59 thence 049° 27. (See amendment 2136A/24.) (F.O.I.C.Gib. 1157A/24.)

Situation report for area Y. My 1157A/24th para 2 amend to read patrol vicinity 043° 00' 021° 00' 18 knots.

(N.O.I.C. Gib. 2136A/24.)

Landslide, Gibraltar. A large landslide in N.E. corner of the Rock has blocked road to Catalaf and Sandy Bays, severed Petrol Pipe Line, Power Cables to North Front

W/T Station, and overland remote control cables. (2) Unlikely that original road can be used again due to probability of further landslides. (3) Present proposal is to tunnel new road underneath. (4) North Front W/T Station is running a diesel engine which is causing present unreliability of W/T services. (5) Further signal will be made. (F.O. Gib. 1136A/24 to Admty.)

M.K.S.10.

Intend sailing (list) (24 ships). Request destinations. (F.O. Gib. 1153A/24 to Admty.)

G-U-S-5-A. Ships sailed as in my O954A/19 less JOHN MCLAUGHLIN and FRANCIS PARKMAN. (F.O. Gib. 1229A/24 to F.O.I.C. Uran (R) C. in C. Med., S.N.O.C.A., Admty, Connav, N.S.L., G.U.S.5.A. Arrivals CHARLES M. HALL, LOU GENRIG. (F.O.C. Gib. 1333A/24 to F.O.I.C. Oran, S.N.O.C.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

L.S.T. Convoy. Following have arrived. U.S. ships MATTOLE, DALLAS, COLE, HERBERT, CHICADEE, MORENO, BERNADOU, with L.S.Ts. 320, 361, 303, 304, 302, 362, 363, 401, 402, 403, 333, 386, 388, 387, 385, 383, L.C.I. (L)s. 1,2,3,4,5,8,9, 12,13,14,15,16, 10,11, 209, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219. (F.O. Gib. 1234A/24 to Admty. etc.)

Estimate U/B position at O800/25th March, Atlantic, German, about seven S.E. and S.W. of Azores, one outward near O37° OO' N. O22° OO' W, group of five U-Boats. N.E. of Azores, movement uncertain. No information of any U-Boats E. Ol5° OO' W. My 1415 Part 2 follows. (N.T. in W.D.). (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1401A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

/K.M.S.11...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

K.M.S.11.

K.M.S.11. arrivals. BROADWAY, SHERWCOD, LAGAN, PRIMROSE, SNOWDROP, CHAMBLY, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, SHIDPIGAN, MORDEN with M.L. 1229, ex DRUMHELLER, SHIPPIGAN, MORDEN with M.L. 1229, es SS. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH, French Ship SAVORGNAN

DE BRAZZA. (F.O.C. Gib. 1524A/24 as amended O950A/25 to Admty. etc.) See also 2034A/24.

Minesweeping. My 1050/14. Following is summary of minesweeping operations since 13th March.

Operations since 15th March. (1) Following areas cleared. (A) Clearance area No.2 viz between 36° N. and 35° 56.5'N. 6°32' W. and 5° 56' W. (B) Clearance area No.3 viz between 35° 59' N. and 35° 55' N. 5° 56' W. and 5° 51.3' W. (C) Clearance area No.4 bounded by (A) 35 53.2 N. 06 7.5 W. (B) 35 54.1 N. 06 4.8 W. (C) 35 52 N. 06 4.8 W. (D) 35 52 N. 06 59.2 W. (E) 35 50 50.6 N. 06 7.5 W. (2) Following areas searched (A) North Chennel, wiz 1.5 miles each side of line joining (A) North Channel. viz 1.5 miles each side of line joining positions in (E) 50 after 35 (A) 35 55.1 N. 6 07 W.
(B) 35 57.3 N. 5 59.3 W. (C) 35 57.6 N. 5 56.4 W. (D) 35 54.8 N. 5 42.8 W. partially completed. (B) Q.K.A.87 62 sent on 16th March, 23rd March. (E) One mine detonated in sweep on 18th March, position 35° 58.7' N. 05° 54.6' W. (F.O. Gib. 1541A/24 to C. in C. Med.)

PIROUETTE.

E.T.A. Europa Point 2030A/24th. (PIROUETTE 1543A/24 to F.O.C. Gib.)

Axis Shipping, Arrival 23rd 14. Bilbao. Arrival 24th 10 18. Departure 23rd 1, 16, 24, 8. (Consul Bilbao 1620/24 to Admty. Bank Block (R) S.O. (I) Gib.) W.R.Note: 14 LE VIOLENT 10 WATERWEG 18 TIM, 1 PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, 16 LOUVETOT, 24 GLYCINE, 8 SPES.

Arrivals Polish S/M DZIK, S/M SHAKESPEARE. Movements, Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gib. 1718A/24 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.F.11.

Intend sailing EMPIRE PRIDE, ballast approx. 900 passengers, BRISBANE STAR, 24 passengers, Frozen Meat and General, Liverpool, CLAN FORBES, General Cargo and 800 Bags Mail. Request destinations EMFIRE PRIDE, CLAN FORBES. . (F.C.I.C. Gib. 1808A/24 to Cdre. Algiers (R) C. in C. Med., Admity. Connav, C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Oran.) * Reply: Mersey (D.T.D. 1912A/25.)

G.U.S. 5.A. PENTSTEMON. (A) E.T.A. B/V as ordered 1200A/25th. Delay due to adverse weather. My position 000°. Cape Spartel 4. Weather report. (PENTSTEMON 1831A/24 to N.O.I.C.Casablanca (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

/My ...

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

G.U.S.5.A. PENTSTEMON. Contd. My 1831A/24th. Speed of convoy considerably reduced due to weather. E.T.A. depends on conditions experienced during the night and will be made at daylight.My P.C. and S. are 292° Spartel 8, 254° 5. Weather report. (PENTSTEMON 1945A/24 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) V.A. Gib.)

ALBULA.

Swiss ALBULA leaves Genoa 28th for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 1835A/24 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

M.W.T.R. Gibraltar 1901A/24. See F.O. Gibraltar

EMPIRE MAIDEN, tanker, at Tangier.

A/C 5 Hudsons sweep between 037° N. and 035° N. to patrols. 5 Example 2 Corrupt Groups) 1300/25th to 1930/25th. (2) From Agadir 3 Hudsons escort R.S.3. "Tram" dawn to dusk 25th. (3) Cataline A/S search and Convoy S.L.126 "Child" dawn 25th to 0300/26th.

From Port Lyautey. (F.O. Gib. 1940A/24 to S. and A., X.G.Z.)

1729/25.

Movements, Gibraltar.

Departures VANOC escort duties Lisbon/Gibraltar. ANTELOPE, STORNOWAY, ALBACORE, TANGO, KING SOL, LADY HOGARTH, MINNA, EMPIRE NED, to join K.M.S.ll. U.S.S. RHIND, P.C.474, to Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gib. 2034A/24 to Admty. etc.)

 G.U.F.6.
 E.T.A. position 57, 0900. HUSSAR unable to maintain convoy speed and is not in company. BUDE, CLACTON, have reduced speed of convoy to 12³/₄ knots. Request relief for these ships particularly in view of probable weather in Atlantic when speed will be further reduced. Have S.Ps. and Documents for ships to join from Gib. Request M.L. may close WISHART to assist transfer. (WISHART 2109A/24 to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

TACTICIAN.

My 1903/22nd. Sailing of P.314 (TACTICIAN) postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 2142/24 to Capt. (S) 8 (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, 8th S.F., S.O. Force "H", P.314 (TACTICIAN) N.O.I.C. Oran.)(Cancelled by 1701/25, q.v.)

Fuel, Port Delgada. My 1102/23rd, amend E.T.A. to read 1730Z/25th. (F.O. Gib. 2239A/24 to N.C.S.O. Port Delgada. (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon, C. in C. W.A.)

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South Atlantic.

BIRDLIP

Your (2 groups missing) Z/23rd. (7 corrupt groups) Z/23rd. Proceeding Bathurst P.C. and S. 026° 18' N. 014° 40' W. (2 corrupt groups) at 2300Z E.T.A. 0800Z/28, on arrival 180 tons. (BIRDLIP, 0015Z/24 to F.O.W.Af. (R) S.N.O. Casablanca, Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, GAZELLE).

Personnel for / Your 0903/18. One ship in W.S.29 which will W. Africa. probably be HIGHLAND PRINCESS will be filled to capacity with personnel for West Africa. She will be able to proceed along the coast to distribute them. 2. Your para. (2). My 2150/17 refers. (D.S.T., 0411A/24 to D.S.T.O. West Africa).

Movements Durban. E.G. KULUKUNDIS and JOHN HENRY sailed 0700Z/24th to Lourenco Marques escorted by FREESIA, speed 10 knots, E.T.A. p.m./25th March, route cœstal. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0803/24 to Admty. etc).

CONSBRO, INTENT, FANDANGO. Sailing CONSBRO in tow of INTENT escorted by (FANDANGO) 0220Z/24th in accordance with my 1652/23rd. (Comar, Dakar, 0914Z/24 to F.O. West Africa, (R) Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, BRIDGEWATER, C. in C. Med., B.D.O. West Africa).

Situation Position at 2000Z/24th. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY Reports. with freighter 27.15 S. 15.00 E. to Capetown 8 knots.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES off Cape Point to Capetown 12. ARTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY with C.D.11, 34.30

22.30 to Durban 8. SUSSEX, FOXHOUND, RACEHORSE, QUILLIAM with W.S.27, 34.30 25.40 to Durban 12½. GENISTA, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN with D.C.16, 31.30 30.00 to Capetown 8. ROTHERHAM, NIGELLA, VIVIANA, SONDRA with D.N. 27, 30.40 32.05 to 33.36 8. FREESIA escorting 2 merchant ships 28.20 32.40 to 01.10. JASMINE 26, 45,36.50 to Durban 11½. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 29.20 S. 08.45 W. to 08° S. 18° W, 16½. (C. in C. S.A., 0926Z/24 to A.I.G.125). KENYA about 20.45 19.01 180° 18. BIRDLIP about 24.00 16.30 to south 8. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, QUADRANT escorting W.S.28, 19.58 18.00 180° 12.75. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, THYME with S.R.3, 15.59 18.37 007° 7.25. FANDANGO 15.59 18.37 to Dakar, 9.

2 M.L. about 15.59 18.37 to Bathurst 10.

/BUTSER...

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Situation Reports. (contd). BUTSER escorting 15.50 21.33 150° 8. French Cruiser GLOIRE about 07.00 26.01 to Dakar, 19. CARNARVON CASTLE 08.10 24.21 to Freetown 15.5. BURDOCK off Bathurst to join S.R.3. (F.O.C.W.A., 1240Z/24 to A.I.G.149).

CHESHIRE, A.F.D. Your 1843/23. Return to Montevideo. (C. in C. S.A., 0959B/24 to CHESHIRE (R) Admty. Comsolantfor, Cominch, B.N.A. Montevideo). Have been able to make examination of damage to dock and am assisting to shore up bulkheads.

Expect to complete work noon tomorrow Thursday. Observing lateness of season and weather conditions at each end consider much more risk endeavouring to proceed East than return to Montevideo, both risks being considerable, but should be able to reach Montevideo unless adverse gales are encountered. Request instructions via Falkland Is. whether risk of going East may be accepted. My 1843Z/23 refers. (CHESHIPE 12517/24 to C in C S A (P) Admty)

East may be accepted. My 1843Z/23 refers. (CHESHIRE, 1251Z/24 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty). Your 0959B/24th. My 1251Z/24. Am returning to Montevideo. (CHESHIRE, 1559Z/24 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty).

Convoy D.C.16. Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z/24th. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay N.J. 6. GENISTA, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN. 12. E.T.A. Capetown p.m. March 28th E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. March 26th. E.T.A. E. London p.m./March 25th. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1031B/24 to Admty. etc).

Passengers, / A.M. 2008/22 (see East Indies). In view of congested state of Union's available housing accommodation and scarcity of onward shipping to Atlantic ports am unable to agree with proposed relaxations unless additional passengers allowed

are terminating voyage in Union. (2) In any case I do not consider that under present conditions these relaxations are advisable for ships proceeding from East Indies to South Atlantic Station. (C. in C. S.A., 1132B/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.F., A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

BIRMINGHAM.	Simonstown arrival 24th. (C. in C. S.A., 1139B/24 to Admty. etc).	

S.R.3, BOREAS, CADMUS. Owing to slow speed of convoy S.R.3 BOREAS will require fuelling at Casablanca, CADMUS detaching BOREAS as necessary. (Comar Dakar, 11412/24 to F.O.C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, CADMUS, (R) BOREAS, Admty). Arrived BOREAS, 1030Z/24 and sailed to rejoin

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South Atlantic.

S.R.3, BOREAS, CADMUS. (Contd.)	S.R.3. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to CADMUS. (Comar Dakar, 1340Z/24 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., CADMUS).
Convoy D.N.27.	Sailing telegram. (2) 1000Z/24th. (4) 8 knots. (5) (B) 033° 00' S. 036° 00' E. (6) ROT HER HAM, NIGELLA, SONDRA, VIVIANA. Codeword "Arthur". (N.C.S.O. Durban, 1258Z/24 to Admty. etc).
BURDOCK, S.R.3, R.S.3.	Sail BURDOCK to R/V and join escort of Convoy S.R.3, BURDOCK returning to Freetown with Convoy R.S.3 after exchange of escort vessels. My 1211/20th and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1507/21st referred. (F.O.W.A., 1306/24 to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) BURDOCK, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. BRIDGEWATER, Com. Dakar).
	345/24th. departure 1630/24 BURDOCK. Bathurst, 1716/24 to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty).
BENALDER	Your 1018/21st sailing of BENALDER delayed until 1800/26th to complete JURY rudder. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1416/24 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, M.W.T.R. W.A.)
Convoy S.R.3	Greek THEOMITOR detached to proceed Dakar with engine defect. (F.O.W.A., 1535Z/24 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. BRIDGEWATER, Comar Dakar, Connav, S.N.O. Casabland
Movements Takoradi.	Arrival 24th March: SARABANDE, M.L. 290. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1719Z/24 to F.O.W.Af. (R) Admty. R.N.O. Lagos, (Nigeria)).
W.S.28	Your 1240Z/24 W.S.28 Position course and speed 019°06'N., 018°07'W. 178°13.5 knots. (MALCOLM, 1829Z/24 to R.A.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.O.I.C. Freetown).
ASHANTI, EMPIRE MIGHT.	F.O.C. Gibraltar's 1745A/23. E.T.A. Dakar 1900A Thursday 25th. Request pilot, no navigational information carried. (2) EMPIRE MIGHT proceeding independently to

(3) Pass to S.N.O. Dakar. (ASHANTI, 1845A/24 to F.O.C.W.A.)

/(1)...

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ASHANTI, EMPIRE MIGHT. (contd). (1) ASHANTI proceed Dakar with EMPIRE MIGHT reporting E.T.A. position Ol4° 26' N. Ol7° 35' W. to Comar Dakar, repeated F.O.C.W.Af.
(2) Comar Dakar is requested to refuel ASHANTI on arrival and then sail ASHANTI for Gibraltar.
(3) Comar Dakar is requested to report on condition of EMPIRE MIGHT who has been damaged by fire. Onward escort to Freetown will be arranged by F.O.C.W.Af.
(F.O.C.W.Af.
(F.O.C.W.A., 2030Z/24 to ASHANTI, C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar, Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

U/Bs

Clipper reported sighting 2 S/Ms in 006° 43' N. Oll° 32' W. at 0830/23rd. Further reports of S/Ms in 007° 06' N., Oll° 59' W. at 1530/23rd. Reliability cannot be assessed. (F.O.C.W.A., 1915Z/24 to Ships in Area P.2 (R) Admty).

Movements, Freetown. Departure 1700/22nd March CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA M.Ls. 261, 279 escorting KAJANG for Takoradi, GABON for Lagos (Nigeria). (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1917Z/24 to Admty. etc). GABON did not sail.(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1632Z/25). Arrival 0958/24 March. SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, ROCHESTER, MIGNONETTE (?BALSAM) with O.S.44. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1923Z/24 to Admty. etc).

S.L. 127

Sailing destinations. Your 1517/23. (list). (D.T.D., 2014A/24 to F.O.W.A.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit.

P.C. and S. of enemy vessel Type F. are 38.06 N. 12.26 E. 130° 6. (A/C. KT1 via Alexandria W/T, Ol2OA/24.)

Movements, Oran.

Arrivals for March 23. POLRUAN. LOYAL. Departures M.L.238. (Comnob Oran, 0720A/24 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. 23rd March arrival M.L.'s 350, 385 ISLAY, BURRA Greek Dest. IERAX. Greek Sub. PAPANICOLIS. Departure M.L.'s 550, 384, 385, PARTHIAN. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0750B/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.) Beirut.

Arrivals 23 March EURYALUS, KELVIN, JAVELIN, JERVIS, ISIS, BEAUFORT, WOLBOROUGH M.L. 361 Movements, Alexandria. Greek destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. Departure 23rd March, SOUTHERN MAID. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0913B/24 to Admty, C. in C. Levant.)

Attack, delayed.

Human Torpedo Attack on Mers-El-Kebir by two or more human torpedoes or limpeters appears to have been attempted Mers-el-Kebir. at 2320A last night 23rd March. Two of these U/B attacked reported at first as swimmers sighted off outer by HOLCOMBE. arm of breakwater by breakwater patrols; fired on by patrol and FORMIDABLE who was berthed alongside. Attackers then approached close to breakwater where one was reported as hit by

rifle and machine-gun fire and other disappeared. (2) At (?23)56A a doubtful contact obtained by HOPPER PORTEUR now (?disabled) in gap between ships which was heavily depth charged by boom patrol. (3) At 0058A/24 TARTAR on outer patrol report H/F D/F bearing of Italian transmission as less than minimum miles away and proceeded with PUCKERIDGE to investigate in approx. 36.18 N. 00.25 West. At 0332A air-craft of FORMIDABLE on local A.S.V. patrol obtained A.S.V. call sign of probable submarine in 36.22 N. 00.24 W. HOLCOMBE and HAYDON sent to intercept TARTAR and PUCKERIDGE in hunt which is still proceeding. (4) Fleet kept at (?stations) throughout night but no further incidents. Enquiry into night activity in progress. (S.O. Force H., 0921A/24, as amended 1841A/24 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O. Gib., Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

HOLCOMBE. Attack on U-Boat. Force H. delayed.

HOLCOMBE attacked S/M contact at 1115 in 36.28 N. 00° 04' W. Contact at present lost. Your 1016, not to all addressees, intend searching with PUCKERIDGE, HAYDON, HOLCOMBE unless I receive further orders from you. (TARTAR, 1127A/24 to S.O. Force H (R) F.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. D.6.)

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HOLCOMBE, Attack on U-Boat. Force H. delayed. (Contd.) Please send an aircraft, Hudson for preference, to co-operate with TARTAR and 5 other destroyers hunting submarine in approx. 036° 28' N. 00° 04' W.

(S.O. Force H, 1518A/24 to ? Tafaraoui (R) C.in C. Med. etc.)

My 0921/24th para. 5. HOLCOMBE attacked contact at 1115 in 036° 28' N. 000° 04' W. Am sending all available destroyers to join hunt and have

all available destroyers to join hunt and have asked Tafaroui for air co-operation. (2) Request position submarine be broadcast. (3) My 1110/24th (N.T. in W.D.) Shall defer sailing of Force "H" if necessary. (S.O. Force H, 1355A/24 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib, N.O.B. Oran)

F.O.I.C. Gib. 1532A/24th. Have deferred sailing of Force "H" because of A/S hunt by destroyers. Will delay time of arrival at Gib. as requested.

(S.O. Force H, 1735A/24 to C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gib.) My 0921A/24th March, para. 4. Enquiry confirms that attempt by at any rate two human torpedoes was almost certainly made last night. Personnel of one probably destroyed, of other doubtful. No bits or bodies recovered so far.
(2) My 0921A/24th March para. 5. For ILEX read PUCKERIDGE in two places. Search still in progress by all Force "H" destroyers and ADRIAS.
(S.O. Force H, 1841A/24 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

Malta, M.L's. Arrived M/L's 134, 168, 459 and 462. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0922A/24 to Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.11.

Owing to lack of escort from Philippeville for shuttle service intend sailing following ships to join: To Philippeville EMPIRE SCOUT. To Bone EMPIRE SNIPE, BJORKHAUG. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0952A/24 to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, F.O.I.S. (R) Admty. etc.)

AIS GIORGIS. SS. AIS GIORGIS beached at Tobruk. No.l hold and engine room flooded, cause of damage unknown. Prospects of salvage good. (Supt. Salvage, (Alexandria), 0955B/24 to Admty. C. in C. (L))

REGENT.

Intend sailing REGENT with stores 1830/25th for Malta routed through 038° 06' 004° 20' at 0300/26 038° 15' 011° 17' at 0315/28th, P. at 0500/28th, thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10th S.F. S. of A. 165 miles a day. (Capt. (S) 8, 0954A/24 to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10th S.F.(R) V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 1st S.F., 8th S.F., C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Algiers.) Delayed, see 1540A/25.

Movements / ...

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Movements, French CAP PINEDE and VILLE DE DJIDJELLI Philippeville. escorted by ENGAGEANTE and CHASSEUR III arrived. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1010A/24 to N.O.I.C. Algiers (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Bougie, Admty. Connav.)

FORMIDABLE Aircraft.

Your 1855/23rd. Concur as regards Swor Hurricane should be embarked instead of Concur as regards Swordfish. Seafires in accordance with my 1201/23rd. (C. in C. Med. 1041A/24 to F.O.Gib.(R) Admty. S.O. Force 'H' FORMIDABIE) W.D. note: no trace of formers in W.D.)

loth S.M.F. Patrols.

Submarines of 10th S.F. who may have to leave patrol prematurely are to withdraw west of Oll^o 50[°] E. and then report E.T.A. at position P. (Capt. (S) 8, 1102A/24 to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. (S) 10).

THUNDERBOLT.

Onward routeing pass 038° 30' 010° 43' at 2001/25t 038° 12' 004° 40' at 1958/27th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 12' at 0630/28th. (Capt. (S) 8, 1138A/24 to THUNDERBOLT (R) 8th S.F., C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10)

Orders to S/M's. (1) SARACEN, ?SPLENDID, UNITED, are in zones E. B. and D. respectively. (2) At 2100 today Wednesday submarines proceed so as to operate

in zones as follow TRIBUNE G, TORBAY H, P.212 (SAHIB) F, P.51 (UNSEEN) passing P at 1200/24th is to proceed zone C, P.45 (UNRIVALLED) passing P at 1600/25th is to proceed zone B, P.228 (SPLENDID) is to leave B p.m. 25th for Malta passing P at 0530/26th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. (Capt. (S) 8, 1224A/24 to 8th S.F.(R) C. in C. Med, Capt. (S) 10)

M.K.S.10.

Pass to Cmdre. M.K.S.10. Sailed PORT ST. JOHNS M.K.S.10. Pass to Cmare. M.K.S.10. Salled FORT SL. JOHNS 31 Belfast, Kite Balloon, ALCOA PILOT, 32, Gibraltar, Kite Balloon. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1232/24 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.10, N.O.I.C. Algiers, F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran) Pass to Cmdre.MK.S.10my 1232/24th. delete ALCOA PILOT. Botuming with engine defects

Returning with engine defects. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1457A/24 to Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.10, N.O.I.C. Algiers, V.A. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran.)

ASHANTI / ...

in .

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Mediterranean (Contd.)

Your 1201/23rd and F.O.C. Gib's 1745/23rd (ASHANTI to fuel at Dakar and sail to Gib.) ASHANTI. approved. (C. in C. Med., 1326A/24 to ASHANTI, (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gib, S.O. Force 'H')

Submarine Patrol Zone T.

My 1808/17th (establishment of S/M patrol zones) Zone T is established as follows:-Between latitude 040° 30' and 038° 45' and between longitude 009° 00' 010° 30' (Capt. (S) 8, 1336A/24 to 8th S.M.F.(R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, S.O. 8th S/M.F, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Malta)

TRIBUNE. TORBAY.

A patrol in Southern half of zones G. and H. is likely to be profitable. (Capt. (S) 8, 1446A/24 to TRIBUNE, TORBAY (R) Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med. 8th S/M.F.)

M.K.F.II.
F.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy M.K.F.Il at 0100/26th S. of A. 13¹/₂. (2) Route 96.85 74.12 2.76 57 letters B. to H. Stragglers route as convoy. (5) From H. through Q.K.A.
87 then ocean route letters J. to O. stragglers route letters P. to U. (4) Sections join and detach with local escort as follows: Algiers in 74 at 1900/26th. Oran in 2 at 1000/27th.
Gibraltar in 57 at 0230/28th. (5) First two letters of W/T call sign B.S. Incon 315. (6) Escort Bone to Algiers OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EGGESFORD, BADSWORTH, LAMERTON. Algiers to U.K.
WREN, WOODPECKER, DOUGLAS, GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK, CYGNET.
(7) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Harper". (8) All times A. (9) ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN join from Algiers, HUMTER and STALKER from Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med. 1503A/24, to F.O's I.C. etc.) As amended 0005A/25. As amended 0005A/25.

12th A.F.

From Spaatz N.A.A.F. ADV.0102. docks, near misses observed on one ship. 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 1 damaged. 1 P 58 lost. to: Eaker.

Pilot bailed out. Night 22-23. 9 Wellingtons bombed Sfax, El Maou Airdrome. (12th Air Force, 1531Z/24 to Etousa)

Situation / ...

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Situation Report No.73. (1) RORQUAL laid mines in Approaches to Trapani on 21st March. (2) M.T.B.s on offensive sweep from Bone during night 22/25rd March located 4 enemy vessels probably Siebel Ferries in Vicinity of Plane Island. Estimated 1 ship hit by Torpedo and 1 probably damaged by Gunfire

in face of considerable gun opposition. A mine was detonated by M.T.B.511, 14 miles N. of Bizerta. (5) Norwegian Tanker GJONNE torpedoed by aircraft in Oran Bay at Cl10/25. Ship is still afloat. (4) Convoy K.M.F.11 arrived Algiers 25rd March except WINDSOR CASTLE as reported in my 2518/25. (5) TROOPER reports: (a) At 1556/10 sank 5000 ton laden Merchant Vessel in convoy of three ships off Cape Milazzo. Heavy counter attack by escorts caused minor damage. (b) In Southern approaches to Naples fired four torpedoes at 2046/15 at Merchant Vessel in convoy. Two explosions were heard but results not observed. (c) At 1211/17 also South of Naples fired torpedoes at two of northbound convoy of four ships. One hit is estimated on first target and possibly two on second but as subsequent counter attack was by only one destroyer one of the last hits may have been on a Destroyer. (6) SIBYL reports obtaining two hits on eastbound Cased Petrol Ship at 0950/14 off Palermo. Ship later sank. SIBYL was immediately counter attacked and during the afternoon hunted for two hours: (C. in C. Med., 1706A/24 to Admty.)

P.43. (UNISON) Withdraw 60 miles from the enemy coast and at your discretion report No. of torpedoes fired. Thereafter return to your area. (Capt. (S) 10, 1717A/24 to P.43.)

Use of Smoke by Convoys. Your 1211/19, not to C. in C. Levant. Experience of smoke to thwart air attack is at present insufficient for detailed recommendations, particularly since smoke laid by aircraft has not yet had a fair trial, since smoke material in accordance with A.M.1419/24 Feb. is not yet available. (2) I am however convinced of value

of smoke laying by escorts in dusk and dawn periods and by moonlight when torpedo bomber air attack threatens. (5) Object should be to obscure Convoy and the light horizon. There is plenty of scope for deceptive measures such as dropping smoke floats with flame guards astern of convoy. Both black and white smoke should be used and mixed. Smokelaying aircraft should lay smoke to obscure the light horizon when so ordered by S.O. of Escort. When attack develops recommend all ships of convoy make smoke from funnels and smoke floats. (4) F.O.H. is requested to forward copy of his 119 F. dated 7th March which contains fleet experience to date to all authorities addressed. (C. in C. Med., 1720A/24 to Admty. (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.H. F.O.C. (D) H.F.)

Transport / ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

TransportVesca No.95.Departures 24th March, KAROA,Movements.EGRA, NEURALIA (Tripoli 28th)Alexandria.(N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 1730/24 to Bank Block
London, Connav, Washington)

Enemy Mines, Malta. Until further orders S/Ms in vicinity of Malta should not dive below 100 feet within the 300 fathom line, as deep mines have been swept in the S/M sanctuary. (Capt. (S) 10, 1731A/24 to Subs. on Patrol (R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, S.O. Subs. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med, C. in C. Levant.)

RANGITATA.

Your 1802/21/2. Personnel for Oran and Casablanca have been discharged at Algiers. Intend to sail RANGITATA for Oran in M.K.F.ll thence for Gib. at first convenient opportunity after meat has been discharged to await G.U.F.7. (C. in C. Led, 1750A/24 to Admty. (R) S.N.O.C.A. Comnob, Oran, F.O.C. Gib. Comm. Algiers)

Convoy Escorts, defence precautions against air and U-Boat attack. Cases are repeatedly occurring of convoy escorts from Western Approaches Command entering Mediterranean with no realization that conditions of submarine and air attack in Western Med. are in many cases fundamentally different from those in the Atlantic. (2) The main points in Western Med. are - (1) High degree of vigilance and readiness of A/A Armament, reaching maximum at dusk, dawn, and in moonlight. (2) Use of smoke when threatened with T/B attack. (3) U-Boats do not hunt in packs, so need for escorts astern is much reduced. (4) No restrictions on use of

do not hunt in packs, so need for escorts astern is much reduced. (4) No restrictions on use of all forms of R.D.F. when air attack is probable (i.e. anywhere East of Oran). (5) Blue warning from North African Coast cannot be relief on since Axis planes have taken to flying very low and are often missed by coastal chain R.D.F. (5) The late "Torch" air defence orders are being combined with Levant to form Mediterranean Air Defence orders, and T.S.R.O's and M.W.M's are being combined into Mediterranean orders with a complete convoy instruction section which should ultimately be suitable for incorporation as Mediterranean Section of ACI's. In meantime request TADO's TCAO's and TSGO's in their present form may be studied in Western Approaches Command and essential extracts issued to all convoy escorts proceeding to Mediterranean, and points in para.2 emphasized at convoy conference. (4) Signal organization. Pending issue of A.F.O's 1/45 it is essential for escorts to be issued with outline Mediterranean W/T organization and their attention drawn to AGM 218 AZ 17th Dec, 250 AZ 25rd Dec. 101 A 22nd Jan. and 515 K 18th March, 519 K 21st March. (5) Second escort group with K.M.F.11 with exception of Polish destroyer KRAKOWIAK were

ignorant / ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Convoy Escorts, defence precautions against air and U-Boat attack. (Contd.)

ignorant of the important changes described in above Admiralty messages. (6) Request copy of appendix 4 to Mediterranean (W) N.C.O. be issued to each escort. (C. in C. Med, 1801/24 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O. Gibraltar).

Movements, Port Said.

24th March, Port Said arrival AETOS (G.S.) CUMBRAE. Departure PANTHER (G.S.) M.L.1124 M.L.1135 MIAOULES, ANTWERP. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1814B/24 to Admty. etc.)

Summer time in Egypt, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Cyprus and Syria, will begin at 2200 G.M.T. Jlst March. Zone minus J time is to be kept thenceforth until further notice. Ships and

Summer Time.

Movements, Casablanca. Casablanca arrivals March 24th, P.C.480 with (?TORDENE) P.C.473 from S.L.126. (M.S.F.F., 1855/24 to Admty.)

establishments are to comply. (C. in C. Levant, 1819B/24 to Levant Stn. etc.) As Amended by 1915B/26.

WISHART, CLACTON, BUDE, VELOX, HUSSAR, CIRCE departed. WHADDON arrived. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1945/24 to Admty. etc.) Movements, Oran.

Bone departures AURORA, DIDO, LAFOREY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA. Arrival SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LAFOREY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA M.T.B. 635. (F.O.I.S. 2003A/24 to C. in C. Med. Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Malta.) Movements, Bone.

Arrivals MISOA, BACHAQUERO, WILTON, BRIXHAM, Movements. Philippeville. ROTHESAY. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2003A/24 to Admty. etc.)

Submarines. EPAPANICOLIS reports at 1335/15 March in position 5 miles North of Tholo (Rhodes) surfaced alongside 220 ton Caique ST. DIMITRIOS Situation Report No.15. carrying ammunition from Salamis. Prize

carrying ammunition from Salamis. Prize crew put on board and Master of Caique taken prisoner. Two hours later two M.T.B's closed
Caique and escorted her to Rhodes. At 2150/16 March
PAPANICOLIS rammed and sank 40 ton Caique FIAMENTA bound
Rhodes from Leros and captured crew. At 0701/18 March rammed and sank 50 ton Caique RINA bound Rhodes per (? from) Leros, crew and three Italian soldiers captured. Sinkings of last two S.E. of Cape Krio (South West end of Gulf of Kos.)

(2) / ...

24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation Report No.15. (Contd.)

(2) My 1955/23 March Para. 3 (exchange of prisoners). List of Officers includes C.O. of H.M.S/M. P.32. Amongst Ratings there is 1 able seaman believed sole survivor from NEPTUNE. (C. in C. Levant, 2016B/24 to Admty.)

Movements, Bougie.

Shuttle Service. Arrived EMPIRE SCOUT, BJORKHAUG. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2020A/24 to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav.)

Movements. Algiers.

Algiers arrivals RHYL, M.L's 258, 275, 556, AURORA, DIDO, LAMERTON. Departures M.T.B. 635, WHADDON, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EGGESFORD, LAMERTON, BADSWORTH, PENELOPE, SIRIUS. (Cdre. Algiers, 2051A/24 to Admty, etc.)

Troopship Movements. D. of S.T. 0509/23rd March para. 3 (see South Atlantic 23rd). Following are particulars of embarkation of U.K. personnel in returning vessels W.S.26. (Numbers in ARUDEL CASTLE, ORDUNA, MALOJA, CITY OF PARIS, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN.) (P.S.T.O.M.E., 2035B/24 to S.S.T.O. Capetown (R) Admty. etc.)

Malta Air

A.1. 502 24th March. CSR. (A)Air. Part 1, Offensive.Night 25/24 March. Report. Report. Successful attack was made on enemy shipping in Marittimo Area. 1 of 4 Beauforts on Armed Search between Marittimo and Cape Gallo sighted at 2258 hrs convoy of 1 M/V 5000 1 M/V 5/4000 tons escorted by 2 D/Rs and 4 E/Vs 38° 06' N. 12°18' E. course

East and attacked with 1 torpedo, scoring hits amidships on M/V 5000 tons causing showers of sparks and debris and black smoke. M/V was then seen to settle lower in the water. During intruder operations over Sicily and Southern Italy by 5 Mosquitoes an attack on a destroyer in Messina Straits caused flash and cloud of black smoke. 1 Mosquito patrolled West Coast of Toe of Italy and scored strikes on a coastal vessel 500 tons off Scalea, causing smoke and showers of debris. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2135Z/24)

Cairo Air Report. For: Arnold, Andrews, Spaatz, Bissell and Doolittle. Signed: Brereton. March 20th 18 B.25's bombed Gabes. Fires observed. All aircraft returned safely. March 21. 7 B.24's bombed Naples harbour night March 20/21. Hits observed on moles and on

railroad / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cairo Air Report. (Contd.) railroad yards. General results unobserved, ships left burning. 17 B.25's of 12th Group attack Gabes. Fires observed in target area. All returned safely. March 22. 5 B.24's of 178th Squadron R.A.F. bombed Naples. 4 aircraft reached target. Hits seen on oil refineries, fires observed. All aircraft returned safely. (Cairo, 2246Z/24 to Etousa)

Enemy M/V's. Aircraft report sighting three M.V's in 038° 00' N. 012° 25' E. course 240° at 2200A/24th. speed 10 to 15 knots. (Capt. (S) 10, 2339A/24 to P.45 (UNRIVALLED)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.M.46 Departure NETRAVATI escorting B.M. 46. (N.O.I.C. Madras O2012/24 to Admty.)

WEST POINT.

P.S.T.O. India's 0625/19 and P.S.T.O. Middle East's 1815/20 are answered by B.A.D's 1617/21 and 1601/20. (D. of S.T. 0329A/24 to P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E. (R) B.A.D. C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. D.S.T.O. Suez, F.O.Ceylon, Cdre. Aden.)

SUTLEJ.

Following is repetition of my O630Z/23rd (Begins) Departure SUTLEJ for Bombay. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 0515Z/24 to Admty.)

Movement Summary, Ceylon.

Ceylon movement summary No. 43 of 24th. 1. FALMOUTH leaves Aden 26/3 to escort convoy A.P. 26. 2. SCOUT left Calcutta 23/3 escorting SKAGERAK to

Madras 26/3 thence Colombo due 28/3.

3. HINDUSTAN and ORISSA left Bandar Abbas 22/3 escorting P.B. 32 due 28/3. 4. SUTLEJ left Karachi 23/3 due Bombay 25/3. 5. JUMNA with B.M. 46 due Madras 24/3 thence Trincomalee to escort ALCIDES to Bombay. 6. CLIVE left Bombay 19th to R/V ?TULIP and SANTHIA and escort latter to Bombay due 26th March. 7. SONAVATI due Colombo 28th.

8. ASTER left Bombay 21st escorting convoy B.P. 724.

9. MARGUERITE left Bandar Abbas 22nd escorting P.A. 30 due Aden 30th.

10. TULIP leaves Colombo 24th escorting BROOMDALE and SINGU (C.45) to Trincomalee due 26th.

11. VERBENA left Colombo 19th escorting FAIR ISLE to Calcutta 23rd 12. (1/1) with MARYBOROUGH left Bombay 24th escorting B.M. 46z due Colombo 27th.

13. BATHURST with RATNAGIRI and RAJPUTANA left Bombay 23rd escorting B.P. 73 due Khor Kuwai 28th.

14. HOXA escorting TINGSANG arrived Colombo 24th from Trincomalee 15. JAN DE WAELE leaves Addu Atoll 25th due Seychelles 1st April leaving 3rd April for Aden 11th April.

16. PUNJAB with AGRA left Bombay 18th escorting B.P. 72 due Bandar Abbas 24th PUNJAB and RAJPUTANA leave 29th escorting P.B. 33 17. GERALDTON left Aden 19th escorting A.P. 25 due Khor Kuwai 25th 18. ROPLER left Diego Garcia 23rd escorting TAIPING to Addu Atoll 25th.

19. BENJAL leaves Bombay 26th R.S.A. CLIVE and escorts SANTHIA to Karachi.

20. LAUNCESTON leaves Bandar Abbas 29th escorting P.A. 31.

21. KASKAN leaves Calcutta 24th escorting GLENIFFER to Madras due 28th.

22. TAMWORTH arrived Colombo 21st from Bombay.

(F.O.Ceylon 0718/24 to Admty. etc.)

/Programme...

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Programme of Troop Movements. Para. E. of my 1201/10th. SANTHIA replaces ISLAMI revised date of sailing is now from SANTHIA replaces Karachi 3rd April. From Bombay 7th April. P F. revised date of sailing is now 28th. (P.S.T.O.I. 0810Z/24 to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon, N.C.S.O. Bombay, Armindia D.S.T.) Para.

Situation.

Movement summary No. (?322) March 24th. 1. FROBISHER left Kilindini 23rd due Durban 27th. 2. ADELAIDE left Fremantle 20th escarting convoy

O.W. 3 to mid ocean meeting point with WORCESTERSHIRE 26th. ADELAIDE then return Fremantle. 3. CANTON, CHITRAL, WAYLAND with anti-submarine escort consisting of NAPIER, CATTERICK and QUALITY left Durban 23rd escorting convoy C.M. 40 routed through Mozambique Channel. CHITRAL and destroyers to be detached on reaching 022° S. and to return Durban. 4. ADAMANT left Kilindini 22nd due Colombo 2nd April routed through 1¹/₂° Channel.
5. U.S.Ship WEST POINT left Bombay 23rd due Suez 29th. (C. in C.E.F. 0857Z/24 to E.F. 232Y. etc.)

"Monsters" Communications.

Yes. A.M. 1212/19th refers. (C. in C.E.F. 0958Z/24 to Admty.)

Movements.

Departure KONKAN escorting GLENIFFER. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1100Z/24 to Admty.) Colombo arrivals 24th 0057Z HOXA. 1037Z Dutch S/M 021. Departures 1115Z TULIP. (F.O.Ceylon 1144Z/24 to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE, Your 0749/21st. In order to fit in with availability of important fighting equipment GAMBIA. it is now desired that dates of arrival in U.K. should be as follows: -DEVONSHIRE mid-May for long refit. GAMBIA third week in June for repairs and modernisation. (D.O.D.(F) 1239A/24 to C. in C.E.F. (R) C.S.4.) Reply: 1357Z/26.

ISLAMI. Transport ISLAMI sailed 24th. (Numbers embarked.) (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 1314Z/24 to D.S.T.O. Bombay (R) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E. D. of S.T.)

Grounding of Your 1204Z/29th January what is situation as to "CITY OF MARSEILLES." "CITY OF MARSEILLES" Commercial shipping advices of very recent date off Batticoloa. indicate that prospects of floating vessel are good. Signal forthwith a report of progress with statement of your intentions. (Dir. of Salvage 2019A/24 to C. in C.Ceylon, (R) F.O.Ceylon, C. in C.E.F. P.S.T.O. India, S.T.O. Colombo.)

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24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

S/M chaserU.S. S/M Chaser 497 left on patrol 24th.497.(R.O. Santa Marta 0345/24 to Admty).

H.X.230, HURRICANE. My 1859/23rd HURRICANE sailed St. Johns N.F. at 0345/24th to join H.X.230. (F.O.N.F., 0355Z/24 to Cominch C. and R).

ARCOLA, TAIGETE. Your 1637A/12th. Tankers now loaded, bunkered and anchored in Oranjestad Harbour. (B.R.O. Aruba, 0823/24 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. S.N.O. Curacao, B.A.D.)

U.S. Cominch 1916/23 informs as follows:-Dispositions. Serial 66. This refers to changes my 1820/16 (repeated under T.O.O. 0829/17). Pacific HELENA at Sydney. COPAHEE and SAN FRANCISCO in South Pacific. ALTAMAHA at Midway NEW MEXICO, NEW ORLEANS and SANTA FE at Pearl Harbour. RALEIGH at Seattle. IDAHD and LONG ISLAND at San Diego. NASSAU and CONCORD at sea. Atlantic ALABAMA, AUGUSTA BOGUE, SOUTH DAKOTA and TUSCALOOSA at sea. MARBLEHEAD at Rio de Janeiro. BROOKLYN and NEW YORK at Casablanca. SSEX in Gulf of Paria. MEMPHIS and OMAHA at Recife. (Comnaveu, 0829/24 to Admty).

Air Report.

A/C sighted swirl of presumed U-boat in 43° 30' N. 64° 25' W. at 1908Z/23. Directed Fairmile flotilla to attack. Depth charges dropped by Fairmiles resulted in oil and bubbles being brought to surface. (E.A.C. H.Q., Halifax, 0831/24 to Air Min).

S.C.124, Escorts. Your 1828/23 concur. (C. in C. W.A., 09472/24 to F.O.N.F.)

Desition

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T. 24th.

Ship	P081110		course	Speed
AR ET HUSA		48° W.	293°	15
SS. MONTEREY	35° N.	51 ¹ / ₂ ° W.	281°	20
SS. ANDES	312° N.	$47\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.	103°	19
CARNARVON CASTLE	09° N.		Patrol	Blank
F.S. GLOIRE	07° N.	29° 🕷	Patrol	Blank
C.U.1)	-		0	4
GORLESTON)	$29\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	532° W.	055°	$13\frac{1}{2}$
ATTACKER)				
WESTON)				
FOLKESTONE)	33° N.	32° W.	065°	12
TOTLAND)				
22 L.C.I.(L)s	27° N.	$44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.	090°	10
CHESHIRE with)				
Floating Dock)	34° S.	432° W.	215°	
)	at 1843	5/23		
T.A. 38	43° N.	582° W.	270°	26
A.T.39		651° W.	097°	19
(D.O.D. (F) 1050Z,	104 LU (1
		/"Capt	ain"	

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

"Captain" class Frigates. Request your reply to A.M. 2015/ll may include estimate of arrival in U.K. of "Captain" class Frigates (B.D.Es and D.Es) until the end of the year. (D.O.D. (H), 1104A/24 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

U/B

Aruba report graded C.2. U-boat sighted close in shore off Cape Chichibacoa Goajira, Colombia several recent occasions. Further information awaited. U.S. Authorities informed. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1152R/24 to Admty. S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

Movements. U.S. Cutter Y.P.443 arrived 24th. (Treasurer Dominica, 1430/24 to Admty).

Submarine estimate 24th. U.S. Submarine notice.

O.N.230, Escorts. O.N. 230 at 1500Z/24 47° 32' N., 46° 29' W. 012° 9.5 knots relieved by M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15 41 ships present. Weather report. (W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8., 1601Z/24 to F.O.N.F. (R) A.I.G.301, Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C., M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15, STRATFORD).

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1525z/24, 1526/24, 1545/24, 1546/24, 1547/24).

BARON KINNAIRD. Have you information of arrival BARON KINNAIRD ex O.N.S. 169. (N.S.H.Q., 1602Z/24 to Connav (R) Admty).

Convoy O.S.1 EGLANTINE. My P.C. and S. at 18002/24th 58° 28' N., 33° 18' W. (S) 210° 14.5. Weather report northerly Luff. (EGLANTINE, 17512/24 to C.T.F.24 (R) FAME, 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.)

Movements. PENNANT (U.S.) WISCONSIN (Pan). arrived San Francisco March 20. BRASTAG (Du.) arrived San Francisco March 21. All U.S. Army Transports. (N.S.H.Q., 1915Z/24 to Admty).

Allied A/S / Allied Anti Submarine Survey Board consisting of Survey Board. Rear Admiral Kauffman, U.S.N., Rear Admiral Mansfield and staff of four officers sailed in A.T.39 E.T.A. Clyde p.m./31st March. (B.A.D., 1919Z/24 to Admty. F.O.I.C. Greenock).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X.231.

1. Sailing telegram part 1. Position (C) at 2400Z/25th.
 5,8, routes and R/V as per C.E.S.F.2047/20 except add 4 hours to all times. 6. Task unit 24,18.2. SASKATOON. (Port Director, New York, 1950/24 to Admty).

Movements Bermuda.

Bermuda arrivals. Second portion of Task Force 60.1 including U.S.S. STRIVE, STAFF, SUSTAIN, STEADY, SPEDE, ARAPAHD and EFFECTIVE. U.S. L.S.T. 393, 338, 392, 384, 336, 355, 391, 335, 394, 307, 306, 325, 369 and 389. U.S.P.C. 559, 545, 626, H.M. L.S.T. 323, 364, 368, 407 and 412. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 2153/24 to Admty).

P.553

Your 1535/19 (N.T. in W.D.) electrical and machinery defects in P.553 cannot be completed before 6th April. In addition defective gyro requires re-wiring of all components including motor alternator and panel taking approximately one month to repair. Repairs to gyro have been commenced. Endeavour has been made without success to obtain replacement of material through Lease-Lend. Recommend P.553 does not proceed until gyro repairs have been satisfactorily completed. (C.O.A.C., 2154Z/24 to N.S.H.Q.)

Refits of H.M. Ships in U.S. delay.

My 1322/8. Vice Chief of Naval Operations has written me a strongly worded letter protesting at the delay in arrival of information and of material for refits of H.M. ships. (2) He states not only have our ships been delayed but the effect on U.S.N. Ships at the same ports undergoing battle damage repairs is causing

him concern. (3) NIGERIA has been seriously delayed through non arrival of electrical drawings (Statfiles received today) and PHDEBE will also be delayed unless outstanding gear is received soon. (4) He requests that all steps be taken to expedite the arrival of information and material for ARETHUSA and ARGONAUT. (5) The importance of compliance cannot be over emphasised, otherwise we may be faced with a refusal to take our ships. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 2224Z/24 to Admty).

Para. D. Pansir Clipper sights three sub. Wakes course 180 03° 25' S. 29° 30' W. 1357Z/22. Sub. attack and sighting (Cominch No T.O.O.24/3 recd. 0023/25 to Admty). Summary.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Darwin Air Reid 15 March.

Following is reply to message 1500Z/17 (Air Min. message not received in W.R.) Ref. Digest Serial No. 419 "Bombers were Navy Type 1, medium Bombers. Fighters were Navy Zeros and Navy Type "O" Ark 2 Fighters". (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0420Z/24 to Admty).

Movements

Arrival Auckland 0015Z/24 U.S.S. FOMALHAUT. Departure Noumea 1800Z/23 U.S.S. TALAMANCA for Auckland expected time of arrival 0600Z/26. Arrivals DUNEDIN 22452/23 U.S.S. FANNING and

U.S.S. DUNLAP.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 04422/24 to Admty). Arrivals Port Moresby 23rd ARUNTA KAPUNDA, Milne Bay 23rd PIRIE, Townsville 23rd VENDETTA, WARREGO, Sydney (N.S.W.) 23rd HOBART. Departure Melbourne 23rd U.S. destroyer RALPH TALBOT for HOBART. Departure Melbourne 23rd U.S. destroyer RALPH TALBOT for Sydney (N.S.W.) Port Moresby 23rd KATOOMBA for Townsville, Milne Bay 22nd GLENELG for Port Moresby, Townsville 23rd WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B., 1351Z/24 to Admty). Arrivals 23rd Brisbane Hospital ship CENTAUR. Sydney U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ, Port Moresby BISHOPDALE U.S. Transport CREMER. 24th Townsville R.A.A.F. store ship WANAKA. H.T. AQUITANIA Departed Sydney 23rd due Fremantle 29th. Dutch Naval Store Ship MINJAK TANAH departed Thursday Island 23rd due Puysegur Point Light 26th. R. A. F.A. AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 23rd for Challenger Bay. H.T. DUNTROON departed Townsville 23rd due Port Moresby 25th.

(A.C.N.B., 1826Z/24 to Admty).

Digest Serial Morning R/C Liberator unsuccessfully attacked No. 427 March schooner Lorengau harbour. One Zero took off 23rd. aerodrome.

> (2) 27 Fortresses attacked Lakunai Vaunakanau Rapopo aerodromes at Rabaul before dawn starting numerous fires dispersal areas with advance fuse

bombs and scoring hits on runways and surroundings with instantaneous and delayed action bombs. Many ships seen dispersed Simpson harbour, Blanche Bay, St. Georges Channel, Tailili Bay and Ataliklikun Bay. One large merchant vessel at entrance Blanche Bay strafed and set on fire. (5) Photos Bogia harbour 75 miles N.W. Madang midday reveal

one vessel 500 tons and 8 small boats.

(7) Six B.25s strafed barges at Lae area before noon.
(8) Patrols report no signs enemy troops or barges Waria river mouth.

(11) 500 ton vessel bombed 21st Cape Gloucester refer Digest No. 425 Para. 3 subsequent sightings reveal vessel sank. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 0715Z/24).

/ILE ...

9

24.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

ILE DE FRANCE. Sailing telegram, Fremantle 2252Z/22. ILE DE FRANCE. Durban, 0430Z/2nd April. Knots 18. Days 12¹/₂. (A.C.N.B., 0927Z/24 to Admty. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1407A/24, 1435A/24).

984

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Patrol "White". 1. C. in C. H.F. suspects the possibility of blockade runners inward bound passing north or south of Iceland (C). GLASGOW and ECHO sailed from Hvalfjord at 1923, to established Patrol "White". Air R/C was carried out.

Casualties.

S. 2. SS. LAFONIA in Convoy F.N.77 was in collision in fog shortly before midnight today with SS. COMO of the same convoy and sank in d.r. position 55.21 N. 01.22¹/₂ W. (5 miles east of Coquet Island).
SS. ATLAND in Convoy W.N.7 was in collision with SS. CARSO of the same convoy in 57.28 N. 01.40 W. (about 20 miles N.E. of Aberdeen) and sank immediately. CARSO is making for Leith at 3 knots as her draft is too deep for her to enter Aberdeen.

3. The 3rd Escort Group (OFFA, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, ONSLAUGHT, IMPULSIVE and ORIBI) sailed from Londonderry at O110A today, to act as support group for Convoy S.C.123.

U-Boat sweep. 4. A Coastal Command Fortress from Iceland attacked a U-Boat at 1010A today in 61.50 N. 16.50 W. (160 miles S.E. of Kaladarnes) and reports the enemy severely damaged. A very large quantity of oil, and some debris came up. At 1220A the aircraft reported that 2 attacks had been carried out and it was hoped the U-Boat was destroyed. PENN and BLANKNEY sailed from Scapa p.m. today, to carry out an A/S sweep and patrol in the area.

5. An Albacore at 2206 today attacked 4 E/R boats 15 miles north of Le Treport and apparently sank one of them.

6. Blyth was closed from 0145 to 1230 owing to suspected minelaying.

North Atlantic.

7. A signal was made at 1027A that Gibraltar broadcast is now out of action for an indefinite period as the result of a landslide reported yesterday.

1 -1

985

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. The Swedish M.V. INDUSTRIA (Philadelphia for Rio de Janeiro) was torpedoed at 0600Z today in position reported to be 11.40 S. 35.55 W. (east of Bahia).

Mediterranean.

9. From P.R.U. report it appears probable that certain French cruisers and destroyers at Toulon are now fit for sea passage. French warships met in the area are to be treated as hostile.

10. Six Liberators bombed the ferry terminus at Messina last night, bombs bursting in the area of the power station. 22 B.17s escorted by 20 P.38s attacked shipping at Sousse today. A large ship was hit and a small ship was sunk, and an explosion and fires were seen on the quay.

America and West Indies.

11. A.F.D.24 left Trinidad this morning with three tugs, escorted by MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, YESTOR and MORRIS DANCE.

- 986

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

12. Eight Liberators bombed the town area of Rabaul before dawn today. There are 7 destroyers and 12 smaller warships in the harbour, and 29 merchant vessels totalling 145,000 tons. Six Liberators attacked the harbour at Amboina this afternoon, making direct hits on merchant ships and on the main wharf.

987

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SEADOG. Owing to congestion in 3rd Flotilla intend to SATYR. transfer SEADOG and SATYR to 9th Flotilla whose numbers will be depleted by transfer of French Submarines to Mediterranean. (F.O.S., 1209A/25 to Admty).

My 2003A/2/2 and 2129A/3/2. On completion of repairs request BARHILL may be included in next BARHILL convenient convoy to Gibraltar for boom work in Mediterranean. 2. Previous allocation to Eastern Fleet is cancelled.

(A.C.N.S. F., 1847A/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

H.M. Rescue Tug STORMCOCK now commissioning at Hull has been renamed STORM KING. STORMCOCK. (Capt. Rescue Tugs. 2047A/25 to Admty).

Movements.

S/M Position of submarines at O800A/26 and movements Movements. for following 24 hours. A. TRUCULENT in zone K. 151.

B. SEA NYMPH in zone K. 150.

C. TEMPLAR in zone K. 148.

D. UNA, P.556, and BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 54° 30' N. 05° 06' W. for Clyde. E. UPROAR 49° 30' N., 10° 56' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W, thence to Southward. Daily advance 105 miles. F. SOKOL 49° 10' N. 10° 52' W, dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W, thence to southward. Daily advance 105 miles. 12° 26' W, thence to southward. Daily advance 105 miles. G. HERRING vicinity 43° 30' N. 11° 01' W. H. SHAD in zone K. 505. J. 0.14 escorted by M.L. 454 returning to Dundee a.m./26th from exercises in Tay Sanctuary. (F.O.S., 1741A/25). Escort UNA to Gate if E.T.A. there is after dark 26th. LA CAPRICIEUSE and BLACKFISH are to anchor in Rothesay night of 26th as ordered by Capt. (S) 7th. (Capt. S.3., 2023A/25 to LA CAPRICIEUSE)

COURBET.

C. in C. Portsmouth's 1826/23. 2. C. in C. Nore is requested to detail one WAIR as escort from Portsmouth to Clyde. 3. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to detail one HUNT as escort from Portsmouth to Trevose Head. (D.O.D. H., 2037A/25).

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988

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Regulation".

Coastal

Patrols.

To avoid own submarines if fuel permits pass

through position (W) 049° 54' N. 012° 25' W. (X) 049° 55' N. 008° 20' W. (Y) 180° Bishop Rock 10. (Z) 180° The Lizard 3, to Plymouth.

(2) Submarine UPROAR estimated in 049° 30' N. 008° 55' W. at 2000/25 and SOKOL, in 049° 10' N. 008° 56' W. at 2100/25 both steering 270°. ORKAN estimated in 049° 54' N. 008° 56' W. at 0800/25th, bound S.W. (C. in C. Plymouth, 0321A/25 to METEOR). My 1831/24th. Sailed O.R.P. ORKAN 2015/24 for patrol.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1003A/25 to Admty). Para. 3 of my 1409/24. Aircraft unable to operate.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1015A/25 to NEWFOUNDLAND). Not for HERRING or SHAD. METEOR approx. position 049° 01' N. 013° 30' W. at 0800/25, routed through 049° 54' N., 012° 25' W. and 049° 55' N. 008° 20' W, thence 180° Bishop Rock 10. Speed unknown.

(F.O.S., 1039A/25 to S/Ms). Further to para. 2 of my 1409A/24 and my 1831A/24. Further to para. 2 of my 1409A/24 and my 1851A/24. NEWFOUNDLAND is to alter course North West as necessary to R/V ORKAN in position (R) 045° 01' N. 014° 59' W. at 0900A tomorrow. (2) From position (R) NEWFOUNDLAND and ORKAN are to steer 210° till 1200, thence 115°. (3) If nothing sighted by 2000/26 NEWFOUNDLAND and ORKAN return to Plymouth, keep west of 014° 10' W. until in latitude 049° 11' N. thence through 180° Bishop Rock 10. (4) Weather permitting air R/C by Halifar or Liberator may be

(4) Weather permitting air R/C by Halifax or Liberator may be expected from 0800/26.

(5) ORKAN inform C. in C. Plymouth by 2300/25 if likely to be late at R/V indicating probably delay.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1639A/25 to NEWFOUNDLAND, ORKAN).

11. Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 55 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leave Weymouth at 2000 via Q.Z.S. 382 and

leave patrol line at dawn 26th. 3. Object Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 1033A/25). 4 M.G.Bs. from Newhaven to carry out anti E-boat patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route between long. 0° 10' W. 0° 45' E. to be on patrol by dark and return Newhaven when convoy has left Portsmouth Command.

M.L. 464 and 572 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy. 6. Chasseur 13 at St. Helens. MELBREAK, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1330A/25).

1. M.T.Bs. 94, 96 are to patrol between 323° Sept Isles 5 miles and 063° Sept Isles 9 miles.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1609A/25). Cancel my 1609. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1949A/25). My 1033A/25. "Device" cancelled owing to engine defects in M.G.B. 55.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2112A/25).

/Denmark...

989

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Denmark Strait Patrol.

Establish patrol "White" with one cruiser and one destroyer to intercept Eastbound traffic. 2. I appreciate possibility of inward-bound blockade-runners attempting to pass North or

South of Iceland. (C. in C. H.F., 1159A/25 to C.S.10). Your 1159A/25. GLASGOW and ECHD proceed at 1845A to patrol "White" S.W. of Q.Z.X.241, 363, and 794. (C.S.10, 1846A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1159/25. Hvalfjord departure at 1923 GLASGOW and ECHD. (A.C.I.C., 2028A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

(A.C.I.C., 2028A/25 to C. in C. H.F.)
R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to sail PENN and BLANKNEY p.m./25
to carry out an A/S sweep as follows. Proceed to 060° 58' N.
019° 59' W. to arrive p.m./26th. Sweep thence on course 060°
as far long. 014° W. Then patrol on line 330° 150° 50 miles
each side of approx. 062° 40' 014° 01' to P.L.E.
(2) PENN return to Scapa. BLANKNEY to proceed Hvalfjord and relieve BRECON.

(C. in C. H.F., 1201A/25).

Unknown operation. Admiralty's 1214/28th February para. 8. CHARYBDIS detailed for period 1st to 10th April. (2) Ship will be sailed to arrive Plymouth p.m./ 31st March.

(C. in C. H.F., 1419A/25 to C. in C. Plymouth).

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland.

Suspect possibility of blockade runners inward bound passing north or south of Iceland (C). Request following patrol subject to requirements

of trade protection and anti submarine warfare. (A) Patrol north west of Iceland to give warning to ships on patrol "white". To be arranged in consultation with C.S.10.

My 1159/25 refers. (B) Patrol Rov(?i)k (?series) (?2) to give warning to destroyers

R.A.(D) H.F. Pass to PENN and BLANKNEY. (C. in C. H.F., 1249A/25 to H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.) C. in C. H.F. 1249/25. Request you comply subject to requirements mentioned. Consider patrol "Trap" flown by four P.B.Y. aircraft more suitable than "Rovik" report for Part B.

(H.Q.C.C., 1808A/25 to Iceland).

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk bombed.

During night 18/19th large bomb dropped on seaward end of timber quay damaging some R.A.F. and naval stores on jetty. No damage to ships and no British casualties. No other damage to report for period 14th March to 24th March. (S.B.N.O. Murmansk, 0944A/25).

/Glasgow...

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25.3.1943. Thursday

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

Glasgow bombed. Enemy aircraft believed 3 in number over Glasgow area between 0019 and 0159/25. Some 120 incendiar-ies over city. Destruction by fire 1 church. No other damage and no casualties so far reported. No H.E. in this area. (N.O.I.C. Glasgow, 1001/25).

Jan Mayen

Following from Jan Mayen. (Aircraft observed 0935 Westward along North Coast, later heard Southerly direction. (A.C.I.C., 1417A/25).

Following from Jan Mayen. (1) Aircraft observed 0935/24 westward along North Coast, later heard southerly direction. (2) Aircraft heard East Berenberg 0930/25 returning South East. Weather foggy.

(A.C.I.C., 2007A/25).

Mining.

Blyth

Port of Blyth closed owing to suspected mine laying. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 0145/25). My 0145/25. Port now open. (N.O.I.C. Blyth, 1230/25).

Sweep by 9th M/S F.

Intend to sail available ships of 9th M/S Flotilla for Portsmouth a.m. tomorrow. Vessels will carry out sweep of Q.Z.S. and 117 whilst on passage.

(C.in C. Nore, 1011A/25). All available ships of 9th M/S Flotilla are to leave Harwich as requisite a.m. tomorrow and proceed to Portsmouth. (2) Route by Q.Z.S. 263, 400, 151, 117, 191, 357, 377, 385, 384, 373.

(3) ORKOSA search of Q.Z.S. 151 and 117 is to be carried out

whilst on passage. (C. in C. Nore, 1109A/25 to M/S 9). Your 1109A/25. Intend departing Cork 1210/26. with 6 Fleet Sweepers at 13 knots. Time Table. E.T.A. Portsmouth 0730/27. (M/S 9 1603A/25 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1621/24 para. 1 and 2. Concur. Clearance (C. in C. H.F., 1112A/25 to A.C.O.S.) A.C.O.S., 1621/24. 15 M/S Flotilla will be based at Oban for this operation. of Q.Z.X.910. (2) Request 2 danlaying vessels from Clyde may be sailed to R/V with M.S.15 as desired by him. (C. in C. W.A., 1919A/25 to M/S 15, F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Intercepted 1044 G.M.T. GUIR strick mine North of GUIR (German.) Anholt. Ends. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1144/25). Mined. (Humber Radio, 1150/25).

/Intercept...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

GUIR	Intercept at 1143 G.M.T. DKF De OXA begins:
(German)	What is your condition? ends. At 1144 G.M.T.
mined.	OXA de DKFI begins Abandoned ship.
(Contd).	(Wick Radio, 1247/25).

Dover. Routine sweeping 24/25th. Two mines detonated in following positions:-1. Probably Blue 51° 18' 15" N. 01° 42' 36" E. 2. Red 51° 20' 59" N. 01° 32' 40" E. (V.A. Dover, 2051A/25 and 1828A/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Two destroyers one medium merchant vessel 58° 12' N. 06° 15' E. 140° 10 knots. (A/C 5QUY 1222/25 to 18 Group). M/V off Norway.

Antwerp on 24th March.

Photographs taken by 521 Sqdn. 1200/24 show Antwerp covered except for S.W. side of Bassin Canal "C". Movement of M class M/S from dry dock No. 9 to Bassin Kattendikk and of 2 Siebel Ferries only change since 14/3/43 Naval shipping in parts seen. M/V 475' BELGRANO - Type M.121 departed from Bassin Albert and not seen elsewhere. Tanker 405'

T.51 has left Bassin Albert and is possibly the vessel seen near Degaussing Station being handled by tugs. M/Vs M.110 and M.148 and Tankers T.31 and T.71 still present as on 14/3/43. Antwerp/Deurne A/D 2 medium and 13 possibly more small A/C. (R.A.F. Medmenham 1905A/25).

U-boats,

U-boats Am over enemy S/M in 61.50 N. 16.50 W. (A/C MOIL 1010A/25 to 15 Group). attacked. Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack. (A/C MOIL 1011A/25 to 15 Group).

2 attacks. Hope kill. Oil marks the spot.
(A/C MOIL, 1220A/25 to 15 Group).
The attacks by Whitley V of 77 Squadron on 3/9/42 and by
Liberator S of 120 Squadron on 15/2/43 have been assessed as
"Known Sunk". The attack by Wellington B of 172 Squadron on 19/2/43 has been assessed as "Probably Sunk". 2. Please give our congratulations to those concerned with these successes.

(1st S.L. 2118A/25 to Air Ministry).

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

HYDRA.

Intend sailing H.M.S. HYDRA at 1400 today in

accordance with previous orders. (N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 1130A/25 to C. in C. Rosyth). Starboard propeller is fouled by starboard

X.331 in distress at 43° 40' N. 10° 5' W. on

Port bilge keel partially detached and endangering bilge keel. port propeller.

Request tug may be sent to stand by. Position at 1830 OlO° VATERNISH Point 11 miles, advance 4 to 5 knots. Route via M.5 buoy to Ardnamurchan Point.

(HYDRA., 1859A/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Request you sail tug EMPIRE CUPID with despatch to stand by HYDRA who is proceeding from Aultbea to Corpach via Sound of Mull.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2205A/25 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Unknown Ship.

23rd March. (Freetown W/T, 1543/25).

Following received from RIPLEY begins:-"Trials cancelled. Port low-power turbine suspect. Returning on one engine. E.T.A. Gladstone 2130. Request berth and tugs". T.O.O. 1455A/24 ends. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1725/25).

BRUISER

Due to sail 28th March will be complete with the exception of the following items. Details. The non-completion of the above items is consequent on strike of electric welders. None of the above items affect seaworthiness of ship. (W.P.S. Belfast, 1810/25).

Following received by Stonehaven Radio for CG401 CARSO. CARSO collision in convoy with U.17 F. this ship holed in forepeak and steering gear carried away send tugs 057° 28' N., 001° 40' W. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2200 G.M.T./25).

LAFONIA

Position 55.20 N. 1.21 W, 5 miles east of Coquet Island and distance immediately. (LAFONIA 2343/25). Bearing Class 1 132° distress B 04 P.A. (Gallon Head Radio, 2344 G.M.T./25 to A.C.O.S., Lyness).

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic

Sailed C. in C. W.A's 2325A/23 (E.G.3). Convoy (Cdre. Londonderry, OllOA/25). Escort Groups. INGLEFIELD with destroyers addressed proceed passing Switha 1730A/25 to arrive Moville a.m./26 (2) On arrival act as ordered by C. in C. W.A.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1010A/25 to INGLEFIELD. FURY, OBDURATE, OPPORTUNE, ECLIPSE, ICARUS). My 1951/20. Request you sail INGLEFIELD and ICARUS to Clyde where H/F D/F Calibration has been arranged tomorrow Request Calibration of MATCHLESS be undertaken at Scapa. All ships are required at Londonderry as soon as possible after Calibration.

(C. in C. W.A., 1032A/25 to R.A.D.)

Sailed INGLEFIELD, ICARUS for Clyde OPPORTUNE, FURY, ECLIPSE for Londonderry. E.T.A. 1300A/26 and 1100A/26 respective ly. 2. OBDURATE for Londonderry will be sailed to overtake. (R.A.D. 1736A/25).

On completion of H/F D/F calibration about 2200 today proceed to Londonderry.

2. On arrival act as ordered by C. in C. W.A.

(R.A.D. H.F., 1845A/25 to MATCHLESS). Sailed MATCHLESS to Londonderry. E.T.A. 1400A/26. (R.A.D., 2203A/25).

MARIPOSA.

U.S. Troop Transport MARIPOSA is due Tail of the Bank about 29 March.

 Following personnel:- (a) should disembark
 U.K. 2744. (b) should remain on board 1092.
 Approximately 1250 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank l April. 3. Vessel should be ready to sail p.m. 1 April.

(D.S.T., 0203A/25).

My 1025/22. PRAGUE sailed at 0432/25. PRAGUE. AMSTERDAM and escort are unable to leave Port AMSTERDAM. owing to fog. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 0745A/25 to A.C.O.S.)

A.M. 1153/24. Cancel route for ELIZABETH BAKKE. ELIZABETH BAKKE, BAKKE, CLAN MACAULAY. ELIZABETH BAKKE 47° 20' N. 31° 30' W. S.O.A. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots, route through, 47° 30' N. 28° 30' W, 52° N. 26° W. thence 072°. CLAN MACAULAY 51° 40' N. 21° 05' W. S.O.A. $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots, routed through 50° N. 22° 30' W. 47° N. 28° W. thence 190°.

(D.O.D. H., 1159A/25 to NEWFOUNDLAND, ORKAN).

BUREYA

My 1955/23 and 1250/24. Sailed BUREYA escorted by SPOSA at 1325/25 routed as for R.U. convoy in C. in C. W.A's 1607/3rd Jan. Approx. speed 4 knots. (A.C.I C., 1436A/25 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

1.1

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

French ship DE LA SALLE in convoy X.K.3 is due Birkenhead about 27th March with 125 French X.K.3 DE LA SALLE. Service personnel on board. (D.S.T., 1458A/25).

U.R., R.U. and O.N.S.

Admiralty's 1207/17. In order to combine Iceland shipping with O.N.S. convoys propose that U.R/R.U. convoys. Convoys sail on 8-day cycle. O.N.S. sail X day, U.R.sail X plus 2 day, R.U. sail X plus 9 day. R.U. would then arrive Loch Ewe X plus 14 days in time to join O.N.S. convoy which sails X plus 16 days.

(2) It is proposed that whenever an O.N.S. convoy is given a route North of 60° N. on approx. 23° W. a portion of the escort be sailed direct to Iceland to fuel and escort the Iceland ships to Icomp thus saving the passage to U.K. (C. in C. W.A., 1526A/25 to Admty).

KOLAMK, KOLAKB.

Moscow 1647C/25. See China.

F.S.73. CHAMPOLLION, ERIDAN.

On completion of patrol a.m./27th proceed to R/V F.S.73 at 62 D buoy. On meeting convoy take over French ships CHAMPOLLION (12546 tons) and ERIDAN (9928 tons) and escort them to Humber L.F. anchorage. Thence act as A.A. guard until 0300/28 when ships are to weigh and proceed by

Q.Z.S.277 and 402 to anchor in swept channel in vicinity of Warp Buoy about 2100/28. 2. Ships to enter Thames Gate and proceed to London before

F.N. convoy weighs. (C. in C. Nore, 1703/25 to GARTH).

S.D. 38

Clyde arrival LETITIA escorted by SABRE. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2035/25).

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements.

E.T.A. COMMANDANT DROGOU U.S. Minesweeper AUK, P.C. 472, with HOGGAR and CITY OF DIEPPE, 0900Z/25th. (COMMANDANT DROGOU 0203Z/25 to F.O.I.C. Gib.) See also 1125A/25.

G. U. S. 5. A. U.G.S.5.

My 1945A/24. Owing to heavy weather approx. E.T.A. at 1000A/25 R/V position is 1800A/25. On assumption main portion U.G.S.5 will delay sailing in consequence, I intend, in the absence of orders to the contrary, to steer for the 1000A/25 R/V

position and if not met to proceed towards end of swept channel. E.T.A. will be amended if necessary. My P.C. and S. 035° 39' N. 006° 37' W. 219° 6¹/₂ knots. Weather report.

(PENTSTEMON 0215A/25 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) F.O., Gib.) Main portion of G.U.S.5 met in 034° 35' N. 007° 35' W. at 1507. The 2 stragglers had rejoined. VENOMOUS returned independently. PENTSTEMON with VETCH, SPEEDWELL and STELLA CARINA in company at 2100A in 035° 25' N. 006° 46' W. course 039° 10 knots. E.T.A. Europa Point 0600A/26. POLRUAN with convoy during the night and not rejoined. Weather report. (PENTSTEMON 2100A/25 to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

CROCODILE.	My 2202/24th. (No trace in W.R.) Casablanca 0800A/25th.) CROCODILE arrived
	(C.M.S.F.F. 0807/25 to F.O.I.C. W.A.F, Escorts of R.S.3.)	Gib. (R) F.O.C.

SAVORGNAN DE	Report that during	trip F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA
BRAZZA	shot down one F.W.	Kurier 19th and damaged another
action •	20th.	5
with A/C.	(F.S. SAVORGNAN DE	BRAZZA O830A/25 to F.N.F.L.
	London.)	

My ref. 1405/22nd sailed. (S.N.O. Casablanca O930Z/25 to Connav, Admty, C. in C. Med.) G. U. F. 6.

TAMAROA.

G.U.F.6. My 1109/20, TAMAROA did not sail, boiler defects.

Gelects. (F.O.C. Gib. 0953A/25 to F.O.C. Oran, S.N.O.C.A. (K) Connav, Admty, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. Med.) S.N.O. Casablanca 1555/23rd (Sailing Task Group 62.1) refers. As TAMAROA was unable to sail in G.U.F. 6 through boiler trouble request may include with T.F. 62 for U.S.A. (F.O. Gib. 1221A/25 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) N.O.I.C. Casablance C. in C. Med. Admty. Commendent 5th H.S. Nevel

Casablanca C. in C. Med. Admty. Commandant 5th U.S. Naval District, Hampton Roads, Connav.) Reply: Cinclant 2320/25. C.M.S.F.F. 0455/26.

/BORDSEE

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

German 64 and 65 sailed OlOO March 25th. BORDSEE, (Consul Bilbao 1015/25 to Admty. for D.N.I., M.E.W. B.N.A. Madria, S.O. (I) Gib.) (Passing action being taken by War Registry for H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S.) SPERBER.

Garbled message from F.O.I.C. Gibraltar indicates G.U.F.6. R/V of Med. section will be delayed possibly 2? hours. Move R/V point to N.E. as far as possible to ensure meeting before dark. Will advise. (S.N.O.Casablanca 1055Z/25 to C.T.F.64 (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. WISHART.)

My 1507/21st. My 1232/22nd to Escorts of R.S.3. only. Owing to heavy weather amend R/V to position (X) 025° 59' N. 015° 24' W. at 1200A/28th. (F.O.C. Gib. 1109A/25 to Escort R.S.3, Escort R.S.3. S.R.3, (R) Admty. F.O.C. W.A. F.A. C.D.)

HERO.

Arrival. (F.O. Gib. 1116A/25 to Admty.)

S.L. 126. R.A.W.Af.'s 1648*Z/10th para 7. As COMMANDANT DROGOU cannot overtake S.L. 126 intend COMMANDANT DROGOU. sailing her to U.K. in M.K.S.10. (F.O. Gib. 1125A/25 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty, R.A. W.A., C. in C. W.A, Ships Escorting S.L.126.) *(Route for S.L.126.)

Am returning to Gibraltar with persistant leak in port condenser. E.T.A. 1700A. Weather report. (VERITY 1130A/25 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) D. Gib.) VERITY.

3ituation 2000A/25. S.L.126, PELICAN, 41.33 15.23 through 45.01 16.30 thence 000[®] 8. (see amendment 1424A/25.) Dispositions.

1. R.S.3, CADMUS, 31,12 10.53 215° 6. 2. D.69, GAZELLE, 28.27 12.37 (?thence) coastwise 5 3. 3 Swedish Relief Ships 35.10 19.37 266° 13. 4. MULLET, WHITING, 8 Coastal Craft, 46.27 13.41 through 44.58 13.41 thence 179.10. 5. G.U.F.6. C.T.F. No.64 34 54 08 00 through 34 00 11 00 through 5. G.U.F.6, C.T.F. No.64, 34.54 08.00 through 34.00 11.00 thence 239.13. 6. G.U.S.5.A, C.T.F. No. 67, 34.20 08.18 287.81. (F.O. Gib. 1132A/25.)

My 1132/25th. S.L.126. Amend P.C. and S. to read (E) 38° 53' 14° 40' 342° 5.

(F.O. Gib. 1424A/25.) Situation 1959A/25th WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND sailing p.m. 26th from Ponta Delgada 330° 12. (F.O. Gib. 1140A/25.)

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North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Contd.

Situation 2001A/25th. G.U.F.6, C.T.F.64, 34.54 08.00 through 34.00 11.00 thence 239° 13. Med. escort vicinity 35.05 07.30 to Gibraltar. 2. S/M UNRULY, 38.09 09.51 through 36.51 09.13 at 0700/26th thence 099° 7½/2.

3. G.U.S.5.A, C.T.F.67, 34.2008.18 287.8½. Med. escort vicinity 34.32 07.38 to Gibraltar. 4. Convoy "Skipper", VANOC, NASTURTIUM, HAARLEM, proceed from Tagus when weather moderates coastwise to Gibraltar 8. 5. ST. NECTAN, KATHIAWAR, 3 Merchant Ships sailed 1700/25th from Gibraltar coastwise to Lisbon. 1 Merchant Ship parts company for Cadiz, 1 for Huelva. Speed 8½ to Huelva. (KATHIAWAR part company and return direct to Gibraltar) thence 9½. (F.O. Gib. 1156A/25.)

My 1156/25th add new para (6) AUK, P.C.472, MORENO, sailed 1800/25th through 035° 45' 006° 30' to Casablanca 10. (F.O. Gib. 1550A/25.)

VANOC, A/C.

One Focke Wulf course 180°. (VANOC, 1210A/25 to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

At 1332A/25th in 38.34 N. 09.24 W, Focke-Wolf Condor flew round VANOC, NASTURTIUM, HAARLEM. VANOC fired 6 rounds 4 inch at aircraft. Fire was not opened until aircraft was outside territorial waters and at no time was fire directed toward aircraft. Portuguese Coast.

VANOC 1632A/25 to F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.)

Swiss Shipping. My 1544/22. Sailing of INDAUCHU and PUNTA ALMINA postponed until 28th. 2. My 1835/24 ALBULA probably leaves Savona instead of Genoa.

(D.E.W.D. 1222A/25 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE MAIDEN, (tanker), Tangier question of armament.

M.W.T.Rs. 1901/24th para 4.* I did not see this signal before despatch but M.W.T.R. had discussed matter with me. 2. While little risk would be involved by removal of armament for this particular run, compliance with your para (2) would create an unfortunate precedent which might would create an unfortunate precedent which might

be taken up at other ports and would seem tactically to admit Spanish dejure control Tangier 3. Please send your view to Admty. and Madrid to whom this and 2 previous telegrams are being forwarded. Meanwhile intend to hold up ship temporarily. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1430A/25 to Consul General Tangier, (R) Admty, Ambassador Madrid.) * W.D. Note:- Repeated in F.O.C. Gibralter's

1729/25.

Following is a repetition of my 1901A/24th addressed Consul General Tangier. From S.O. (I) Gib. From M.W.T.R. Your 1930/22nd. (1) I do not understand on what grounds Spanish Authorities are objecting to MAIDEN being defensively armed as all British Merchant Vessels trading to Spanish ports, such as Melilla, Cadiz, Seville, Huelva, Almeria, etc. are similarly armed and there has never been any question of Spanish authorities objecting. (2) Proposed therefore to retain defensive armament on board. (3) Anti sabotage guard will always he presided in the state of t

Anti sabotage guard will always be provided in future. (F.O.Gib. 1729/25 to Admty, Ambassador Madrid.)

Reply: Admty, 0109A/29.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

H.M. Tug LARIAT left 1406 G.M. T. 25th E.T.A. 1700/28th. S.P. 02272 (22), no recognition signal. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1456/25 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty, N.A. Lisbon.) LARIAT.

E.T.A. at Gibraltar 1600A/26. (S.O. Force H. Force H. 1559A/25). See Mediterranean.

Cancel my 1903/22nd and 2142/24th. TACTICIAN TACTICIAN delayed with defects. delayed. (F.O. Gib. 1701/25 to Capt. S.8.)

My 1050/22nd not to NASTURTIUM. (N.T. in W.R.). Only DOMBY and BARON NAPIER are sailing to R/V at 2000A/25th. (2) H.M.S. VANOC and NASTURTIUM are to escort them to Gibraltar. (3) HAARLEM is to remain (on patrol?) until further orders. H.M.S. VANOC acknowledge forthwith. (F.O.C. Gib. 1733A/25 to VANOC, NASTURTIUM, HAARLEM.) See also 2301/25. VANOC, NASTURTIUM, HAARLEM.

N.O.I.C. Casablanca 1927Z/21st. Intended sailing of convoy on completion of defects to MATTOLE estimated to be 28th March. Convoy have instructions in accordance with A.M. 1824/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 1735A/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. Comnav, Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), Commandant 5th U.S. Naval District Hempton Boods. N.O.L.C. Casablance.) MATTOLE, 4 M/Vs.Hampton Roads, N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

G.U.S. 5.A.

Sailed (?05)00A 25th Casablanca section in Salled (FOS)CCA 25th Casablanca section in accordance with my 1303/22nd less GEORGE DAVIS. Mediterranean Section as follows. (list) escorted by (?T) F.67 (?GHERARDI) JEFFERS, MURPHY, CHAMPLIN. HOBBY. S. of A. 8½. Q.J.C.131. Amended CHOP first 10° W. 0400Z/26th March. Second 40° W. 1700Z/2nd April. Radio shift 20° W. 1700Z/28th March. E.T.A. New York C600Z/11th April. Radio Washington pass to Comservforlant.
(Comporseafron 1740Z/25 to Company Admin ate.) (Commorseafron 1740Z/25 to Commav, Admty. etc.)

Enemy A/C.	German aircraft sighted S.W. of Cape Roca 10 55 A today. A.O. (Naval Attache Lisbon 1804A/25 to S.O. (I) Gib. (R) Admty.)
ADVENTURE.	On crossing C42°. N. alter course for (F) omitting (E). (V.A. Gibraltar 1832A/25 to ADVENTURE (R) Admty, S.E.S.L. convoy.)

Movements...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

- Movements, WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND arrived 1945 G.M.T. Ponta 25th. Delgada. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 1907/25 to S.O. (I) Gib. (R) Admty.)
- M.K.S.10. Sailing destinations. Your 1153/24. (D.T.D. 1911A/25 to F.O. Gib.)
- M.K.F.11. Your 1808/24. EMPIRE PRIDE and CLAN FORBES to Mersey. (D.T.D. 1912A/25 to F.O. Gib.)
- Movements, Casablanca. Warships arrived Casablanca 25th March U.S.S. RHIND, P.C. 474, S.C. 525, Task forces escorting G.U.F.6 and G.U.S.5A departed. (S.N.O.C.A. 2015Z/25 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch, Admty. F.O.C. Gib.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals BUDE from G.U.F.6 U.S.S. AUK P.C. 472 French ship COMMANDANT DROGOU with two M/Vs. from S.L. 126, HUSSAR from G.U.F. 6, GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE ex X-K 3, VERITY from G.U.S.SA. Departures ST. NECTAN, KUMAON escort duties. Lisbon. U.S.S. AUK, MORENA, CHICADEE P.C. 472 to Casablanca (F.O. Gib. 2025A/25 to Admty. etc.

P.493/M P.49 course degrees 158 pass through 036°(UNRULY),
ST. NECTAN.51' N. CO9° (13'?) W. at 07CO/26th thence to 099°.Speed $7\frac{1}{2}$ diving by day 2 knots.
(F.O.C. Gib. 2254A/25 to ST. NECTAN.)

VANOC, NASTURTIUM, ST. NECTAN. VANOC, NASTURTIUM, 2 merchant ships sailed Lisbon 2000/25th coast wise to Gibraltar 9½ knots. ST. NECTAN and one merchant ship coast wise to Lisbon passing Meridian 8° W. at 130C/26th speed 9½ knots. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 2301/25 as amended 1542/26 to P.49 (UNRULY.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

COLTSFOOT.

Capt. (D)s. berth instruction 1300Z/23rd acknowledged. E.T.A. oiler 0930Z/25th. My P.C. and S. at 2359Z/24th 008° 23' N. 014° 01' W. 016° 11 knots. Weather report. (COLTSFOOT 0030Z/25 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Capt. (D) Freetown, ROCHESTER.)

ARMERIA.

Arrival 1535/24th. ARMERIA escorting. (S.O. (I) Freetown T.H.I. 0325/25 to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Movements, Dakar,

Arrived FANDANGO 0800. THEOMITOR escorted by M.L.287 0900. INTENT towing CONSBORO 1000 having failed to maintain speed of convoy S.R.3 owing to weather. (Comar, Dakar, 1052Z/25 to F.O.C. W.A., Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in.C. Med.)

Dispositions. Position at 20002/25th. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY with N.C.8 030° 00' S. Ol7° 00' E. to Capetown 8 knots. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY with C.D.11. 033° 45' S. 027° 10' E. to Durban 8 knots. GENISTA,
IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTIEN, with D.C. (16) 033° 45' S. 027° 20' E.to Capetown 8 knots. SUSSEX, FOXHOUND, RACEHORSE, QUILLIAM with W.S. 27, 031° 30' S. (?030°) 10' E. to Durban 12½ knots. ROTHERHAM, NIGELLA, SONDRA, VIVIANA with 0.N.27 032° 30' S. 035° 10' E. to C33° S. 036° E. 8 knots. FREESIA off Cape Inhaka. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 023° 20' S. 011° 30' W. to 008° S. 018° W. 16½ knots. (C. in C. S.A. 1110B/25.)

Situation at 2000Z/25th. CYCLAMEN, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, 2 M.Ls. with T.S. 33, 07.46 14.05 to Freetown 5½. CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT, DUNKERY, 2 M.Ls. with O.S.S.44, 003° 04' 011° 12' 091° 9. ARRAN off Marshall to Freetown 9. INKPEN off Marshall. 2 M.Ls off Monrovia. M.L.271 Marshall to Freetown.)

Marshall to Freetown.) (F.O.C.W.A. 1442Z/25 to C. in C. S.A.) Situation at 2001Z/25th.
ULSTER MONARCH escorted by REDOUBT 25.27 16.07 to 23.23 17.56 thence 192.15¹/₂. BIRDLIP about 21.05 18.00 180.8. BRIDGEWATER, BOREA3, THYME, BURDOCK escorting 3.R.3. 19.10 18.10 to 20.56.
17.66 thence 013° 7¹/₄. ORFASY escorting 15.18 (?17) (?08) to 15.
16 (?45) thence 012° 6¹/₂. KENYA about 13.01 19.01 to 10.30 19.90 thence to Freetown 18. BUTSER escorting 13.05 19.54 150.8.
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH QUADRANT escorting W.S.28. 13.24 18.01 to 13.05 18.02 to C11° 15' 017° (?42) thence 148° 13¹/₂. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES off Dakar 241° 19. French Cruiser
GLOIRE about 12.02 20.21 to Dakar. (?19). CARNARVON CASTLE GLOIRE about 12.02 20.21 to Dakar. (?19). 08.24.18 (?23) to Freetown 152. CARNARVON CASTLE

(F.O.C.W.A. 1531Z/25.)

/ASHANTI

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ASHANTI, EMPIRE MIGHT. P.C. and S. made good 026° 37' N. 015° 15' W. 216° 13 knots. EMPIRE MIGHT in tow. Fuel stocks remaining 260 tons hourly consumption at present speed 4 tons. EMPIRE MIGHT will require shore assistance to affect permanent repairs but

considers she will be able to proceed at $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots from a.m. tomorrow Wednesday. Propose to slip tow at this time and escort as far as Dakar where ASHANTI will require fuel. (ASHANTI 1201A/25 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., F.O.C. Gib., MALCOLM).

ARGO (S/M). Cancel my 1824/23rd. Sailing of ARGO escorted by FANDANGO deferred until 07002/27th. Further signal follows.

(Comar, Dakar, 1207Z/25 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)
My 1207/25th. Intend sailing French S/M ARGO escorted by
FANDANGO for Freetown 0700/27th S. of A. 9 knots (route).
2. Request British air cover throughout passage.
3. ARGO will proceed on surface throughout passage but may dive if attacked. 4. Request total bombing restrictions 20 miles ahead 30 miles astern and 10 miles either side estimated position.
5. In event of separation ARGO would continue on route independently. ARGO in any event of passing outside total bombing restriction zone would signal P.C. and S. initially. Subsequent signal would be made if passing outside modified total bombing restriction zone. 6. W/T. 7. Publications. 8. ARGO holds minor war vessels recognition signals but has no flare. (Comar, Dakar, 1833Z/25 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

MAURETANIA. Unless U-Boat situation alters intend to sail MAURETANIA routed through (A) 10° N. 20° W. (B) 15° N. 20° 30' W. (C) 26° N. 22° W.

Request onward route from 26° N, expected time of sailing 28th March, approx. speed 20 knots. (F.O.C.W.A. 1207Z/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. E.T.A. 1030Z/26th. (CARNARVON CASTLE 1345Z/25 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Brazilian Movement. Arrival 23rd departure 24th March Brazilian S/M chaser C.S.l. (R.O. Pernambuco 1350Z/25 to Admty.)

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. D. of S.Ts. 0231/23. As there are 600 Naval personnel and 1100 Army for East Africa arriving Durban in W.S.27 and as formation of C.M.41 cannot yet be forecast with any certainty it is intended to sail CHRISTIAN HUYGENS to Kilindini attached to W.S.27 (2) Ship car cleat had here to

provisions for Eastern Fleet. (3) On discharge at Kilindini ship will probably be required to come to Capetown to embark to capacity India personnel now in camp and proceed Durban to await formation of C.M.41 only 2 ships in sight at present for this

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. Contd.

convoy are ARONDA now at Durban and DUNERA at Beira. Last named will have to land Polish orphans at Port Elizabeth before returning to Durban for convoy. (P.S.T.C. Capetown 1410B/25 to C. in C. E.F. (R) D. of S.T. D.S.T.O. Durban. Com.I/C. Durban, D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)

Your 1558/19. SONTAY cannot sail 27 March. Sailing date will be dependent upon receipt of SONTAY. safe conduct from Italian authorities. Request urgent report of date when ship will be ready on completion of provision of distinctive markings and illumination. My 0459/20 para 1 (c) refers. (D.S.T. 1457A/25 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

CHARON.

E.T.A.My 1100/26th. (CHARON 1500Z/25 to R.N.O. Lagos.)

DUMANA, F/B depot ship, Banana.

A.M. 1216/24/2 (?1250/24/2 intended, re Air Ministry proposing DUMANA be berthed in Banana Creek as flying boat depot ship. Draughts of Congo and ship required.) and P.S.T.O. India 1016/16/3 to F.O.C. W.Af. Following information from Director of Navigation Congo River. (details.)

Irom Director of Navigation Congo River. (details. In order to lighten ship enabling her to cross Bar tugs could off load personnel stores and equipment in main River and transport to Banana. 2. Request DUMANA may be sailed for Lagos (Nigeria) to embark personnel and stores of 270 Squadron and thence to Pointe Noire where necessary arrangements can be made for berthing etc. before proceeding to Banana. (F.O.C.W.A. 1510Z/25 to Admty. etc.) Reply: B.N.L.O.Pointe Noire, 1015A/27.

U-Boat.

Admiralty U-Boat dispositions indicate 1 German West of Madeira on 21st March southbound. (F.O.C.W.A. 1520Z/25 to BIRDLIP, REDOUBT (R) ORFASY.)

SAUCY.

Arrival 25th U.S. Corvette SAUCY. (R.O. Para. 1521/25 to Admty. (R) B.N. S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

TABOR. (sunk 9 March.) My 0026/18th (?March). Master of TABCOM (?TABOR) states U-Boat about 250/300 feet long, painted light grey, stream lined C/T with periscope, lying in horizontal position, one 4 inch and one A/A gun. 2. Vessel hit by 2 torpedoes and later sunk at 1230C/9th after 100 shells had been fired by U-Boat. (C. in C. S.A. 1536/25 to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

LA GRACIEUSE. Arrival 1730/24th. French ship LA GRACIEUSE escorting. (S.O. (I) Freetown 16312/25 to Admty. etc.)

GABON.

My 1917/24th, GABON did not sail. (S.O. (I) Freetown 16322/25 to Admty. etc.)

SUSSEXYour 1551C/24th. (N.T. in W.R.) E.T.A. 0900BW.S.27.tomorrow Friday.Is it intended SUSSEX should(Durbanenter ahead of convoy?Portion).(SUSSEX 1648Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

MALCOLM,
WOLVERINE,Arrived MALCOLM and WOLVERINE 1400, sailedWOLVERINE,1810Z/25th to rejoin W.S.28.W.S.28.(Comar, Dakar, 1811Z/25 to R.A.W.A.F. Admty,
QUADRANT, Capt. (D) Freetown.)

Convoy S.R.3. INTENT with CONSBRO in tow unable to maintain speed of convoy and returned to Dakar. My 15322/20th refers. (F.O.W.A. 18122/25 to Admty. (R) Comar, Dakar, etc.)

Movements, Dakar. Sailed ORFASY escorting OUED FEZ 14002/25th. Sailed F. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES. (Comar, Dakar 18562/25 to F.O.C. W.A. Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

COLTSFOOT. Arrival 0938/25th March. (S.O. (I) Freetown 2055Z/25 to Admty. etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

My 1503/24th. For position 75 read 74 in all M.K.F.11. cases. (C. in C.Med. 0005A/25.) Former amended.

Aircraft reports one unidentified ship apparently stationary in 039° 35' N. 014° 35' headed either North or South at 2103A/24th. Enemy M/V. (Capt. S.10 0140A/25 to TORBAY, P.247 (SARACEN) (R) Capt. S.8.)

ORMONDE BANFORA and escorts sailed. Code word K.M.F.11X. "Rumford." (N.O.I.C. Bougie 0635A/25 to F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Bone, H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Philippeville, C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. Connav.) K.M.F.11X arrived. (S.O.I.S. 1801A/25 to A.I.G. 259.)

Movements, Suez.

Departures: 0925/24th March UTSIRE (Nr.) Canal E.T.A 24/3, not routed. 1107/24 ARUNDEL CASTLE, Aden, E.T.A. 27/3. knots 18¹/₂, days 29, 2500 tons F.O., Coastal (22) (23) 0.S. 532 H.F.

1304/24 MALOJA, Aden. E.T.A. 28/3, knots 15, days 21, 650 tons F.O.Coastal (22) (23) O.S. 488. O510/25 TRIPOLITANIA ?towed by H.M.Tug HENRIETTA MOLLER Canal E.T.A. 25/6, not routed. (N.C.S.O. Suez 0853B/25 to Admty. (R) Cdre. Aden. etc.)

Movements. Alexandria. Arrivals 24th March PRIMULA, SEAHAM, HURWORTH, EASTON. Departures 24th March, WOLBOROUGH, M.Ls. 354, 357, NUBIAN, JAVELIN, ISIS, JERVIS, KELVIN Greek destroyer SPETSAI, Greek destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 0910B/25 to Admty. C..in C.Levant.)

K.M.S.11.

Sail as in my 1331/23rd less ZENA. ORPHEUS for Algiers. ALPERA and PENSHURST now for ORPHEUS now Philippeville.

(Com. N.O.B. Oran 0917A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Philippeville, F.O.I.S. Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers. Connav.)

K.M.S.ll., amend destination GENERTON to Algiers.
(C. in C.Med. 1445A/25 to ANTELOPE, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.ll. (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, S.O.I.S. Admty.)

K.M.S.11. My 0331/23rd (1331/23 intend) and my 0917/25th. VILLE DE BOUGIE did not sail. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1255A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C.

Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Philippeville, S.O.I.S. Connav, Admty.)

/K.M.S.11...

1.0.05

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

K.M.S.ll. (Contd.) K.M.S.ll, arrived. ST. CLEARS, BOOKER. T. WASHINGTON, TEMPLE INN, EMPIRE NED. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1605A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.Gib. Connav, Admty.)

Movements, Beirut. 24th March departures ISLAY G.S. IERAX, Greek S/M KATSONIS. (S.O.(I) Beirut 1005/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

Gibraltar W/T. F.O.C.Gibraltar 1136/24th (landslide at Gibraltar) Until repair makes Gibraltar W/T really reliable consider Gibraltar N.D. must be omitted from Naval W/T organisation. 2. Request following A.Z., A.K., A.L. message be issued at once. (see 2044A/25.) 3. F.O.C.Gibraltar 1136/24th (landslide at Gibraltar)

3. F.O.C.Gibraltar is requested to institute trial with Algiers when lines are restored. Further signal will then be made by C. in C.Med.

(C. in C.Med. 1027A/25 to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. F.O.C.W.A.)
Request no action on my 1027/25.
(C. in C.Med. 2044A/25 to Admty.)

TASSOS
(Greek.)My 1126C/23. TASSOS sailed 0730 G.M.T. Thursday
March 25th.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1035C/25 to C. in C.Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I.)

UNBENDING. P.37 (UNBENDING) leaves Malta 1500A/25th to patrol in area West of Ol2° E. and between lat. of O35° 45' and O37° O5' routed between Lampedusa and Linosa. (Capt. S.10, 1108A/25 to 10th S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1., P.228 (SPLENDID).) Departure S/M P.37. (V.A.Malta 1536A/25 to Admty. etc.)

SPLENDID. Capt. S.8 1224/24th. Onward route through position Q. and R. thence through 035° 38' 014° 24' to R/V with sweepers at 0830A/28th at end of Malta

searched channel. You should not approach within 20 miles of Malta before 0400A/28th. If no sweepers are at R/V proceed into harbour unescorted. Your attention is called to my 1108/25th. (Capt. S.10 1115A/25 to P.228 (SPLENDID) (R) S/Ms on patrol, Capt. S. 8., Capt. S.1., C. in C.Med.)

French Warships (German Control.) TACTICIAN. From P.R.U. report it appears probable that certain French Cruisers and Destroyers are now fit for sea passage. French warships may therefore be met in your area and are to be treated as hostile.
(S.8 1130A/25 to P.314 (TACTICIAN) (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.O.(S) Gibraltar.)

1906

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNITED. SARACEN, UNRIVALLED, UNSEEN.

P.44 (UNITED) operating in zone A. and P. 247 (SARACEN) zone D. from 0500/26th. P.45 (UNRIVALLED and P.51 (UNSEEN) may withdraw when necessary into zone E. (Capt. S.8 1152A/25 to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

U SHAKEN, SEADOG.

UNSHAKEN (P.54), at present temporarily loaned to 10th Submarine Flotilla, is due to leave for U.K. early May. As U-Class are more suitable for operations in Mediterranean intend that she should remain on that station and to replace her in home flotillas by SEADOG (P.216) who would have been operationally available in Med. mid May. (F.O.S. 1207A/25 to Admty.)

?SARACEN, SAFARI.

After passing 10° E. at about 0330/27 proceed to operate in zone J. until relieved by P.211 (SAFARI) about 30th. Do not concentrate your patrol off Cagliari. (Capt. S. 8 1320A/25 to P.47 (P.247- SARACEN-intended) (R) 8th S.F. Capt. S.10, C. in C.Med.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 111 Part 1. A.651. 23rd March. 23 B.24s despatched to bomb railway ferry terminus Messina. 2 aircraft returned early. Remainder attacked objective, bombs bursting on Northern arm of harbour near workshops and along railway sidings South of Harbour. Fires started both areas.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1331Z/25.) Part 2 my A.651. 22 B.24s despatched to bomb railway-ferry terminus Messina. 3 returned early owing mechanical troubles. 19 B.24s bombed Messina, scoring hits on northern arm of harbour near Naval fuel tanks, and along railway yards south of ferry terminus, fires and smoke seen at fuel tanks. Whole area of railway yards reported on fire and smoking. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1343Z/25.)

Movements, Malta.

Sailed PAKENHAM, PALADIN, QUEEN OLGA, with BECKENHAM and ERINNA. (V.A.Malta 1453A/25 to Admty. etc.)

HIGHLAND

Your 1750/23. As (i) we are anxious to clear CHIEFTAIN, DOMINION WEST POINT. WEST POINT. German P.O.W. as soon as possible from Middle East and (ii) there are adequate alternative means for return to U.K. of Service personnel, requested you will (a) use HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN solely for P.O.W. plus appropriate guard for passage to Durban for transhipment to DOMINION MONARCH and (b) embark Service personnel at present intended for HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN if possible in other ships to South Africa. If this is impracticable they should

ships to South Africa. If this is impracticable they should

/be...

1:0.07

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

be embarked in WEST POINT. 2. Information here is that total boatage is 1012, 75% of this less crew leaves accommodation for 572 passengers. (D.S.T. 1455A/25 to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. P.S.T.O. Bombay, S.S.T.O. Capetown.) Boatage 829, see P.S.T.O.M.E., 1329B/26.
My 1025/22. Operation M.W. 23. Total General Cargo of 20,000 tons completed discharge at 1800/24. (V.A.Malta 1537A/25 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)
My 0954/24th. Sailing of REGENT delayed about 2 days, further signal will be made. (Capt. S.8 1540A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. S.10, Capt. S.1, C. in C.Levant, S.8, Cdre. Algiers.)
My 1735A/24th March, (sailing of Force H deferred because of A/S hunt by destroyers.) E.T.A. at gate 1600A/26th March. Is Tug ROLLICKER available. (S.O.Force H. 1559A/25 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
To C.G. 8th Air Force. From Adv. Hq. N.A.A.F. From Spaatz, For Eaker. 1. Escorted by 20 P.38s, 21 B.17s attacked Ferryville Shipping. Entire dock area well covered. One large explosion, several large fires resulted. One medium and two small merchant ed hit. Bombers weakly attacked over target. e (Constantine) 1600Z/25 to Etousa.)
Intend to sail. (List.) (S.O.I.S. 1626A/25 to F.O.I.C. Oran, etc.)
M.K.S.10. Intend sailing (?ESSO BAYWAY) for Gibraltar. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1631A/25 to C. in C.Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C.Gibraltar, Connav, Admty.) M.K.S.10. List and destinations. (Cdre. Algiers 1756A/25 to Admty.) 1000A/25th. 4. 8 knots. 5. 6. and 8. As in 1635/19th. 15. X.H. Codeword "Riband."

/Passenger...

1008

25.3.1943. Thursday.

10

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Your 1218/23rd March approved. (D.O.D.(F) 1635A/25 to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A.) Passenger Numbers.

Your 2030/21st March to C. in C.E.F. Following HIGHLAND is repetition of relevant para. of A.M. 1140/16th CHIEFTAIN, March. Passenger A. 15 knots and over but less than 20 knots numbers.

unescorted.

B. Passenger certificate or 75% of boat capacity whichever is greater.

C. 250 of each service. Total U.S. Service Personnel not to exceed 250. (D.O.D.(F) 1636A/25 to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.R.S.E

Situation.

Position 25/3 at 1700 hours. 1. Sea Transport (A) CAIRO CITY sailed for Suez 23/3 (e) Quay berth. (A) FRAUENFELS raised prize now EMPIRE NIGER

(British) (b) preparing for towing. Shifted berth ready for ballasting.

(c) 30/3. (e) Quay berth.
(A) NAWAB (British) arrived 22/3 sailed for Suez 23/3.
(b) Discharged 35 tons stores. (e) Quay berth.

2. Commercial and U.S.A.

(A) FRANK B. KELLOG (U.S.A.) sailed for Suez 25/3.
(b) loaded 341 tons completed 24/3 lashing completed 25/3.
Embarked 11. (e) Quay berth.

3. Tankers.

(A) NORAVIND (Norwegian) sailed for Aden 23/3. (b) Waited call
up. (A) BRITISH POWER (British) sailed for Aden 23/3.
(b) Waited call up (A) BRITISH POWER (British) sailed for Aden 23/3.
(c) A) DROMUS (British) sailed for Aden 23/3. (c) Anchored.
(S.T.O. Massawa 1711C/25 to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.
M.W.T.M.E. G.H.Q.M.E. A.D.P. Egypt.)

Movements, Port Said.	25th March Port Said arrivals HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS, SPETSAI, COUNDOURIOTIS, WOLBOROUGH. Departures GRAF VAN VLAANDEREEN, AETOS, CUMBRAE, HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 1754B/25 to Admty. etc.)
Movements,	Arrived WHEATLAND, TRITON, HENGIST, ATHERSTONE,

Algiers. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, FELIXSTOWE, MAN O' WAR, French Chasseur 3, ENGAGEANTE. Departures M.M.S. 134, 88? M.L. 238, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, FELIXSTOWE, MAN O' WAR, WREN, CYGNET, WOODPECKER, KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, L.C.I.(L) 102, 177, 99, French S/M CASABIANCA, Chasseur 3. (Cdre. Algiers 2012A/25 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

1009

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Oran. Arrivals today. H.M.T. EMPIRE NED. 2. Departures NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, CARLISLE, FARNDALE, HAYDON, TARTAR, ILEX, LOYAL, CALPE, WHADDON, PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, ESKIMO. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 2013/25 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Departures MISOA, BACHAQUERO, WILTON, ROTHESAY, Philippeville. BRIXHAM. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2026A/25 to Admty.)

Movements, Bone. Bone. Bone arrivals OAKLEY, ZETLAND, LAMERTON, EGGESFORD, BADSWORTH. (S.O.I.S. 2121A/25 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

TACTICIAN. F.O.C.Gibraltar 1903/22nd. Sailing of P.314 (TACTICIAN) postponed until about 28th March. (Capt. S. 8 2134A/25 to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.O.Force H, S.O. S/M Gibraltar.)

Malta Air Report. Damage at Palermo. A.I. 511 25th March C.S.R. Night 24/25 March. Successful intruder operations by 6 Mosquitoes over Sicily and Southern Italy. (details.) 5 Wellingtons, 4 Beauforts and 1 Albacore R.N.A.S. made armed searches for enemy shipping east of Sardinia and in Naples and Palermo areas. Owing to A.S.V. jamming and poor visibility no

significant sighting was made. Enemy Air Activity. Night 24/25th March. 2 Beaufighters were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. Day 25th March increase in enemy air activity 0525 hrs. 8 Spitfires patrolled north of Malta for raids which turned back to Sicily. 0745 hrs. 15 plus Me. 109s approached Malta at great height and were intercepted by 10 Spitfires north of the Island. 1 Me. 109 was destroyed and 1 Spitfire was lost but pilot was rescued by R.A.F. launch. 1040 hrs. 18 plus Me. 109s approached at extreme height. 16 Spitfires were despatched to intercept but enemy remained at extreme height and then turned back. (W.D.Note- 2 raiders in sea, see 2055Z/26.) 12 other Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching the? Island. R/C. Day 24th March. Palermo. Extensive damage has resulted from recent raid by 9th Bomber Command. An M/V 3/4000 carrying deck cargo of M/T has been sunk at its moorings and the remains of another M/V 1/2000 which was last seen loading deck cargo on 22nd March are lying in a gap 350 feet wide and 150 feet deep which has been blown in the side of Piave Pier. A small M/V 1000 and a coaster has been sunk and 2 small vessels blown bodily on to the S.Lucia Pier. Other coasters present on 22nd March alongside Piave Pier cannot be accounted for and if they had not departed before the raid would have undoubtedly have been sunk

1010

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Damage at Palermo. (Contd.) by the explosion. 1 F-Boat has been badly damaged and the M/V 5/6000 which was seen loading on 22nd March also appears damaged as well as a D/R which arrived between 22 and 24th March. Damage to Piave Pier is such that it has been rendered almost useless for loading of ships while a building on S. Lucia Pier and 2 oil tanks on Calata Quattreresti have been destroyed.

Other buildings including the seaplane hangar and dockyard workshops have been damaged. (A.H.Q. Malta 2202Z/25.)

Movements Tobruk. Arrived SOUTHERN MAID, sailed SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2203B/25 to Admty. etc.)

WARNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons cutside Eritish or Allied Government Services.

MESSAGE

MOST SECRET

No T.O.O.

From Algiers.

Date 25/3/43 Recd. 0223Z

Junisia -

Situation Report.

IDLUA

IN

Cypher

Addressed Usfor: Mideast; Britman Washington; Armindia Delhi; P.A.I.C.; Landforces Melbourne; Dechief Pretoria; Dechief Capetown; Force Nairobi: Defender Wellington; H.M. Ambassador Madrid (pass copy to U.S. Ambassador Madrid), Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak)-Paraphrased text transmitted by Foreign Office), Resident Minister Achimota -Paraphrased toxt transmitted by Colonial Office.

No.8664 LINREP No.31 dated 23rd March 1943. U.S. 248.

SUMMARY OF OFERATIONS 18th to 21st March 1943.

1. Eighth Army

Frecoded by intensive air operations throughout 20th March, the <u>8th Army attacked the Mareth positions</u> during the night 20/21. On the Northern flank between the ceast and the main read our preliminary objectives were captured and a bridgehead established in spite of stiff opposition. New Zealand Force proceeding round enemy's right flank attacked enemy positions 10 miles S.W. of El Hamma during the night 21/22 March. After heavy fighting the position was captured and gaps in minefields and crossings over anti-tank ditches were completed. Many prisoners have been captured and operations are proceeding satisfactorily.

2. <u>Two Corps</u>

Operations were continued with the object of drawing German forces from the Maroth front and establishing a dump to supply 8th Army in their advance. Southeast of Gafsa American infantry occupied El Guettar on 18th March and by 21st were holding a position extending 10 miles

/ Southwards

ACLOST

Southwards from Bou Hamran. Throughout the period French forces under General Boissau co-operated on the right flank and patrols advanced along the North of the Chott Djerid. Very bad weather delayed the initial concentration of American Armoured Forces Northeast of Gafsa, but it was completed without adverse effect on the operations. Sened Station and Maknassy were occupied on 21st and in the early morning of 22nd March respectively. Patrols are pushing Eastwards from Maknassy. About 1400 prisoners were captured during these operations.

- 2 -

3. First Army

Our withdrawal to positions covering Djebel Abiod was completed on 19th March. On 21st the enemy occupied Nefsa Station, 2 miles North of Djebel Abiod. Patrol activity has continued over the rest of the front.

4. Naval

One of our submarines has returned from a successful patrol off the South of France during which a 2,000 ton ship, a tug and sailing vessel were sunk.

5. Air

Cperations were severely curtailed on 18th and 19th owing to bad weather. On 20th a heavy air offensive was opened by the Western Desert Air Forces as a prolude to the attack of the 8th Army. This was supported by both the Tactical and Strategical Air Forces based in Algeria and Tunisia. Many bombing attacks were made on enemy landing grounds Northwest of Gabos and on enemy land forces in the Maroth area. A successful attack was made on shipping between Sicily and Tunisia and also on the docks at Ferryville, near Bizerta.

6. Liaison

There is reason to believe that de Gaulle may not arrive as soon as was first expected. General Catroux is expected in Algiers on the 25th.

No T.O.O.

/ Circulation

1010B

MOST SECRET

- 3 -

Circulation -Brigadier Jacob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord C.6 Telegrams, War Office A.M.C.S.(C) Mr. Strang Mr. Radcliffe

Received in War Registry 0040/26.

lst Lord lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. 4th S.L. 5th S.L. D.C.N.A.E. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(F)(2) A.C.N.S.(UF)(2) A.C.N.S.(W) Upper War Room Sec. P.A.S.(S) D.O.D.(F)(2) D.O.D.(F)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.O.D.(E)(2) D.

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1011

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Arrival 03222/25th GAWLER escorting V.S.I.S. TAIPING. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0330Z/25 to Admty.)

Arrival SUTLEJ.

(S.O.I. Bombay 06342/25 to Admty.)

HAWKINS arrived.

(F.O.E. Africa 0851Z/25th to Admty.)

11462/25th H.M. Trawler JAN DE WAELE. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 11492/25 to Admty.)

Arrival M.M.S. 130.

(N.O.I.C. Madras 1755/25 to Admty.)

Diego Suarez / A.M. 1142/23 (N.T. in W.D.) After BRITISH Docking facilities. New Caisson will have been completed and dock will be in full working order. 2. Most desirable that a full docking programme is arranged as I anticipate that French Authorities will press for docking of French S/M BEVEZIERS and D'ENTRECASTREUX if salvage operations are successful. 3. It is my intention only to admit these ships for the necessary underwater examination and essential temporary repairs docking programme being adjusted accordingly otherwise endless delays will result. 4. I have already informed High Commissioner orally that BEVEZIERS will probably have to be towed to a Union Port for major refit and have information that an ocean going Tug AMIRAIN BOUVET is available at Reunion for this work. BOUVET is available at Reunion for this work. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez C741Z/25 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F Com.I.C. Durban.) Amended Kilindini C.C.O. 0803Z/27 to Admty.

Convoys, Escorts.

Intentions for escort PUNJAB and RAJPUTANA P.B.33. LAUNCESTON P.A. 31 sailing 08002/29th ocean route No.2. (?ALMOUTH) and ASTER P.B.34 BATHURST and CESSNOCK P.A. 32 sail 06002/4th April ocean route No.1. P.A. 32 may sail in 2 parts depending on date ships become available. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0748Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C.E.F. etc.) Amended see S.N.O. Persian Gulf 06442/26.

B.P. 75.

Following additional move has been arranged. My 1201/10th refers. B.P.75. One personnel ship RAJULA. Sailing 2nd April. (P.S.T.O. India 11592/25 to C. in C. E.F.)

My 1831/17. Pacific. Changes in disposition of U.S. Forces. HELENA at Sydney. COPAHEE and SAN FRANCISCO in South Pacific. ALTAMAHA at Dispositions. Midway. NEW MEXICO, NEW ORLEANS and SANTA FE at Pearl Harbour. RALEIGH at Seattle. IDAHO and LONG ISLAND at San Diego. NASSAU and CONCORD at sea. (D.O.D. (F) 1221A/25 to C. in C. E.F.)

JAN DE WAELE.

Sailed B.S. JAN DE WAELE p.m. Thursday 25th in accordance with F.O. Ceylon's 0700Z/22nd and 0440Z/23rd and my 1440Z/22nd.

1012

25.3.1943 Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

JAN DE WAELE. Contd. 2. E.T.A. Seychelles 0500Z/lst April. Speed 7 knots. 4. Requirements as in my 1440Z/22nd. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1351Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Seychelles (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Ceylon, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

Passengers. Numbers.

The relaxations quoted in East Indies message No. 90C (20th March) (No.190C intended) are applicable to vessels proceeding to Red Sea or Australia, but not to vessels proceeding into the South Atlantic Station from or through East Indies Station.

(C. in C. E.F. 1429Z/25 to East Indies Station (196C) (R) C. in C. Levant.)See C. in C.E.F.0754Z/30 C. in C. S.A. 1132/24th. Request your comments. (D.O.D. (F) 1638A/25 to C. in C. E.F.(R)C. in C. S.A.)

China.

?KOLA

/ Your 0426A/24. Originated by W.R. requesting sunk 17th Feb. repetition of Moscow's 1744C/23, which was received undecypherable. Reply requested Begins: Admiralty 263. From 30 Mission. Tass telegram from Vladivostock. Published Pravda yesterday and Isvestia today refers to torpedoing of Soviet S.3.S. KOLAMK (?KOLA) in Sea of Japan 17 Feb. It says Japanese press 18 March quoted 4 survivors picked up by Japanese Warship as saying ship was sunk by American submarine. Tass affirms this statement of

survivors deserves no trust whatsoever. (Moscow 1647C/25 to Admty. C.C.O.)

25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONOWAI, Fitting as British Troopship.

Your 1509/22. We are most anxious that MONOWAI should be fitted as a British troopship for service either in the North Atlantic or in the W.S. run. Our need which is always great has been increased by (a) the recent loss of EMPRESS OF CANADA and WINDSOR CASTLE and (b)

continually increasing requirements. (2) We think the technical difficulties such as condition of boilers and stability can be overcome provided we can have her for fitting in U.K. where she was built. (3) Request you press our case most strongly. (D. of S.T., 0219A/25 to B.A.D., (R) N.Z.N.B.)

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0255/25, 1501/25, 1502/25, U.S. 1546/25, 1547/25, 1548/25, 2259/25) Submarine notice. S/M Estimate 25th March.

NIAGARA.

My 1830Z/24th. Am delayed by ice and adverse weather. Estimate 6 hours late. HALIFAX, LETHBRIDGE in company FREDERICTON, GRANDMERE proceeding independently. (NIAGARA, 04292/25 to F.O.C. N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, N.F.)

Movements.

San Francisco arrived (?24th) ATHENE. (N.S.H.Q., 0453Z/25 to Admty.) New York departure 24th to Bermuda BAZELEY. (N.S.H.Q. 0720Z/25 to Admty.) Arrived 24th H.M.C.S. Q.065. (R.O. Cayman Islands, 0905/25)

Arrival Port Limon 24th U.S. M/S CATBIRD.

(R.O.Port Limon, 1630/25 to Admty.) San Francisco arrival March 23rd PERIDA. Departure March 24th MORMACKEA for Brisbane, both U.S. Army Transport. (N.S.H.Q. 2057Z/25 to Admty.)

Movements Summary 1800 G.M.T.	Ship. Position WESTON Arriving FOLKESTONE Ponta De	5	Course. 054	Speed. 13 1
25th.	TOTLAND 22 L.C.I.(L)s 27° N.	40° W.	090°	10
	C.U.1 GORLESTON) 32 ¹ / ₂ °N.	53 ¹ °W.	054°	14
	ATTACKER) ARETHUSA 28° N. SS.MONTEREY 561 I SS.ANDES 292°N.	39° ₩.	293° 280° 108°	15 20 19
	CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock	432°W.	264°	5
	A.T.39 39 ¹ °N. (D.O.D.(F),1120Z/25	55½°₩.	078° Comnave	19kts. u)

North / ...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

North Atlantic Trade Convoys and Escorts, Command.

Cominch sends: Gate not yet fixed for transferring command from C.T.F.24 to Canadian C. in C. Until change of command is effected responsibility for North Atlantic trade convoys and escorts remains with C. in C. Lant to extent previously in effect. Cominch has assumed B.X. convoys part of transatlantic system and N.S.H.Q. has expressed no objection. Convoy plan as specified in A.C.C.2 is in effect and N.S.H.Q. 21472/23* has been forwarded to you as suggested measure for implementing

that plan. Advise action you intend to take.
(Cominch, 1251/25 to Action C. in C. Lant (R) C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q.
C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F.)* Re strength of Comtask Group Your 1251/25. C.T.F.24 is directed herein to comply as practicable N.S.H.Q. request concerning transfer Destroyers contained N.S.H.Q. 2147Z/25. Responsibility and control North Atlantic Trade Convoys Western Atlantic will be retained by C.T.F. 24 until further notice.

C.T.F.24 assume B.X. convoys part of Trans Atlantic system and allocate escorts therefore to extent compatible with transfer of destroyers above.

(C. in C. Lant, 2230Z/25 to Cominch (R) C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A.)

of Freetown, American withdrawal.

Development / Following from Chiefs of Staff, No.C.O.S.(W) 545. Reference J.S.M.808 (2001/13) (1) We agree with your para. 4 i.e. that reasons for Americans' decision is probably not so much their views that development of Freetown is no longer necessary (they do not appear to have answered our arguments on this point) as the

pressing need for equipment and personnel elsewhere. (2) We cannot agree to suggestion that delays cited in C.C.S.186/1 indicate any change of attitude on our part nor do we accept, pending further enquiries, the suggestion that there have been any avoidable delays on our side. Previous allegations of this nature have been refuted and to base any arguments on new ones without giving us opportunity to enquire into them is unreasonable (3) It appears however that we must accept the decision as final and carry out work as best we can ourselves to enable Freetown to take its vital place in fighting the Battle of the Atlantic. (4) Provision of American generators is most important and we hope you will be able to secure these. Operation of repair base will otherwise be seriously delayed and full use of dock and workshops rendered impossible for some time. (5) We hope also that you will be able to persuade Navy Department not to withdraw the whole contingent so precipitately as to waste effort already expended. For instance, it is possible that leaving enough men to complete deep water quay expeditiously would now produce more than proportionate return for shipment of equipment and work done. Hargreaves, who is visiting Washington, could advise. (Britman, Washington, 1253Z/25 to Air Min.)

T.A.38. / ...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

T.A.38. (QUEEN Halifax arrived 0420Z/25 (N.S.H.Q. 1344Z/25 to D. of S.T.)

ELIZABETH)

BOSON KINMAIRA overdue.

BOSON KINNAIRA ex O.N.S.169 for San Pedro Deymacoris is overdue. (N.S.H.Q. 1429Z/25 to Admty.)

TENACITY, C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.4 1252/25th (N.T. in W.D.) TENACITY unescorted sailing St. Johns N.F. 2030/25th to assistance of BARON BELHAVEN. (F.O.N.F., 1535Z/25 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Comtask 24, Admty, C.T.G.24.7 C. in C. W.A. C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. EGLANTINE, VERVAIN C.M.O.E.U. BARON BELHAVEN broken down. 24.1.4.)

Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. Johns 1949/25 to assistance of BARON BELHAVEN broken down in 55° 20' N. 45° 10' W.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, 2112Z/25 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

MOHAWK.

This is Base "0" 1715/24 addressed to all commands concerned with submarines reports in the Atlantic North of 40° N. and West of 26° W. less Eastern Sea Frontier: E.T.A. MOHAWK base ("0" 1900Z) March 24. (Comnaveu, 1541/25 to Admty.) Note: Portion in brackets slightly garbled.

N.S.H.Q. concurs with F.O.N.F's 1420/24 request NASTURTIUM. confirmation that NASTURTIUM will be available confirmation that NASTORTIUM will be available to relieve CELANDINE in Chapfour Group in time to escort 0.N.177 on the 6th April.
(2) Admiralty's 1745/27 Feb. refers.
(N.S.H.Q.1708Z/25 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F.
Commordore Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7, CELANDINE, NASTURTIUM)

Sailed B.Y.M.S. 15 and 16 at 1700Z/25 through 47° 00' N. 52° 00' W. 46° 00' N 47° 00' W. B.Y.M.S. 15 and avoid ice thence Great Circle to Londonderry. (F.O.N.F., 1727Z/25 to Admty.) 16.

P.553.

C.O.A.C's 2154/24 is passed for information. (2) Request you will signal direct to C.O.A.C. whether or not you wish P.555 to remain at Halifax until Gyro repairs have been satisfactor-(3) Anticipated date of completion is 19th ily completed. of April.

(N.S.H.Q., 1731Z/25 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. F.O.S., B.A.D., C.O.A.C., Capt. D. Halifax.)

T.U.24.4.1/ ...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

T.U.24.4.1. Convoy S.C.123.

This is a recypherment of my 1447Z/25th (N.T. in W.R.). Unless otherwise directed by originator T.U.24.4.1 continue with S.C.125 to prudent limit of endurance then return Argentia at best speed furnishing all practicable air coverage to convoys in vicinity of return route. (C.T.24., 1745Z/25 to BOGUE (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C. W.A., Cominch C. & R, C.M.O. E.T.U.24.1.16. U.S.D. BELKNAP, G.E.BADGER.)

A.F.D.24,

Trinidad departure 25th.

A.F.D.24, Tugs and Escorts.
Trinidad departure 25th. (A.F.D.24) with tugs FRISKY, ORIANA, ZWARTE ZEE escorted by MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, YESTOR, MORRIS DANCE. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 1802Q/25 to S.B.N.O.W.At(R)Admty B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., F.O.C. W.Af. S.O.(I) Kingston)
Convoy sailing part 1 (Sailing telegram)
A. A.F.D.(?24) towed by H.M. R.T. FRISKY and D.R.T. ZWARTE ZEE to Freetown. B. B.25 22 off Boca de Navios knots 6.5 E.T.A.
Point J 1100/5th April "Chop" 2100/14th Freetown April 25rd.
C. Route Boca de Navios. (e) 10.47 N. 61.36 W. (f) 10.58 60.40
(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.
E. MILFORD with minelayer TAMARISK, WOODRUFF, MORRIS DANCE and YESTOR the latter 2 to be detached by escort Commander so as to arrive off Salinas daylight April 2nd. Coaling at Belem and rejoin Convoy at Point J. ALCANTARA with AMARANTHUS expect depart Trinidad April 1st to join convoy at point J. J. "Chop" G. to H 15002/2nd April. "Chop" F and H to I 21002/14th April. 2100Z/14th April.

(P.D. Port of Spain, 2218/25 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. Abdacom, Cdr. Caribbean S.F., C. in C. A.F., W.L.E.S.T.U. 24.18.2. S.B.N.O. W.A. Com. 4th Fleet U.S. A/C.T. "Thrush".)

TRACKER.

TRACKER departure, 2330 G.M.T. 25th for Norfolk (U.R.) E.T.A. Cape Henry 1800 G.M.T. 31st (B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 1836R/25 to Admty, S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D., N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

L.C.I(L)'s Command.

Your 1556Z/24th Feb. The following officers for Ocean Command of L.C.I.(L) should arrive U.S.A. as follows: (A) 25th March, (B) 5th April, (C) Mid April. (2) It is presumed that Flight which has just

left U.S.A. has South African Ocean C.O.'s. Your 2242Z/3 and my 2202A/10 refer. (5 - 6) Arrangements for flights leaving U.S.A. end March to early May. (7) Owing to grave shortage of officers, it is not possible to provide Ocean C.O's for more than two thirds of the craft in each flight. (8) Ref. Para. 5. The other two Commanders should be sent to U.K. as soon as they are no longer required for training purposes in U.S.A.

(N.A. 2nd S.L., 1857A/25 to B.A.M.R.)

Movements / ...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies, (Contd.)

Movements,Bermuda arrivals U.S.S. ARIEL and HOWARD.Bermuda.(S.B.N.O. W.At. 1909P/25 to Admty.)

T.F.69. Convoys. U.G.S.7, G.U.S.6A. Converse Convoys. Convoys. Convoys. Convoys. Convoys. Constituted: STEVENSON, STOCKTON, CLAXTON, FOOTE, RINGGOLD, SCHROEDER, CHARLES, AUSBURN, SPENCE and ENOREE. Convoy U.G.S.7 ready sail New York 29th for Casablance and other North African ports. Follow route prescribed by Cominch (C. and R.). C. in C. Med. at 10° W. Converse of the stroyers at sea, use ENOREE.

operational control shifts from Cinclant to Admiralty; and to C. in C. Med. at 10° W. To fuel destroyers at sea, use ENOREE. When directed by the Commander, Moroccan Sea Frontier, return to New York escorting convoy G.U.S.6A in accordance with Admiralty routing. Convoy speed of advance will be maintained accordance with requirement that ships in both convoys be capable of nine knots sustained speed without smoking. (Comnaveu, 2036/25 to Admty.)

Shipping	Serials					torpedoed	20th	
	27° 35'							
	(Cominch	С.	& R	. 203	8/25)			

Convoys U.G.S.7 G.U.S.6A. delay in sailing. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet 0458/25th. Departure convoy U.G.S. 7 from New York delayed until April 1st. Authorized delay departure of G.U.S.6 A. from North Africa as necessary to permit escorts from U.G.S.7 to return with 6 A. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 2125/25 to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Admty. Cdr. U.S. N.F. in Europe. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15, C.T.F.69, C. in C. Med. Port Director New York, F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. A.F., Com. 5, Cdr. E.S. Frontier.)

Submarine attack and sighting summary. All times Zebra. Para. C. My 2135/25. U.S.S. SAUCY attacks sub sights 5 torpedoes 00° 20' N. 46° 48' W. 1100/22 to 1414/25. Para. D. Army plane makes Radar contact 55° 52' N. 75° 55' W. 0040/25. U.S.S. SYMBOL sights submarine submerged 40° 27' N. 49° 05' W. about 1635/25. U.S.C.G. MONOMOY makes Radar contact 38° 50' N. 50° 10' W. 2116/24. (Cominch, 2126/25 to Admty.)

H.J.42.

Departure MALPESQUE, VEGREVILLE escorting H.J.42. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 2150Z/25 to Admty.)

U/B. / ...

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

U-Boat.

Intercept from Summit Panama Radio reports S/M sighted 18° 05' N. 67° 30' W. at 1500Z. (Kingston, 2315R/25 to Admty.)

TAMAROA.

Your 1221A/25 affirmative provided TAMAROA can make 11 knots actual speed or better X Com Moroccan Seafron inform C. in C. Med. (C. in C. Lant, 2320/25 to N.^O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Connav, Com. Moroccan S.F., C.T.G.62.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.428 March 24th.

(5) Afternoon R/C Fortress sighted in Wewak harbour medium merchantment of which 2 unloading into barges. Also 1 destroyer, 1 small cargo vessel outside harbour. Our aircraft encounter-ed 3 zeros whereof 1 shot down, plus 1 possibly.

ed 5 zeros whereof 1 shot down, plus 1 possibly. Before daylight single bomber dropped bombs in Breakwater Oro Bay. (7) 2 vessels of 500 tons each sighted approaching Kaimana from south and 1 medium merchantmen anchored off Kaimana wharf forenoon. 2 B.25s claimed near miss on 1 small vessel and very close shave on largest vessel. Interception by 5 Zeros whereof 1 damaged. (8) 2 unclassified vessels anchored Kisar Island (off North east extremity Timor) early morning. (11) 2 Tankers, 5 corvet-tes reported 5° 114° 18'E.course 005° speed 12 knots at noon 23rd.

(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 0643Z/25)

Arrival Port Moresby 24th GLENELG, Cairns 24th

Movements. Arrival Port Moresby 24th GLENELG, Cairns 24th VENDETTA, Townsville 25rd U.S. VICTORIA, Brisbane 25rd (SWAN?), Sydney 25rd U.S. (D) RUSSELL, 24th MANOORA.
Departures. Port Moresby 24th GLENELG for Milne Bay.
Townsville 24th WAGGA for Port Moresby, VENDETTA for Cairns.
Brisbane 25rd U.S.(D) PATTERSON for Sydney. Sydney 25rd
BUNDABERG for Brisbane. Commissioned at Brisbane 22nd GLAD-STONE, 24th FREMANTLE (both A.M.S. vessels)
(A.C.N.B.1111Z/25 to Admty.) Arrivals 24th Brisbane U.S. Transport SOMMELSDIJK. Port

Arrivals 24th Brisbane U.S. Transport SOMMELSDIJK, Port Moresby U.S. Transport BOTH, Townsville H.T. TARCONA, Brisbane H.T. KATOOMBA. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA arrived and departed Townsville 25rd due Thursday Is. 26th. U.S. transport VAN DERLIJN departure Townsville 24th due Port Moresby 27th. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departure Port Moresby 26th due Townsville 27th. H.T. KATOOMBA departs Brisbane 24th due Sydney 26th. (A.C.N.B. 1507Z/25 to Admty.)

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25.3.1943. Thursday.

War Diary.

10

010

<u>U-BOAT CAMPAIGN</u>. <u>Submarines Reported</u>. (D.D.I.C.1412A/25, 1425A/25)

12

1020

26.3.1943. <u>Friday.</u>

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Size of trans-Atlantic convoys. 1. In the first 4 convoys in March, only 192 ships out of a possible 545 have so far sailed. In view of the serious state of the import programme and improving weather, the Admiralty on 17th March proposed that the upper limit for H.X. and S.C. convoys be raised from 60 to 70. Admiral King reluctantly concurred, provided that the number of 60 is always aimed at; and this will be acted upon.

Dive bombing. 2. Steep dive bombing as practised by the U.S. Navy, is now an urgent Royal Naval requirement and all available information on technique, training, and operational results have been asked for from Washington.

Home Commands.

3. U.S. S/M HERRING is ordered to proceed on Biscay blockade runner patrol after dark tonight and SHAD to return to patrol to intercept ore traffic from Bilbao.

Mediterranean.

U/Bs active.

C

MUS 10 attacker.

today 60 miles east of Alboran Island. TARTAR was ordered to proceed to the position, but sighted nothing. At 1920 TARTAR and QUANTOCK attacked a submarine in 35.55 N. 01.41 W. (about 50 miles W.N.W. of Oran). After a final attack by QUANTOCK at 1950 an explosion was heard, contact was lost, but on return to the area at 2100, (apparently after having left to assist the ship in Convoy M.K.S.10 referred to in the next paragraph) TARTAR found a large patch of diesel oil covering an area half a mile square.

4. The French escort vessel SERGEANT GOUARNE is

reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0045

/QUANTOCK ...

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U/Bs active. (Contd.) QUANTOCK left the scene about 2237A to rejoin Convoy M.K.S.10, one ship in which was reported torpedoed at 1844 in 35.47 N. 01.30 W. This was CITY OF PERTH, who was taken in tow by RESTIVE and was beached near Cape Fegalo as weather conditions precluded towing to Oran: salvage operations were undertaken.

5. M.V. PRINS WILLEM III in Convoy K.M.S.11 was torpedoed by aircraft at 0700 in 37.00 N. 02.14 E. (about 40 miles N.W. of Algiers). She was taken in tow, but capsized and sank at 0240/27.

6. 8 Ju.88 attacked Algiers harbour at 1935 today with circling torpedoes and bombs. SS. EMPIRE STANDARD which had been torpedoed on 9th March in Convoy K.M.S.10, and got into Algiers, was bombed and became a constructive total loss.

America and West Indies.

Naval Action in the	7. At 0803W today U.S. surface forces sighted a Japanese force of 2 heavy and 2 light cruisers,
Aleutians.	4 destroyers and 2 transports S.W. of Attu, Western Aleutians. Action was joined at 0900W
	proceeded eastward, the enemy probably turning
	gunfire and probably by one torpedo: one light cruiser was probably damaged. Some damage to
	Air R/C on 27th March discovered no sign of the enemy force.
	Western Aleutians. Action was joined at 0900W and continued until 1220W when the U.S. force proceeded eastward, the enemy probably turning westward. One enemy heavy cruiser was hit by gunfire and probably by one torpedo: one light cruiser was probably damaged. Some damage to U.S. ships is reported. Air R/C on 27th March discovered no sign of the

H.X.231.

10

8. 67 ships sailed in Convoy H.X.231.

1022 26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

10

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

9. 9 Fortresses bombed Wewak in the early hours of today, hitting or near missing one medium cargo vessel.

Some damage was caused to buildings and jetty at Merauke when 7 enemy medium bombers attacked this morning.

1023

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Russian procedure. My 1728/Thursday. Although Meacon vehicles been returned and customs have unsealed them Although Meacon vehicles have permission has still not been received to transmit. It is essential this be given soon as it is necessary to carry out tests after recent disman-tling. (? Golovko) has been continously

broaded but awaits Moscow permission. (2) The duplicate trailer (vide Para.2 of my signal quoted) has not yet been delivered. There can be no excuse for this as Russians have never claimed that this was consigned to them as they did for original lorry and trailer. (3) Request attack may be continued.

(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0958A/26 to 30 Mission)

ONYX.

ONYX has been accepted for service today. (ONYX, 1203A/26 to A.S. C.B.S.)

Destroyer allocations. (1) EXPRESS and FORTUNE to Royal Canadian Navy. (2) HOTSPUR and INCONSTANT to Testern Approaches (3) DOUGLAS, AMAZON, BULLDOG, BOADICEA to F.O.C. West Africa at the first convenient opportunity. (4) VANQUISHER, WALKER, WRESTLER, WESTCOTT, WANDERER, VESPER, VERSATILE to Testern Approaches. (D.O.D.(H), 1740A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

22nd Trawler Group.

Owing to urgent Mediterranean My 1532/23. requirements the 22nd Trawler Group will have to be withdrawn without waiting for their reliefs. (2) Para. 3 of my 1532/23 should be amended to read accordingly. (D.M.S.1850A/26 to C. in C. Plymouth)

Movements.

COURBET.

VERDUN is required at Admiralty 2037/25. VERDUN is required at Portsmouth on 29th March to form escort for a tow from Portsmouth to Clyde. (C. in C. Nore, 1016A/26 to Capt. D.21) 25. Request you retain LIMBOURNE for this Admiralty 2037/25.

duty. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1635A/26 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Dispositions of Operational Units in North North Atlantic. Atlantic Area Iceland (C) HOWE, BELFAST, GLASGOW, 2 dispositions. destroyers. Area Scapa KING GEORGE V, DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, BERMUDA, BERWICK, CHARYBDIS, CUMBERLAND, JAMAICA, KENT, SCYLLA, 5 destroyers. Area Clyde ARGUS, FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, CARDIFF, 2 destroyers. Area Londonderry 11 destroyers. Area Gibraltar NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, KENYA, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 7 destroyers. Passage to Gibraltar ADVENTURE. On Patrol, NEWFOUNDLAND, 2 destroyers. (D.O.D.(H), 1130Z/26 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.) M.T.B.6/ ...

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Movements (Contd.)

M.T.B.6 (Irish)

Intend sailing Eire M.T.B.6 from Newlyn at 1000/27 to Cork, E.T.A. 1900/27, escorted to a position 4 miles west of Longships by R.M.L.530. Thence proceeding independently via position F. and G. of C. in C. Plymouth 1823/27/2. (R.N.O. Penzance, 1500/26 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth)

S/M. Movements.

My 1741/25. Para. (G). Add proceeding after dark 26th to patrol vicinity 43° 10' N. 09° 50' W. My 1741/25.

Movements. dark 26th to patrol vicinity 45° 10' N. 09° 50' W Para. (H) Add proceeding after dark 26th to patrol in Zone K.508. (F.O.S. 1551A/26 to Admty.)
Positions of submarines at O800A/27 and movements for following 24 hours. (A)TRUCULENT in Zone K.151. (B) SEA NYMPH in Zone K.150. (C) TEMPLAR in Zone K.148. (D) UPROAR 48° 44' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day course 180°, daily advance 105 miles. (E) SOKOL 48° 28' N. 12° 26' W, dived by day, course 180°, daily advance 105 miles. (F) HERRING vicinity 45° 10' N. 09° 50' W. (G) SHAD approx. 45° 58' N. 05° 50' W, dived by day to patrol in Zone K.508. patrol in Zone K. 508. (F.O.S. 1741A/26).

TAKU at present at Portsmouth is available for A/S exercises from about 5th April for approx. one month prior to refit at Troon on completion of TRUANT. Request allocation. TAKU is unfit for operations.

(F.O.S. 2148A/26 to Admty.).

Operations.

Norway Coastal S/M Patrol.

Request early reply to my 1736/22. (S.B.N.O.North Russia, 0845A/26 to F.O.S.)

Coastal Patrols. Patrols tonight Number 3 MEYNELL, 4 WINDSOR, 5 GARTH, 6 MENDIP, 7 WIDGEON. (C. in C. Nore, 0954A/26 and 1139A/26) (1) Intend M.L.182(S.O) and R.M.L.516 to patrol tonight on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W.

and 02° 25' W. (2) Leaving harbour at 1945 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol line and leaving patrol line at dawn/27. (3) Object anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1128A/26) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail following Force and supply it with latest intelligence. (2) Force S.G.B.6 (S.O). I M.G.B. 2 M.T.B. (3) Object destruction of enemy

(S.O), 1 M.G.B, 2 M.T.B. (3) Object destruction of enemy shipping. (4) Execution sail from Newhavenat 2000/26 and proceed through passage two in Q.Z.X. 771 to sweep enemy coastal route between Le Treport and Capt D'Antifer. (5) Return through passage two to arrive within 20 miles of own coast by daylight. (6) Code word "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1521A/26)

(1) / ...

1 1025

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols (Contd.)

(1) M.G.B's 550 and 524 are to patrol 8 miles
270° and 090° from 210°. Start Point 10 miles.
(2) Object. To intercept E-Boats attacking convoy.
(5) Leave Dartmouth 1930/26 for patrol.
Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0630/27.
(6) Codeword "Sapper". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1425/26 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth) M.G.B's 530, 324 on patrol 10 miles S.W. Start Point. M.L's 182, 516 on patrol 15 miles South of St. Albans. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1615/26) Your 1425/26. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1946/26 to C. in C. Plymouth) My 1128A/26. "Device" sailed. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 2002A/26)

Biscay S/M Patrol. Not for UPROAR and SOKOL. (1) After dark tonight HERRING proceed to patrol vicinity 045° 10' N. 009° 50' W. (2) SHAD return patrol in zone K.508. Principal object interception Ore traffic from Bilbao. (F.O.S. 1535A/26 to S/M's)

My 1639A/25 para. three. Amend route to read keeping west of OL4° 10' W. when North of Q47° 00' N. until in latitude O49° 50' N, thence through 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1641A/26 to NEWFOUNDLAND, OPYNW) Operation "Regulation". ORKAN)

Operation V.P.2.

Carry out V.P.2. (1) Patrol R. (2) LYGREFIORD. (5) 0500A/28. (4) 5. (A.C.O.S. 1930/26 and 2045A/26)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland Air

Following air patrols are being Your 1249/25. Following air patrols are being flown today. (a) North and Northeast of North Patrols. Cape. (b) Area between following positions: (1) 62°40' N. 16°50' W. (2) 60° 30' N. 14° 20' W. (3) 58° 30' N. 21° 40' W. (4) 60°40' N. 24° 00' W. (A.C.I.C., 0410A/26 to C. in C. H.F.) Your 1033/26th. This patrol was designed to intercept any 00' W.

vessels which might have broken through during dark hours last night. No A/C have yet taken off but as soon as weather permits one A/C will carry out a cross-over patrol as for "Bear" adjusted 60 miles to South westward. (A.C.I.C.1402/26 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your / ...

1926

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland	Your 1249/	25 and my	0410/	/26 as	amended	by my
Air	1402/26.	Air patro	ls con	mpleted	a. All	negative
Patrols (Contd.)	reports. (A.C.I.C.	23/64/26	toC	in C.	(जम	
(,	(-)4011/ 20		TH 0.		

A/C in North Russia. My 1115/23 Paragraph 3. Senior R.A.F. Officer Graznaya reports Russian Hampdens have been modified to take Russian torpedoes but he is not able to get information on other points. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0839A/26 to Admty.)

E/R Boats attacked on 25th March.

At 2135 yesterday Albacore A/C of 841 Squadron on routine anti E-boat patrol under Swingate ground control was diverted to attack 4 small vessels plotted by R.D.F. proceeding at 14 knots southward from Boulogne. (2) Aircraft sighted 4 E/R boats at 2206, 15 miles north of Le Treport and attacked from 800 feet with 4 250-1b and

4 100-1b. bombs and dropped flame float. (3) Results were not actually observed owing to intense and accurate light A.A. fire but A/C circled target area twice after the attack and in excellent visibility observed only 5 E/R boats apparently searching slowly around the flame float and it is considered probable that 1 E/R boat was destroyed. Aircraft sustained neither damage nor casualties. (V.A. Dover, 1222/26 to Admty.)

Western Channel. Tonight Swordfish Aircraft will fly patrol as in my 1411/8 from 2100/26 till dawn 27th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1331A/26 to Escorts P.W.314, W.P. 314)

. Mining.

Operation Q.U.8.

(1) Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.(8) tonight with 51st M.L.F. backed up by available (2) Supporting forces M.G.B's of 6th Flotilla. as ordered in my 1019/20. (C. in C. Nore, 1001A/26 to BEEHIVE)

Iceland.

Admiralty 2105/22. In an endeavour to define limits of minefields 62 per cent sweeps have been

carried out along following centre lines. (A) from 064° 05' N. 023° 31' W. in direction (B) From 063° 48' N. 023° 38' W. in direction (C) On lines drawn 240°, 250°, 280° and 290° 180° 17 miles. 000° 33 miles. from number one buoy off Skagi between longitudes 023°W. and 024°W. (2) The only mine found as a result of three days sweeping of the above, exploded in sweep in approx. 064°15'N. 023°23'W. (3) Mines may have been widely spaced over such a

large / ...

1027

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAND.

Mining.

Iceland

large area that searching of this nature appears (Contd.) (Contd.) unprofitable and it is intended to resume search of the 5 mile area Q.Z.X.944. (4) In view of (1) Difficulty of effective daming in this depth of water. (2) Distance from land. (5) Bad weather likely to be experienced. Intend to carry out operating as a very close search approx. 100% rather than as an actual clearance sweep. (5) Minesweepers under escort returned to harbour for fuel and provisions and will recommence operation with four vessels on 27th March. GLEANER is boiler cleaning. (6) Request Q.Z.X. for para (2) above. (A.C.I.C. 1056A/26 to Admty.)

Intend to sail ROSS, SELKIRK, ALBURY, SUTTON, Clearance LYDD and Trawlers LADY ENID and NEIL SMITH of at 0730/28 to continue clearance of Q.Z.X. 939. Q.Z.X.939. Arrive area 1150, leave area 1800, E.T.A. Dartmouth 1930. (ROSS, 1731A/26 to F.O.I.C. Portland)

HARWICH.

At 1205A/26th one Mine exploded by Sweeper in 51° 48.4' N. 01° 31.9' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1806A/26)

DOVER.

Routine sweeping carried out 25th/26th March. One mine of doubtful polarity swept in position 51° 16' 29" N. 01° 46' 23" E. (V.A. Dover, 1828A/26 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Unknown Ships.

Position of one medium M/V of 4000 tons and two small M/V is 58° 05' N. (?08°) 00' E. Position of 5 M/V's 58° 00' N. 07 30' E. Position of 3 M/V 58° 00' N. 07° 00' E, course 090° 5 knots. Also JU.88 at 1200. (A/C. 5 Q.U.Z. 1300/26 to 18 Group)

U-Boats.

Look-out Masts.

Some large U-Boats are reported to carry slightly abaft the conning tower, a collapsible look-out mast. It is operated from inside boat and can be lowered after submerging. Used to Force 5. Graded B.2. (D.N.I.1224A/26: "A" Message 515A) Used in seas up

Aircraft report U-Boat in 44.05 N. 1215 W. at 1023A/26, course , speed 10 knots. 260° (C. in C. Plymouth, 1555/26 to NEWFOUNDLAND.

1028

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

R.D.F. Trials in Irish Sea.

Your 1447/20. Details of the requirements are being sent by letter. The trials are of importance in the development of R.D.F. sets used 4 Your 1447/20. in the detection of U-Boats and low-flying aircraft. (2) Request you will make ORACLE available and endeavour to provide another vessel if MAID MARION is required for other duties. (5) 2 vessels are required for the trials and it is desirable

that a third should be fitted for taking observations as a spare. (4) It is improbable that these vessels will be required for as long as nine months. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1915A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

WIVERN.

Arrived DESTINY towing WIVERN escorted by BORAGE and DIANELLA. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1645/26 to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

M.L.217 and L.C.T's 2243 and 2336 returned owing M.L.217. engine defects. L.C.T.2243. L.C.T.2336. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 1902A/26 to R.N.O. Troon)

L.C.T. 418. L.C.T. 347.

A.C.O.S. 1923/25. (1) Only temporary repairs to D/G coil of L.C.T. 418 can be made at Methil, whereas a new coil can be fitted at Leith involving three days (2) On arrival in Forth L.C.T's 418 and work. 347 are to proceed to Leith. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1916A/26)

F.N. 77. LAFONIA sunk. COMO damaged.

Distress message 2343/25. Render necessary assistance. (C. in C. Rosyth, OlO6A/26 to WOOLSTON) Am proceeding to LAFONIA's assistance off 20 T buoy. Visibility 5 cables. (WOOLSTON, 0142A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth) Intercepted at 0155 G.M.T. COMO begins. Dama in collision with unknown steamer. Standing

Damaged by him at 20 T Buoy. We can only steam slow.

(Rosyth, 0253/26) Have located (?COMO). Damaged, not sinking, but afraid of number one bulkhead. Survivors (corrupt group) with crew of LAFONIA, one missing. LAFONIA abandoned not located, Captain considered possibility of salvage at dawn. Am standing by. My position 218° 20 T Buoy 2 miles by D.R. Thick fog. (WOOLSTON, 0440A/26 to C. in C. Rosyth)

My / ...

1029 12

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

F.N.77. LAFONIA sunk. COMO damaged. (Contd.) My 0440/26. LAFONIA considered sunk in 055° 21' N. 001° 22' 30" W. by (? mine). Wreck marked by balloon and dan buoy close to southwards. (WOOLSTON, 0730/26 to C. in C. Rosyth.) SS. LAFONIA sunk in 055° 21' N. 001° 22=1/2' W. by dead reckoning.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1108/26 to Admty.) Rescue Tug AMSTERDAM sailed at 0425/26 to assist AMSTERDAM returned to harbour 1400/26 COMO.

and resumed station.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1450/26 to Admty.) All ships expected Firth of Forth Ports arrived except LAFONIA reported sunk in collision. Also arrived MONKSTONE with survivors.

(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2100/26)

F.S.72. ICEMAID damaged. SS. ICEMAID bound to London from Sunderland in F.S.72 damaged in collision at approx. 2300/25 and taking water in forepeak. No casualties. Ship returning Sunderland under own steam. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0150/26)

X.K.3.

Shipping and Convoys Your 2314/25.

(A) Destination of JAMES PETTYGREW and FORT RUPERT is Belfast. (B) Escorts proceed Londonderry on relief by KIRKELLA. (C) Report forthwith (1) Your E.T.A. position A 55.35 N. (?20) 00 W. (2) E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion off

(Y20) 00 W. (2) E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion off
Barra Head and at Loch Ewe.
(C. in C. W.A. 0319A/26 to VILLE DE QUEBEC) Your 0519/26. E.T.A. position "A" 055° 55' N. 007 00'
W. 0800A/27. E.T.A. Loch Ewe portion off Barra Head 1100A/27.
Loch Ewe portion being detached 2000A/26. (VILLE DE QUEBEC, 0950A/26 to C. in C. W.A.) Request you sail KIRKELLA to meet X.K.3 E.T.A. position

A 0800A/27.

(N.O.I.C.Liverpool, 1200A/26 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry) Ships for Loch Ewe are to be detached to proceed independently est speed. (2) IMPERIALIST is to proceed to Loch Ewe for at best speed. onward routeing.

(C. in C.W.A. 1658A/26 to Escorts X.K.3) My 0950A/26. Amend E.T.A. position (A) 055° 35', 007° 00' to 0400A/27.

(VIILE DE QUEBEC, 2352A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

A.T.39. Convoy A.T.39 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is due Tail of the Bank about 31/3 with following 4327 personnel on board: (3) Vessel should be ready to sail again as convoy T.A.39 p.m. 4/4. Approximately 2,500 personnel will convoy T.A.39 p.m. 4/4. Approximately 2,500 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on 5/4 and 4/4. (D.S.T.0731A/26)

0.N.175 / ...

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

0.N.175.

Sailed GREER (HF/DF) at 2400/25 and SHERBROOKE at 0600/26 to overtake 0.N.175. (C.T.G.24.7, 07562/26) My P.C.S. at 1510Z (?055°) 29' N. 007° 12' W. 294° 14. (SHERBROOKE, 1515Z/26 to M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3)

W.N.7. ATLAND sunk. CARSO damaged. GOLIATH sailed to investigate collision reported 57.28 N. 01.40 W. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0820/26) My 0820/26. LIGNY sailed to act as escort. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 0838/26) Sailed R.M.L.552 to 57.28 N. 01.40 W. at 0826/26 to investigate ship believed in collision. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0852/26)

SS. CARSO and SS. ATLAND in collision. My 1115/26. ATLAND Chief Officer and ten men plus one dead body landed sunk. at Aberdeen. R.M.L.552. 4 survivors landed at Peterhead M.L.226. 3 survivors on board CARSO. 3 dead bodies picked up R.M.L.538. Total on board believed to have been 32. CARSO located, GOLIATH in company, E.T.A. off Aberdeen 1800. Uncertain if can enter harbour until draft is known. Search is being continued by all craft till dusk and resumed at daylight.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1726/26)

SS. CARSO now off Aberdeen, draught 25 ft. forward 25 ft.6 in is able to proceed at three knots. Undesirable that she aft. shall enter Aberdeen except in emergency and cannot get into inner basin. Intend to sail her with GOLIATH and trawler escort inner basin. to Leith.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2030/26 to C. in C. Rosyth) All ships expected Firth of Forth ports arri ed except CARSO and ATLAND reported in collision. (N.C.S.O.Methil, 1510/26 to N.C.S.O.Loch Ewe)

S.C.124.

Your OllO/16 and your 1828/23. Is to sail SKEENA with S.C.124. (C. in C. W.A. 1027Z/26 to F.O.N.F.) Is it intended

H.X.229.

Am proceeding to B handed over to ABDERDEEN. Belfast. (WAVENEY, 1045A/26 to C. in C. W.A.) You are to remain at Liverpool until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 1141A/26 to WAVENEY)

K.M.S.12.

R/V in position. M. S. 12. My 1438/22. Route. R/V in position.
A. 270 Oversay 6 miles 1000Z/31 then through B. 55.00 N. 11.00 W. C. 51.00 15.00 D. 45.00 16.30 E.40.00 16.00 F. 36.00 10.00 thence as ordered by C. in C. Mediterranean. (2) Speed of Advance estimated at 7¹/₂ knots should be adjusted to arrive at position F 2000Z/8. (5) Stragglers route L. 48.00 N. 17.00 W. M. 45.00 17.30 N. 40.00 17.00 0. 36.00 10.00. (D. 0. D. (H) 1216A/26 and 1516A/26) My 1438/22. Route.

(D.O.D.(H) 1216A/26 and 1516A/26)

1031

26.**5.19**43. F<u>riday.</u>

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Routeing of Gibraltar Convoys.

Your 1940/24.
 (a) Methods of combatting the threat from F.W. aircraft, which has recently developed against the Gibraltar-U.K. route, are under examination. For the present it is considered preferable to continue to route the convoys so that they can receive the best A/S air cover.

receive the best A/S air cover. (b) With reference to A.M.1804A/25, it is not intended that V.L.R. aircraft should normally be diverted from convoy protection but rather that these large liners should be covered in the same degree as the Monsters. (c) Independent shipping is normally routed west of 20° West and this will also be the case with these large liners. (A.C.N.S.H. 2010A/26 to C. in C. W.A.)

Atlantic Escort Groups.

0.S.C.45.

Sailed at 2030/26 in O.S.C.45, LLANSTEPHEN CASTLE, EMPIRE CHARMAIN, NEW NORTHLAND. C.B.24404 C.B.28216 C.B.25174. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2235/26)

Sailed ICARUS and INGLEFIELD in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1032A/25. E.T.A.0300A/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2134A/26 to Cdre. Londonderry)

S.C.123.

Proceed to support S.C.123. Increase your S.O.A. to 18.5 knots. (C. in C. W.A. 2246Z/26 to E.G.3, EMPIRE AUDACITY)

1032 26.3.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

G.U.F. 6.

G.U.F.6 sailed 1000A/25 Casablanca Section G. C. F. C. Salled 1000A/25 Casablanca Section accordance my 1405/22 Mediterranean Section as follows (list) escorted by Taskfor 64, NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, WOOLSEY, LUDLOW, EDISON, BUCK, WILKES,
SWANSON, ROE, BRISTOL, NICHOLSON. S. of A. 13.5 knots. Q.J.C.
131. Radio shift to U.S.S. Fox, 20° W. 0400Z/28 March.
(C.M.S.F.F., 0445Z/26 to Connav, Admty., C. in C.Med. (W), (R)
Cinclant, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Com. N.O.B. Oran, N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F. Comserforlant, C.T.F.64.)

TAMAROA.

Following received from C. in C. Lant "This paraphrase my 2320Z/25. Action N.O.I.C. Gib. Your 1221A/25, affirmative provided TAMAROA can make 11 knots actual speed or better". (C.M.S.F.F., 0455/26 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Comnaveu, C. in C. Med. etc.)

Your 1919/18. Assumed Spaniards willwant to accept German offer and will eventually apply to CORRIENTES. us to recognize transfer of flag. Therefore useful to know what are German terms and in particular whether (a) they are to obtain any definite quid pro quo, (b) they have made any stipulation about repatriation of crew.

(Head of M.I., 0532A/26 to N.A. Madrid) Reply; 091747A/April.

A/C attack on U/B. Ref. C.A.F.O. 151/43 part 1. (1) R.N.A.S.Gibraltar 813 Squadron Swordfish Four King. (2) 24 March 1635. Day. (3) 35° 40' N. 1° 17' W. (4) One Mark X1 Torpex depth charge. (5) No. (813 Squadron, Tafaraoui, 1100A/26 to Admty., (R) C.O.N.A.S. Gibraltar, N.W.A.C.A.F.)

Dispositions. Situation 1957A/26. KUMAON off Cape Spartel to Gibraltar 12.

(2) S/M UNRULY 36.46 08.41 through 36.37 07.24 at 0500/27th and 35.(?53) 06.15 at 1200/27th thence

Gibraltar dived by day only surfacing by night 7½ until 27th thence on surface 10. (3) ST. NECTAN, 1 Merchant Ship off Cape St. Mary's coastwise to Lisbon 9½. ST. NECTAN returns Gibraltar direct on completion 9½. (4) D.69 GAZELLE 32.42 09.12 coastwise to Casablanca 6½. (5) M.K.S.10 BROADWAY, passing Europa Point 1700/27th Westbound through (?Straits).

(6) HAARLEM off Lisbon to R/V one trawler one merchant ship 2000/26th and escort them coastwise to Guadalquiver. 8. (7) (?2) Merchant Ships VANOC H.M.S. NASTURTIUM off Punta Del Picacho through 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar 91/2. (8) M.L. 173 MARIE LOUISE MACKAY sailing 0630/27th to (?repair) cable in 035° 56' 14"005° 48' 48". MARIE LOUISE MACKAY sheltering inside territorial waters during dark hours. (F.O., Gibraltar, 1145A/26) Situation 2003A/26th. 3 Swedish relief ships 34.46 25.59

266° 13.

12

1033

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions. 2. WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND leave Ponta (Contd.) Delgada p.m. 26th 330° 12. (V.A., Gibraltar, 1303A/26.)

S.L.126, Position of convoy was probably reported by a enemy F.W. 200 aircraft at 1200. A/C. (D.D.I.C., 1251A/26 to Escorts to S.L.126, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, etc.)

BALDUR (German) BALDUR fully loaded at Bilbao expected proceed Outer Harbour p.m. 26 March. Graded B.l. (D.D.I.C., 1413A/26 to F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A.) BALDUR now proceeding to Outer Harbour. (Delphin (Spain), No. T.O.O./26, Recd. 2300/26.)

MAIDEN, Tanker at Tangier. Your 1515 March 25th, (N.T. in W.R. but 1430A/25 and 1729/15 refer.) and S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1901A/24. Spanish Authorities object to Tanker remaining over 24 hours in Tangier because as she carried some guns they seized opportunity to class her as armed vessel and invoked international law. Tanker total capacity water is 800 tons approx.

I am informed local water pumps can only pump about 400 tons per day, so that tanker must remain 48 hours unless pump can work at night. As M.W.T.R. states that all British M.Vs. entering Spanish Ports are armed, I presume that I may use this as precedent with Spanish Authorities if they make trouble (?). We might let Tanker come again armed as before and see what happens (?). Present position is that Agents here have warned Spanish Authorities that Tanker will come again and have requested permission for her to remain 48 hours. No reply received. (Consul General Tangier, 1457/26 to F.O.i/c. Gibraltar. (R) Admty. Madrid.)

Movements, FOLKESTONE, WESTON, TOTLAND left 1720 G.M.T./26th. Ponta Delgada. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1710/26 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar Admty.)

TACTICIAN. Intend sailing p.m. 20th. Working up patrol in Gulf of Lyons north of 42° 19' W. of (?005°) 50' E. outside 100 fathoms line. 2. Communications. 3. Routed. P. 180° Cape Calaburra 5 at 1930/28th.
Q. 180° Cape De Gata 5 at 0630/29th. R. 135° Cape Palos 5 0140/30th and unless otherwise ordered by Captain (S) 8.
S. 042° 19' 004° 03' E. at 1320 1st April. Capt. (S) 8. is requested to assume operational control at 0140/30th. S. of A.
11 knots 145 miles per day. Times zone minus 1. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1716/26, 0655A/27 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

FOLKESTONE ·

E. Sailing Ponta Delgada 1815Z S. of A. 12. Intend

/making...

1034

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

FOLKESTONE making position H at Daybreak 28th March. (FOLKESTONE, 1826Z/26 to GORLESTON. (R) Admty. F.O.C. N.A. C. in C. W.A.) (Contd.)

SHAKESPEARE.

Intend to sail P.221 p.m. March 28th for Algiers routed. (T) 180° Cape Calaburra 15 at 2040/28.
(U) 180° Cape de Gata 15 at 2030/29.

(V) 135° Cape de Gata 15 at 2030/29. (V) 135° Cape de Palobj 15 at 0930/30. shifting W/T watch at 2130/30 thence as ordered by 3.8. 2. Communications. 3. F.221 (SHAKESPEARE) is painted light blue. S. of A. 9.2 knots (120 miles per day). Times zone minus 1. (F.O. Gib. 1827/26, to C. in C. Med. S.8. (R) V.A.M. etc.)

EMPIRE OBERON has insufficient coal to reach Dakar. Propose to detach under cover for Las Palmas a.m. tomorrow 27th March 1943. Request necessary EMPIRE OBERON. arrangements may be made. Special weather report. (CADMUS 2011A/26 to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Warship arrivals U.S.S. AUK, CHICKADEE, MORENO, P.C. 472 from Gibraltar. U.S.S. ROWAN departed for Movements, Casablanca. Gibraltar. (C.M.S.F.F. 2025/26 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gib., Admty.)

HAARLEM.

Your 0947A/26th. SHETLAND not met. Am proceeding Gibraltar escorting PORT REATH. (HAARLEM 2100A/26 to F.O.C. Gib.)

Arrivals WISHART, VELOX, CIRCE, CLACTON from G.U.F.6. VENOMOUS, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, SPEEDWELL, Movements, Gibraltar. STELLA CARINA, POLRUAN, from G.U.S. 5 A. F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, LOYAL, WHADDON, HAYDON, ESKIMO, HOLCOME, CALPE, ILEX, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, from Mers el Kebir. KUMAON from escort duties west. French ships LA GRANDIERE, LA SETOISE with two M.Vs. from Oran.

(F.O. Gib. 2105A/26 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

1035

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S. 27.

(? Arrived) SUSSEX, FOXHOUND, QUILLIAM, RACEHORSE escorting Convoy W.S.27 Durban section. (N.O.I.C. Durban, O803Z/26 to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.)

Dispositions.

Position at 2000Z/26th. ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY with N.C.8 off Saldanha Bay to Capetown 8 knots. CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN CHIEF, WELLARD, with

C.N.14 off Saldanha Bay course 027° , 8. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 017° 15' S. 014° 10' W. to 008° S. 018° W. 16½. MALABAR, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S. 27 034° 55' S. 019° 55' E. to Durban, $12\frac{1}{2}$. GENISTA, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN with D.C.16, 034° 30' S. 024° 30' E. to Capetown, 8. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY with C.D.11, 031° 30' S. 030° 00' E. to Durban, 8. NIGELLA 031° 00' S. 032° 45' E. to Durban 12. SONDRA, VIVIANA 031° 40' S. 033° 30' E. to Durban 9. (? FREESIA) 027° 15' S. 037° 20' E. to 028° S. 037° E. and Durban 20. (C. in C. S.A., 1151B/26.)

GEORGES LEYGUES, CILICIA. 1. F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES sailed from Dakar p.m. (? 25th) March to patrol area bounded by following points: A. 009° 01' N. 028° 00' W. B. 007° 01' N. 026° 00' W. C. 005° 01' N. 030° 00' W. D. 007° 58' N. 030° 28' W. estimated speed made good 19 knots. Anticipate will

leave patrol area on 30th March to return to Dakar. 2. Intend to sail CILICIA from Freetown at 0700Z/27 March to patrol area bounded by following points: E. 006° 01' N. 023° 01' W. F. 004° 01' N. 020° 59' W. G. 002° 00' N. 023° 00' W. H. 004° 01' N. 024° 40' W. estimated speed made good 14 knots. CILICIA will remain on patrol until further instructions. (F.O.C.W.A., 1227Z/26 to Admty., (R) Comar Dakar, GEORGES LEYGUES, Com. 4th Fleet, Cominch, CILICIA.)

EMPRESS OF CANADA. (sunk 13th March.) Your 1418/20th March. Considered possible but highly improbable that Italian military doctor could have homed a U-Boat on to the ship. 2. Ship was torpedoed 600 miles from original route ordered by N.C.S.O. Durban. Not therefore considered possible that presence of U-Boat can have been due to compromise of original route signal.

3. Route was twice changed, first by your 1047/11th March and second by your 2320/11th March, i.e. 61 hours and 48 hours before ship was torpedoed.

4. Both signals were made in one-ship pad No.556 held by ship and limited number of Naval authorities only and according to Admiralty records pages used for recoding had not previously been used. Hence messages were in effect made in one-time pad.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EMPRESS OF Possibility of compromise therefore ruled out. 5. Though physically possible for pad to be CANADA (sunk 13th March.) compromised, having regard to very large number of pads existing and difficulty of selecting (Contd.) correct one, chances of this are very small indeed. 6. Taking above facts into account it appears from evidence available that this was a fortuitous encounter with a U-Boat. (D.T.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(UT), 1301A/26 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

ASHANTI.

Sailed ASHANTI for Gibraltar 1314Z/26th. (Comer Dakar, 1314Z/26 to F.O.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., L.O.I.C. Bathurst, ASHANTI.)

Air R/C from Banana.

/ A.958 or 598, 26th March. Ref. A.X.260, 19th Dec. (1745Z/19). We shall soon be able to operate flying boats from Banana and give cover to about 10° S. Necessary that operations should be co-ordinated with any cover South African Stations suggested

in above quoted signal. Request information whether any dispositions of (LQN?) aircraft or flying boats have been or will be made in that area by S.A.A.F. (A.H.Q. W.Africa, 1455Z/26 to Dechief Pretoria, (R) Air Min.)

Convoy W.S.27. W.S.27 Sailing telegram.

(2) 1500z/26th March.

(2) 15002/20th March.
(3) Outer end of Durban searched channel 029° 57' S. 031° 12' E. E.T.A. 15002/29th March.
(4) 12 knots. (5) (Route).
(6) To Durban: QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER, thence FROBISHER, FOXHOUND, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, NAPIER and CATTERICK.
(15) 1st April. E.T.A. 010° N. 04002/10th April. E.T.A. Aden 0400Z/12th. April. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 1507Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

Dispositions. CONVOLVULUS, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, CADMUS, ARCTIC RANGER with R.S.3 sbout 027° 00' 014° 25', 221° 7¹/₂. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, BURDOCK, THYME with S.R. 3 022° 12', 017° 37' to 024° (? 07'). 017° 10'

thence 041°, $7\frac{1}{2}$. ULSTER MONARCH escorted by REDOUBT 019° 56', 018° 35', 181°, $15\frac{1}{2}$. (Corrupt Group) 017° 30', 017° 14' to South 8. ORFASY escorting 017° 41', 002° (? 17') to 018° 00', 016° 13' thence 331° , $6\frac{1}{2}$. KENYA, 010° 02', 017° 39' to Freetown, 18. ASHANTI about 017° 00', 017° (? 30') to North 20. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, QUADRANT with W.S.28, 009° 22', 016° 22' to 009° 00' (? 015°) (? 14') thence Freetown, 13.

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South Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.)

GEORGES LEYGUES 010° 52' 024° 29' to patrol about position 007° 00' 028° 30', 19.
 VICTORIA escorting 014° 11', 017° 16', 171°, 6¹/₂.
 BUTSER escorting 010° 22', 018° 14' to 010° 00' 018° 01' thence Freetown, 8.

French S/M ARGO escorted by FANDANGO leaves Dakar at 0700z/27th proceeding towards 011° 08' 017° 16', 9. (F.O.W.A., 1634z/26.)

SARABANDE. Sailed at 1630Z/26th SARABANDE escorting tug MASTERFUL towing BENALDER to Walvis Bay, E.T.A. 11th April through position A. Equator 004° 10' E. B. 005° 12' S. 010° 00' E. C. 013° 00' S. 010° 35' E. D. 018° 08' S. 011° 00' E. E. 022° 46' S. 014° 04' E. Change of W/T routine Area MASTERFUL, BENALDER. P to Q 1200Z/3rd April estimated speed of two 52 knots. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1643Z/26 to Admty., etc.) FOLKESTONE, FOLKESTONE, WESTON, TOTLAND left 1720 G.M.T. 26th. WESTON. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, 1710/26 to S.O.(I) TOTLAND. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.) U/B Your 1426Z/17. Air Ministry has no record of assessment. the report referred to. Request a duplicate may be forwarded to Admty. (D.A/S.W.) in order that the attack may be assessed. (D.A/S.W., 1732A/26 to F.O.C.W.A.) Sailed QUILI.IAM by route R.9 to position A. 035° QUILLIAM. 05' S. 023° 40' E. thence through position Z. 035° 00' S. 020° 00' E. to Simonstown. S. of A. 24 knots. E.T.A. 0800B/28th.
(2) Shifting to group S.L. at 0100B/27th.
(N.O.I.C. Durban, 1734B/26 to Admty., etc.)

B.T. 8. Serial 26. Following ships joined B.T.8 off Recife (Pernambuco) p.m./26th March: (list). (A.S.O.(I) Recife, 1910Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

Movements Recife. Departure 25th March U.S. Cruiser MEMPHIS, U.S. Cruiser OMAHA, U.S. Destroyers MOFFETT. Departure 26th U.S. Transport MONTEREY for Natal. U.S. Destroyer SOMERS, U.S. Patrol Vessel CARNELIAN and 4 U.S. Submarine Chasers P.C.489, 492, 576, 609. (R.O. Recife, 1930Z/26 to Admty., etc.)

/VOLENDAM

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

VOLENDAM, RANGITIKI. RANGITIKI. RANGITIKI. Request information when next M.K.F. convoy sails from Gibraltar and if VOLENDAM and RANGITIKI could be accepted. (F.O.W.A., 2027Z/26 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.) Reply: C. in C. Med., 1129A/29.

THYME.

My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/26th 019° 23' N. 017° 58' W., 177°, 8 knots. EMPIRE SUCCESS in company. E.T.A. Dakar 0900Z/28th. THYME will require approx. 120 tons oil fuel. (THYME, 2035Z/26 to F.O.C.W.Af., Comar Dakar, (R) BRIDGEWATER.)

C.M. 40 NAPIER. C.M.40 in 021° S. 042° E. at 1600Z/26th. Kilindini portion arrives 1100C/31st. Request (? confirmation) NAPIER (? return to) outer end Durban swept channel at 1000B/28th. (NAPIER, 2059Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Durban, (R) C. in C. E.F., Capt. (D) 11.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

FALMOUTH. Departure. (Cdre. Aden, 0501Z/26 to Admty. etc).

Movements, Alexandria. Departure 25th March. DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, EXMOOR, ROCKWOOD, BELVOIR, POOLE French sloop COMMANDANT DOMINE French sloop LA MOQUEUSE, PINDOS. Arrived and sailed 25th March MIAOULES. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0914/26 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

SAFARI

Intend sail P.211 (SAFARI) 1900/27th for patrol off East coast Sardinia routed through 038° 28'003° 14' at 0430/28th, 038° 35' 009° 36' at 0600/30th thence course North to Zone J. (Capt. S.8., 0944A/26 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10th S.F. 8th S.F.)

E.T.16

F.O.I.S. is requested to sail E.T.16 at 1900/28th S. of A. 7 knots over ground. (2) Route.

(2) Route.
(3) Sections joining and detaching with local
escort as follows -

Philippeville in 37.14 N. 06.57 E. at 0300/29th: Bougie in 37.09 N. 05.12 E. at 1500/29th: Algiers E.T.A. 0700/30th entering bay sailing again 1000/30th. Oran in 109 at 1500/31st Gibraltar E.T.A. 0100/2nd. (4) Escorts from Bone CARLISLE, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, ANTELOPE,

(4) Escorts from Bone CARLISLE, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, ANTELOPE, EGGESFORD, STORNOWAY from Philippeville ALBACORE, MARSONA, KING SOL, TANGO.

(6) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Lotus".

(C. in C. Med., 1033A/26 as amended 1551A/27 to F.Os. I.C. etc). Pass to N.C.S.Os. E.T.16, intend to sail 51, SAMUEL LIVERMORE, 52 CHRIS GADSEN, destinations ballasting ports at

present unknown, 53 ESNEH, Algiers. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1109A/26 to C. in C. Med., etc). E.T.16, ALCOA PILOT: ballast, Gibraltar for U.S.A. Pendant 31.

(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1455/26 to F.O.I.S.)

Enemy	1	Six 100 ton motor caique decoy ships based	
Decoy		Koufo and Chalkidiki areas, patrol in your area	L I
Ships.		between Koufo, Chios, Mitvlene and Lemnos.	
		(Capt. S.1., 1048B/26 to PARTHIAN, G.S. KATSONI	:S)

Balloons, Valetta. A.X.162. March 26th. My AX 886 (Webber W.806 to Rafdel) 23rd March (15112/23) Maximum height of balloons 2,500 ft. (Air Min. 11212/26 to Mediterranean Air Command etc).

/Bi...

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Bi-weekly Opsum 111 part 2.

Night 24/25th March. 6 Liberators bombed Ferry Terminus Messina, bombs bursting south of harbour in area of Power Station, 1 bomb dropped on Catania, result unobserved. 47 x 1000 lb. H.E. on Messina at 2104Z hours. (H.Q., R.A.F. M.E., 1123Z/26).

M.K.F.11

Algiers Section codeword "Harper 1" is to sail at 2100/26th routed through 100 and 39 letter X and Y to R/V with Bone Section in 36.37 N., 00.20 E. at 0700/27th. (2) E.T.A. Oran position 2, 1200/27th, Gibraltar position 57,

0430/28th. (3) After joining LAMERTON, EGGESFORD and BADSWORTH are to return to Algiers. (4) All times A.

(C. in C. Med., 1130A/26 to F.Os. I.C. etc).

P.42 (UNBROKEN). P.42 leaves Malta 1500A/26th to patrol in area Q routed through position (1) 035° 10' N. 015° 40' E. (2) 038° 15' N., 017° 23' E. (Capt. S.10., 1148A/26 to 10 S.M.F. (R) C. in C. Med., etc). Sailed UNBROKEN (P.42). (V.A. Malta, 1705A/26 to Admty etc).

P.43 (UNISON). Keep south of 038° 15' N., after 0001A/28th P.42 (UNBROKEN) will be operating in area North of this latitude. My 1148A/26th refers. Cancel para. 6 in your sailing orders. My 1204/15th is to be observed. (Capt. S.10., 1155A/26 to P.43 (UNISON) (R) 10th S.F., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

REGENT

My 1540/25th. Intend sail REGENT 1800/27th for Malta routed through 038° 15' 004° 01' at 0200/28th 038° 15' 011° 17' at 0315/30th, P. at 0500/30th thence as ordered by Capt. (S) 10th S.F (Capt. S.8., 1158A/26 to C. in C. Med., etc).

SERGEANT GOUARNE torpedoed, sunk.

Cancel my 0915A/26th not to C. in C. Med.,* French Escort Vessel torpedoed and sunk at 0045/26th in position 065° Philippeville 25. 14 out of 65 survivors picked up. Proceed and search area subsequently to Algiers. Name of Escort Vessel SERGEANT GOUARNE. (S.O. Force H., 1245/26 to TARTAR (R) Capt. (D) 6. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med). *(N.T. in W.D.). French Convoy informed me that French ship LA BOULAISSE

was standing by wreck. Passed through position given in your 1245/26th. Nothing sighted to leeward of position given in your 1326/26th. Am proceeding to assistance of S.O. of escort convoy M.K.S.10 in 35.55 N. 01.41 W. in which a ship has just been torpedoed. (TARTAR 2032A/26).

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TASSOSMy 1035/25.TASSOS entered Aegean 0905 G.M.T.(Greek).26th course West, North of Lemnos.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1325C/26 to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.1. D.N.I.)

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Your 1455/25th March. Boatage confirmed as 829. 2. As details to embark include 150 R.A.F. urgently required in South Africa for training purposes and 160 military for U.K., Military do not wish to shut these out in favour of P.O.Ws

of which only 400 could be embarked. 3. It is hoped to embark P.O.Ws. in returning vessel C.M.40. 4. Agreed G.H.Q. Middle East. (P.S.T.O. M.E., 1329B/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., etc).

C. in C. Levant. T.L.s having appointed Act. Adm. Sir Ralph Leatham, K.C.B. as C. in C. of Levant Station, his flag as such is to be hoisted in CANOPUS at 0800 on Saturday 27th March and transferred to Combined H.Q. Alexandria at 0800 Sunday 28th March.

(2) Flag of Act. Adm. Sir Henry Harwood, K.C.B., O.B.E. is to be struck at Combined H.Q. Alexandria at sunset Saturday 27th March.
(C. in C. Levant, 1348B/26 to Levant Station).

Turkey, LL sweeps. Your 1140/2. Position remains as in my 1001/27 Feb. 1941 and 0042/24 Nov. 1942. Details of LL sweeps may not be divulged.

2. Approval has been given to supply 15 sets Admiralty type skid magnetic sweep equipment as an alternative to the 15 sets LL sweep equipment requested by the Turks in item 16 M revised Eden list. (Head of M. (I) 1417A/26 to C. in C. Levant, (R) N.A. Ankara).

M.K.S.10 My 1631/25 (M.K.S. 10 intend sailing (?ESSO BAYWAY) for Gibraltar.) sailed (Com N.O.B. Oran, 1440A/26 to C. in C. Med). M.K.S.10. Oran ships arrived. (Comnob Oran, 1601A/26 to C. in C. Med).

ALBA JULIA (Roumanian) ALBA JULIA left Piraeus March 25th bound for Istanbul C.4. (S.O.(I) Istanbul via N.I.D., 1605C/26 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1. D.N.I.)

Air Air co-operation in all occupied zones tonight between 2030 and 0200. (Capt. S.10., 1708A/26 to 8th S.F.)

/Axis...

WARTING: 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/26th March.

med

From: Mideast.

Reod: 1455Z

Captured axis Ports -

Working .

Date: 27.3.43.

1.000

IOLIA -

IN

CYPHER

Addressed: Air Ministry. IMPORTANT. IZ 1162. CC/208.

Following for Chiefs of Staff from Commandors-in-Chief.

Reference C.r.S. (ME) 363 of 10th March. (1810/10)

Below is short report asked for. Full reports follow by fast air but will take some time to prepare.

Part 1. General:

1. Co-ordinated plan between three services essential including complementary development sea and land communications. Whole plan must hinge on estimated date of capturing port. To this must be added estimated time required for clearance mines and obstructions and for organisation of air defence system which must be complete in every respect and in situ at the earliest possible date. Resultant date governs economic use Naval and air escerts and Marchant shipping also forward movement personnel and stores including resources for clearing mines and obstructions to ensure arrival port immediately on cepture. For ports up to including Benghazi timing was based on an unknown D day but actual date for ships to be ready to sail was laid down and holding f ships under load accepted. Problem at Benghazi simplified as ships could be loaded for discharge either there or at Tobruk according to situation. In case of Tripoli an actual date for capture of port was estimated and plan based thereon.

2. <u>Tripoli</u> affords best example and embodied previous experience. Outline plan decided at inter-services meeting hold late December as under:-

- (a) 21st January, the estimated date of capture. (Note Tripoli was actually captured on 25rd January).
- (b) Initial tonnage to be delivered daily laid down as 1,500 to be increased to 3,000 earliest possible. These targets adopted as 1,500 tons day considered practical with resources likely to be available once port opened and 3,000 the initial maintenance requirement including small amount for building up reserves. Subsequent increase left for later decision, when conditions at port became known;



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MOST SECRET

(c) Ocean going ships to be used subject D. of S.T. approval. This decision based on speed required, distance from base, size of ships harbour could accept, availability escorts and AA protection at port.

3. On above decisions detailed movement plan developed including amount shipping required, date loading to start, personnel, harbour craft and plant required to operate port and their forward movement. First convoy reached Tripoli two days after capture and discharge effected initially by LCT from ships lying outside harbour. This risk justified by enemy failure to take surface and air action.

4. Maximum information from all sources intelligence essential. Air photos and other reports disclosed enemy intentions for blocking harbour entrance at Tripoli so enabling R.N. and R.A.F. to take preventive measures, former sinking one blockship and latter two. Reports of demolitions effected enabled provision personnel, equipment and stores for clearing.

5. Essential adequate arrangements be made ensure following reach port immediately tactical situation permits: Naval Salvage Party, Naval Recce Party, Port Recce Party, with Reps. all Depts. Port Control Committee. A.A. and Balloons elements of Air Defence Fighter clement and R.D.F. equipment assumed already in situ. Adequate R.E. units and equipment. All necessary Mov/In units and personnel for operating port incl. adequate telephones for port control and special arrangements for port signals, Area Comd. and Staff. All parties moving by land to be completely mobile and to move forward close behind advancing troops. Mest important for Naval Salvage ship to arrive as soon as approaches to harbour have been swept clear of mines.

6. As advance progresses action to be taken by all above on arrival port to be co-orlinated by Army H.Q. Staff with R.N. and R.A.F. in light of Intelligence reports on conditions at port. Provision land T.P.T. for special stores and plant required by R.N. important.

10

7. In capture of port carliest reports required at G.H.Q. as to estimated date port open for shipping and assistance required. Urgent stores in limited quantity can be sent by air, others by land, specially provided T.P.T. and by H.M. ship. Further reports required on connections generally, method by which port to be worked, type of craft which can enter, and discharge capacity, Subsequent reports deal with details of damage, priority of work for clearance and repair as short and long-term policy, situation bulk oil installations and consequent tanker requirements.

8. On these reports Naval and Movement plan for despatch of convoys and provision further facilities for port operating can be made. Much time saved by D.Q.M.G. and senior Mov/Tn rep. visiting port few days after capture and remaining several days to settle policy on the spot and signal back to G.H.Q. At same time second key plan and maintenance project

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can be completed. Similar visits to Army H.Q. during period prior to capture of port best means co-ordinating action and assistance required.

10H1C

Part 11. Anomars to questionnaire.

9. Port control exercised through Port Control Committee. Chairman responsible ensuring port adequately protected for co-ordinating work of all Services concerned, incl. P.A.D. Port Control Committee to be set up earliest possible by Officers drawn from Port Recce. Party.

10. Responsibilities R.N. Berthing and movement ships, tugs. lighters. Pilotage, provision, manning and maintenance of berthing tugs. Sailing instructions, routings. Calling forward ships when considered harbour safe. Olearance of harbour obstructions. Sea T.P.T. Loading and discharge all merchant vessels and H.M. ships used primarily as cargo carriers except that when military stevedores employed army undertakes cargo handling. Safety of tugs and lighters between ship and shore but when military stevedores employed in lighters not responsible for receiving field discharging cargo therefrom. Provision all cargo therefrom, Provision all harbour craft except berthing tugs. Military. Traffic in dock area. Rail and road moves. Priorities and requests for berthing cargo, working of ships and lighters when military stevedores employed. Manning of lighters and harbour craft except berthing tugs. Care and maintenance tugs and lighters. Port repairs and maintenance. Clearance of cargo from quays and transit areas.

11. Port Control Committee consists Area Cmd., N.O.i/c, S.T.C., Rep. Mov/Tn., Rep. R.E., Rep. R.M.F. For all parts to date Area Cond. has been senior and automatically Chairman. Committees recee port then recommend composition and date acceptance first convoy. Settle immediate requrements and priorities debris clearance. Repair and reconstruction work. Committee meets daily to discuss each day's work and following day's programme.

12. Craft used. L.C.T. L.C.M. 'Z' craft. Tugs and Dumb Lighter incl. section captured tugs and lighters. 'Z' craft best as shallow draught and easily worked. Small powerful shallow draught tugs also towing launches essential. L.C.T.s most valuable particularly early stages. They can be movel along coast as advance progresses and be immediately available at port for discharge outside harbour if latter blocked.

13. Demolitions mainly as follows. Portions of Moles completely blown. Quay faces blown by charges placed at 50 feet intervals about 10 to 15 feet behind face creating series of craters. Oil and water pipes destroyed. Craters in roads. Booby traps. At Tripolibridge at entrance to harbour blown and block ships in harbour entrance. Also 20 ton concrete blocks sunk opposite quay faces.

14. Demolition gaps dealt with in stages. Those suitable for LCT berths prepared with graded ramps. Others decked

- 4 -

over with Loose timber sheet iron until retaining walls constructed and gaps rilled. Improvised retaining walls made with 44 gal. drums filled with rock or cement also sand or coment bags filled with cement. Concrete blocks opposite guay faces removed by captured 20 ton floating crane. Breaks in jettics bridged over with standard box girder bridges odd lengths girders or baulk timber decked over with wood. All repair work at Benghazi and Tripoli except removal block ships offected by R.E. units with Army. Chief difficulty was movement of heavy machinery and stores to site early.

15. In general, demolitions and minelaying did not prevent ports being opened to shipping within few days of cepture and very considerable discharge rates attained within short period thereafter. Main difficulty was blocking of harbour entrance Tripoli, Had enemy concentrated on this, all effort dispersed on other demolitions harbour might have been blocked for period of months. Failure partly due to sinking of block ships by IN and R/F.

16. Miscellaneous recommendations.

- (a) Z craft improved for ocean passage most suitable type of craft for harbour work.
- (b) (wing large number conflicting demands for plant material the personnel for all types of engincering port repairs above the high water mark should come under Chief Engineer of Army. No task was encountered outside capabilities normal engineer units.
- (c) Powerful berthing tug essential.
- (d) 20 ton fleating crane also essential.
- (e) Docks merating Coys should be equipped with generating sets to provide quay lighting.
- (f) Sig Det with at least one ten plug exchange required in movement control HQ. This can later be absorbed into normal signal unit.
- (3) Essential all land parties are well provided with TFD. If moving by land they must be completely mobile.
- (h) Administrative discipline TN units requires special attention during training.
- (i) Most desirable to have one officer on Army HQ Staff to take charge of and control all Mov/Tn activities.
- 17. Following being sent separately -
 - (a) Details removal block ships Tripoli.

(b)

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- (b) Numbers and trades of technicians and labour.
- (c) Experience and recommendations regarding definition responsibility of IN and Army for clearance underwater obstructions and debris adjacent to quay faces.

1715z/26

Circulation by Air Ministry -Prig. Jacob. Foreign Secretary. First Sea Lord. C.6. Tels., War Office. A.M.C.S.(C) C.C.O.

Received in War Registry at 2350/27th March.

lst Lord lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. Controller 4th S.L. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(W) A.C.N.S.(UT)(2) Sec. P.A.S.(S) A.S.(C) D, of F.(2) D. of P.(2) D. of P.(2) Head of M.(2) I.P.(2) W.D. Head of M.A.S. D. of L.D.(2)

A Most Secret T.O.O. 1810/10/3

J.R.

1月42

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Axis Ports. Details of working after capture. Reply to C.O.S. (M.E.) 1810/10/3. (Mideast, 1715Z/26 for Chiefs of Staff) See Lion Copy.

W.R. Note - C. in C. Mideast's CC/208, T.O.O. 1715Z/26 (re experience gained in development of captured ports) has been passed to A.F.H.Q. Algiers and J.S.M. Washington. (H.W.R., 30/3/43).

P. R. U. March 26th visuals. 1512, Taranto, 2 battleships 3 cruisers. 1550, Castellamare, one cruiser. 1550, Messina, 1530 Naples, no major Naval Units. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1747A/26 to C. in C. Med., etc).

TALMA Repatriations. TALMA sailed 26th March. (D.S.T.O. Suez, 1803Z/26 to S.S.T.O. Port Sudan, S.S.T.O. Massawa etc).

Estimate Swedish relief ships AA and GG will be in 037° 24' N., 017° 25' E. course 298° 13 knots at 1900A/27th. (Capt. S.10, 1818A/26 to P.42 (UNBROKEN) P.43 (UNISON) (R) 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 8). Relief Ships.

438B (1819B/24) of 24th March for 2100 G.M.T. read 2200 G.M.T. Summer Time. (C. in C. Levant, 1915B/26 to S. and A. Levant, Stn. etc) (former amended).

Transport SONTAY will be used to transport SONTAY under safe conduct Italian sick and wounded prisoners of war and protected personnel from S. Africa to Mid. East at early date. C. in C. E.F., has given route to Aden. Request you will signal as soon as possible route which should be followed from Aden to Alexandria. (Head of M.(I) 1923A/26 to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A) Reply: C. in C. Levant, 1642/29.

to convoy escorts.

Instructions / K.329. Instructions to convoy escorts laid down in Atlantic convoy instructions are modified for Western Med., by Med., West S.9 O's 41 and 42 dated 25th Feb. 43. 2. Ships that have not yet received these orders

are reminded that main points in Western Med. are (A) High degree Vigilance in readiness of A.A. armament reaching maximum at dusk dawn and in moonlight. (B) Use of smoke when threatened with T/B attack.

(C) U-boats do not hunt in packs so need of escort astern is much reduced.

/(D)...

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1043

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Instructions to convoy escorts. (contd).

R.D.F. when air attack is probable (i.e. anywhere east of Oran). (E) Blue warning from African Coast cannot be relied on since Axis aircraft have taken to flying very low and are often fixed by coastal R/C R.D.F. (C. in C. Med., 1929A/26, 0620A/27 to Med. Stn. (R) C. in C. Levant).

(D) No restrictions on use of all forms of

U.S. Air Report.

, For: Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell, Andrews, and Doolittle. Sgd. Brereton. 4. (?March 23rd) 23 B.24.s aircraft departed attack Messina. 2 returned early without reaching target. Remainder dropped 201 bombs of

500 pounds each with bursts and fires observed vicinity oil storage tanks, dry dock, ferry terminal, central railway station and power station. 1 aircraft damaged by A/A. Formation intercepted by fighters of which 1 probably destroyed. 6. On March 24, 19 B.24 aircraft of 98th group attacked Messina Sicily. 3 aircraft returned early due mechanical difficulties, fires observed railroad yards and Naval oil storage tanks and large fires vicinity ferry terminal and railroad station. Formation intercepted by 10 enemy fighters of which 1 Me. 109 destroyed another Me. 109 probably destroyed and 3rd Me. 109 destroyed by own A/A fire. 24 B.25 aircraft of 12th Group bombed Zarat area starting fires. (Cairo, 2016Z/26 to Etousa).

Malta Air Report.

A.I. 524 26th March, C.S.R. Day 25th March. "Y" service indicates 2 further German fighters crashed in sea during raid on Malta at 1040 hours (See my A.I.511). Night 25th/26th March. 5 Mosquitoes were airborne

on Intruder operations 2 patrolling Trapani Catania 2 patrolling Taranto Brindisi and 1 patrolling Naples Rome areas. (details).

Day 26th March. 24 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over S.E. Sicily.

Enemy Air Activity. Day 26th March. 14 Spitfires were Part 2. airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 5 Beaufighters provided escort to shipping southbound from Malta and 1 Wellington provided anti-submarine protection. (A.H.Q., Malta, 2055Z/26).

M.K.S.10 U/B attacked

TARTAR and QUANTOCK attacked submarine 35.55 N. 01.41 W. at 1920A/26. by TARTAR, QUANTOCK, CITY OF PERTH, torpedoed. (TARTAR, 2110A/26 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. S.O. Force H). Very large diesel oil patch followed last attack in 035° 54' N., 001° (?42') W. TARTAR remaining about 2 hours. Am rejoining. (QUANTOCK, 2237A/26 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) BROCKLESBY).

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.K.S.10 U/B attacked by TARTAR, QUANTOCK, CITY OF PERTH torpedoed. (contd).

My 2110. 4 attacks made. After QUANTOCK last attack at 1950 (?explosion) heard after pattern detonated. Contact lost after this but on re-to area at 2100 large diesel oil patch covered area of half mile square. Contact lost after this but on return (2) QUANTOCK rejoins M.K.S. 10. (3) Intend searching in vicinity until dawn then to Algiers at 28 knots. (TARTAR, 2310A/26 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H. (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. of Escort M.K.S.10 QUANTOCK)

Escort CITY OF PERTH to Benisaf and then proceed to Algiers

subject to concurrence of S.O. Force H. (C. in C. Med., 2350A/26 to TARTAR (R) S.O. Force H.)

Movements,	Bone departures OAKLEY, ZETLAND, LAMERTON,	
Bone.	EGGESFORD, BADSWORTH L.C.I. 210.	
	(F.O.I.S. 2116A/26 to C. in C. Med., etc).	

Smoke protection against T/B attacks on convoys.

Attention is again drawn to value of smoke as a protection against dusk or moonlight T/B attack on convoys. Convoys need not necessarily be hidden completely, providing horizon is sufficiently obscure to embarrass low flying A/C. (2) Whenever possible warning will be given if torpedo attack is likely but present enemy tactics generally defeat shore R.D.F. Escorts must

therefore expect attack without warning at dusk dawn and in moonlight.

(3) In these conditions S.O's of escort should arrange that at least 1 escort at a time is making smoke preferably on dark side of convoy. If approaching enemy aircraft are detected all escorts should make smoke. (C. in C. Med., 2130A/26 to Med. Station 327 K (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Levant).

Pass to Cdre. and Escort, K.M.S.ll. Sailed EMPIRE SCOUT, EMPIRE SNIPE. Both for Bone. Sailed K.M.S.11 Request pendants be allocated on joining escort vessels. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 2208A/26 to S.O. Afloat Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.11, F.O.I.S.)

PAKENHAM, PALADIN G.S. QUEEN OLGA arrived and Movements Libya, sailed. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 2221A/26 to Admty).

Arrived CYGNET, WREN, WOODPECKER, KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, MINNA, D.D.M.L.1132. Departures WHEATLAND, CYGNET, WREN, WOODPECKER, DOUGLAS, Movements Algiers KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN. (Cdre. Algiers, 2227A/26 to Admty. etc).

Arrived. (Cdre. Algiers, 2229A/26 to Admty. etc). RORQUAL

W.RNING: This message must first be paraphrased if it is essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 1849Z/26 March TN FROM: Algiers DATE: 26.3.43 RECD: 1849z

.)DRESSED: USFOR, Mideast, Britman Washington, Armindia Delhi, P.A.I.C., Landforces Melbourne, Dechief Preteria, Dechief Capetown, Defender Wellington, Force Nairobi, H.M.Ambassador Madrid) Paraphrased text (Pass copy to U.S.) passed by Foreign Ambassador Madrid) Office. BRITMILAT Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak)

Resident Minister Achimota.

Paraphrased text passel by Colonial Office.

Situation Report.

Tunisia -

10444

26

Ref. No. 9419 March 1943.

LINKEP 32.

Summary of operations 22nd to 24th March

I. Eighth Army

In the Marcth area the enemy launched a strong In the March area the enemy launched a strong counter attack during the afternoon 22nd March. The attacks continued throughout the night when it became apparent that most of our bridgehead positions had been penetrated the majority of our troops were withdrawn east of Wadi Zigzaou. Fighting continued throughout 23rd March and on the night of 23rd/24th March the remainder of our troops were withdrawn across the Wadi.. 24th March was a quiet day in this sector. On the New Zealand front south-west of El Hamma fierce fighting continued throughout 22nd and 23rd March. On 24th March our armoured forces advanced about 2 miles. Patrols have reached the foothills of the Djebel Tebaga range. of the Djebel Tebaga range.

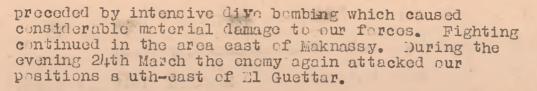
2. 2nd Corps.

On 22nd March U.S. Infantry Forces consolidated their positions east and south-east of El Guettar and U.S. armoured forces attacked and occupied gap high ground 6 miles east of Maknassy. On 23rd March the enemy launched 2 attacks with armour and infantry from the south-east against our forces east of El Guettar. The first attack was held during the morning after some slight penetration of our lines and 10 enemy tanks were destroyed. The second attack during the evening was also stopped but was

. Mariana

.

preceded/



3. Results of Operations in South Tunisia.

- 2 -

The enemy has been forced to commit a great part of his reserves due to the combined pressure of the attacks of the Eighth Army and the eastward thrusts of the American forces from Gafsa. On the last possible defensive line, the enemy's Western Flank now rests, on which he can block our approach to his communications from the north to the Mareth Line.

4. Naval. Two of our submarines have returned from successful patrols. One submarine sank a 5,000 ton enemy merchant vessel and probably hit two more ships with torpedces. Another submarine sank an enemy cased petrol ship off Palermo. During the night 21/22 March a naval gunboat bombarded Gabes. The same night motor launches staged a feint landing north of Gabes and drew some fire. In addition a small feint convoy was sailed towards Gabes but was not sighted by the enemy. During night 22/23 March Motor Torpedo Boats operating from Bone located four enemy vessels, believed Siebel Ferrics. Estimated one ship hit by torpedo and one probably damaged by gunfire. Personnel convoy arrived Algiers with the loss of one ship.

5. Air The offensive of both the Tunisian Air Forces and the Western Desert Air Forces in support of our land forces has been maintained in strength both day and night throughout the period. Tank-buster squadrons of the Western Desert Air Force have had considerable success. Enemy landing grounds near Gabes were attacked on many occasions. Palermo, Bizerta and Ferryville were heavily bombed and enemy shipping between Tunisia and Sicily was also attacked with success. Subsequent photographs show that the raids on Palermo and Ferryville caused very extensive material damage.

6. <u>Political</u>. Jules Abadie appointed Secretary of Interior to replace Rigault. Couve de Murville has replaced Bergeret as Secretary General. Both men capable and from our point of view desirable. The shortage of top grade, loyal personnel so apparent in weeks following landing, is gradually being supplied by arrivals, largely from France, although not adequate to fill the demands. General Giraud is improving the character and efficiency of the Government and expected are further constructive changes.

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Recd.	in War Reg. at	1215/20.
lst Lord	·D.C.D.(H)(2)	
lst S.L. (2)	D.D. I.C. (2)	Brig. Jacob
	D. of P.(2)	
5th S.L.	Duty Capt. (2)	
D.C. N E	Hd. of M.	C.6 Tels. War Office
V.C.N.S.	D.N.I.(4)	A. M. C. S. (C)
A.C.N.S. (A)	I.P. (2)	Mr. Strang
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.P.J.	Mr. Balcliffe.
A.C.N.S. (W)	C.N.I.	
U.W.R.	W.D.	a man marine
	Ad. Blake	in the second
	D.A.W.T.	a march a
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1045

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Arrival BRITTANY. (N.O.I.C. Cochin, 04552/26 to Admty.) Arrival TULIP at 07302/26

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 0759Z/26 to Admty.)
Arrival 1610Z/25th INVESTIGATOR with 4 I.W.T. craft, 0200Z/26th
CLIVE. Departure 0001Z/26th BENGAL to R/V and escort SANTHIA.
 (S.O.(I) Bombay, 0919Z/26 to Admty.)
 Departure 0630Z CAPETOWN with B.A.40. S. of A. 11¹/₂ knots.
Arrivals 0930Z EMILE BAUDOT, 1015Z FLAMINGO in tow.

(S.O.(I) Bombay, 1121/26 to Admty.)

SpecialReply to D.S.T. 0509/23 March (see South Atlantic)Troopre number on board and vacant accommodation.Convoy,(P.S.T.O. India, 0513Z/26 to P.S.T.O. Capetown,Durban(R) D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F., D.S.T.)- U.K.(

ConvoyCochin portion arrived.B.M.46¹/₂.(N.C.S.O. Cochin, 0546Z/26 to Admty.)

B.A. 40 (ROHNA). B.A.40, ROHNA, with troops and stores for Suez sailed 0600Z/26 due Aden 0700Z/1st April crosses 055° E. at 0300Z/30 escorted by CAPETOWN routed through W. 018° 05', 070° 20'. X. 017° 00', 060° 00'. Y. 014° 55', 053° 20'. Z. 012° 15', 046° 00'.

(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0636Z/26 to Admty., etc.) B.A.40 sailed from Bombay 26th March for Suez via Aden. ROHNA has on board for Aden and Suez (numbers). E.T.A. Aden 0700/1st April. Request ship may be returned to Bombay as soon as possible. (P.S.T.O. I., 0926Z/26 to P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) S.T.O. Aden, D. of S.T.)

Convoy Escorts. Amend my 0748/25th as follows. BATHURST to act as additional escort to P.A.31. For BATHURST read BALUCHISTAN as escort to P.A. 32 with CESSNOCK. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 06442/26 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.)

Enemy Air For Chiefs of Staff from F.M. Wavell. 1. Unsatisfactory state J.A.F. Intelligence. Intelligence. Consider combined effort essential to correlate and improve sources. 2. J.I.C.(I) consider best practical solution is Combined Allied Air Intelligence staff situated S.W. Pacific with detachment India (details). (Armindia, 1145Z/26 to Air Min. (R) J.S.M.)

/Eastern ...

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26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Eastern Fleet Cruisers.

for reconstruction.. (2) CAPEFOWN and CERES to follow in that order on arrival of EMERALD and DANAE on East Indies Station. Request information when these Cruisers may be expected

(1) Intend to sail DAUNTLESS in mid May to U.K.

Cruisers may be expected. (3) A.M. 1243/9th May 1942, C. in C. E.F's 1924/28th May and A.M. 1540/3rd August 1942 refer. (C. in C. E.F., 1148Z/26 to Admty., F.O.C. 4th Cruiser Squadron.)

M/S Vessels, working up. In view of reduced threat of minelaying in Shatt el Arab, intended that existing M/S Forces in Persian Gulf should not be reinforced by additional M/S vessels now coming forward for service. 2. I consider it desirable that additional M/S vessels including new construction should

concentrate in the east and carry out a full programme of working up and instruction. 3. Intended that ships should proceed either to Colombo or

Trincomalee for this purpose. 4. Vessels to which this will apply are 2 wooden vessels fitting out in Colombo, 10 whalers converting in Indian ports, 3 whalers converting in South Africa, 1 whaler converting in Mediterranean, also new construction on arrival.

(C. in C. E.F., 1337/26 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. Levant, S.N.O.P.G., C. in C. S.A., Com. R.I.N.)

DEVONSHIRE, GAMBIA. 1. Cruisers will be sailed to conform with your 1239/24th subject to arrival of SUFFOLK and NEWCASTLE on E.I. Station. With present number of cruisers it is just possible to meet escort commitments but only at expense of exercises without which a ship cannot be kept efficient for battle.

(C. in C. E.F., 1357Z/26 to Admty., (R) C.S.4.)

0. 21 patrol, M/V sunk. During patrol in Andamans - Junkseylon Island area from 6th to 24th D.S. 0.21 sunk by torpedoes 1 M/V about 4,000 tons off Port Blair, on 13th. (C. in C. E.F., 1412/26 to Admty., (R) F.O. Ceylon, Capt. S.4.)

1047

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements.

U.S.A.T. BRIG. GEN. H.F. RUTHERS and STATE OF VIRGINIA both arrived Trinidad March 24th. (N.S.H.Q. 0156Z/26 to Admty.) Armed Yachts 497, 530, 649 arrived p.m. 25th. (R.O. Barranquilla 0957/26 to Admty.) Charleston sailed 2238Q/24 LINCOLN for Halifax. (N.S.H.Q. 1326Z/26 to Admty.) U.S.Cutter Y.P. left 25th March, St. Lucia 26th March. (Treasurer S. Dominica 1330/26 to Admty.) Bermuda arrival BAZELEY. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 2113P/26 to Admty.)

U/B.

D/F on transmission at 0249Z/26th indicates U-Boat within 90 miles 057° 15' N. 042° 00' W. This U-Boat shifting as W/T link for another U-Boat possibly transmitting sighting report in same area. Originator not heard. (N.S.H.Q. 0524Z/26 to Ships Escorting S.C. 123 Ships Escorting H.X. 230, C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, Opnav.)

B.Y.M.S.10, 17, 18 and 25 departure 0035 G.M.T. 26th E.T.A. Trinidad 30th. B.Y.M.S. (B.R.O. Cristobal 0745R/26 to Admty.)

/ Your 1251/23 and 1759/25. Intervals between French Escort Vessels pairs must depend mainly on docking programme. fitting asdics Factors governing this are (A) unless pairs are and A/A arma- sister ships they cannot be docked together abreast. Docking singly will take longer. S cannot be docked in line ahead. (B) Flow of Ships ment. L.S.T. through Bermuda. (C) Damaged U.S. ships requiring urgent repairs.

2. My 1532/27 Feb. assumed no refitting work beyond normal passage defects necessary. 3. No information has been received about shipment of A/S equipment or guns except in your signals quoted above. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 0833/26 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. B.A.D. F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. S.N.O.C.A.)

Convoy	Arrived.				
B.T.7.	(B.R.L.O.	Trinidad	09382/26	to	Admty.)

U/B.

Intercept from Guantanamo Bay Submarine sighted 19° 50' N. 75° 08' W. at 1220 G.M.T. (S.O.I. Jamaica 1012R/26 to Admty.)

/Movements...

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship. C.U.1.)	Position.		Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T.	GORLESTON)	36° N. 43°	W.	051°	14
26th.	ATTACKER) SS. ANDES 22 L.C.I.(L)S SS. MONTEREY ARETHUSA	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	W. W. W. W,	090° 090° 280° 293°	19 10 20 15
	WASTWATER) 4 B.Y.M.S.)	$03\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}S.$ $27\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	w.	062°	9
	CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock) A.T. 39 (D.O.D.(F) 1135	41° N. 46°	w.	265° 073° omnaveu.	5 19)
U/B attacked.	Intercept from 1 48' N. 80° 15' (S.O.I. Kingsto	W. at 0916Q.			1 17°
L.C.I.(L) Convoy.	Amend my 1831/1 sailed via poin other points. Gibraltar will (Cominch 1245/2	t K. to Bermu New route fro be furnished	da. Ca m Bermu later.	ncel all da to	
Helicopters.	Your 2251/13. ceeding in ass Authorities. W	ociation with e should welc	U.S. No ome joi	aval nt actio	on for
but should ret platforms bein also to be mou special trials Marcus 393 dat	training of pil .T. informed DAG ain platform mea g fitted if poss nted to fire aft party in hand. ed 15/3 also ref A/26 to B.A.D.)	HESTAN not no ntime. Repre ible to allow . Arrangemen Inform B.A.C	w requi: sent ne anti s ts for	red for cessity ubmarine passage	trials, of gun of
Dive / Bombing.	Steep dive bomb now an urgent all available i and operational	Royal Naval r nformation on	equirem techni	ent. Re que, tra	equest

and operational results, be obtained on high priority. We are informed that until recently no sight was used but now U.S. Navy are developing mechanical sights for computing bomb release. What is the reason for this change of policy? Is it because altitude of release is now greater due to heavier or more accurate opposition or less experienced wartime personner (M.A.P. 1439/26 to B.A.C. Washington.)

U.S. S/M (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 1503/26, 1504/26, 1541/26, Notices. S/M 1542/26, 1543/26, 2234/26). estimate 26th March.

/U/B...

1949

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

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U/B.

U-Boat by D/F at 13292/26 within 90 miles 054° 00' N. 048° 15' W. 10300 k/cs approx. Enigma 60 groups. (N.S.H.Q. 15082/26 to U.S.S. NORTHLAND, U.S.S. BEAR, C.O.A.C. C.O.N.F. (R) Admty. Cominch, S.B.M.O.W.At. Opnav, Escort H.X. 230.)

STIRLING CASTLE. H.M.T. STIRLING CASTLE, Brit., arrived New York 0940Z/26. (Port Director New York 1514/26 to Admty. etc.)

U/B.

By D/F at 1133Z U-Boat estimated anywhere within 75 miles of 61° 00' N. 36° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 1545A/26 to Escorts of O.N. 174, (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C. Escort Group 3.)

P.553 repairs. N.S.H.Q. 1731/25. Since present estimated is that B.D.E. 3 will arrive Bermuda about 6th April, and B.D.E. 4 about 20th April, and submarine will not be essential during first week of working up, suggest repairs to Gyro should be carried out in view of heavy working up programme later on. (B.A.D. 1345Z/26 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.(S) C.O.A.C. N.S.H.Q. Capt. D.Halifax.)

U.G.F.7.

Convoy U.G.F.7 expected ready to sail New York April 2. Composition 1. For Med. ports, 2. For W.African ports. U.S.ship HOUSATONIC accompanies to fuel destroyers. Total 17 ships. (Cominch 1701/26 to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) C.T.F. 66, C.E.S.F. Admty. etc.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. INDUSTRIA torpedoed area 08 S. 34 W. about March 25. P.B.M. attacks sub. 17.48 N. 80.15 W. 1316/26. Para. C. P.A.A. Clipper sights Sub. submerging 18.03 N. 67.30 W. 1500/25. Para. D. Sub. contact 19.50 N. 75.08 W. 1220/26 C.G.R. 3080 and C.G.R. 3091 make sound contacts area 39.35 N. 71.42 W. 2200/24 to 0645/25. Military lookout sights sub. area 20.20 S. 40.10 W. 2400/25. (Cominch 2036/26 to Admty.)

U/B.Convoy S.C. 123. My 2008/26th (N.T. in W.D.) U-Boat sighted at 2056Z 20 miles astern of convoy. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.26 2102Z/26 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. A.C.I.C. C.T.G. 24.6 OFFA.)

/FORTUNE...

1050

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIO S.

America & West Indies - Contd.

FORTUNE, EXPRESS. My 1215/23rd February. FORTUNE, EXPRESS complete refits first and

third weeks in May respectively.

2. Request Canadian crews may be sent to U.K. for commissioning and working up these ships and that advance parties of officers and key ratings may join as soon as available.

(D.O.D.(H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 2111A/26 to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

TRACKER.

Your 0301/6th Feb. para. 2 TRACKER is due Norfolk 31st and will require about 23 days for making good defects and docking.

2. Intend to offer her to U.S. Army Air Corps for ferrying on passage in which case she will sail in U.G.F. 8 leaving New York 29th April. Little, if any, delay will result in her ultimate arrival in U.K. if onward passage from Gibraltar area to U.K. can be suitably arranged. (B.A.D. 2123Z/26 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

IROQUOIS. Movements of H.M. Canadian Ships.

U.K. (ii) Further request that Signals affecting the movements of H.M.C. Ships may be repeated to N.S.H.Q. and that copies of R. of Ps. from these ships may be forwarded to N.S.H.Q. with covering remarks of Operational Authorities by Bomber Mail. (N.S.H.Q. 2135Z/26 to C. in C.H.F. (R) Admty. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. C.C.C.S.)

Request information if IROQUOIS has arrived in

A/A training. / Consequent on the inability of U.S.Authorities to provide adequate facilities for training personnel awaiting new construction in short range A/A fire it is requested that two L.C.I.(L) may be retained for this purpose. Berthing facilities can be provided in the vicinity of ASBURY. It is recognised that this will only provide training in Oerlikons and targets will probably be kites or balloons but such training is better than

none and does teach the handling of a gun under seagoing conditions.

(B.A.M.R. Washington 2152Z/26 to Admty.)

H.X. and S.C.	Ref. your 1805/17th.
Convoys,	Adm. King states that if Admty. consider it
proposed	essential he reluctantly concurs in proposal to
increase	increase temporarily the limit to 70 provided
in numbers.	that the number of 60 is always aimed at.
	We are acting accordingly.
	(B A D 21557/26 to Admty)

1051

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

429 March 25th

Digest '8 Liberators bombed town area Rabaul before dawn serial No. starting fires and explosions . No. harbour, believed covering majority shipping present, reveal 48 vessels including 29 merchant vessels, totalling 145000 tons, 7 destroyers, l destroyer tenders, 4 submarines, 1 submarine tender, 1 minesweeper, 2 tankers (?behind) 2 unidentified vessels. (3) One Fortress bombed Gasmata forenoon

scoring hits on building and wharf areas. (4) Blurred photos early afternoon show 1 merchant vessel 700 tons and 2 coasters plus approx. 30 barges in Wewak harbour, also 3 serviceable, 6 unserviceable fighters 1 medium bomber on old aerodrome. Photos Bogia harbour show 1,000 ton merchantman which was sighted unloading on to barges or lighters. (6) One Fortress morning and another afternoon attacked Lae with unobserved results. Photos midday showed 11 barges Lae harbour. (9) 6 Liberators attacked Ambon afternoon 25th scoring direct hits on (?convoy of) merchant vessels and on main wharf and reported sighting 5 or 6 other small vessels in harbour. 4 to 6 enemy aircraft intercepted whereof one shot down others damaged. (G.H.Q. J.W.P.A. 0720Z/26.)

Movements.

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. TALAMANCA. (D.N.I. Wellington 0432Z/26 to Admty.) Arrival Auckland 2252Z/25th.

U.S.S. CELENO A.K. Departure Auckland 2238Z/25. U.S.S. RIXEY for Noumea E.T.A. 28th March. Arrival Borabora 1825Z/24. U.S.S. CYGNUS.

(D.N.I. Wellington 0453Z/26 to Admty.)

Arrival Townsville 25th KATOOMBA Sydney (N.S.W.) 24th U.S. Dest. RALPH TALBOT 25th U.S. Dest. PATTERSON. Departure Milnebay 25th BOWEN for Orobay Port Moresby 25th ARUNTA for Townsville Dunk Island 24th U.S. Dest. BAGLEY for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B. 0902Z/26 to Admty.) Arrival 26th March Sydney H.T. KATOOMBA U.S. LUDINGTON. Cairns, Dutch Naval Store Ship MINJAK TANAH. U.S. BANTAM departs Fall River 25th due Orobay 26th. U.S.T.BONTEKOE departs Gladstone 25th due Townsville 27th.

(A.C.N.B. 1444Z/26 to Admty., Connav.) Departure Auckland U.S.S. FCMALHAUT for Wellington E.T.A. 1800Z/28. (D.N.I. Wellington 1953Z/26 to Admty.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Cdre. West Australia's 0346Z/23rd (N.T. in W.D.) Personnel embarked in ILE DE FRANCE (details). My 0559Z/17th refers. Total souls 428. (A.C.N.B. 1118Z/26 to N.O.I.C. Durban.)

Navigation.

Your 0417/24 (N.T. in W.D.) My 1055/5. It is confirmed that lines of shoot of A.S.V. Beacon at Wigram Aerodrome are 045° true and 185° true. (N.Z.N.B. 2520/26 (six) to Admty.)

1052

26.3.1943. Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 1345A/26. 1411A/26.)

1053

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

DASHER sunk. 1. The Escort Carrier DASHER sank at 1645 today when 5 miles south of Cumbrae Island as the result of an internal explosion believed not due to enemy action but to petrol. Survivors, including the C.O., have been picked up.

Blockade runners. 2. A B.2 report received today states that the German M/Vs PORTLAND, 7132 tons, and OSORNO, 6951 tons, with the Italiam HIMALAYA, 6240 tons, left Bordeaux p.m./25th or at dawn yesterday for Japan, escorted by 3 destroyers and 7 torpedo boats. Convoy S.L.126 which was being shadowed by one enemy A/C at 1415Z today in 42° 23' N. 16° 18' W., has been informed accordingly; and the U.S. S/M HERRING has been ordered to endeavour to reach 44° 12' N. 11° 50' W. by daylight tomorrow.

3. The newly-formed 3rd Escort Group of 6 Destroyers joined Convoy S.C.123 at 0438Z today.

Coastal force encounter. 4. In the early hours of today M.G.Bs 330 and 324 on patrol had a brief encounter with E-Boats 13 miles south-west of Start Point, but lost the enemy in smoke. Convoys P.W.314 and W.P.314 were to the westward of the E-Boats and were not attacked; the latter convoy was turned to the westward for 2 hours.

5. DOUGLAS, AMAZON, BULLDOG and BOADICEA are to join the command of F.O.C. West Africa.

6. A Fortress aircraft made a promising attack at 1130 today on a fully surfaced U-Boat in 60.45 N. 15.25 W. (200 miles N.N.W. of Rockall).

South Atlantic.

7. Acting Vice-Admiral H.B. Rawlings C.B., O.B.E. assumed direction of West Africa Command vice Pegram today.

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1054

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

8. Acting Admiral Sir Ralph Leatham K.C.B. today assumed command of the Levant Station in succession to Acting Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, K.C.B., O.B.E.

on K.M.S.11.

Air attacks / 9. EMPIRE ROWAN in Convoy K.M.S.11 was hit by an aircraft torpedo in 37.16 N. 06.54 E. (about 25 miles north of Philippeville) and was beached 18 miles west of Philippeville: and became a total loss. The convoy was again attacked by aircraft about noon but no casualties occurred. In the two attacks fighters shot down 7 and damaged 2 enemy aircraft, and H.M.S. FLUELLEN shot down one by A/A fire.

> 10. A convoy of 10 store ships and a tanker on passage from Alexandria to Tripoli (L) was attacked by U-Boat at 1727 today in 33.00 N. 22. 50 E. (about 10 miles north of Derna) and CITY OF GUILDFORD was torpedoed and sunk.

Mines off Tripoli (L).

11. SS. BECKENHAM was mined in 70° Tripoli (L) Light 7.2 miles and was able to enter harbour but cannot steam. Minesweepers cut 18 mines north-west of Tripoli (L) today.

demonstration.

Cape Server / 12. LAFOREY and BLYSKAWICA carried out a demonstration and feint landing including a bombardment, near Cape Serrat (35 miles west of Bizerta) at 2200 today.

East Indies.

13. Two formations totalling 25 bombers and 6 fighters attacked Cox's Bazaar and shipping in the Naaf River (Arakan Coast) between 1300 and 1330. Damage and casualties were slight. Eleven Hurricanes intercepted and shot down 10 to 13 of the enemy and damaged 7, without loss. A/A and ships also claim to have brought down some of the enemy.

1. 1055

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

14. 6 B.24s mined Rangoon River last night, 6 B.24s bombing Rangoon as a diversion.

America and West Indies.

Convoy S.C.123.

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15. At 0210Z today M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 (WHIMBREL) reported that at 2200Z/26 VANESSA sighted and heavily attacked U-Boats and it was believed U-Boats were now no longer in touch, though several were between 25 and 40 miles astern of the convoy, the position of which was 58.09 N. 38.25 W.

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1056

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SANDFLY.

Admty. 0046/25. Kite balloon Station recently established at Peterhead requires a vessel for servicing duties. Propose that SANDFLY be retained for this purpose. Disadvantages of unsuitability in heavy weather could be met by loan of another vessel when circumstances require. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1202/27 to Admty.)

Sleat Sound H.D.A.

Admty. M/A/S.W. 4046/1943 of 24th March and my 1244/26th. If DUISDALE H.D.A. is closed and a flare on the boom across Sleat Sound ignites due to passage of enemy submarine or any other cause it would be necessary to clear this base

for an indefinite period as a submarine could lie un-detected for weeks in one of the several docks inside harbour area. S/M could also pass undetected through dummy side of gate which is kept open. Navigational difficulties of entering are considered surmountable by a determined enemy S/M. Use of this base with no sure means of detecting S/M entering Sleat Sound is also risky in view of A.M. 0001/13th February, 1943 and possible change any moment of enemy S/M policy. It is therefore strongly urged that H.D.A. may be retained. Personnel can be replaced by W.R.N.S. as proposed by N.O.I.C. Lochalsh. (R.A.M. 1302/27 to Admty.)

SOUTHERN GEM, On recommissioning and when ready for sea A/S SOUTHERN PRIDE.Whalers SOUTHERN GEM and SOUTHERN PRIDE should be sailed for Tobermory to work up.

2. On completion of working up they will be required for Escort duty to Gibraltar. 3. Their final destination is Freetown. (D.A.S.W. 1601A/27 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

DOUGLAS, AMAZON, BULLDOG, BOADICEA are to join the command of F.O.C.West Africa at first DOUGLAS, AMAZON, convenient opportunity. BULLDOG. 2. Anticipate BULLDOG will be required to sail BOADICEA. on 15th April. (C. in C.W.A. 1720A/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) 1. D.S. FLORES is to join C. in C. Med. FLORES. 2. F.O.I.C. Type is requested to sail FLORES to Tobermory to work up about early May. 3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange for FLORES to be sailed for Mediterranean in convenient convoy end May. (D.O.D.H. 1735A/27.) TAKU is allocated to Plymouth as A/S Training TAKU. submarine from about 5th April for approx. one month prior to refit at Troon. 2. TAKU is unfit for operations. 3. Request TAKU may be sailed accordingly. (D.A.S.W. 1959A/27 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

/Trawlers...

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy - Contd.

Trawlers for Plymouth. Request you will transfer 3 ships of 25th Trawler Group to Plymouth Command temporarily. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to return the ships to Portsmouth as and when remaining ships of 26th Trawler Group, now forming, arrive at Plymouth. (D.M.S. 2214A/27 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Movements.

BURZA.

Sailed BURZA to Moville to top up with fuel, E.T.A. 0700A/27. Thence comply with C. in C.W.A. 1740Z/25. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0228A/27.)

M.T.B.6. My 1500/26. Sailed at 1040/27. (Irish.) (R.N.O. Penzance 1047A/27.)

Coastal Craft D.

A.M. 2203/10. A. It is desired to sail a further coastal craft group. 1. To be referred to as Coastal craft D. 2. From Milford Haven. 3. Escort. 2 trawlers or above from W.A.command. 4. Approximate sailing date 20th April.

B. C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide escorts. C. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail group. (D.O.D.H. 1057A/27.)

S/M Movements. Intend sailing TRESPASSER and SPORTSMAN escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE from vicinity Campbeltown 2359A/ 30 to 000° Round Island 7 miles, E.T.A. 1400A/1st to R/V with ULTIMATUM and her escort.

2. Thence TRESPASSER, SPORTSMAN to westward. CAPRICIEUSE escorting SPORTSMAN to Clyde, E.T.A. 0900A/3. 3. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to sail ULTIMATUM to R/V F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE as above.

(Capt. S.3 1121A/27.)

Due to defects USURPER cannot reach Scapa by 1st April. Intend USURPER to carry out running with C.O.Q.C. being relieved by UNIVERSAL as soon as possible.

Your 1524A/19 refers.

(Capt. S.3 1547A/27 to F.O.S.) Intend sail UNA escorted by ALECTO from Clyde at 1730A/28 to Scapa E.T.A. 0830/30. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail UNA to Dundee with escort provided by Capt. S.9.

(Capt. S.3 1603A/27.)

Positions of submarines at O800A/28 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. X.5, X.6, X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FORT RYAN leave Port H.H.Z. about 1900/28 via Eastern North Minch to Loch Kishorn. B. TRUCULENT in zone K.151.

/C. SEA NYMPH...

1058

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAINDS.

Movements.

S/M

Movements. (Contd.) D. TEMPLAR in zone K. 148. (Contd.) D. TEMPLAR in zone K. 148. E. UPROAR 46° 58' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 43° 02' N. 12° 54' W. at 1530/30. F. SOKOL 46° 42' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N. 12° 26' W. at 0630/30. G. HERRING vicinity 43° 10' N. 09° 50' W.

C. SEA NYMPH in zone K. 150.

H. SHAD in zone K. 508.

(F.O.S. 1731A/27.) My 1741/26 para F. Add proceeding after dark 27th to patrol vicinity 44° 12' N. 11° 50' W. My 1731/27. Amend para G. to read vicinity 44° 12' N. 11° 50' W. (F.O.S. 1949A/27.)

ST. ALBANS. When ready for sea request ST. ALBANS be sailed as desired by C. in C.W.A. to join Western Local Force at Halifax. (D.O.D.H. 1605A/27 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

NASTURTIUM, Request when NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA will return to U.K. ALGOMA. (C. in C.W.A. 1745A/27 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

SYMBOL.

To avoid enemy minefield approaching Reykjavik proceed from position T. to new U. 64.40 23.51 new V. 64.15 22.06 thence destination. (Connav 1944/27 to SYMBOL.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 246 (S.O. and M.L. 124 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leaving Harbour at 1945 via Q.Z.S. 382 for patrol line and leaving patrol line at Dawn/28. 3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. (F.O.I.C. Portland 1118A/27.) Codeword "Device."

1. M.T.Bs. 94, 90 are to patrol from position A. 325°, Ile de Bas Light 8' through position B. 360° Les Triagoz Light 5' to position C. 360° Les Heaux Light 4'. 2. Object, to intercept enemy shipping. Les Triagoz Light 5' to

3. Execution, M.T.Bs. 94, 90 are to leave Dartmouth 1930/27 and proceed to patrol-line at speed not exceeding 20 knots. Leave patrol as required to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 28th.

4. Enemy E-Boats may operate from Cherbourg.

6. Codeword "Arena."

(C. in C.Plymouth 1401A/27.)

3. 2 M.G.B., 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven to carry out a covering patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between 00° 45' E. and 00° 10' W. To be at eastern end of patrol by 0100/28 and keep

/south...

1 .40

1059

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.)

south eastward of convoy during its passage, leaving patrol at 0615. 4. M.L. 309, 464 patrolling south of E.A.5. 5. Chasseurs 15 at St. Helens, KINGSTON TOPAZ and LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. 6. Portland patrol M.L. 246, 124 on 50° 20' N. between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W. (C. in C.Portsmouth 1415A/27.) "Device" sailed 1958/27.

My 1118A/27. (F.O.I.C. Portland 2002/27.)

Cancel my 1401. M.T.B. 94 and 90 returning to harbour. (C. in C. Plymouth 2215A/27.)

S/M Patrol.

N.W.Norway Your 1736/22. Our dispositions are designed to give early information of a break-out of main units and this should be a British commitment. Owing to

lengthening hours of daylight, close patrol will not be possible after 6th April and it will be necessary to withdraw our submarines to the offshore patrol zones. 2. The proposed limit of 68° 50' N. is not acceptable if all exits from Narvik area are to be watched, whether our S/Ms are close-in or off-shore.

3. From our information, enemy shipping from this area uses Tjeldsundet and thence the Inner Leads to the Northwards so it does not seem that anti-shipping patrols in the coastal areas are likely to be profitable. However, in order to meet the Russian request as far as practicable, request you will propose that instead of the latitude limit, a longitude limit of 16° E. should be imposed, the Russians to operate to the Eastward. This will give them And Fjord to the Eastward and this is likely to be as profitable as any.

4. Request you will also propose that the present dispositions should remain until 6th April and warn Russians that it may be necessary to move S/Ms to Northward to watch Altonfjord. (A.C.N.S.H. 1710A/27 to S.B.N.O. N. Russia.)

V.P. Operation. Returning, operation not completed. 5950 0050. (Ship at Sea 1745/27 to Lerwick.)

Biscay S/M Patrol.

HERRING proceed after dark on surface to patrol in vicinity 044° 12' N. Oll° 50' W. Endeavour to reach position by daylight. 2. German HIMALAYA, PORTLAND, and CSCRNO may have sailed Bordeaux p.m. 25th or dawn 26th March for Japan escorted by three destroyers, seven T.Bs. and possibly one submarine. (F.O.S. 1931A/27 to S/Ms.)

1060

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Trials in Lyme Bay on 29th March. March. My 1218A/26. Intend to sail drifter NOONTIDE escorted by R.M.L. 521 at 1000/29 so as to be in 180° Lyme Regis 5 miles by 1430 to take part in special trials. 2. Codeword "Scent." (F.O.I.C. Portland 1540A/27 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

ULTIMATUM. S/M ULTIMATUM will be exercised off Plymouth from 0800 till 1600/28th. (C. in C.Plymouth 2347A/27 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland.

Three Catalinas will patrol from 0910 to 1630 and two Hudsons from 0920 to 1145 in area enclosed by following position A. 059° N. 020° W. B. 061° N. 013° W. C. 063° N. 015° 30' W. D. 061° 10' N. 022° 20' W. (A.C.I.C. 0531A/27 to PENN, BLANKNEY, C.S.10.)

Assessment of A/S attacks by U.S. A/C from Iceland. It has been agreed that A/S attacks by all A/C operating out of Iceland be assessed by the Admiralty committee. Accordingly U.S. Forces concerned will take appropriate action. (Cominch 1945/27 to Comtask 24.)

R/Cs. of Trondheim and Altenfjord.Will you also order Russians to carry out P.R.U. Altenfjord on highest priority. (L.M. Coastal Command 2358A/27 to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

S.L. 126. One enemy aircraft is shadowing convoy, position 42° 23' N. 16° 18' W., speed 8 knots, course 350°. (PELICAN 14152/27.)

Mining.

9th M/S F. Your 1011A/25. Arrived. (C. in C.Portsmouth 0818A/27 to C. in C.Nore.)

Unknown Operation. My M. 994 of 9th March para. 7. It is understood from VERNON C/M that WILLOWTIT would be suitable. Request it may be stated if this vessel is available. Para. 8, laying party will be provided by VERNON C/W and it is anticipated that laying

available. Para. 8, laying party will be provided by VERNON C/M and it is anticipated that laying can be commenced in or near 8th April. Propose that original arrangements re preparation in my M.994 para. 7 and 8 be adhered to. (VERNON M. 1111/27 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

/- 1061

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Clearance of Q.Z.X.910.

C. in C.W.A's 1919A/25. Intend sailing 15th M/S Flotilla comprising CAIRNS (S.O.), BEAUMARIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, DUNBAR, and PETERHEAD from Kirkwall at 0630/29th March

routed to Cape Wrath thence standard route through Minches to R/V in 056° 25' 06" N. 007° 40' 05" W. for clearance-sweep of Q.Z.X. 910. E.T.A. R/V position 0830/30. Request that Dan-laying vessels join S.O. 15th M/S F. at 0830/ 30 in the R/V position. (A.C.O.S. 1657A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Sortie R.A/129 at 1615/26 shows Lorient Only Lorient on 26th March. Port Militaire photographed. No U-Boats visible. Only change since March 21st is departure of one auxiliary 100/150'. SPERRORECHER S.P. is still in dry dock. (Medmenham 0340A/27 to Admty.)

ATLANTIDES.

Swedish tanker ATLANTIDES due to leave Stockholm week commencing March 28th for German and Finnish ports. She will probably embark half load petrol at Stettin, complete to 12,000 tons at Gdynia, thence proceed Abo to discharge here and at other Finnish Bothnian ports. Graded A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1251/27.)

HIMALAYA, PORTLAND, OSORNO.

Report Graded B.2 states HIMALAYA, PORTLAND, OSORNO, sailed from Bordeaux for Japan p.m. March 25th or dawn March 26th escorted by 3 destroyers and 7 torpedo boats. (D.D.I.C. 1933A/27 to C. in C.Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.S. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. (A/C Q8WL 1132/27 to 15 Group.) Am over enemy S/M in 60.54 N. 15.25 W. (A/C Q8WL 1140/27.)

U-Boats Reported. D/F bearings at 1127Z/27, 1308Z/27, and 1316Z/27 indicate U-Boats in contact with a convoy, (D.D.I.C. 1531A/27 to Escorts S.C. 123, O.N. 174, H.X. 230.) probably S.C. 123.

/Admiralty...

1062

27.3.1943. Saturday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats.

Admiralty 1531A/27. Evidence of own H/F D/F indicates this signal was not in vicinity of U-Boats reported. S.C. 123. No U-Boats heard in vicinity since (Contd.) 0438Z/27. (OBEDIENT 1811Z/27 to C. in C.W.A.) Am over enemy submarine in 42° 00' N. 15° 32' W. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty G. 1945/27.)

Technical.

Oiling at Sea. ARCHER.

My 1716/25 and your 1513A/25 - ARCHER was inspected this a.m. and matter discussed with C.O. The following facts were established. Details. Suggest representative of D.N.C. and D.N.E. be sent to confer with C.O. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1458/27 to C. in C.W.A.)

Casualties & Defects.

SIRDAR.

A.M. 2026A/23. Intend to sail ABEILLE 21 towing SIRDAR at 1300A/27 for Barrow, routed North of Isle of Man. E.T.A. 1300A/28. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0858A/27.)

SIRDAR left Greenock for tow to Barrow 1130 today. (P.S.O. Greenock 1153/27 to A.S. C.B.S.) Sailed ABEILLE 21 towing SIRDAR in accordance with my 0858A/27. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1246A/27.)

My 1845/24. Repairs completed. Ship at normal INDOMI TABLE. notice. (INDOMITABLE 0931A/27 to V.A.A.H.F.)

Rosyth. Boat House destroyed by fire.

Regret to report that a fire broke out in the boat house Rosyth Dockyard, at about 0400 today. The fire started in the store in one corner of the building and spread with great rapidity despite the efforts of the men on night shift in this building. Trailer pumps, dockyard fire brigade, and N.F.S. were unable to prevent it being destroyed completed together with internal fittings and

boats under repair. Other damage is of a very minor character and no injuries to personnel. Cause of fire has not yet been established but sabotage is not suspected. (A.S.Rosyth 1005/27 to Admty.)

NOLISEMENT.	My		Destination				
	(C.	in C.W.A.	1104A/27 t	o N	.O.I.C. Isle	of	Man.)

/FIREFLY.

1063

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

FIREFLY. Departure KENIA to assist FIREFLY who has fouled propellor. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1146A/27.)

BURWELL docked 2330/26 to change propellers and undocked 1200/27. (Cdre. Londonderry 1204A/27.)

ATTENTIF.

F. ATTENTIF off station owing to efective air pump. (M.S.R.T. Harwich 1445A/27.)

DASHER sunk.

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DASHER has sunk 5 miles south of Cumbrae Island at 1645 today after explosion. Cause not yet ascertained but probably not due to enemy action. Survivors being picked up. C.O. has been picked up. A/S and minesweeping precautions are being taken. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1858A/27 to Admty.)

1064

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.N.7. ATLAND. CARSO.

At 0714/26 it was learnt that SS. CARSO in convoy had been in collision at about 2200/25 in 57° 28' N. 1° 40' W. Search was organised. Other ship was SS. ATLAND which sank at once. Chief Officer and 10 men and 1 dead body landed

at Aberdeen. Four other survivors landed at Peterhead. Three survivors on CARSO were landed at Aberdeen. Three dead bodies picked up and landed at Peterhead. Total on board believed to have been 32. CARSO with GOLIATH in company arrived off Aberdeen 1800/26. draft too deep to enter harbour, has proceeded with GOLIATH and trawler escort for Leith. Search for further survivors continued till dark will be resumed at daylight. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, OO45/27 to Admty.) My OO45/27. Search continuing till dusk today. Inter

Intend

to abandon then unless any further developments. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1201/27 to C. in C. Rosyth.) My 1201/27. 9 vessels have been searching today. 5 bodies found near 29 buoy. Intend to abandon further search. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1801/27)

Atlantic Support Groups.	Arrived ICARUS and INGLEFIELD. (Cdre. Londonderry, 0331A/27)				
ST JULTEN	Scana Departure Hospital Carrier ST. JII				

JEN. (A.C.O.S., 0710/27 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen) Your 0710/27. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1413/27 to A.C.O.S.)

All repeat all merchant vessels from White Sea J.W.53. ex J.W.53 have now arrived Kola Inlet. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 0842A/27 to Admty.)

M.L's detailed for C.E.164. C.E.164. C.E.164. M.L.'S detailed for C.M.164. From Portsmouth M.L'S 119(S.O) 112, 113, 117. From Newhaven M.L'S 344, 343, 291, 189. M.L. dispositions Ll M.L.119 (S.O) L2 M.L.344 (LINK, L3 M.L.112, 14 M.L.343, L7 M.L.113, L8 M.L.291, L11 M.L. 117, L12, M.L.189. (HORNET, 0947/27 to C. in C. Portsmouth)

Sailed Hospital Ship ATLANTIS 1025A/27. E.T.A. Ambrose Lt.Ves 1330 G.M.T./6th. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 1135A/27) ATLANTIS.

Noon R/V 31st March, 055° 36' N. 007° 06' W. Noon R/V 1st April, 054° 24' N. 011° 38' W. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1207A/27 to C. in C. W.A.) K.M.S.12.

BUREYA / ...

1065

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

BUREYA.

My 1436/25. E.T.A.1300/31. (A.C.I.C.1215A/26 to N.O.I.C. Aultbea)

Watch by independent Ships.

C.A.M.S.I. 29/43 (in course of distribution and which supersedes C.A.M.S.I. 197/42) - The necessity for all independently routed ships (including those with only one operator)

(Including those with only one operator)
setting watch for all B.A.M.S. Zone and Area
Routines covering their area, is again stressed.
It is emphasised that there is a very real danger of ships missing
diversion or other vital messages if they fail to do so.
(2) The Admiralty request that Masters will give this matter
their personal attention.
(D S D 13204/27 to D A M S) (D.S.D. 1329A/27 to B.A.M.S.)

0.N.S.2.

Request you will report any ships ready to join this convoy. 2 destroyers will be available

to escort them to ICOMP. (C. in C. W.A. 1407Z/27 to A.C.I.C.) My 1418/25. A.C.I article 49 para. 4. No rescue ship is included in this convoy. ADHERENT should be prepared to carry out rescue-duty, and GRENADIER should remain in company with ADHERENT during such operations. (C. in C. W.A. 1639A/27 to ITCHEN)

Your 1407. Following ships ready. MEDINA U.S.A. 15 knots, ALCEH (Pan. eleven knots), SELLFOSS and LAGARFOSS both Icelandic 7.5 knots.

(A.C.I.C. 1809A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.176.

A.M.1728/14 and 1200/22. Following tankers are to sail in this convoy carrying spare depth charges in improvised stowage. Ship. BENTE MAERSK Number carried. 60

30

60

DENTE MHEROR	
DAVILA	
MIRALDA	
MIRAIDA	

(2) PAN MAINE now in Mersey and ORVILLE HARDEN now in Clyde should if suitable be fitted with improvised stowage and provided with 60 depth-charges.

(D.T.D.1450A/27) My 1716/24. ARCHER screened by three destroyers is to sail with 0.N.176. ARCHER with screen is to R/V 0.N.176 in 205° Skerryvore 25 miles at 1700A/1st. (2) To facilitate stationing of ARCHER in convoy Commodore's column will consist or a for a convert of the state of t only of Commodore's ship and escort oiler. (3) ARCHER is to accompany convoy for 48 hours and operate in accordance with new A.C.I. article 145. A/C should be operated as much as possible by day and night endeavouring for trial purposes to remain within convoy screen throughout. On parting company ARCHER is to proceed direct to Clyde, and screen when detached to Londonderry. (C. in C. W.A. 1502A/27)

AMARAPOORA / ...

1066

27.3.1943. Saturday.

1-

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

AMARAPOORA. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA position at 1300 G.M.T. 51.22 N. 13.33 W, course 194°, Speed 12 knots. (Port Patrick Radio, 1511/27 to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne 1807/26.

necessary. (D.O.D.(H) 1825A/27 to C. in C. Rosyth)

S.C.123.

Stragglers have been ordered to proceed to stragglers route unless they can rejoin convoy before dark tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 1602Z/27 to Escorts S.C.123) Third Escort Group joined at 1630Z/27. (OBEDIENT 1811Z/27) EMPIRE MAGPIE put back to St. Johns. N.F. (D.T.D.2038A/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

In view of the importance of this lift request

you will arrange for such escort as you consider

EMPIRE JACK.

X.K.3.

Arrived 18 ships. Names. (N.C.S.O.Loch Ewe, 1840A/27) Clyde portion 5 ships arrived. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2206A/27)

EMPIRE MACALPINE. (M.A.C.Ship) My 0123/26 para. 2. When ready about 21st April EMPIRE MACALOPINE is to be sailed in convoy to Clyde for working up. In view of the importance of this ship, which is the first of her class, it is requested that the normal escort may be increased as far as practicable. (D.O.D.(H),2007A/27 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

S.L.126. Three enemy destroyers and seven torpedo boats may be operating in your vicinity tonight. (C. in C. W.A. 2125A/27 to Escorts S.L.126)

RADPORT.

My P.C. and S. at 2300Z, 49.27 N. 46.05 W, 195° five .5. RADPORT in company. (KINGCUP, 2305Z/27 to C. in C. W.A.)

1067 27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

BALDUR (German) KAULDI (Spanish)

German 61 and Spanish 59 sailed 0015 G.M.T. March 27th. (N.A.Madrid, No. T.O.O., Recd.0650/27) Spanish 59 (KAULDI) sailed 0015 G.M.T. (N.A. Madrid, No. T.O.O, Recd. 0655/27) Arrival 27th 1814 Spanish ALMANSA. Depa 26th 10. Departure 27th BALDUR, KAULDI. Departure (H.M.Consul Bilbao, 1325/27 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

EMPIRE OBERON, ALLIGATOR. CADMUS reports EMPIRE OBERON has insufficient coal to reach Dakar. Has been detached to Las Palmas to fuel. B.C. Las Palmas and N.A. Madrid informed. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 0928A/27 to C. in C. Med. F.O.C. West Africa, Admty.)

My 0632/27th and 0928A/27th, neither to all addressees. Add tug ALLIGATOR. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1212A/27 to B.C. Las Palmas, (R) B.N.A. Madrid, Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. W.A. F.)

HAARLEM

Following read: One submarine submerged. Attacking enemy submarine in 36.54 N. 08.32 W. (HAARLEM, 1000A/27) Following read: Negative 1000/27. (HAARLEM, 1132/27) My 1000A/27. Contact attacked re-classified non S/M. (HAARLEM, 1135A/27 to F.O.C. Gibraltar)

C.G.22.

Intend sail convoy C.G.22 consisting of NATHANIEL MACON and GEORGE DAVIS escorted by two Destroyers to be designated by C.T.F.63

depart Casablanca 0800A/30 routed through Q.K.A.92 (B) 34.56 N. 06.45 W. (C) 35.50 N. 06.33 W thence Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar. S. of A. 10. E.T.A. 4 miles south Tarifa 1600A/31 (as received) Destination DAVIS is Bone, MACON is Philippevillo E.C. Cibroltzer MACON is Philippeville. F.O.C.Gibraltar return escorts Casablanca. Fairwing 15 provide normal air coverage to 35° N. Mission 31. Convoy codeword "Fantail". Mission 31. (C.M.S.F.F., 1031A/27 to Com. N.O.B. Casablanca, C.T.F.63, C.F.W.15, (R) Comdr. Escorts Unit F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Aluslo, Gibraltar, (Gib pass to), Admty. U.S.S. BROOME, U.S.S. SIMPSON).

Dispositions.

Situation 2001A/27.

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/27. ST. NECTAN 37.40 09.12 direct to Gibraltar 10. (2) M.K.S.10, BROADWAY, passes Eve 1800A/27th through Q.K.A.87 thence $282^{\circ}7\frac{1}{2}$. (3) M.K.F.11 WREN passes Eve 0400A/28th to 36.20 10.01 132. (4) MULLET WHITING 8 Coastal Craft 38.52 12.20 through 36.30 10.02 thence 102° 10. (5) ADVENTURE 36.30 11.32 through 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar, 17. (6) LARIAT (No recognition signal) 35.50 11.26

through / ...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions

through 35.(?40) 10.01 to Gibraltar, 13.3. (Contd.) (7) HAARLEM, 1 trawler, 36.59 07.25 coastwise to Guadalquivir thence through 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar, 8. (8) M.L.173, MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, repairing cable in vicinity 35.56 05.48 sheltering in territorial waters during darkness. (9) SNOWDROP,

KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE sailing 0900A/28th westbound 7.

westbound 7.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 1048A/27) Situation 1959A/27th. R.S.3 CADMUS. (A) 26.10 15.16 through 24.07 17.10 thence
192° 7¹/₂. (2) S.R.3 BRIDGEWATER vicinity of 24.42 16.40 to
R/V R.S.3 and exchange escort thence 040° 7³/₄. (3) G.U.S.5 A,
T.F. 67, 35.56 14.38 through 36.01 15.02 thence 250° 8.
(4) G.U.F.6, T.F.64, 30.53 18.17 253° 13. (6) U.S. Aircraft
Carrier SARATOGA 36.30 11.32 through 36.01 09.59 to Gibraltar
17. (8) U.S. Destroyer MAYRANT sails from Casablanca p.m.
27th to R/V one merchant ship in 33.10 18.08 at 1300/28th and
escort through 33.45 17.40 to Casablanca 19. (9) ASHANTI
about 24.56 16.26 northbound to Gibraltar 20. (10) S.L.126
PELICAN (A) 42.38 16.30 through 43.01 16.30 thence 000° 6.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 1139A/27)
Situation 1955A/27th.
(2) 21 L.C.I.(L), S.O. L.C.I.(L) 170, 27.03 30.48 090°

(2) 21 L.C.I.(L), S.O. L.C.I.(L) 170, 27.03 30.48 090°

1.0.

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(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1153A/27). Situation 2002A/27th.

Area Z. Three Swedish relief ships 34.23 32.08 266°. 13. (2) C.U.I GORLESTON, 40.06 36.40 055° 14. (3) WESTON, FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND 42.01 29.11 through 43.30 30.20 to R/V U.C.1, 12. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1203A/27)

R.S.3. Intend to sail convoy R.S.3 X consisting of EMPIRE CHUB for Freetown at 0900/28th escorted by KUMAON S.O., PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, SNOWDROP and KATHIAWAR. (2) Route. S. of A. 7 knots.
 (3) N.O.I.C. Casablanca is requested to sail CROCODILE to R/V

convoy in position (F) at 1230/29, amended codeword "Dumbo". (5) First two letters W/T call sign S.M. (6) Anticipated that ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE OBERON will join from Las Palmas time and R/V will be signalled.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 1211A/27 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O.C. W. Af., (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., Comar Dakar.)

G.U.F.6. U/B.

D/F Bearings at 0918Z/27 on series 3 indicate U-Boat in your general vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1405A/27 to Escorts of Convoy G.U.F.6. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. West Africa, S.N.O. C.A. Cominch.)

ROWAN / ...

1969

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ROWAN.

Your 1912/26th (N.T. in W.D.). As U.S. Destroyer ROWAN can steam 18 knots on one propeller she is not being docked. (2) Intend sailing ROWAN for Casablanca on Sunday 28th. (F.O. GIbraltar, 1525A/27 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca. U.S. Des. ROWAN, C.T.F.63)

M.K.S.10.

10

Sailed BROADWAY, SHERWOOD, CHAMBLY, LAGAN, PRIMROSE, DRUMHELLER, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, SHIPPIGAN, LORD HOTHAM, French ship COMMANDANT

SHIPPIGAN, LORD HOTHAM, French ship COMMANDANT DROGOU, and TARANA to escort convoy M.K.S.10 to U.K. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1627A/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. N.S.H.Q. F.O.C. W.A.) Sailing telegram. (2) 1700/27. (4) 7½ (5) SUANFARD ABCDE (6) BROADWAY, CHAMBLY, MORDEN, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, SHERWOOD, PRIMROSE, DRUMHELLER, SHIPPIGAN, COMMANDANT DROGOU, LORD HOTHAM. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1757A/27, 1758A/27 to Admty.) M.K.S.10. Arrivals JOHN DAVENPORT, SAN CIRILIO, EMPIRE GOLD, SAMARIA, JOSEPH STANTON, FORT DOUGLAS. F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1956A/27 to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran)

Arrival S/M UNRULY. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1637A/27 to Admty etc.) UNRULY.

F.O.C. West Africa's 2027Z/26 to me. (VOLENDAM VOLENDAM, and RANGITIKI for next M.K.F. convoy) Request RANGITIKI. you will reply. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1852A/27 to C. in C. Med.)

> H.T. transformer R.D.F. burnt out. Am returning. Request immediate attention also berthing orders. E.T.A. 2030Z. (MORDEN, 2035A/27 to V.A. Gib, (R) C.2)

Movements, Gibraltar.

MORDEN

defect.

Arrivals - VANOC, MASTURTIUM from escort duties West. U.S.S. ROWAN from Casablanca. ATHERSTONE, QUANTOCK, FELIXSTOWE, BROCKLESBY M.M/S 88 from M.K.S.10. Departures - Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY escorted by M.L.173 for operation in Straits.

M.L.555 / ...

1070

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.L.555, L.C.T's 15, 16, 19 Tug EMPIRE FRED for Oran, M.L.s 494, 468, 258 for Algiers. (F.O. Gibraltar, 2230/27 to Admty. C. in C. Med, Movements, Gibraltar, (Contd.) Cominch.)

SOKOL. My 2236/27th (N.T. in W.D.) After crossing 43.01 N. at 0630/30th pass through following position at time stated. (P) 036°50' 009° 13' at 0414/3rd. (Q) 36° 37' 07° 24' at 0215/4th.
(R) 35° 55' 06° 15' at 0930/4th. (S) 35° 49' 06° 06½' at 1020/4th thence to Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87. All times zone minus one positions North and West. (2) S. of A. diving by day 103 miles per 24 hours. After passing position (Q) proceed on surface at your discretion at 10 knots. Do not cross meridian 006° 40' W. before 0630/4th. (3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until 02 4th, thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of your route drom 35 miles restrictions 10 miles either side of your route drom 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Report if you are unable to keep within your estimated position. Report (4) Read HS and GS routines after 0630/30th. (F.O.Gibraltar, 2254A/27 to O.R.P.SOKOL, (R) F.O.C. Subs, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Mediterranean, Capt.(S) 8, Capt. (S) 3 UPROAR). Amended by 0314/1/4 q.v.

10

UPROAR. After crossing 45.01 N. at 1500/50th pass through following positions at times stated. T. 36.51 09.13 at 2000 5rd. U. 36.57 07.24 at 0630/4th. V. 35.55 06.15 at 1530 4th.
W. 55.49 06.062 at 1420/4th thence to Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87, all times zone minus 1 positions N. and W.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 2301A/27 to UPROAR (R) F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. Med. Capt. (S)&Capt. (S) 5, SOKOL)
Amended by 0349/1/4 g.v.
W.D. Note: UPROAR (P.51) was formerly called ULLSWATER.
Change first appears in Pink List of 19.5.1945. T.C.A.0.16. (A) Submerged. (B) UPROAR. (C) 15/00/50 45.01
12.54, 2000/3 36.51 09.13, 0630/4.
(2) T.C.A.0. 16. (A) Total. (B) UPROAR. (C) 0630/4 36.37 07.24, 1330/4 35.55 06.15, 1420/4 35.49 06.062, To arrival Gibraltar 1820/4. (D) 10 knots.
All times zone minus 1. Positions N. and W.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 2302/27 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., (R) Admty. F.O.S.)

F.O.S.)

NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA.

Your 1745/27th (Request information when NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA will return to U.K.) With MKF11. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 2315A/27 to C. in C. W.A.(R) Admty. etc.)

HERO / ...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

HERO.

HERO sailed as temporary escort to M.K.F.ll. (2) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route forward by first opportunity to Plymouth as necessary from position.

(S) 49.18 N. 15.32 W. C. in C. Med. 1503/24th refers.
(5) HERO has 40 Devonport ratings.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 2345Å/27 to Admty. etc.)

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Durban U.K. Convoy, Move of S.A.A.F. Sqdn. My 0509/23. A R.S.A.A.F. Squadron comprising 379 personnel is to be transferred from South Africa to West Africa. It will be ready at Durban as from 7 April. 2. Request you arrange for these personnel to take passage by this opportunity. Space will be available from Freetown for use by D.S.T.O. W.A. (D. of S.T. 0354A/27 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) D.S.T.O. W.A., D.S.T.C. Durban, C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.Af.) See also 1256B/27.

W. 3. 28.

Ref. A.M. 2210/20 para. (9) Following is split of W.S.28 between ports in South Africa: DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, MONARCH OF BERMUDA, TEGELBERG, WINCHESTER CASTLE, WAIPAWA, to Capetown. Remainder to Durban. (D.S.T. 0355A/27 to D.S.T.O. W.A., (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A. etc.)

FROBISHER. Arrived. (Com. i/c Durban 05322/27 to Admty. etc.)

ARGO,
FANDANGO.Sailed French S/M ARGO escorted by FANDANGO
in accordance with my 1833/25th.
(2) FANDANGO W/T transmitter out of action.
(Comar, Dakar, 0707Z/27 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

W.S.27. W.S.27 sailed 26th March, expects to arrive R/V p.m. 29th March. S.S.T.O. Durban is requested to advise addressees of E.T.A. Aden. List. Requirements (S.T.O. Capetown 0805Z/27 to D.S.T., S.S.T.O. Aden (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.) Capetown departure 1700B/26th QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with Capetown portion of W.S.27 for Durban. (C. in C. S.A. 0924B/27 to Admty. etc.)

GLOIRE.

Arrived F.S. GLOIRE 1910Z/26th. (Comar, Dakar 0856Z/27 to F.O.C. W.A., Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib., N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

Convoy D. N. 28. Sailing telegram. (2) 0800Z/27. (4) 7¹/₂ knots. (5) (Y) 033° S. 036° E. (6) FREESIA, LE TIGER, LADY ELSA. Wireless call signs P.X.D.l to 9, Code Word Princess. (N.C.3.O. Durban 0941Z/27 to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

/Banana...

1073

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Banana, proposed flying boat base. Your 1510/25th part 2. From a naval point of view am very strongly of opinion that proposed air base should be at Pointe Noire and not at Banana. 1. Disadvantages of Banana are -(a) complete absence of water, fuel and facilities on shore, e.g. Electric Light.
(b) berth exposed to enemy action and overlooked

by Portuguese territory. (c) Duplication of Operational Communications.

2. Advantages Pointe Noire are -

(a) every facility and protected berth.
(b) Combined Operations room already existing with both Navies and both Air Forces in close contact taking direct communication with Freetown.
(d) Depotship can give valuable assistance to H.M. Ships for repairs, etc.

(B.N.L.O. West Africa 1015A/27 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., Area H.Q. W.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 0604Z/30.

STRATHEDEN.

Your 1421/26th. (N.T. in W.D.) C. in C. S.A. requests STRATHEDEN may continue to Capetown as previously arranged. C. in C. E.F. has been consulted and concurs. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1021B/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.T. Durban.)

MAURETANIA.

Your 1207/25. Onward route through: D. 38° N.23° W. E. 47° N. 25° W. F. 53° N. 20° W. G. 56° N. 08° W. (D.O.D. (H) 1051A/27 to F.O.C.W.A.)

MAURETANIA endurance at S. of A. of 18 knots is $11\frac{1}{2}$ days 4900 miles. At S. of A. of $19\frac{1}{2}$ knots $9\frac{1}{2}$ days 4,400 miles. Ten per cent Zigzag allowed in both cases. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1124Z/27 to Admty. (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/27th. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 011° 05'S. 016°45'W. to 008°S. 018°W. 16.5. NORTHERN CHIEF, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD, with C.N. 14,033°15'S. 013°10'E. to disperse in 033°10' S. 012°10'E. and escort proceed Walvis Bay. GENISTA, IMMORTELLE, TURFFONTEIN with D.C. 16,035°05'S. 020°00'E. to Capetown 8. QUILLIAM 035°S. 021°30'E. to Simonstown 24. QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S. 27.034°45'S. 024°45'E. to Durban 12.5. FREESIA, LADY ELSA, LE TIGER with D.N. 28,030°40'S.032°15'E. to 033°S. 036°E.8. NAPIER 27°30'S. 34°45'E. to Durban. CHITRAL, CATTERICK, QUALITY 028°40'S.034°30'E. to Durban 14. (C. in C. S.A. 1055B/27 as amended 1244B/27.)

/Weekly ...

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War Diary.

27.3.1943. Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.)

Weekly statement South Atlantic Station 27th March-Cape area ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, NORTHERN CHIEF, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD. Durban to Capetown QUILLIAM, GENISTA. Capetown to Durban QUEENBOROUGE

QUAIL, RAIDER, escorting W.S.27. Durban area FREESIA, NAPIER, CHITRAL, CATTERICK, QUALITY, NIGELLA, LADY ELSA, LE TIGER, VIVIANA, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, LADY ROSEMARY, SONDRA. Walvis Bay, NORTHERN ISLES. Saldanha Bay, FERNMOOR, OLEANDER, MANCHESTER CITY. Capetown, BRIDPORT, DRANGEY, COMMANDANT, D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, SPHENE, NORTHERN DAWN, (corrupt group) FRITILLARY M.L. 830. Simonstown H.M.Ss. 333 ST. ZENO, BLACKMOOR, BIRMINGHAM, P.552 P.614 M.Le. 381, 115. BLACKMOOR, BIRMINGHAM, P.552 P.614 M.Ls. 381, 115. Port Elizabeth. KHETI (A.S.I.S.) PACHECO (A.S.I.S.) CECILE MAPLESON. East London, SATSA, STORMWRACK, ST. LOMAN. Durban, EREBUS, WARSPITE, RELENTLESS, MAURITIUS, JASMINE, DUFDAN, EREBUS, WARSPITE, RELENTLESS, MAURITIOS, SAGMINE,
FROBISHER, SUSSEX, FOXHOUND, RACEHORSE, ETHIOPIAN, PRUDENT,
NORWICH CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE, MEAD, SARKA.
C. in C. S.A. 1104B/27 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.W.A.etc.)
Situation at 1959Z/27th. CILICIA 07.43 16.10 252.14 ARRAN
off Robert Port to Freetown INKPEN escort about 07.30 14.20 to

Freetown 8, M.L. 272 M.L. 209 off Marshall. M.L.271 off Robert Port. CCRINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT, DUNKERY 1 M.L. with 0.3.5, 44.03 46.03 10 to 04.10 01.54 thence Takoradi 10. SARABANDE escorting 03.20 CO.20 E. 130.5 $\frac{1}{2}$. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 11.10 S. 16.44 to 08.00 S. 18.00 thence 007° 16 $\frac{1}{2}$. Allied Naval units Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.

(F.O.C.W.A. 13412/27.)

Situation report. BRIDGEWATER, BOREAS, BURDOCK with S.R.3. 24.43 16.35 41.7⁴/₂. THYME escorting 16.08 17.47 to Dakar 8. ULSTER MONARCH escorted by REDOUBT 13.47 18.19 to 10.01 17.01 thence Freetown 15¹/₂. ORFASY escorting 20.01 17.21 to Port Etienne 6¹/₂. F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 07.00 28.30.19. Etlenne 52. F.C. GEORGES LENGUES on patrol about 07.00 28.30.19. French ship VICTORIA Bathurst to Dakar 9. ASHANTI in Cape Bojador Area to North 20. FANDANGO escorting French Sub. ARGO 12.44 17.21 to 11.09 17.16 at O620Z/28th and 10.40 16.49 at 1040Z/28th thence (?Las Palmas) 9. U.S. Dr. DUPONT U.S.D. DICKENSON, U.S.D. ELLIS with convoy 0.T.3, 24.52 36.20 83.12¹/₂. Fr. Sloops DUMONT, D'URVILLE, QUERCY, off Dakar to 18.00 16.11.13¹/₂. 2 M.Ls. escorting ALSACE off Dakar to Nigeria 5. (R.A.W.A. 13502/27.)

THRUSH.

Departure 26th U.S. Aircraft Tender THRUSH. (R.O. Para 1117/27 to Admty.)

726 Sqdn. My 1149/28th Feb. and your 1743/4th March (N.T. in W.D.) 726 Squadron has been placed under the operational control of R.A.T.E. (C. in C.S.A. 1118B/27 to Admty. (R) R.A.T.E., N.P.S. Wingfield, N.A.S. Durban, Com. i/c Durban.)

Your 0359/20 (?0459.) SONTAY (A) Durban and Tanga. (B) Saturday 3 April. (C) 11 knots. (E) Intend to mark and illuminate ship similarly to CITY OF PARIS and CITY OF CANTERBURY when used SONTAY, (embarkation of Italian Sick.)

for Japanese protected personnel last August

1075

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

SONTAY,except that word protected should be used instead(embarkationof diplomat. Your 2333/10/7 refers. This workof Italiancan be completed by 3 April. Request ConfirmationSick).sailing date in due course.(Contd.)(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1154B/27 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C.E.F., etc.)

ARUNDEL CASTLE. (2) ARUNDEL CASTLE will only have accommodation for comparatively small percentage of cabin personnel awaiting passage at Durban but will embark as many P.O.Ws. as possible.

Should discharge her personnel at Capetown then turn round there and be included in convoy homeward. It may be possible to embark a certain number of P.O.W. in this ship and also leave some room for West Africa. (4) Request early confirmation that above proposals are acceptable. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1248B/27, 1256B/27 to D.S.T.)

T.S.33.

Arrival 1040/26th March. CYCLAMEN, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON with T.S.33. (S.O.I. Freetown 12532/27 to Admiralty, N.O.I.C. Takoradi. (R) R.O. Monrovia.)

Durban U.K. Convoy, composition.

JC

Your 0509/23. ARUNDEL CASTLE due Durban from Suez about 14 April. STRATHEDEN and DEMPO due Capetown independently from Bombay about 7 April. P.S.T.O. India's 0905/18 refers. MALOJA due Durban 14 April from Suez and MOOLTAN and CALIFORNIA due Capetown about 10 April from

CALIFORNIA due Capetown about 10 April from Bombay are too slow for convoy and will have to be sailed unescorted.* Proposed to form first three ships therefore into escorted convoy leaving Durban about 16 and Capetown 19 April. 2. ARUNDEL CASTLE will only have accommodation for comparatively small percentage of cabin personnel awaiting passage at Durban but will embark as many P.O.Ws. as possible. Balance of passengers will be sent to Capetown if necessary by train and

passengers will be sent to Capetown if necessary by train and endeavour will also be made to have as many P.O.Ws. as possible sent overland to Capetown for STRATHEDEN and DEMPO. 3. As however the 3 escorted ships will not have room for the numerous personnel waiting passage it is recommended that BRITANNIC, W.S.28, due Capetown about mid April should discharge her personnel at Capetown then turn round there and be included in convoy homeward. It may be possible to embark a certain number of P.O.Ws. in this ship and also leave some room for West Africa. 4. Request early confirmation that above proposals are acceptable.

(P.S.T.O. Capetown 1256B/27 to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. S.A., etc.) * Admty. asked to confirm (C. in C.S.A.1114B/29.)

/Convoy...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

Nar Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy W.S.28. A.M. 2210/20. It appears that when convoy leaves South Africa there will be vacant accommodation to Mid East for about 17,000 personnel. (2) If this is correct request permission to

offer this accommodation to De Chief for 6th S.W. Armoured Division. My 1155/24 para 4. (N.T. in W.D.) refers. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 1257C/27 to Admty. for D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 0200A/31

J. B. 2.

Series No.27. Following ships sailed Rio De Janeiro 24th March for Bahia 29th in convoy J.B.2; SEMINOLE, U.S. MOTOCARLINE, Panama, VITALDE, OLIVEIEVE HERVAL, MERITY, CHUI, JANGADEIRO, CHUILOIDE, ITAPURA, ARATANHA, 8 Brazil. (A.S.O. (I) Recife 1302Z/27 to Admty.)

S. R. 3.

Convoy S.R. 3. EMPIRE SUCCESS detached to Dakar with engine trouble. (F.O.C.W.A. 1313Z/27 to Admty.)

Arrivals 26th March Brazilian minelayers CABEDELLO, CARIOCA and CAMAQUA and submarine chasers C.S.51 Movements, Pernambuco. and 52. Arrivals 27th U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. (R.O. Pernambuco 1425/27 to Admty. (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro S.O. (I) Freetown.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

10

Shall be 21 hours early on my E.T.A. My noon position 27th March Ol7° 25' S. Ol4° Ol'W. 14.5. S.P. O2436 (15) is not held. Acknowledge. Weather report. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1445Z/27 to N.O.I.C. (For C. or C.O.) W. Africa. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A.) E.T.A. 1200Z/1st April, acknowledged. Detailed information on merchant shipping will be passed.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1812Z/27 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty.)

ORFASY R.S.3.

(1) Part company with OUED FEZ off Port Etienne a.m. 28th March and proceed to join escort of convoy R.S.3. (2) Convoy estimated in 025° 59' N. 015° 24' at 1100Z/28th proceeding "Oboe" 024° 07' N. 017° 10 W. thence 193° 7¹/₂ knots. (3) BRIDGEWATER 3.C. escorts.

(F.O.W.A.1806Z/27 to ORFASY (R) Comar, Dakar, Admty, BRIDGEWATER, BURDOCK, THYNE.)

/Command ...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Command.

Acting Vice-Admiral H.B. Rawlings, C.B., O.B.E. assumed direction of West Africa Command vice Pegram today 27th March. (F.O.I.C. Africa 18312/27 to Admty. (R) C. in C., Med. C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Levant, Comsolant.)

SARKA.

Sailed SARKA to Kilindini (route). 10 knots E.T.A. 1200B/3. W/T watch on 500 kc/s single operator periods shifting to read B.A.M.S. routines. (Cdre., Durban 2150B/27 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions.

Weekly state West African Station 27th March. Cape Blanco area BOREAS, BRIDGEWATER, BURDOCK, (with S.R.3.) ASHANTI. Cape Verde area THYME, REDOUBT. Freetown area CILICIA, FREETOWN, DESPATCH, UGANDA, KENYA, CARNARVON CASTLE, WOLVERINE, WITCH, MALCOLM, QUADRANT, ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MARCOLM, QUADRANT, ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, CROCUS, ARMERIA, HYDRANGEA, CYCLAMEN S/M P. 615. Takoradi Area CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT. Ascension area QUEEN OF BERMUDA. Trinidad Area ALCANTAR, MILFORD AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, WOODRUFF. Gibraltar SNOWDROP. (F.O.C.W.A. 2244Z/27 to Admty. etc.

GEORGES LEYGUES.

TR

Ref. 1227 Fr. Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES expect to leave patrol 1st April 0000. (GEORGES LEYGUES 2330Z/27 to Dakar, Belair Radio, Freetown W/T.) Passed to Admty. by Burnham Radio.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SAVORGNAN My 1223/23. DE BRAZZA. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA may be employed in Gibraltar area until April 2nd. (D.O.D.(F), 0030A/27 as amended 1038A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C. W.Af.)

Enemy M/V. Position of one merchant vessel. 34.40 N. 10.50 E. (A/C FCL/X, 0225A/27 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE. Your 1931/23. My 0514/23 refers. It is hoped that if C. in C. E.F. agrees this proposal, the 500 German P.O.W. can embark at Suez in CAPETOWN CASTLE. (D.S.T., 0352A/27 to P.S.T.O.M.E.) Concur. (C. in C. E.F., 0858A/27 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

ARUNDEL CASTLE.

There are 91 tons d.w. of silver to be shipped from Aden to U.K. on behalf of the Treasury. 2. P.S.T.O.M.E. is requested to instruct ARUNDEL CASTLE to call Aden to load this silver provided delay involved does not prejudice her inclusion

in convoy referred to in my 0509/23. (D.S.T., 0353A/27 to P.S.T.O.M.E., S.T.O. Aden, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., P.S.T.O. Capetown, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A.) D. of S.T. 0353/27th March. 91 tons d.w. silver should be loaded as instructed in ARUNDEL CASTLE if possible but convoy

ex Aden must not be delayed. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 1320B/27 to S.S.T.O. Aden, (R) Admty. for D. of S.T., F.O.C.R.S.F., C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Aden.)

K.M.S. 11.

Arrived LORIGA, ARGOS HILL, CLAN MACBRAYNE, EMPIRE SPLENDOUR. Non arrivals EMPIRE FLAMINGO, tug ST. DAY.

(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0814A/27 to A.I.G.259.) K.M.S.11, Algiers section, arrived less PRINCE WILLIAM III (27 ships).

(Cdre. Algiers, 1149A/27 to Admty.)

K.M.S.11. Arrived EMPIRE NIGHTINGALE, ORKLA, MICHAEL STONE. DUX, NARVA, PORTSEA, INVESTOR and ALPERA. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1443A/27 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, 26th March arrivals M.L.1135, E 1124, PANTHER, Beirut. IERAX. Departures M.L.1038, IERAX, PANTHER. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 0821B/27 to Admty.)

/CITY OF PERTH

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

CITY OF

PERTH (M.K.S. 10) torpedoed 26th March. Make for anchorage to westward of Habibas Is. in case wind increases further. Anchor CITY OF PERTH there if you consider it necessary. If weather is favourable proceed to Oran. SHIANT keep N.O.I.C. Oran informed. (TARTAR, 0827A/27 to SHIANT, RESTIVE, (R) N.O.I.C. Oran:)

W.D. Note: Habibas Is., 25 miles W. of Oran. CITY OF PERTH in tow of RESTIVE in position 291 Habibas Is. making 4 knots, and screen, SHIANT, MAN-O-WAR, INCHMARNOCK and one Motor M/S. Master considers her situation precarious. Crew have been removed.

(2) Wind N.N.E. force 4 increasing. Consider Benisaf unsuitable. Have instructed SHIANT and RESTIVE to make for anchorage westbound of Habibas Is., and anchor there if necessary, otherwise to proceed Oran.

(3) TARTAR proceeding Algiers as my presence seems no longer necessary.

(TARTAR, 1030A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force H, F.O. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

Movements.

Arrivals 26th March ANTWERP, CROOME. Departures 26th March EASTON, HURWORTH. Arrived and sailed 26th March ABDIEL, HURSLEY, KANARIS. Sailed and arrived 26th March ST. MONANCE. (S.O.(I) Levant, 0917B/27 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

EINTRACHT, RODOPI. (Corrupt group) German EINTRACHT (ex Greek VASSILIKI) entered Black Sea 26th March bound Bourgas. Bulgarian RODOPI entered Black Sea 27th March bound Bourgas. N.L.O. Black Sea informed. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 0945C/27 to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I.)

PALADIN, PA QUEEN OLGA, to sweep. th

PALADIN and G.S. QUEEN OLGA leave Malta 1530 today 29th for sweep in Gulf Hammamet during the night. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 0958A/27 to C. in C. Med., H.Q. N.W.A.C.A.F., H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., No.201 Group, C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

ABDIEL, SPLENDID. ABDIEL arriving Malta from eastwards to enter searched channel about 0800A/28th. She has been informed of your presence. (Capt. S.10, 1025A/27 to P.228 (SPLENDID).)

Movements, Arrived PAKENHAM, PALADIN and QUEEN OLGA. Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1057A/27 to Admty., etc.)

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNISON. Leave patrol and proceed by reverse of outward route arrive Malta searched channel by 0830A/31. (Capt. S.10, 1058A/27 to P.43 (UNISON), (R) 10th S/M.F., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

To: C.G. 8th Air Force. From: H.Q.N.A.A.F. Adv. Air Report. From: Spaatz. To: Eaker. 12th Air Force Daily Intelligence Cable.

Operations, 25th March. 1. Escorted by 20 P.38s 22 B.17s attacked Sousse shipping. Hits were made on large ship. A small ship was sunk. An explosion and large fires observed in quay. 15 B.25s escorted by 34 P.38s on sea search. No results except straffing of 2 small motor boats. (Algiers, 1115Z/27 to Etousa.)

P.R.U.

March 27th visuals. 0725 Messina, no formidable naval units. 0810 Taranto, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1121A/27 to C. in C. Med., etc.) 1200 Naples - No major naval units. (V.A. Malta, 1544A/27 to C. in C. Med., etc.) P.R.U. 27th. Visuals. 1500 Messina no major naval units. 1600 Taranto, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1756A/27 to C.C.S.O. Malta, DULVERTON, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Oran, JERVIS, etc.)

Convoy "Gladstone" arrived. Convoy. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1125A/27 to C. in C. Med.)

Algiers section sailed 1730A/26 in accordance M.K.F.11. with C. in C. Med.'s 1455A/26 to Oran thence in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 1503/26 to Oran thence in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 1503/24 except that Oran R/V time is 1200/27. Algiers section NEA HELLAS, ORION, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, CUBA. Also sailed ROYAL ULSTERMAN, ROYAL SCOTSMAN. Following join in position 2 at 1200/27: ORMONDE, BANFORA. (Cdre. Algiers, 1147A/27 to Admty.) M.K.F.11. Your 1750A/24. RANGITATA arrived. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1350A/27 to C. in C. Med., (R) Com. Algiers, Commorseafron, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., Connav.)

SARACEN, UNITED.

P. 247 (SARACEN) is to leave patrol pass 038° 58' 011° 30' at 0300/29th, 038° 27' 010° 06' at 2001/29th 038° 23' 003° 51' at 2102/31st to R/V escort Algiers and 036° 56' 003° 00' at 0630/1st April.

(2) P.44 (UNITED) may withdraw as necessary into Zone D after 0300/29th. (Capt. S.8, 1208A/27 to (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10.)

/GENEROSO ...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

GENEROSO.

Swiss GENEROSO leaves Genoa 1st April for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D., 1220A/27 to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Algiers To: C.G. 8th Air Force. From: H.Q.N.A.A.F. Adv. Air Report. From: Spaatz. To: Eaker. Escorted by 21 P.38s, 20 B.17s prevented by weather from bombing Cagliari were attacked 5 minutes after target by 15 - 20 enemy aircraft,

4 of which were destroyed. 12 B.25s bombed fuel storage installations at Grombalia. Bisleys, night 26th/27th March, attacked and started good fires on Sfax docks. Night 26th/27th March. A Hudson dropped 3 depth charges on a U-Boat resulting in 4 explosions. (Algiers Allied Air Force, 1455Z/27 to Etousa.)

E.T. 16.

Intend sailing following (list of 6 ships, speeds, destinations). Commodore Algiers is requested to supply Pendant numbers. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1515A/27 to C. in C. Med.) E.T.16. My 1033/26th para. 4. Delete WHEATLAND, add EGGESFORD. (C. in C. Med., 1551A/27 to F.Os. I.C., etc.)

R.S. 4.

Understood R.S.4 will sail about 10th April. Can you accept for inclusion up to six ships for West Africa and Middle East which missed O.S.45 and can be sailed in K.M.S.12? (D.T.D., 1535A/27 to C. in C. Med.) Reply: Yes. (C. in C. Med., 1530A/28.)

THUNDERBOLT, Your escort will be Trawler RONALDSHAY. 2. REGENT leaves Algiers 1800/27th through 038° 15' 004° 01' and P.211 leaves Algiers 1900/27th through 038° 28' 003° 14' thence both to eastward. SAFARI. (Capt. S.8, 1626A/27 to THUNDERBOLT.)

HAMILCAR. L.C. Base.

As from 1st April 1943, H.M.S. HAMILCAR is to be personnel ship of landing craft base at Jijelli and is to be an independent command. 2. All Combined Operations Officers and men serving in Mediterranean Station (negative those

serving in ROYAL SCOTSMAN, ROYAL ULSTERMAN, PRINSES BEATRIX, QUEEN EMMA) are to be borne on HAMILCAR's books. 3. Cdre. Landing Craft Jijelli is to arrange for commissioning of suitable vessels or boats, details of which are to be reported. 4. Admty. pass to DINOSAUR, QUEBEC. B.A.D. Washington pass to ASBURY. C. in C. Levant pass to SAKER. (C. in C. Med., 1720A/27 to Med. Stn. 334K.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Attacks by Circling Torpedoes.

Recent circled torpedo attacks on Algiers and smoke screening destroyers confirmed that rifle fire if combined with good illumination can explode circled torpedo. K.321 and M.S.W.G. 0.14 refers. N.C.S.O. and D.E.M.S. O should instruct merchant ships accordingly.

(2) This form of attack is likely to become common in Mediterranean and appropriate measures such as mooring lighters alongside ships and caissons and forming lines of lighters to limit extent of clear water should be taken as a matter of routine, and (? proper) protection if available allocated to most valuable ships.

(3) Torpedoes used in Algiers attack were fitted with white parachutes and contained 3 pistols (A) torpedo type (B) bomb type, which is fully dissolved before release and designed to fire on direct impact. (C) Self destroying type operated by a soluble plug.

(C. in C. Med., 1918A/27 to Med. Stn. (K.331), C. in C. Levant.)

N.W. Africa.

U.S. Naval / Vice Admiral H.K. Hewitt, U.S. Navy, has assumed Commands, command of all U.S. Naval Forces in North West African Waters, subject to C. in C. Mediterranean, who commands all U.S. and British Naval Forces in the theatre. Admiral Hewitt's short title is Comnavnaw and his H.Qs. are at present at

A.F.H.Q. Algiers.

2. Following revised titles come into force now:- (a) S.N.O.C.A. becomes Commander Moroccan Sea Frontier Forces (short title Commorseafron).

(b) N.O.I.C. Oran becomes Commandant, Naval Operating Base, Oran (short title Comnob Oran). (c) Commander, Amphibious Forces, Mediterranean, becomes Commander, Amphibious Forces, North West African Waters (short

title Comamphfornaw). (d) Commander, Landing Craft and Bases, Amphibious Forces, North

West African Waters (short title Comlancrabnaw). (C. in C. Med., 1932A/27 to Med., Stn. 332 K, etc.)

Aircraft co-operating in all occupied zones from A/C Co-2030 until 0330 tonight. operation. (Capt. S.10, 1938A/27 to Submarines on Patrol, (R) Capt. (S) 8.)

BEAUFORT, ROCKWOOD.

Contact lost. BEAUFORT and ROCKWOOD rejoining ANGER. (BEAUFORT, 1955B/27 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Med. Local Group.)

Movements, Algiers arrival TARTAR, departures submarines REGENT, SAFARI. Algiers. (Com. Algiers, 2011Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Departure 27th March CUMBRAE, Grk. Dest. AETOS. Haifa. (N.O.I.C. Haifa, 2019B/27 to Admty., etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.535, 27th March. (A) Air. Part 1. Offensive. Night 26th/27th March. Bad weather and poor visibility curtailed all offensive operations. Day 27th March. 2 Spitfire bombers and 2

fighter Spitfires bombed and strafed a train near Pozzallo, Sicily. Poor weather prevented further offensive operations. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 27th March. 12 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 2026/27.)

Movements,	BACHAQUERO,	MISOA,	ROTHESAY,	WILTON, B	RIXHAM.
Oran.	GRAOLING (s	ic), ACL	JTE, HUSSAR	VISENDA	arrived.
	(Com. N.O.B	. Oran,	2105A/27 t	o Admty	etc.)

- Movements, Port Said. 27th March Port Said arrivals HURWORTH, EASTON. Departure HURWORTH. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2129B/27 to Admty., etc.)
- Movements, Arrival ALBACORE, KING SOL, M.L.238. Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2135A/27, 2230A/27 to Admty.)
- Movements, Benghazi. Arrived and left SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA, PROTEA, KINGSTON CYANITE. Arrived KLO, AMBER. Sailed M.L.355, M.L.351. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2204B/27 to Admty.)

 M.Ls.
 Sailed M.L.354, 357 and 358.

 Tobruk.
 (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2222B/27 to Admty.)

Movements, Bone. Bone departures landing craft I.161, arrival CARLISLE, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EGGESFORD, TYNEDALE, ANTELOPE, STORNOWAY. (S.O.I.S., 2227A/27 to Admty., etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- BRITTANY. Departure BRITTANY E.T.A. Bombay 0330Z/29th. S. of A. 12 knots. Requirements. (N.O.I.C. Cochin, 0207Z/27 to Admty., C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- B.M. 46¹/₂ Colombo portion arrived. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 0615Z/27 to Admty.)
- B.P.73¹/₂. Sailing Telegram. 2. 0730Z/27th. 3. E.T. crossing 062° 1130Z/30th March (2 corrupt Groups) (A) E.T.A. west of Quoins 0030Z/1st April. 4. 9¹/₂ explosive large quantity. D. 022° 05' 068° 33'. E. 024° 09' 065° 30'. F. 024° 17' 061° 47' thence to P.G.W. (G) to (M). 6. BALUCHISTAN. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 0741Z/27, 0743Z/27 to Admty.)

Passengers, / Intend limitations in A.M. 1140/16th shall not apply normally inside Persian Gulf unless increased threat of destruction render escort desirable. (C. in C.E.F. 0947Z/27 to Admty., (R) S.N.O., Persian Gulf Commodore, R.I.N., F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

WAR BAHADUR. Arrival. (N.O.I.C. Calcutta 1040Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

Movements Bombay. Departure 0710Z, BALUCHISTAN with B.P.73¹/₂. 0945Z DURBAN. Arrival 0830Z ALBATROSS. (S.O.(I) Bombay, 1111Z/27 to Admty., etc.)

ARUNDEL CASTLE, STRATHEDEN, DEMPO. Your 0509/23. ARUNDEL CASTLE due Durban from Suez about 14th April. STRATHEDEN and DEMPO due Capetown independently from Bombay about 7th April. P.S.T.O. India's 0905/18 refers. (P.S.T.O. Mid. East, 1242B/27 to D.S.T.)

Movements. Departure 1315Z/27th March GAWLER escorting TAIPING. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 1318Z/27 to Admty.) Left CARTHAGE. (F.O.I.C. E.Af., 1456Z/27 to Admty.) Colombo arrivals 27th. 0230Z MARYBOROUGH. 0230Z LISMORE. 1230Z SCOUT. Departures 0630Z TAMWORTH. (F.O. Ceylon, 1553Z/27 to Admty.)

/FELIX ROUSSEL ...

1085

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

FELIX ROUSSEL, cyclone damage.

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From M.N. 04 for N.C.S.O. Port Louis, Mauritius. Position T.O.O. 308° 83 letter T, ran into 4 days violent cyclone where was caught 27 hours. Important damage sustained, no larger (? longer) seaworthy. Please send information about cyclone and be ready to give assistance if wanted. Cyclone centre 017° and 060° at dawn 26th March. (FELIX ROUSSEL, 1500/27 to Colombo W/T, (R) Admty. for information.)

1086

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Convoy U.G.S.6 A.

Sailing telegram. Escorted by Task Force 60 composed of Task Group 60.1 as in Port Director New York 0048Z/19th plus MAUMEE, ARAPAHO, SKILL S.Cs. 696, 697, 639, 638, 676, and 977 Y.M.Ss. 226, 34, 13 and 82 P.C.559 departing Bermuda for Mediterranean and West African Ports

about 1700Z/27th (route). (N.O.B. Bermuda, OlOl/27 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Cinclant, Comnaveu, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med., Cdr. 8th Fleet, N.C.X.F., V.A. Gib. Cdr. Morocco

S.F.) Re-encypherment of N.O.B. Bermuda 27 /0045 (begins) Task Force 60 as composed your 19/2121 less L.S.T. 384, 394 and 411 departing base M 1900Z March 27. First ship aground adjacent Dundonald Channel, Bermuda. Other two require structural and engineering repairs, respectively, taking several days. Unless otherwise directed intend upon arrival Point P dispatching outside section of convoy as listed Port Director New York 2250/19 to base Z with suitable escort unless escort provided locally and continuing with inside section and escorts including MAUMEE to Gibraltar. Escorts Point P to base Z rejoining en route Gibraltar. Origin for Comtaskforce 60 in MAUMEE. (ends). (Cinclant, 1509Z/27 to Cominch, Admty. etc).

U.G.S.6 A. composed as given in my OlOl/27 less L.S.T. 337 and L.C.I.(L) 233 departed Bermuda 1930Z today. L.S.T.337 and L.C.I.(L) 233 will join next eastbound L.C. convoy from Bermuda.

(N.O.B. Bermuda, 2329/27 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

U/B

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Submarine sighted 1329Q/26th in 017° 42' N., 080° 04' W. (KINGSTON, O155R/27 to Admty).

Position at 2359/26th 040° 49' N., 067° 33' W. LINCOLN speed 17 knots. E.T.A. 1630Z/27. Weather report. (LINCOLN, 0200Z/27 to C.O.A.C. (R) D. Halifax).

Convo y S.C.123. Believe U-boats no longer in touch. U-boats sighted heavily attacked by VANESSA at 2200Z. Several U-boats between 25 and 40 miles astern of convoy. My P.C. and S. 58° 09' N. 38° 25' W. 070° 7.5 weather report. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 0210Z/27 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24, Admty. etc).

L.C.I.(L)Convoy

Re-encypherment of N.R.O. Norfolk's 2035/26th to you for action. (Begins) Expected departure

 John Tor action.
 (Begins)
 Expected departure

 1300Z/27th.
 L.C.I.(L) 187, 299, 297, 114, 250,275

 117, 263, 275, 249, 298, 266, 296, 253, 314, 296,

 317, Routed in accordance with C. in C. U.S.

 Fleet's 1822?
 17th (Presumably 1831/17 intended giving route

 for 19 L.C.I.(L)s and amended by 1245/16) and 1245/26.
 S. of A.

10 knots. S.O. in 269 call sign C Z R Y. (Ends). (Radio Washington, 0437/27 to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. Med., N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A.)

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

L.C.I.(L)Convoy. (contd).

Direct U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda to sail British L.C.I.(L) my 1245/26th to Gibraltar via V. 32.20 62.01. W. 32.50 53.40. X. 32.40 44.25. Y. 32.05 35.01. A. 31.50 26.15. B. 31.02 17.30 C. 31.02 11.01. D. 33.40 08.45 E. 35.50 06.45. thence to destination. S.O. in

L.C.I.(L) 269 authorized to alter route to avoid adverse weather conditions making necessary reports to authorities concerned. Advise time of departure. (Cominch, 1947/27 to Cinclant (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty. V.A.

Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.C.W.Af.)

0.N.S.1 VISCOUNT. 0.N.S.1 VISCOUNT left 2300Z/26th course 215° 13 knots for St. Johns N.F. Blown joint in main steam line. SS. BALTROVER escorted by CAPE MARIATO, MOUNTJOY, PAYNTER, MIST detached at 1900Z/26th from 050° 35' N. 042° 46' W. for Weather Report.

St. Johns N.F. (VISCOUNT 05012/27 to F.O. or C.C.N.F., C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc).

Movements

My 0957/26 (Armed Yachts 497, 530, 649) left p.m./26th.

(R.O. Barranquilla, 1027/27 to Admty). Departures Honolulu March 21 for San Francisco

April 1st U.S. Ships PERMANENTE, MANULANI, BENJAMIN R. CURTIS, JOSEPH JEFFERSON, NANCY HANKS. For Los Angeles April 1st U.S. JOSEPH JEFFERSON, NANCY HANKS. Ships PAT DOHERTY, H.T. HARPER.

Departures San Francisco March 22 for Honolulu March 31st U.S. Ships PHILIPPE, MALIKO MANUKAI, JOSEPH LANE, THOMAS EWING, JOHN B. ASHE, NATHANIEL J. PYETH, JOSEPH ROYCE, SILVER WENDEL HOLMES, JOHN A. LOGAN, S.C.T. DODD, AGWIWORLD, THORSHAMMER Nor. Los Angeles March 22 for Honolulu MOJAVE U.S. Arrivals Los Angeles March 24 DEROCHE U.S.

Departures Honolulu March 24 for San Francisco March 31 FORT ROYAL U.S.

(N.S.H.Q., 1343Z/27 to Admty).

Bermuda arrivals ARETHUSA. Departures Task Force 60 consisting of U.S.S.MAUMEE, ARAPAHO, Departures Task Force 60 consisting of U.S.S.MAUMEE, ARAPAHO, STRIVE, STAFF, STEADY, SUSTAIN, SKILL, SPEED. U.S. Y.M.S.13, 34, 82, 226, U.S.S.C. 638, 639, 676, 696, 697, 977. U.S.P.C. 545, 559, 626, U.S.L.S.T. 306, 307, 325, 335, 336, 338, 355, 356, 369, 389, 391, 392, 393, U.S.L.C.I.(L) 17, 18, 19, 20, 32, 33, 35, 38 to 48 inclusive 75, 76, 220, 221, 229, 231, 232, 234, 236, 235 238. H.M. L.S.T. 323, 364, 367, 407, 409, 413. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 2209P /27 to Admty).

/Movements...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements summary 1800 G.M.T. 27th.

Ship	Position	1		Course	Speed
C.U.1) GORLESTON) ATTACKER)	39 ¹ / ₂ ° N.	37 ≟°	W•	054 °	14
22 L.C.I.(L)8	27° N.	31 ¹ / ₂ °	W-	090 °	10
WASTWATER) 4 B.Y.M.S.)	$01\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S.	24 ¹ / ₂ °	₩.	062 °	9
CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	35° S.	48 ¹ / ₂ °	W.	265°	5
MILFORD) 2 Corvettes) Floating Dock)	082° N.	58°	W•	118°	61/2
WESTON) TOTLAND)	42° N.	29°	W •	324°	1212
FOLKESTONE) A.T. 39 (D.O.D. (F), 11)	425° N. 342/27 to	36 ¹ / ₂ °	W. av, Com	075° maveu).	19 <u>1</u> .

Convoy H. X. 231, Ocean Escort.

H.X.231. C.M.E.O.T.U. 24.1.5 in TAY (H/F D/F) plus VIDETTE, SNOWFLAKE, LOOSESTRIFE, ALISMA and PINK designated ocean escort for H.X. 231. (C.T. 24, 1145Z/27 to Cominch C. and R).

BARON BELHAVEN C.C.N.F. 1535Z/26 (1535Z/25th intended) C. in broken down. C. C.N.W.A. requested to sail tug to assist BARON BELHAVEN. No tug available at Argentia. (C.T.24, 1255Z/27 to C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., VERVAIN) 1.Serial 526. 2. Halifax N.S. 2200Z/27. 4. Tug FOUNDATION FRANKLIN escorted by UNGAVA. 6. Sea to intercept SS. BARON BELHAVEN. 8. Ten K. 9. Days 15 Coal. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1925Z/27 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, F.O.N.F., N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F.)

Your 2135/26. IROQUOIS arrived Scapa 24th. IROQUOIS, Movements of H.M. Canadian ships.C. in C. Rosyth, in A.C.O.S. 1000/24th which was not repeated to Canadian authorities because F.O.N.F. 1348 (?19th) was not addressed or

repeated to A.C.O.S. (3) Report of proceedings of H.M. Canadian ships attached to Home Fleet will be specially called for and forwarded. (C. in C. H.F., 1301A/27 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F. R.A. (D) H.F., C.O.A.C., A.C.O.S)

H. F. 44

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns 1307Z/27 to Admty).

TENACITY

Following for C.C.R.T. My 2112/25. TENACITY returned St. Johns 0713/27 with boiler defects. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 13492/27 to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

/Following...

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY out of action TENACITY. (contd). until 0229/1/4 to make good necessary boiler repairs. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 1928Z/27 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.)

B.X.40 All times Z. Proposed convoy sailings. B.X.40 S. of A. 7.5 knots. R/V position T. 42.23 N. 70.42 W. at 2130/31st thence through positions U.43.31 N. 70.28 W. V. 43.01 N. 65.09 W. W. 44.20 N., 63.25 W. thence Q.J.A. 51 to Halifax. "Chop" 0045 March (corrupt group). E.T.A. Halifax 2130 April 2nd. Expect W.L.E.T. U. 24.18.1. as escorts. (Com. 1. 1449Z/27 to C.E.S.F. etc).

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1529/27, 1530/27, 1545/27, 1546/27, 1547/27). U.S. S/M Notice. Submarine estimates 27th March.

B. X. 39

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S. of A. 7.5 knots. U.W. route P. 42.23 N. 70.42 W. Q. 42.31 N. 70.28 W. R. 43.01 N. 65.09 W. S. 44.20 N. 63.25 W. March 27th posi-tion P. 2000 E.T.A. Halifax 2015/29th. T.U. 24.18.11. MINAS MULGRAVE, and NEW WESTMINSTER. "Chop" 2315/28th. (Com. 1 15402/27 to C.E.S.F. etc).

Convoy sailing telegram part 1 all times Z.

N.S.H.Q's 1731/25th and B.A.D's 1345/26 P.553, 2. P.553 is to remain at Halifax until Gyro repairs. repairs are completed. (D.A/S.W., 1610A/27 to C.O.A.C. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q., F.O.(S), B.A.D., Capt. D. Halifax, SOMERS ISLES, Cde. i/c. Bermuda).

Destroyers, Request GRIFFIN and the other three R.N. destroyers being transferred to R.C.N. may be transfer worked up in U.K. Request dates on which they will be ready for service may be signalled to to R.C.N. N.S.H.Q. and other addressees. 11. Intended these four destroyers shall

be employed in Canadian Groups in Mid Ocean Escort Force. (N.S.H.Q., 1622/27 to Admty. (R) C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. S.W.A., C.C.C.S., P.M.C.S., NIOBI, GRIFFIN). Reply Admty. 1108A/ 28th.

X.B.39

U.S.S. Arrivals. X.B. 39 Boston Section arrived 1650Z/27th. (Cdr. 1st U.S. Nav. Dist. 16532/27 to Cominch C. and R).

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

The title of N.O.I.C. Halifax has been changed Title change to C. Halifax. to Commodore Halifax short title C. Halifax. (N.S.H.Q., 1710Z/27 to C.O.A.C.)

A/S Trawlers / In your 1616/16 Feb. it was agreed that provision as Escorts, by us of 6 large trawlers would enable 6 R.C.N. for Ocean corvettes returning from "Torch" to be allocated to mid-Ocean groups. Convoys. 2. Since then closing of cycle for trans-Atlantic

convoys has involved strengthening of Western Local Escort Force by three groups and it has

been agreed at Convoy Conference that you should retain services of 8 "Isle" class trawlers so that exchanges can be made to give this effect.

3. In view of events referred to in para. 2 above request you will confirm that para. 1 still holds good. (V.C.N.S. 1731A/27 to C.N.S. Canada, (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A.)

O.T. Convoys, number of Tankers. Maximum number of tankers which may be included in O.V (O.T. intended?) convoys is 8. (Cominch, 1818/27 to Cinclant, (R) Cdr. Caribbean S.F., C. in C. Med., C.A.F.A.C., F.O. I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Africa, Morrocan, S.F.F.)

Fast Transports, R/V_{\bullet}

010

Fast / 1. Represented that on a recent passage of QUEEN ELIZABETH to U.V. objection QUEEN ELIZABETH to U.K. ship was sailed from New York with 14 hours in hand to make R/V. 2. Undesirable that fast unescorted transports should have to waste time on passage, and to obviate this, following is proposed: (a) Longitude of daylight R/V for an escort be

omitted from Admiralty signal requesting ship to arrive on a given date. (b) Port Director New York or C.O.A.C. Halifax should report in his sailing signal estimated position of ship at daylight on day of arrival in U.K. (c) R/V in (b) above to be between 9 and 13 W. so as to ensure air protection on day of arrival. Request your remarks.

(A.C.N.S. (H), 1820A/27 to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., Port Director New York).

Concur.

(Cominch, C. and R. 1547/28 to Admty) (N.S.H.Q., 1559Z/28 to Admty).

HEPATICA

HEPATICA will be ready to sail 2nd April. Request destination. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 1916Z/27 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., S.N.M.O.W.A.T. HEPATICA).

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27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

All times Z. Para. A. P.B.M. sights sub. course 095° 17.42 N. 80.44 W. 1729/26. Surface craft attack sub. area 57.50 N. 39.40 W. 2056/26. VANESSA attacks sub. area 58. N. 39.18 W. 2200/26. Para. B. B.24 makes Radar contact 17.37 N. 80.20 W. 1827/26. Para. C. P.C. 592 attacks contact 07.08 N. 56.21 W. 0130/27. Para. D. U.S.S. SEUBES 2020/26. (Cominch, 2000/27 to Admty).

LINCOLN

Arrival LINCOLN from Charleston S.C. (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 20112/27 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. Connav, B. A. D., C. T. F. 24 F. O. N. F., N. M. C. J. S. Com. 6.)

for Russia.

Information C.O.S. (W) 549. Ref. joint W.O. Min. of Supply lists for Mission to Russia already transmitted to you. Following changes have been made on lists of Feb. 2nd.

I. Items for disclosure As follows:-For "Item 10, omit Flame-throwers; Wasp and Lifebuoy" which for your information have already been disclosed and insert new Item 10; "New Methods of Mapping and Survey". 2. Items not to be disclosed. As follows:- (a) Delete items 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 19 and 20, which may be disclosed if topics are raised by Russians and therefore you alsolosed if topics are raised by Russians and therefore yet should try and clear them with Americans.
(b) Item 3, now refers to electrical predictors U.S. origin only. Revised list therefore reads:- "Old items 2,3 (U.S.only)
8, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 21".
3. Items for enquiry Add to an earlier list "C" of 3rd Feb. the following items:- "40. New Methods of Mapping and Survey. 31. Muzzle Brakes. 42. Snow Warfare 43. Methods of operating wheeled vehicles at low temperatures". (Britman Washington, 2120Z/27 to Air Min).

Movements

00

San Francisco 24th U.S. A.T. MATSONIA for Brisbane. (N.S.H.Q., 2125Z/27 to Admty. D.N.I. Wellington, A.C.N.B.)

H.H.X. 231.

Sailing telegram. 2. Gate 1800Z/27. 3. "Homp" 1500Z/28. 5. A.S. C.E.S.F., 2047/20. 6. C.T.U. 24.8.2. 8. A.S. C.E.S.F., 2047/20. (C.O.A.C., 2125Z/27, 2127Z/27 to Adm ty).

1092

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

"S" Report. KRWC (?) on 500 k/cs D R SSSSS Lat. 35.09 long. 121.10 sighted submarine periscope on surface. (Florida Radio, Oll6/27 to Admty).

ROAMER

Departure Espirito Santo U.S. ROAMER Auckland A.E.4th April route via Selwyn Strait thence (G) 21° 20' S. 175° 50' E. direct speed 9 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington, 0600Z/27 to Admty).

MONTICELLO

U.S. Navy transport MONTICELLO departed Port Melbourne 25th. E.T.A. Wellington Ol00Z/31. S. of A. 16 knots through position (A) 039° 05' S. 143° 35' E. (B) 041° 00' S. 143° 30' E. (C) 044° 20' S. 145° 50' E. (D) 048° 30' S. 167° 40' E. (E) 044° 50' S. 173° 20' E. "Chop" 28th March.

(A.C.N.B., 0706Z/27 to Connav, Com. 15 S.O.(I) Callao, ?Comsoupac (R) Admty. N. Z. N. B., N. S. H. Q.)

Digest Serial No. 430 March. 26th.

Noon R/C reported possible aircraft carrier 8,000 tons with no stacks or superstructure visible and continuous deck with possible square ends in Kavieng harbour also 2 destroyers, 1 medium cargo vessel, 2 motor boats stationary 20 miles S.W. Cape Matanalem New Hanover.

2. Other photos show runway unserviceable and work continuing in dispersal and revetment area at Lorengau where nil shipping reported.

3. Photos covering practically whole Rabaul harbour midday reveal 64 vessels including 36 merchant vessels totalling 188,000 tons, 8 destroyers, 2 destroyer tenders, 7 submarines, 1 submarine tender, 1 minesweeper, 3 submarine chasers, 2 tankers, 4 tanker type vessels, 2 additional merchant vessels photographed off Kokopo and 1 medium merchantman sighted East of Cape Gazelle course South.

5. Nine Fortresses bombed Wewak early hours scoring hits or near hits on 1 medium cargo vessel and attacking dump, town and runway areas with unobserved results. Photos Wewak harbour midday reveal two small merchant cessels 1 submarine chaser, 1 large launch and 34 barges.

 7. 1 Fortress attacked Waterfront at Finschhafen afternoon.
 10. 7 Enemy medium bombers raided Merauke morning causing some damage to buildings and jetty. 12. Refer Digest 428 para. 8. Vessels reported still off

Lautem (Timor) evening 25th. (G. H. Q., S. W. P. A., 07452/27).

Arrivals 26th Fremantle Hospital ship Movements. WANGANELLA. Thursday Island R.A.F.A. KURUMBA. Hired Transport DUNTROON arrived and departed Port Moresby 26th due Cairns 28th. R.A.F. BISHOPDALE departed Port Moresby 25th due Townsville 28th. Dutch Naval Storeship MINJAK TANAH departed Cairns 27th due Brisbane 1st April. U.S. Transport CREMER departed Port Moresby 27th due Townsville 29th. (A.C.N.B., 0956Z/27 to Admty).

/Arrivals...

1993

27.3.1943. Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. (contd). Arrivals. Milne Bay. 26th GLENELG Port Moresby 25th BALLARAT, WARRAMUNGA. Thursday Island 25th ECHUCA Sydney (N.S.W.) 25th BENDIGO. Departures Port Moresby 26th WARRAMUNGA for Cairns Brisbane 24th BENDIGO for Sydney (N.S.W.) Sydney (N.S.W.) 25th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, MANOORA for Melbourne U.S. Cruiser HELENA for Espiritu Santo U.S. Destroyer SELFRIDGE BUNBURY for Brisbane.

BUNBURY for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B., 1054Z/27 to Admty).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1416A/27, 1420A/27).

. 1094

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Escort Oilers.

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DIC

1. Tankers fitted with oiling at sea gear for service as escort oilers are to be recognised as forming an integral part of the convoy escort system in the proportion of 2 escort oilers to each escort group.

Rescue ships with convoys. 2. C. in C. Western Approaches considers that the recent heavy scale of U-Boat attacks on trans-Atlantic convoys reveals the urgent need for improved rescue measures. He makes recommendations in the matter and states that in order to overcome the present shortage of rescue ships he proposes to employ trawlers. To implement this policy, he requires increased provision of trawlers: details are given in a message dated 5th April. The Admiralty reply is given in a message on 9th April.

3. Reports have been received that German aircraft have on at least one occasion dropped bombs ahead of the tracks of our torpedoes with successful results. The Admiralty have carried out trials of this procedure.

Home Commands.

of ECHO.

Concentration in N. Norway	4. Photographic R/C of Narvik yesterday showed NURNBURG and 2 destroyers present, but no main
of enemy main units.	units. The Russians were asked to undertake R/C of Alten Fiord, but were unable to do so today.
	At 1038A C. in C. Home Fleet ordered GLASGOW and ECHO to leave Denmark Straits patrol and return to Hvalfjord at the prudent limit of endurance

Search for surface vessel. 5. At 1955A/28 an R.D.F. surface contact was obtained, speed between 20 and 25 knots: a surface vessel was reported 8 miles south of Faroe Islands at 1959. PENN was ordered to intercepting position 60.30 N. 13.01 W. and CHARYBDIS to 58.50 N. 09.30 W.

/6. M.G.Bs...

1095

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

6. M.G.Bs 606, 607 and 603 at 0359 today attacked 2 enemy trawlers and possibly one merchant vessel off Egmund - Zandvoort and consider they probably destroyed one of the vessels. Casualties and damage to the M.G.Bs were very slight.

Blockade runners. 7. An additional cruiser is required in the Bay area. C. in C. Home Fleet was instructed to sail one cruiser for Plymouth: CHARYBDIS was sailed but was diverted to intercepting position in 58.50 N. 09.30 W. (see preceding para.) MILNE and MATCHLESS (part of the 4th Escort Group) were sailed from Londonderry for Milford Haven, to act under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth. Air reconnaissance was arranged.

Biscay air patrol.

8. From dusk on 20th March to dawn today a concentrated air patrol was carried out by night and day between the longitudes of 7° W. and 10° 30' W. in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay. For 1340 hours flying, base to base, a return of 27 sightings and 16 attacks resulted. Some of the latter appear promising, particularly one at 1106A in 47.07 N. 08.22 W.

9. An aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1715 today in 55.21 N. 35.00 W. and estimated 3 hits.
23 Venturas escorted by fighters attacked the
Wilton Shipyard at Rotterdam today. Bursts were seen in the yard and on the Nieve Waterweg Building yards, and two hits on a vessel of Sperrbrecher type.

10. 24 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night in Schulpen Gat and off the Frisian Islands.

1096

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

U/B attack on R.S.3 3 ships torpedoed. 11. Convoy R.S.3 (Freetown to Gibraltar) was attacked by U-Boat at 1150Z in 25.35 N. 15.43 W. (about 150 miles south of the Canary Is.) and SS. LAGOSIAN was torpedoed and sunk. At 1344Z SILVER BEACH was torpedoed or mined in 120 fathoms depth of water in 25.20 N. 15.55 W. A third attack on the Convoy at 1900 was frustrated, but at 2308Z MOANDA was torpedoed in 24.44 N. 16.48 W., set on fire and burnt out and is presumed sunk.

12. SS. GRANICOS, Rio de Janeiro for Freetown, was sunk by a U-Boat at 2000 today. The position of sinking is not known, as it is uncertain whether the ship received her diversion signal. One survivor was picked up on a raft on 4th April in position 01 S. 17 W. It is believed the only other survivor was a Brazilian deckhand who was taken aboard the U-Boat.

Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT lost. 13. S/M THUNDERBOLT is overdue at Algiers from patrol in the central Mediterranean and must be considered lost. It is believed she was sunk by depth charges on 13th March north-west of Milazzo.

14. A convoy of 3 troopships arrived at Tripoli (L) today.

15. The Egyptian coaster RUSHHI was torpedoed and sunk at 2200 today in 31.46 N. 34.23 E. (25 miles S.W. of Jaffa). Only the Master was saved.

U-Boat damaged. 16. Attack at 1125A today by aircraft L.48 from Gibraltar with depth charges on a U-Boat in 37.42 N. 00.10 W. produced large air bubbles and black oil. At 1754 another Hudson which was sent out to search for the U-Boat sighted one on the surface and down by the stern; leaving a large oil track, proceeding at 5 knots in 38.10 N. 00.10 or 17 E. The aircraft attacked with guns and bombs, but no result other than oil patches is reported.

/An ...

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1297

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

U-Boat damaged. (Contd.) An aircraft from Gibraltar reports having attacked a U-Boat at 1900A today in 38.06 N. 00.26 E.; (about 50 miles E.S.E. of Alicante) the enemy was last seen severely damaged on the surface steering 320° at 6 knots.

America and West Indies.

Convoy H.X.230. 17. HURRICANE and WATCHMAN, two escorts of Convoy H.X.230, which at O800A was estimated to be in 56.50 N. 35.00 W., attacked two shadowing U-Boats astern of the Convoy in the early hours of today and report both at least damaged. WATCHMAN is remaining in the vicinity.

18. At 1754 SS. W.P. FRYE reported sighting a U-Boat in 55.55 N. 34.50 W.

19. At 1715 an aircraft of 86 Squadron from Aldergrove attacked a U-Boat in 55.21 N. 35.00 W. and estimated 3 hits.

Australia and New Zealand.

Attack on Oro Bay. 20. At midday today 25 enemy medium bombers and 10 - 15 dive bombers with strong fighter support bombed shipping and the waterfront at Oro Bay (New Guinea). The Dutch SS. BANTAM was hit by 3 bombs whilst unloading and was badly holed, set on fire and became a total wreck. The U.S. Auxiliary MASAYA was sunk 5 miles from Oro Bay in Hinchinbrook Channel. Damage was caused to the new wharf. The enemy were intercepted by Lightnings and Kittyhawks and lost at least 13 aircraft and probably 12 more. Our losses were one Kittyhawk.

1098

28.3.1943. Sunday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Larne. E.G. Training Base. New S/M Sanctuary. It is intended to use Larne as an auxiliary base for training Escort Groups. The status of N.O.I.C. Larne to remain as heretofore but training from the base will be under the direction of the Training Captain Western Approaches who will require certain staff accommodation ashore.

2. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to make the following arrangements. Details.

It is proposed to institute a submarine sanctuary off 3. the N. Irish coast bounded to seaward by a line joining the following positions:- (A) Barrs Point, Larne. (B) Maidens Light. (C) 54° 59' N., 05° 38' W. (D) 55° 11' N. 05° 54½' W. (E) Torcor Point. (C. in C. W.A., 1846A/28 to Admty).

Movements.

S/M Movements.

2 3

My 1731/27. Add para. (J) ULTIMATUM exercising off Plymouth till 1600/28th.

(F.O.S., 0824A/28). My 1731/27. Add New Para. (K). UNA escorted by ALECTO leaves Clyde 1730/28th for Scapa. E.T.A.

0830/30.

(F.O.S., 0903A/28). Intend to sail P.58 escorted by RISKATO to Blyth at 1130 tomorrow, carrying out trials according to programme during passage in Tyne and Blyth approach channels. E.T.A. Blyth 1700/29.

(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1040/28). My 1603A/27, para. 2. (UNA). For 1st April read 31st March.

(Capt. S.3., 1202A/28 to F.O.S.)

(1) Propose relief S/M be sailed from Campbeltown p.m./29th March. If concur Capt. (D) Greenock is requested to sail F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT to call at Campbeltown to escort S/M to Tobermory.

(2) Intend sail 0.10 at 1600/30 escorted by LANCER, E.T.A. Campbeltown 1000/31, routed Sound of Mull and Islay. (WESTERN ISLES, 1401A/28). Positions of S/Ms at 0800A/29 and movements for following

24 hours.

A.

TRUCULENT in Zone K. 151. SEA NYMPH in Zone K. 150. C. TEMPLAR in Zone K. 148. B. D. X.5, X. 6 and X.7 towed by TEDWORTH and FORT RYAN on passage from Port HHZ to Loch Kishorn. Thence S/Ms proceed to Port

HHZ unescorted passing Ewe Buoy, at following times. X.5 1600/29 X.7 0630/30. X.6 1400/30. UNA escorted by ALECTO vicinity Skerryvore through Minches, E.

due Scapa 0830/30. F. UPROAR 45° 16' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 12°

54' W. at 1530/30. G. SOKOL 44° 50' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N. 12° 26' W. at 0630/30.

H. HERRING vicinity 44° 12' N. 11° 50' W. J. SHAD in Zone K. 508 (F.O.S., 1713A/28).

1099

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (contd).

Sailed UNA escorted by ALECTO in accordance with S.3's 1603A/27 as amended by his 1202A/28.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1736A/28). Intend sailing 0.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH from Dundee at 1230/29 to Scapa, E.T.A. 0800/30. (Capt. S.9., 2105A/28).

My 1713/28. Add new para. (K). 0.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH leaves Dundee 1200/29 for Scapa, 9 knots. (F.O.S., 2114A/28).

LOTUS, DIANELLA, BARHILL, BARMOND.

Admiralty 2006/19. LOTUS, DIANELLA from Londonderry, BARHILL, BARMOND from Milford Haven, are to arrive Falmouth April 7th for convoy B. (C. in C. W.A., 1703A/28).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 1118A/27. "Device" arrived 0804A/28.

Patrols. Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0812A/28). 1. Intend M.G.Bs. 54 (S.O.) and 55 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. 2. Leave Weymouth at 2000. Via Q.Z.S. 382, and leave patrol

line at dawn/29th.

3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1005A/28).

Intend sailing M.G.B. 318 at 1800/28 proceeding to the southward, returning to Falmouth 0900/29. Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles either side of a line Lizard to Isle des Vierges. Codeword "Arena".

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1130A/28).

1. N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail the following force and give the latest intelligence.

2. Force S.G.B.6 (S.O) M.G.Bs. 616, 615. 3. Object (A) to cover passage of C.E.164 (B) to destroy enemy

shipping. 4. Execution. Sail from Newhaven at 1915/28 and cross convoy route astern of C.E.164 which is due at C.2 buoy at 2110/28. Patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route between meridians of Greenwich 0° 45' E. Be at eastern end of patrol line at 2200/28. At 2200/28 proceed to sweep enemy coastal route between Treport and Fecamp, passing Fecamp passing through passage 2 in Q. Z.S. 771.

5. Return through passage 2 so as to be within 20 miles of English coast by daylight.

6. If weather is unsuitable for offensive operations on French coast return to harbour after C.E. 164 has passed C.1 buoy. 7. Codeword "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1250A/28). 1. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 are to patrol tonight 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start point 10 miles.

2. Object. To intercept and destroy E-boats attacking convoy. 3. Leave Dartmouth at 1930/28 for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0630/29. Codeword "Limited". (C. in C. Plymouth, 1339/28).

1100

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (contd).

M.G.B.54, 55 on patrol 50.20 N., between 01.45 W. and 02.25 W. M.G.B. 324, 330 on patrol 10 miles South of Start. M.G.B. 318 sails Falmouth 1800 for patrol to southward returning daylight. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1659/28). Your 1339/28. "Limited". Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1934A/28). My 1005/28. "Device" sailed at 2000.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2010A/28).

Operation V.P.2.

My 1930/26 as amended: my 2045/26. Sailed at 0300/28. (A.C.O.S., 0927/28).

Operation "Regulation".

3 destroyers and 7 torpedo boats escorting HIMALAYA, PORTLAND and OSORNO reported to have left Bordeaux for Japan p.m./25th or a.m. 26th Graded B.2.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1023A/28 to NEWFOUNDLAND). Arrived ORKAN.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1125A/28). My 1214/28/2 and H.F. 1419/25/3. An additional cruiser is required in the Bay area. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail one cruiser for Plymouth as soon as practicable. C. in C. W.A. is requested to sail 2 Fleet Destroyers for Plymouth as soon as practicable. (D.O.D. H., 1246A/28). Proceed to Milford Haven pass Hoxa Gate at 2000A/28.

Route via Minches and searched channel. Attention is 2.

called to A.M. Q.Z.X.910.
3. On arrival act under orders of C. in C. Plymouth. (C. in C. H.F., 1233A/28 to CHARYBDIS). U-boat was sighted on surface at 1420A/28 in 044° 26' N.
Cl5° 25' W. course 90° or 270°.
(NEWEROUNDLAND) 14504/08 to C. in C. Direcuth)

(NEWFOUNDLAND, 1452A/28 to C. in C. Plymouth). Sail Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS to Plymouth at earliest opportunity. On arrival these ships are to act under orders of C. in C. Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A., 1941A/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry). Your 1941/28. Request MILNE and MATCHLESS be sailed to

Milford Haven to arrive p.m./29th and to complete with fuel on arrival.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2257/28 to C. in C. W.A.) My 1941/28. Sail Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS to arrive Milford Haven before dark tomorrow. On arrival they are to act under orders of C. in C. Plymouth.

(C. in C. W.A., 2308A/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry). CHARYBDIS sailed Scapa 2000/28 to Milford Haven 18. (Capt. S.3., 2325A/28 to UNA).

/Interception...

1 1101

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Interception of Enemy Unit.

My 1159/25. GLASGOW and ECHO return to Hvalfjord at P.L.E. of ECHO.

(2) GLASGOW break W/T silence on leaving patrol

and report ice situation in patrol area. (C. in C. H.F., 1038A/28 to GLASGOW).

In view of C. in C. H.F. 1038A/28 I shall not be coming out with INTREPID to relieve you.

(C.S.10, 1403A/28 to GLASGOW, ECHO). My P.C.S. 061° 24' N., 011° 48' W., 142° 17 knots. E.T.A. 1500A/29. Weather 4672 9655.

(PENN, 2200A/28 to A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F.) Proceed to intercepting position 060° 30' N., 013° 01' W. R.D.F. surface contact Sydero at 1955A/28, speed between 20 and 25 knots.

(C. in C. H.F., 2325A/28 to PENN (R) CHARYBDIS). Proceed to intercepting position 058° 50' N., 009° 30' W. at 0600A/29.

(2) R.D.F. surface contact SYDERO at 1955A/28, speed between 20 and 25 knots.

(C. in C. H.F., 2330A/28 to CHARYBDIS, (R) PENN). Following from N.O.I.C. Faeroes. Following plotted from R.A.F., R.D.F. Akraberg 62° 9 D P 1950, 080° 7 miles, 1957. Faded 2000. T.O.O. 2040A/28 ends.

(A.C.O.S., 2358A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

/ Following is a preliminary report on C/F activity Attack on Enemy Convoy. on night 27/28th. 1. M.T.Bs. 617 (S.O.) with M.T.Bs. 629, 624 were sailed to carry out an offensive sweep in One M/V probably the Terschelling Area. At 2330 in 53° 25' N., sunk. 04° 45' E. R.D.F. contacts indicated that

Unit was being shadowed by two E-boats. These No further contacts, and no convoy were avoided.

sighted.

2. M.G.B.606 (S.O.) with 607, 603 were sailed to carry out a search in the vicinity Egmund-Zandvoort, to attack any suitable target found. Target found at 2305 in 52° 29' N., 04° 27' E. R.D.F. contacts were made with 4 vessels, M.G.Bs. shadowed but were unable to close on account of Star Shells fired by enemy who were apparently using hydrophones. Visibility was about one cable and contact was lost for a time amongst ghost echoes. At 0335 R.D.F. contact was re-established, enemy having split into pairs about one mile apart. M.G.Bs. close southern pair up moon sighting 2 trawlers and possibly one Merchant vessel at range of one mile. Fire was opened at 0359 at 5 cables range. Shortly after a very large flash, which appeared to be a cordite explosion lasting about 10 sec. was observed on the second ship in line and M.G.Bs. consider that this ship was probably destroyed. The second enemy force now opened fire apparently on their own ships. At this stage M.G.B. 606 developed engine defects which brought the ship to a stop. By the time partial repairs were affected a further attack was not possible. 3. Casualties M.G.Bs. 603 and 607 one rating each slightly wounded. M.G.B.603 slight damage others nil. (C. in C. Nore, 1859A/28 to Admty).

1102

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

Exercise "Sunk". Carry out exercise "Sunk". (A) March 29th 0930 (B) VIVACIOUS, HOLDERNESS. Details. (C. in C. Nore, 1834A/28 to VIVACIOUS, HOLDERNESS)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland A/C Patrols. Your 1249/25 and my 2346/26. Similar air patrols were flown yesterday. All negative reports. No aircraft are available for these patrols today owing to convoy protection commitments. (A.C.I.C., 0115A/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Western Channel. From 2100/28 till dawn/29 Swordfish aircraft will carry out patrols as in my 1411/8th March. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1349/28 to Escorts W.P. 315)

R/C of Altenfiord. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1515A/28 to Admty. C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen

From Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard at 0845/27 Easterly direction.

(A.C.I.C., 1023A/28). Jan Mayen reports Sunderland seen at 0605 on North Coast and aircraft heard southerly direction at 1057. (A.C.I.C., 1718A/28).

Iceland.

F.W. sighted 5 miles east of Vattarnes 064° 56' N., 013° 40' W., at 1510/27 flying low course south, cloud 10-tenth 800 feet visibility approx. 6 miles. (A.C.I.C., 1105A/28 to Admty).

Mining.

Clearance	ROSS 1721A/6. "Occasion" sailed 0813A/28.
of Q.Z.X.939.	(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0820A/28 to N.O.I.C.
	Dartmouth).
	ROSS 1721/26. Arrived "Occasion".
	(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1852A/28).

/Clearance...

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

1.3 4

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. - Contd.

Clearance of Q.Z.X.910.

C. in C. W.A. 1919A/25. Intend sailing 15th M/S Flotilla comprising FRASERBURGH (S.O.) BEAUMARIS, WORTHING, BOOTLE, DUNDAR, and PETERHEAD from Kirkwall at 0630/29 routed by

Westray Firth west of Orkneys to Cape Wrath, thence standard route through Minches to R/V in 056° 25' 06" N. 007° 40' 05" W. for clearance sweep of Q.Z.X. 910 E.T.A. R/V position 0830/30.

2. Request danlaying vessels join S.O. 15th M/S F. at 0830/30 March in R/V position. (A.C.O.S., 1657A/27 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Needles

One magnetic mine red detonated by LL in 234° 7.6 miles from Needles light. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1811A/28 and 1012A/30).

Iceland.

A.M. 1705/26. Propose that sweeping of Q.Z.S.396 is continued to a position Z 287° Skagi Light 6.7 miles.

(2) From position Z propose channels (A) in 181° direction for 9 miles thence through Reykjanes passage to the 100 fathom line in approx. 172° Reykjanes group flashing light 14.5 miles. (B) In 318° direction for 55 miles or as far as possible.

(3) A Channel to south westward is considered less useful and it is unlikely to be swept or used accurately owing to navigational difficulties.

(C. in C. H.F., 1936A/27 to A.C.I.C.)

Enemy Intelligence.

R/C of	My 1535/10. Photographic R/C of Narvik today
Narvik and	27th shows NURNBURG and 2 destroyers present but
Altenfiord.	no main units.
NURNBURG.	2. R/C of Alten Fiord is still urgently
	required and cannot be undertaken from U.K.
	(D.O.D. H., 0136A/28 to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. Oil trail in 48° 59' N., 9° 52' W. at 1055. (A/C VIXY NO T.O.O. to 19 Group Recd. 1226/28). D/F bearings continue in the vicinity of H.X.230. (D.D.I.C., 1101A/28 to Escorts H.X.230). Am over enemy Submarine in 47° 07' N., 08° 22' W.

(A/C F9YS 1106A/28 to 19 Group).

On day 27th. 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols A U-boat was sighted but no attack was possible.

(H.Q.B.C., 1400A/28). U-boat sighted by NEWFOUNDLAND at 1420A/28. See Operations.

/Following...

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

U-boats reported. (contd).

class distress. (Port Patrick Radio, 1749/28 to N.O.I.C. Greenock). From WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE. Sighted submarine bearing 240° 167 miles from Point U ends. (Valentia, Radio, 1753/28.) Intercept de KCKL WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE. Submarine submerged. Distress traffic is ended for present. Ends. (Valentia Radio, 1822/28).

Following from WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE. 283° 1

Am over enemy submarine in 55.21 N. 35.00 W. (A/C UW8 1709/28 to 15 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges (3?) hits. (A/C 86 Sqdn. 1715/28 to 15 Group). U-boat attacked.

U.S.S. MARSHALL ELLIOT attacked by enemy submarine 275° class one bearing. MARSHALL ELLIOT (Wick Radio, 1747/28 to A.C.O.S.) attacked.

Technical.

Attack on Torpedoes by A/C.

Reports have been received that German aircraft have on at least one occasion dropped bombs ahead of the tracks of our torpedoes with successful result. 2. Trials carried out by the Admiralty show that the charge should be at least some 100 lbs. and exploded within 25 feet of the torpedo. (V.C.N.S., 0035A/28 to Cs. in C.)

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1458/27. It is requested Oiling at that this matter may be considered of extreme Sea. ARCHER. urgency as vitally affecting the period available for offensive action in the U-boat Warfare. (C. in C. W.A., 0223A/28 to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

My 1858A/27. Ship sank in about 3 minutes. Cause appears to have been petrol explosion DASHER starboard side aft. 36 officers and 113 ratings totalling 149 survivors picked up. Rescue operations hampered by burning petrol on sea. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1024A/28).

Cancel my 1611/26. CASTLETON returning to CASTLETON Cardiff with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1029A/28).

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

S.T. LORD WIMBORNE total loss Hafnarfiord. Crew safe. LORD WIMBORNE. (N.C.S.O. Iceland, 1033A/28).

Fowey.

Now estimated that fall of rock which occurred Brazen Island slipway. Assistance has been offered but is not required.

(R.N.O. Fowey, 1245A/28). R.N.O. Fowey 1245/28. You should impress on Fowey Harbour Commissioners the importance of bringing the Brazen Island slipway into use again as soon as possible. Naval labour can be sent when required. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2256/28 to R.N.O. Fowey).

NOLISEMENT

SS. NOLISMENT lying at anchor one mile N.E. Queens Pier Ramsey with salvage vessel alongside and tug standing by. Divers are at work. (N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 1515A/28).

MORAY FIRTH sunk.

BERRIEDALE reports in collision at 0003/28 with SS. MORAY FIRTH in 57° 46' N., 2° 47' W. MORAY FIRTH sunk. Two survivors picked up out of total crew of 12. Examination vessels BUCKIE and MACDUFF and PNC. BUCKIE sent to search area. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1516/28).

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Procedure in Ice.

The following procedure proved successful recently when a convoy was passing through ice area south east of Greenland. S.O. Escort detached one corvette ahead to locate ice bergs. Corvette advised S.O. escort of position and during darkness stood by icebergs burning Dim navigation lights. (C. in C.W.A. 0220A/28 to A.I.G. 32.)

H.X. 230.

S.C. 123 is not actively threatened. Proceed to join H.X. 230 before dark. Report fuel stocks remaining.

(C. in C.W.A. 0837Z/28 to E.G.3.) Stragglers and ships in company have been ordered by B.A.M.S. to amend stragglers route to 30 miles to Northward. Stragglers unable to rejoin before dark tonight have been ordered to proceed on amended stragglers route forthwith. (C. in C.W.A. 1026Z/28 to Escort H.X. 230.)

Am complying with your 0837Z/28. Weather may preclude joining before dark. Percentage fuel remaining varies from 54 to (?65). My P.C. and S. are 59.48 32.30 155° 15. Weather 4488 8257.

(E.G. 3 1030A/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.S.12.

Intend sailing convoy escorted by S.O. 44th E.G. in EGRET passing Clyde boom 1730A/30 to R/V with escorts from Londonderry in position A. at 1100A/ 31, thence in accordance with A.M. 1216A/26. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0954A/28.)

COWSLIP is to sail as additional escort to Gibraltar for onward routeing to Freetown. (C. in C.W.A. 1126A/28 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

Starting with F.S. 78 and F.N. 85 East Coast East Coast Convoys.

Convoys will operate the following time table, my 1800/7th November, 1942 then being cancelled. Details. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Nore, Southbound convoys proceed by Q.Z.S. 277 & 402 & Morthbound by Q.Z.S. 403 and 308. 8¹/₂ knot convoys will only run when specially ordered. (C. in C.Rosyth 1130A/28.)

5th E.G.

My 1502/27. OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE, and when available IMPULSIVE will form 5th Escort Group for escorting escort carriers. OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE will leave Londonderry 30th March for Clyde to meet ARCHER prior to 2 days exercises with O.N. 176 convoy. On return 5th E.G. will work up and subsequently sail for service with BITER.

(C. in C.W.A. 1147A/28 to BITER, ARCHER.)

/My

1107

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

5th E.G.My 1147/28.Cancel all references to IMPULSIVE.(Contd.)(C. in C.W.A. 2037A/28.)

Publications for M/Vs. Your 1601/17 has been discussed with Comnaveu and it is agreed that a reduction in number of publications issued to merchant ships and elimination of all duplication is desirable.

2. A limit of two books is, however, regarded as impracticable, and it is considered essential that the following publications are required. Details. (D.T.D. 1150A/28 to Connav.)

Iceland Shuttle Service. A.M. 2128A/13 and 1030Z/22 to C. in C.Lant. Though definite reliefs are not being provided on the withdrawal of the U.S. ships from Iceland (C) it is intended to operate support groups in this area.

2. There is of course no intention to reduce the local services around the coasts carried out by smaller craft. (V.C.N.S. 1305A/28 to B.A.D.)

PASTEUR.

Intend sailing PASTEUR 1700Z/29. Route: Z. 270° 6 miles from Oversay, A. 55.20 14.01. B. 49.10 19.05 C. 42.58 30.06 D. 41.25 41.00 E. 42.15 60.20 thence Halifax. Knots 19½/22½. Estimated to pass 007° W. 0300Z/30. "Chop" 040° W. 2nd April. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1308Z/28.)

Escort Oilers. It has been decided that tankers fitted with oiling-at-sea gear for service as Escort Oilers are to be recognized as forming an integral part of the convoy escort system in the proportion of 2 Escort Oilers to each Escort Group.

 In order to implement this decision the highest priority is to be given to the following work. A. First fitting in a tanker of platform or other type of oiling-at-sea gear.
 Subsequent maintenance, repair, or alteration of the gear.
 Voyage or heavy weather or Owners repairs to tankers which have been or are being fitted with the gear, D. Berthing and discharge of e scort oilers.
 From time to time tankers will be withdrawn from service for

about 10 days to enable a platform to be fitted. The utmost co-operation between all concerned will be essential. (D.T.D. 1854A/28 to Cs. in C.)

4th E.G.

Request you will sail INGLEFIELD, ICARUS, FURY, ECLIPSE as 4th Escort Group as convenient p.m. 29th to make good 13.5 knots toward 056° 40' N. 037° 00' W. 4th Escort Group is to act as support Group.

 IMPULSIVE will be re-allocated to 4th Escort Group as soon as practicable.
 OPPORTUME and OBDURATE will be required to sail from Londonderry 30th March for exercises with ARCHER.

(C. in C.W.A. 1905Z/28 to Cdre. Londonderry.)

1108

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Atlantic Convoys. Rescue Measures. The recent heavy scale of U-Boat attacks on trans-Atlantic convoys reveals the urgent need for improved rescue measures. It is noted that, when there is no special rescue ship present, or when she has become detached the rear ships of columns with very few exceptions fail to carry out the duties assigned to them as rescue ships.

2. I do not consider it desirable that rear ships as such should be detailed for this work since they have frequently very little speed in reserve to overtake the convoy, and also in most cases are too valuable to be used for this hazardous task. I consider, therefore, that Article 78 of C.B. 04024 (41) and Article 19, para. 1, of instructions to Commodores of convoys should be cancelled in so far as they affect trans-Atlantic convoys. 3. On several recent convoys, escort vessels have spent much valuable time after attacks in effecting rescue when they should have been escorting the convoy. Although it is not in accordance with A.C.I. Article 123, it is felt that the morale of the mercantile marine would be gravely affected if casualties were left unprovided for.

4. To overcome the present shortage of rescue ships and to avoid the undesirable circumstances referred to in para. 3, it is proposed: A. That special rescue ships, rescue tugs and their attendant trawlers should be primarily reserved for fast convoys and if available should be sailed together.

B. To provide rescue amenities for slow convoys by sailing two ocean going trawlers with each convoy for this purpose. These ships are more suitable for slow convoys then fast due to limited speed and tendency to make smoke when going fast. 5. There are at present 22 ocean going trawlers in my command, apart from those earmarked for rescue tugs, and it is proposed to use 13 of these for this purpose and the remaining nine for U.R/R.U.convoys.

A. The allocation of 13 trawlers for slow transatlantic convoys allows a margin of one trawler only for refits and breakdowns if two are to be sailed with each convoy. The number of rescue ships available, should, however, permit the sailing of one of these occasionally in slow convoys in place of a trawler, and thus the commitment can probably be met.

B. The allocation of nine trawlers to U.R/R.U. convoys is calculated to allow the working strength of two trawlers per convoy instead of three as now. It is appreciated that these convoys are likely to be larger than hitherto since the Iceland group is no longer available to take off ships bound from America. I intend when necessary and possible to strengthen the escorts of U.R/R.U.convoys with esses* or miss-musters from Ocean groups, but if the proposals in this signal are put into force I cannot guarantee a larger escort than two trawlers per U.R/R.U. convoy. I consider however, that this risk should be accepted in view of the paramount importance of rescue work on ocean convoys. 6. The adoption of the scheme proposed in para. 4. will preclude these trawlers from undertaking any other commitment. The present scale of escort provided with ocean going convoys in the Irish sea can, however, be maintained with the existing number of non-ocean going trawlers.

*as received.

1109

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic Convoys. Rescue Measures. (contd). (7) It will be appreciated from para. 5 that the number of trawlers available are far from adequate for the duties required. It is earnestly requirested therfore that measures may be taken to reinforce my trawler strength, by any means that may be available.
(8) The need for improved rescue measures is

urgent and very early approval of these proposals is therefore requested so that the scheme may be put into execution and the other authorities concerned informed without delay.

(9) My W.A., 792/0805/19 of 14th March 1943 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 1916A/28 to Admty).

1110

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

TORDENE, CROCODILE, R.S. 3X.

Propose sailing TORDENE and CROCODILE from Casablanca at 0800A/29th to join R.S.3 as previously arranged at 33.58 N. 07.55 W. at 1230A/29th. Com. East Unit furnish one P.L. to escort to R/V CROCODILE obliged to refuel, at Dakar. Request confirmation. Your 1211A/27th. Gibraltar pass to KUMAON. (S.N.O. Casablanca Oll5A/28 to F.O.I.C. Gib.

(R) Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. Comar Dakar. Comnob Casablanca, Com. Escort Unit, KUMA(?ON).) My 1211/27th, not to F.O.C.R.I.N. Sailed SNOWDROP, KUMAON,

KATHIAWAR, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE escort R.S. 3X.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0937A/28 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.C.R.I.N. Comar, Dakar.) (?CROCODILE) reports inability to (?sail for) R/V with R.S.3 (?on) account of sea damage to bridge and wheelhouse. Electrical apparatus boiler and engine room defective. Intend TORDEN(?E) sail as my Oll5/28th. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar please pass by escort for (?Cdre of) R.S.3X. CROCODILE estimated date of readiness April 1st.

(C.M.S.F.F., 1031Z/28 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med. Comar, Dakar, F.O.C.W.Af.) Your Oll5Z/28th, concur.
(F.O.Gibraltar 1222A/28 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca (R) Admty. etc.)

W.D.Note: For U/B attack on R.S. 3 see South Atlantic.

PRESIDENT HOUDUCE.

Sailing from Gibraltar a.m. 28th March for Freetown. (PRESIDENT HOUDUCE 0543A/28 to F.N.F.L. London.)

M.K.F.11.

Sailed Gibraltar section M.K.F.llescorted by HERO, NASTURTIUM, ALGOMA, HUNTER, STALKER to R/V main convoy.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar O615A/28 to Admty. etc.) M.K.F. 11. Ships sailed as in my 1808/24 and your 1912/25. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 0730A/28 to Admty.)

M.K.F.ll. DOUGLAS, GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK arrived fuelled and sailed 0530 to rejoin. M.K.S.lO. MORDEN sailed 0530 to join escorts.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 1133A/28 to Admty. etc.)

Attacks on U/Bs.

P.B.Y. from Victory P.73 reports disappearing contact at 1630Z/27th in 33.33 N. 17.40 W. evaluated doubtful, U-Boat reported sunk by Army B.24 Ref. my 222235, (attack on enemy S/M by Army B.24 plane,) identified as 740 ton unit,

U-88 type, position and course indicate sub probably outbound headed for South Atlantic patrol. (S.N.O.C.A. 0855Z/28 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.

Cominch, F.O.C.W.Af.)

/Dispositions...

4

1111

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions.

Situation at 2002(?A)/28th.

Dispositions. Situation at 2002(?A)/28th. M.K.S.10, BROADWAY, 36.21 09.12 through 36.30 10.01 thence 310°7¹/₂. 2. M.K.F.11 WREN 036° 12' 008° 59' through 036° 20' 010° 00' thence 295° 13¹/₂.
3. MATTOLE Convoy C.T.G. 62, 034° 31' 009° 56' 235° 10.
4. S.R. 3 CADMUS 26.58 14.30 through 28.18 13.10 thence 035° 7³/₄.
5. G.U.S. 5 A, C.T.F. 67, 034° 11' 017° 41' 230° 8.
6. ASHANTI about 31.03 10.46 northbound to Gibraltar 20.
7. U.S. Destrover MAYRANT 1 merchant ship 33.46 15.51 to 7. U.S. Destroyer MAYRANT, 1 merchant ship, 33.46 15.51 to Casablanca 19.

8. Hospital ship AMARAPOORA, 046° 04' 014° 01' 111. (F.O.Gibraltar 1013A/28.)

Situation at 1959A/28th. 21 L.C.I.(L)s. 170, 027° 02' 026° 21' 090° 10. 2. G.U.F. 6, C.T.F. 64, 029° 18' 024° 06' through 29.03 25.01 thence 269° 13 (?minimum).

(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1045A/28.) 3 Swedish relief ships 34. (?02) 38.18 through 34.00 280.00 thence 270° 13.

43.30 30.20 thence 042°.

(V.A.Gibraltar 1102A/28 1911A/28.)

U/B attacked. Following read. Periscope only of enemy S/M previously reported was sighted. Have attacked with depth charges 37.42 N. 00.10 W. 112° 5. (A/C R7G/L via Gib. W/T 1130/28.) Enemy submarine previously reported was on course 045° speed 6. (A/C R7G/L 1150/28.)

Oil patch air bubbles 5 minutes after attack. (A/C R7G/L 1215/28.)

U/B Transmissions on æries 3 between 06522 R.S. 3. and 1042Z indicate a convoy is being shadowed. S.R. 3. (Admty. 1236A/28 to Escorts R.S.3., Escorts U/B. S.R. 3., ASHANTI, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A. F.O.C.W.Af.) See also Dakar 1345/28 (South Atlantic.) A.M. 1236A/28, not to THYME. Since 1810Z a number of

shadowing reports intercepted on series 3 from general area of convoys. (D.D.I.C. 2304A/28 to Escorts R.S. 3, Escorts S.R. 3. THYME, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O.C.A. F.O.C.W.A.F.)

MATTOLE Convoy.

MATTOLE U.S. Destroyers HERBERT, BERNADOU, COLE and convoy sailed 1900/27th. U.S.Destroyer DALLAS sailed 1210 to overtake. Routed as in Admiralty's 1824/22nd S.O.A. 10 knots, code word "Deodar." (F.O.Gibraltar 1237A/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

ADVENTURE ...

1112

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

ADVENTURE

ADVENTURE arrived. Request instructions. (F.O.Gibraltar 1251A/28 to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A.Minelayers.) (F.O.Gib. 1302A/28 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

LOOKOUT.

Your 1627/22nd. Anticipate LOOKOUT will be ready for service about 5th April. Approx. 2 days delay has been incurred due to berth difficulties. (F.O.Gibraltar 1502/28 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.12th C.S. Capt. D. 19, LOOKOUT.)

MINA PIQUERA. Spanish MINA PIQUERA 3754 G.T. speed 7 knots, national and Swiss colours, ship's name, Espana and Switzerland painted on sides sailed 1520/28 for Genoa by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 1523A/28 S. and A. in Area G. Capt. S.10. H.Q.N.W. A.C.A.F., A.O.C.Malta, (R) Admty.)

S.L. 126 U/B. Incomplete D/F bearings on 11068 k/cs at 1518Z indicate U-Boat may be in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1707A/28 to Escorts S.L. 126, NEWFOUNDLAND, (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Plymouth, Cominch, H.Q.C.C.)

U/B attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 38.06 N. 00.20 E. S/M was on surface. (A/C 1NB/L 1810A/28.) Have attacked enemy with bombs level and estimate 4 hits. Enemy has been severely damaged by air attack 38.06 N. 00.26 E. (A/C 1NB/L 1900A/28.) Enemy S/M sighted 38.06 N. 00.26 E. at 1700/28th. (S.O. S/M Gibraltar 2221A/28 to TACTICIAN, SHAKESPEARE.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals MAN-O-WAR, M.M.S. 134, ex M.K.S.10, HAARLEM, ST. NECTAN from escort duties west. Departures M.T.B. 640, 634, 638 to Algiers. TACTICIAN to patrol. SHAKESPEARE for Algiers. U.S. Ship ROWAN for Casablanca. (F.O.Gibraltar 1941A/28 to Admty. etc.)

1113

28.3.1943. Sunday.

200

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CHESHIRE A.F.D.

Dock may only require extensive shoring in Nos. 1 and 5 tanks. Work could be completed by CHESHIRE in three days when timber is supplied. Request surveyor may attend on arrival. E.T.A. probably Tuesday 30th p.m. (CHESHIRE 0115Z/28 to N.A. Montevideo (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Attacks on Convoy R.S.J. LAGOSIAN sunk SILVER BEACH. SUMA MOANDA torpedoed.

My 1122Z/27th to F.O.C. Gib. (see 0308Z/28.) BRIDGEWATER requests position of CADMUS and R.S.3. Request you reply.

(R.A.W.A. 02552/28 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty, H.M.S. BRIDGEWATER, Escort R.S.3, Escort S.R.3.) Following is a repetition of F.O.I.C. W.Africa's 11222/27th (begins) Addressed F.O.C. Gibraltar from F.O.I.C. West Africa. BRIDGEWATER's 23272/26th Request position of CADMUS be signalled and R/V amended if necessary. T.O.O. 1122Z/27. (Ends). (C.C.O. Freetown 03082/28 to F.O.C. Gib. Admty.etc). P.C. and S. C25° 35' N. 015° 43' W. 222° 8 knots.

LAGOSIAN torpedoed and sunk. (BRIDGEWATER 1150Z/28 to F.O.C. West Africa.) P.C. and S. 025° 20' N. 015° 55' W. 222° 8³/₄ knots. SILVER BEACH torpedoed or mined, uncertain which.

(BRIDGEWATER 1344Z/28 to N.O.I.C. W.A. (R) F.O.C. Gib.) My 1344/28th. Great possibility of mines depth of water 120 fathoms. 39 survivors from LAGOSIAN in EMPIRE DENNIS, none from SILVER BEACH.

(BRIDGEWATER 1417Z/28 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

(F.O.C.W.A. 1615Z/28 to Admty. S.N.O. Casablanca, etc.) BRIDGEWATER in C25° 35' N. O15° 43' W. at 1150Z/28th. Course 222°. Speed 8 knots. Report earliest time you can join escort.

(F.O.C.W.A. 1624Z/28 to ORFASY, THYME, (R) BRIDGEWATER, Admty) Your 1624Z/28th. Expect to join escort at 2359Z/29th. (THYME 1800Z/28 to F.O. W.Africa BRIDGEWATER (R) Admty. ORFASY).

My P.C. and S. at 2000/28 was 025° 04' N. 016° 30' W. 222° $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Intend altering to 192° at 0100. Both submarines were attacked but damage unlikely. 7 survivors from SILVER BEACH now in EMPIRE ACE. Another attack on convoy was made at 1900 but was frustrated. Request air escort tomorrow Monday. (BRIDGEWATER 2016Z/28 to R.A. W.A., Admty., (R) F. O.I.C.Gib.,

ORFASY, THYME.)

My P.C. and S. 024° 38' N. 016° 53' W. 222° 8 knots MOANDA torpedoed.

(BRIDGEWATER 2308Z/28 to F.O.W.Africa, Admty.) W.D. Note: For amended position, see Oll5Z/29.

/Admiral...

1114

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Admiral Pegram left by air for U.K. via Marakesh. Admiral (C.O. Dakar 0739Z/28 to Admty, (R) F.O.C. W.A.) Pegram.

Sail French Sloops DUMONT D'URVILLE and QUERCY French 17002/27th in accordance with my 0858/24th, not to Admiralty. Position K amend 33.55 N. 07.53 W. Sloops. (Comar, Dakar, 0752Z/28 to F.O.C.W.A.F. etc.)

P. 614. Your 1403/19 (Propose P.614 and P. 615 should exchange duties in April.) concur. (C. in C.S.A. 0903B/28 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty.etc) P. 615.

ASHANTI.

Report P.C. and S. and E.T.A. Gibraltar. (F.O.W.A. 10182/28 to ASHANTI. (R) Comar, Dakar, C. in C. Med., Admty, F.O.C. Gib., S.N.O. Casablanca.)

Dispositions. CILICIA on patrol about 005° 01' 022° 01' 14 QUEEN OF BERMUDA 010° 22' S. 017° 04' to 008° 01'

S. OLEN OF BERMUDA 010° 22' S. 017° 04' to 008° 01' S. 018° 00' thence 007° 14½. SARABANDE escorting about 001° 48' 002° 01' E. 130° 5½. CROCUS DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.L. with S.L. 60, 007° 58' 014° 04' to 007° 38' 014° 30' thence 140° M.L. 278 M.L. 281 Marshalls to Freetown 10. WASTWATER M.M.S.5, 6,7, and 8. 000° 40' 020° 41' to 001° 00' 020° 00' thence 041° 9½. Allied Naval Units (?Ascension) St. Pauls Bock area. M.L. 290 esconting off Takonadi to St. Pauls Rock area. M.L. 290 escorting off Takoradi to Sassandra, 6. (F.O.W.A. 1023Z/28.)

Position at 2000Z/28th.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA 10.10 S. 17.15 W. to 08 S. 18 W. and Freetown 14.5 knots. NORTHERN CHIEF, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD 31.00 S. 12.45 E. to (?Walvis Bay) 9. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with C.A.16, 36.00 18.20 to 40.45 18.26 11 knots. QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER with W.S. 27, 32. 30.29.25 to Durban 12. CHEVREULL, LADY ELSA, LE TIGER with D.N. 28, 32.35 35.15 to dispersal in 033°. S. 036° E.

(C. in C. S.A. 1108B/28.) Situation at 2000Z/28th.

BRIDGEWATER, BEN BRACKIE with R.S.3, 24.57 16.22 to 24.07 17.10 thence 192.7¹/₂. ORFASY about 22.29 17.36 to join R.S.3. DUMONT D'URVILLE, QUERCY, 19.47 17.07 to 20.00 17.16 thence to North by coastal route $13\frac{1}{2}$. U.S. Destroyers DUPONT, DICKERSON, ELLIS with convoy 0.T.3, 25.21 31.05 83.12 $\frac{1}{2}$. ULSTER MONARCH escorted by REDOUBT 09.11 14.55 to Freetown 15 $\frac{1}{2}$. FANDANGO escorting F. Sub. ARGO 10.07 15.31 through 09.30 23.00 at 0700/29th thence Freetown 9. F.S. BEARN on patrol about 07.00 28.30 19. THYME about 16.37 17.42 to join R.S.3. 2 M.Ls screening cable ship ALSACE in approx. 13.39 17.00. (F.O.C.W.A. 15592/28.)

/QUILLIAM ...

1115 28.3.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

QUILLIAM. Simonstown arrival 28. (C. in C. S.A. 1123B/28 to Admty. etc.)

CILICIA. Departure 0700/27 CILICIA on Ocean patrol. (S.O. (I) Freetown 11292/28 to Admty.)

KENYA. Arrival 1147/27th. (S.O. (I) Freetown 11312/28 to Admty. etc.)

W.S.28.
Route from G. 005° 00' S. 011° 00' E. to Durban.
2. Capetown portion part company in position N. and enter Harbour.
3. RELENTLESS and RAIDER will join escort of

W.S.28 in position G. (C. in C. S.A. 1142B/28 to F.O.C.W.A. B.N.L.O.W.A. Admty.)

Movements, Arrival 27th U.S. Minesweeper Y.M.S. 76. Bahia. (R.O. Bahia, 1230Z/28 to Admty.)

S.R.3, Arrived THYME escorting EMPIRE SUCCESS 1000Z/28th. THYME, Sailed THYME to rejoin S.R.3. EMPIRE SUCCESS, (Comar, Dakar, 1345/28 to F.O.C. W.Af., (R) BRIDGEWATER, BRIDGEWATER, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty, ORFASY. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Gib.)

W.S.28. Arrivals 1115Z/27 March QUADRANT, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH with W.S.28. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1454Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

W.S.28, storage. A.M. 2210/20. It is essential that all ships proceeding to Middle East in W.S.28 should leave the Cape stored and victualled to fullest capacity as they may be diverted from normal W.S. service after disembarkation. (D. of S.T.*1555A/28 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, (R) P.S.T.O. M.E.)*Approved D.O.D. (F).

ETHIOPIAN. Para.2 of your 0746/22. Understand from your 1404/26. intention is to complete refit of ETHIOPIAN and am proceeding accordingly. Date for completion of dockyard work 3rd May ex trials. (Capt. Supt. Durban 1711/28 to C. in C. E.F. at Kilindini, (R) Com. Durban, C. in C. S.A. ETHIOPIAN, Admty.)

VOLENDAM, RANGITIKI. R

1116

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Freetown.

Arrival 1830/27th March BUTSER, escorting. Sown. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1805Z/28 to Admty, R.O., St. Vincent.) Arrival 0900/28th March INKPEN escorting. (S.O. (I) Freetown 1820Z/28 to Admty, R.O. Monrovia.)

Movements, Takoradi.

Arrivals 28th March. CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT, DUNKERY, M.L. 261. Departure M.L. 290 Freetown 3rd April. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 1845Z/28 to Admty. etc.)

1117

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SPLENDID.

My position 036° 30' 012° 57' making good 126° at $4\frac{3}{4}$ knots in present weather. In remaining on surface after day break. Intend (P.228 (SPLENDID), OlOIZ/28 to Capt. (S) 10. (R) S/M on patrol) (Capt. (S) 8, O916A/28 to Capt. (S) 10, (R) S/M's on patrol)

(?Proceed on surface at discretion) your OlOl/28th without further notice to make harbour in daylight keeping 20 miles clear of Malta tonight and R/V at end of searched channel at 0830A/29. (Capt. S.10, 1029/28 to P.228 (SPLENDID)(R) Capt. (S) 8, V.A. Malta).

Your (Reference apparently omitted) 287° Filfla 10 miles. Your 1029 understood.

(P.228, 1410A/28 to Capt. (S) 10 (R) V.A. Malta)

ABDIEL.

Arrived. (V.A.Malta, 0918/28 to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 27th March HURWORTH, HURSLEY, M.L.1158, Movements. G.S. KANARIS Alexandria. Departures 27th March M.L. 349, 359. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0923/28 to Admty etc.)

Black Sea.

(1) Sea. (1) Sea. (A) 2 enemy S/M's sighted off coast March 24th. (B) Black Sea Naval Staff now transferring from Poti to vicinity Tuapse. (2) Air. (A) Russians continue attacks on enemy troops. ports and aerodromes in Taman and Kerch Peninsulas. During period March 11th March 15th 58 lorries and 300 men

destroyed, one E. boat damaged and 15 enemy aircraft brought down. Russians lost 5 aircraft. (B) Enemy air operations March 18th confined to R/C and attacks Russian positions in Novorossisk (3) (A) Novorossisk area no change in position. (B) area. Kuban area. Russians occupied Petrovskaya and Troitskaya pipeline March 21st. (Slavlearskaya) was taken March 23rd and fighting is now taking place on outskirts Anastasievskaya. (C) Considerable increase in rate of enemy evacuation from Taman Peninsula both by air and sea reported. (N.L.O.Black Sea, 0925C/28 to Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.11.	Arrived at 1900A/27th plus ODYSSEUS less MARS, INVENTOR and ALPERA. (S.O.Inshore Squadron, 0926A/28 to S. and A., V.A. Malta)
CELENO (Italian) BIRGIT (French) ALBA JULIA (Roumanian)	My 1215C/23. (A) CELENO entered Bosphorus 0730 G.M.T. (B) BIRGIT sailed for Black Sea 0700 G.M.T. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 1055C/28 to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant, S.I, S.10, D.N.I.) My 1055C/28. (A) CELENO passed Istanbul in transit 1045 G.M.T. for Aegean. (B) My 1605C/26.

ALBA JULIA expected Istanbul. B.2.

S.O.I. Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

(S.O.I.Istanbul, 1246C/28 to C. in C. Levant,

1118

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

CELENO My 2146C/28. CELENO expected enter Aegean 0400 G.M.T. March 29th for Piraeus. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1614C/28 to C. in C. Levant, S. O.(I) Levant, S.10, D. of N.I.) (Italian) BIRGIT

(French) ALBA JULIA (Roumanian) (Contd.)

UNBROKEN.

After 0001A/30th include area M. in your patrol area. (Capt. (S) 10, 1119/28 to P.42 (UNBROKEN) (R) 10th S/M.F. Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant. C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE STANDARD bombed.

Mast 652. EMPIRE STANDARD bombed in Algiers Harbour night of 26th March, 1943. Vessel now (M.W.T.R.Mediterranean, 1230A/28 to M. of W.T. London)

N.A.A.F. Report, Raid on Algiers.

For Eaker. (3) Night, 26-27 March, 6 circling torpedoes dropped by 6 low flying enemy aircraft in Algiers Harbour. 1 torpedo exploded spontaneously outside harbour, 2 set off by rifle fire, 1 hit a merchant vessel previously damaged. Some damage done to trawlers. 2 enemy aircraft shot down by A/A. (Eastern Air Command, 1246Z/28 to Etousa.)

From Spaatz, H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv.

P.R.U.

28th March Visuals. 1120 Naples no Major Naval Unit. (V.A.Malta, 1308A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.) P.R.U.March 28th p.m. Taranto and Messina. No result owing to weather. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1741A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Area,

A/S Forces, Your 1303/14. When forwarding conclusion of Gibraltar - Casablanca his covering remarks concurs that A.S.W. Naval and Air Forces in Gibraltar-Casablanca area be Control. placed in co-ordinating control of one Officer for protection of all shipping, including Freetown convoys. (2) Cominch has been informed you are being asked to reach a working arrangement with C. in C. Allied Forces and Air Marshal Tedder. It will,

or course, be necessary to obtain Marshall's concurrence to any arrangements reached and this could be done in parallel by Eisenhower direct and by Admiralty through B.A.D. (Hd. of M.(II), Approved 1st Sea Lord, 1323A/28 to C. in C. Med.)

TRIBUNE / ...

1119

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

TRIBUNE, TORBAY. My 1446/24th (re patrol in southern half of zones G. and H.) Patrol south of 040° 10' TRIBUNE between 013° and 014° and TORBAY between 014° and 015° (Capt. (S) 8, 1410A/28 to TRIBUNE, TORBAY.)

Situation Report No.16.

Convoy of ten empty M/V reached Alexandria and Port Said 24 and 25 March from Malta and Tripoli (L) without incident. Convoy of three troopships arrived Tripoli (L) 28th March. Convoy of ten storeships and one tanker on passage Alexandria to Tripoli (L) attacked by British CITY OF GUILDFORD torpedoed and sunk at

U-Boat. British CITY OF GUILDFORD torpedoed and sunk at 1727/27th March in 55.00 N. 22.50 E. (2) Tripoli (L) DERWENT refloated. Damage to full bottom very extensive. PAKENHAM and QUEEN OLGA hunted possible U-Boat off Ras El Hallab March 27th without result. British BECKENHAM mined in position 070° Tripoli (L) Light 7.2 miles. Able to enter harbour but cannot steam. Minesweepers cut 16 mines North West of Tripoli (L) on 22nd March and 18 mines on 27th March. (C. in C. Levant, 1428B/28 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.47 (DOLFIJN) P.44 (UNITED)	P.47 is to leave zone J through 039° 20' 010° 30' at 0001/30th thence 090° to Zone D. (2) P.44 may be withdrawn from Zone A to Zone D. Until ordered to leave Zone A. for Malta a.m 1st (Capt. (S) 8, 1500A/28 to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt.(S) 10)
R.S.4.	Your 1535/27. (Re inclusion of six ships in R.S.4). These ships can be accepted. (C. in C. Med, 1530A/28 to Admty.)
U-Boat.	Following read: Position of one S/M on surface 35.16 N. 21.35 E. (A/C 4 B.D/S, via Alexandria W/T, 1550B/28)
SHAKESPEARE, SARACEN.	Onward routeing through 038° 16' 000° 59', at 0230/31st 038° 16' 002° 43' 2200/31st thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 00' at 0630/1st April, all positions North and East. (2) P.247 (SARACEN) from 038° 23' 003° 51'
(Capt. (S) 8.	r/v in same place at same time. 1558A/28 to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE)(R) Cdre. Algiers 8th S/M F. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. S/M Gibraltar.)
THUNDERBOLT lost	(1) THUNDERBOLT overdue from patrol, has failed to answer signals and regret must be considered lost. (2) THUNDERBOLT left Malta 9th March and after patrolling west of Marittimo from a.m. llth daylight 12th and was then ordered to proceed

towards Messina via north coast Sicily since P.R.U. indicated enemy merchant ships including tankers likely to be westbound during ensuing 48 hours. (3) THUNDERBOLT informed he had

been / ...

1120

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT lost. been sighted off Cape San Vito at 1430/12 and given freedom of movement east of 14 east and south of 3930 from 0300/14 until 2000/18 when patrol was shifted north of 3930 operating east of 14 east until p.m. 22nd and then west 1 p.m. 24th. THUNDERBOLT was ordered to leave

of 14 east until p.m. 24th. THUNDERBOLT was ordered to leave patrol p.m. 24th and was due Algiers a.m.28th. (4) TROOPER reports 1820/15 when north of Milazzo torpedo explosion was heard to westward followed by 40 depth charges dropped 5 to 10 minutes later. THUNDERBOLT at this time should have been about 20 to 50 miles to westward and consider her position revealed after attacking with consequent concentrated and accurate counter attack resulting in her loss. (5) Italian communique number 1026 of 17th March claimed one submarine sunk by light unit in Central Mediterranean (name of Italian C.O. given) and another submarine sunk as result of striking mine. Consider these refer to THUNDERBOLT and TURBULENT respectively. (6) Loss of this fine submarine, the third T class this month, is deeply regretted. (7) S.10 is requested to take necessary action regarding casualties. (8) C. in C. Levant pass to S.1, V.A.M. pass to S.10. (S.8, 1604/28 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.(S) etc.)

Minesweeping, Alexandria.

Weekly M/S summary March 28th 1945. Channels, anchorages and D.G. Range swept daily except on 25 and 26 March when weather was unfavourable for sweeping. (R.A. Alexandria, 1712B/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Port Said. 28th March Port Said arrivals AETOS, CUMBRAE, R:F.A. BADARPUR, M/L 551. Departures AETOS, CUMBRAE, KONDOURIOTIS, WOLBOROUGH. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1728B/28 to Admty. C. in C. Levant, (R) R.A. Alexandria, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

T.E.20.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail convoy
T.E.20 at 0700/lst. S. of A. 8.
(2) Route through 28.32, 2.44, 7 knots 96, letter
D to K omitting I to Bone. Stragglers route as
(5) Sections join and detach with local escort as

convoy. (5) Sections join and detach with local escort as follows Oran in 36.08 N. 00.48 W at 1100/2nd, Algiers in 37.00 N. 05.00 E at 1100/3rd, Bougie in 37.07 N. 04.58 E. at 2300/3rd, Philippeville in 37.12 N. 06.56 E. at 1100/4th, Bone E.T.A. 1800/4th. (4) Escort 2 HUNT class destroyers as detailed by F.O. Gibraltar, BUDE, CLACTON, GAVOTTE, MAN-O'-WAR, VISENDA, PIROUETTE. (5) 1st 2 letters of wireless call sign W.X.
(6) Fighter protection priority 2, codeword "Bruce".
(7) All times "A".
(6. in C. Med, 1805A/28 to A.I.G.260)

Situation /

1121

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Situation Report No. 74.

(1) HOLCOMBE attacked contact in 36.28 N. 00.24 West at 1115/24. All available destroyers from Force H at

Mers el Kebir proceeded to hunt with air co-opera-

tion until 0745/25. No further contact was obtained. (2) French Trawler SERGEANT GOUARNE was sunk by U-Boat at 0020/26 60 miles east of Alboran Island. 14 Survivors. (5) PRINS WILEM III in convoy K.MS11 was torpedoed by aircraft at 0700/26 in 57.00 N. 02.14 E. Ship was taken in tow but capsized and sank at 0240/27. Ship was taken in tow but capsized and sank at 0240/27. (4) CITY OF PERTH in convoy M.K.S.10 torpedoed by U-Boat in 55.47 N. 01.30 W. at 1844/26. Ship has been beached near Cape Fegalo weather conditions precluding towage to Oran. Salvage operations are proceeding. (5) TARTAR and QUANTOCK made four attacks on U-Boat in: 35.55 N. 01.41 W. at 1920/26. After QUANTOCK's last attack explosion heard after pattern detonated and contact was lost. Later large diesel oil patch covered area half a mile square. (6) Algiers Harbour attacked by eight JU 88 with circling torpedoes and hombs at 1935/26. covered area half a mile square. (6) Algiers Harbour attacked by eight JU.88 with circling torpedoes and bombs at 1935/26. Details are reported in my 1750/28. (7) EMPIRE ROAN in convoy K.M.S.11 hit by aircraft torpedo in 37.16 N. 06.54 E. at 1005/27. Ship has been beached 18 miles west of Philippeville and salvage operations are in progress. Convoy was again attacked by aircraft about noon without loss. In the two raids seven enemy aircraft claimed shot down and 2 damaged by fighters. 1 shot down by A/A fire from FLUELLEN. (8) M.T.B.'s from Bone operated on Marauder patrol between Galita and mainland on nights 23/24 and 24/25 March. (C. in C. Med, 1822A/28 to Admty. - As amended 2314A/31)

Malta Air

AI.548 28 March C.S.R. (A) Air Part 1 Offensive. Night 27/28 March. Report. Bad weather and haze curtailed offensive operations. 2 Beauforts were despatched to attack 1 M.V. 2/3000 tons reported 3 miles East of Sfax by Med. Air Command. 1 Beaufort is missing the other Beaufort sighted M.V.3 miles Sfax and attacked

with 1 torpedo but no results were observed M.V. was possibly a wreck. Part 2 Enemy Air Activity.

Nil. (A.H.Q. Malta, 18472/28)

E.T.16.

My 1636A/25th (1626A/25th intended) sailed less CONAKRIAN and MAMMY, plus FORT A LA CORNE, BENEDICT, MIDDLESEX TRADER. All have K.B's. (F.O.I.S., 1915A/28 to A.I.G.259) E.T.16 Philippeville section sailed. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 2305/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.)

SPLENDID / ...

1122

28.3.1943. Sunday. . War Diary. FOREIGN STATIONS. Mediterranean (Contd.) Arrival. SPLENDID. (V.A. Malta, 1919A/28 to Admty. etc.) Instructions issued by A.H.Q. Malta containing Aircraft flying restrictions and recognition procedure procedure. for aircraft on non-operational and reinforcement Malta. flights to Malta. (Air Min. 1931A/28) March 28th Warships, 2 S.C's departed with SUNFLOWER. MELUSINE for Agadir. Movements. Casablanca. (C.M.S.F.F. 1939Z/28 to C. in C. Med.) Arrived LAMERKIN (?LAMERTON) BADSWORTH M.M.S.9 Movements, WHEATLAND. Algiers. (Cdre. Algiers, 2013A/28 to Admty. etc.) Departures Bone. Arrival L.C.I.161. Movements, CARLISLE, ANTELOPE, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, TYNEDALE, EGGESFORD, STORNOWAY. (F.O.I.S., 2026A/28 to C. in C. Med. etc.) Bone. First 9 aircraft have been Your 2035/23. Walrus A/C packed and shipment is expected early April. (Hd. of M.I, 2050A/28 to C. in C. Med.) for French Navy. My P.C. and S. 032° 57' N. 020° 38' (East?) 20 knots. ROCKWOOD. (ROCKWOOD, 2159B/28 to ALDE HAM, (R) S.N.O. Cyrenaica, A.I.G. 70, A.I.G.71, A.I.G.72, C. in C. Levant.) Arrived and sailed. (N.O.I.C. Benhazi, 2202B/28 to Admty.) EXMOOR. Arrived and left JERVIS, JAVELIN, NUBIAN, ISIS, Movements, KELVIN. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 2205A/28 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.) Libya. Departures today ACUTE, HUSSAR, VISENDA, GAVOTTE, BACHAQUERO, MISOA, EMPIRE DACE, WILTON, BRIXHAM, ROTHESAY. Arrivals ACUTE, HUSSAR L.S.T. 304, 361, 363, 320, 303, 302, 401, 40,403. H.T. SALVESTOR. Movements, Oran. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2225A/28 to Admty etc.)

10

10

Movements / ...

1123

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

e KING
.238.
lmty)
1 44 4

U-Boat.

19

German U-Boat at 1800 to-day was in approximate position 039° 30' 010° 30'. (Capt. S.8, 2316A/28 to 8 S.M.F.)

1124

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force "Z"

Force "Z" was disbanded at 00012/28. (F.L.O.Delhi, 0349Z/28 to C. in C. E.F. F.O.C. R.I.N. East Arm 14 Division. Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon. Com R.I.N., N.O.I.C., Calcutta, N.O.I.C. Bombay, N.O.I.C. Chittagong. BRAGANZA, SALSETTE.) W.D. Note - Presumably a Military Force. Last Force Z, Naval was in South Atlantic, 1941.

DOMINION Due yours 7th April DOMINION MONARCH sailed from Bombay 27th. Numbers embarked. (P.S.T.O. India, 0411Z/28 to D.S.T.O. Durban.) MONARCH.

DEMPO. DEMPO departed Bombay 27th. Numbers embarked. (P.S.T.O. India, 0413Z/28 to D.S.T.O. Durban.)

TRINITY.

Sailed 1000Z/28th for Bahrein. 2. Routes L. 022° 22' 068° 25' M. 022° 50' 060° 16', thence P.G.W. S. of A. 9½ knots. 3. Crossing 062° 1400Z/1st April, E.T.A. Behrein 0600Z/3rd April. (TRINITY, 0558Z/28 to Admty., C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O.P.G., N.O.I.C., Bahrein, Vice O.P.N.A.V., A.C.N.B.)

P.B.32.

Calcutta P.B.32 Bombay portion arrived less JALAGANGA diverted to Karachi. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 06345/28 to Admty.) Arrival HINDUSTAN, ORISSA with P.B.32. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0810/28 to Admty.)

Departure BENGAL escorting NARINGA. (N.O.I.C. Karachi, 0638Z/28 to Admty.) Movements. Arrived SOLVRA, SOBKRA. (F.O.E.Af. 0752Z/28 to Admty.) Departure U.S.S. TRINITY. (S.O.I. Bombay, 0808Z/28 to F.O.C., R.I.N., C. in C. E.F., F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O., P.G., A.C.N.B.) Departure TULIP at 1032Z/28th for Colombo. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 1033Z/28 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal No. 49.

(A) and (C) no change.
(D) FROBISHER leaves Durban 29th escort of convoy off East Coast Africa. CAPETOWN Bombay to Aden. DURBAN Bombay to Kilindini. SUSSEX at Durban to dock. Remainder as in my signal No.48. (E) Unit training off Kilindini. (C. in C. E.F., O801Z/28 to C. in C. S.At. C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.S.F., C. in C. Med. A.C.N.B., F.O. Ceylon, Admty.)

CARNARVON CASTLE /

1125

28.3.1943. Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

CARNARVON CASTLE. CASTLE. Concur with proposals in D. of S.Ts. 0352/27 Marche My 1537/24 refers. (C. in C. E.F. 08582/28 to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

CHALLENGER, Survey of Palk Strait.

 Proposals as follows re your 260630Z. (N.T. in W.D.) Sailing about 7th April calling Kilindini to
 embark officer detached to survey unit. Arrive Palk Strait about 1st week May. Survey track 5 miles wide will require about one month. As monsoon will be on point of breacking C.O. survey

unit Mandapam should obtain all local triangulation datum for northern-most end of Ceylon and Pamban, Locate suitable points for connecting up new survey, establish tide pole and sound datum both ends, and PATHFINDER should be instructed to do al possible before CHALLENGER arrived. Bombay pass to D. of C.O. India. (CHALLENGER 0904Z/28 to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. Director of C.O. India, F.L.O. Delhi.)

Disguis ed Raiders, Procedure for H.M. Ships.	Your 0922Z/3rd Jan. N.P.M. has been amended by P. Order 173/43 of 18th March. (Head of N.L. 0958A/28.)
STRATHEDEN.	STRATHEDEN your 1021/27th refers will not be

diverted to Durban. (C. in C. E.F. 1129Z/28 to D.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D. of S.T., P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Durban.)

Air Report India.

t (D) Enemy activity 27th March. 1300 to 1330 hers. 2 formations total 25 bombers, 6 Fighters attacked Cox's Bazar (15 Bombers) and shipping Naaf. River (10 Bombers 6 Fighters). Damage casualties slight, 11 Hurricanes intercepted Bombers 10

River (10 Bombers 6 Fighters). Damage casualties slight, 11 Hurricanes intercepted Bombers 10 destroyed, 3 probables, 7 damaged without loss. Additional preliminary claims AA 1 destroyed, 2 damaged ships gun fire 1 destroyed. Bombers chiefly Army 99 Medium, possibly some Army 100 H.B.

(A.H.Q. India 1223Z/28 to Air Min.)

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

MONTICELLO. U.S.N.T. MONTICELLO sailed Melbourne 26th for U.S. East Coast via Wellington and Panama. (N.S.H.Q., 0024Z/28 to Admty.)

VISCOUNT. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1500Z/28th. Weather report. (VISCOUNT, 0135Z/28 to F.O.N.F.)

O.N.S. 1, Escort. Ref. 2230/27th from C.O.A.C. Request escort be detailed from W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 to relieve VERVAIN to allow VERVAIN to fuel and be with group for eastward passage where her presence considered most important. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4, 0211Z/28 to F.O.N.F., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C.T. 24.7, C.T.24, H.Q.C.C., Admty., W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8, VERVAIN, C. in C.W.A.)

U/B.

Two periscopes sighted by fishing vessel in 43° 38' N. 68° 59' W. at 1330Z/26. (C.O.A.C., 0416Z/28 to C.T.F.24, (R) N.O.I.C. St. John N.B., SHELBURNE, Connav, Admty., etc.)

0.N. 174, U/Bs. My 2006Z/27th. Moderate W/T activity continuation on series 8 believed vicinity 0.N.174 up to 3. Submarines may be vicinity of 055° 30' N. 045° 00' W. Indication these may attempt to intercept 0.N.174.

(N.S.H.Q., 0500Z/28 to S.E. O.N.174, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., (R) S.E. H.X.230, S.E. S.C.123, Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Opnav, S.B.N.O. W.A.) My 0500/28th no U-Boat transmissions D/F'd in your area since 0532Z/28th. (N.S.H.Q., 1359Z/28 to S.E. O.N.174.)

FENCER. San Francisco returned from trials 2253Z/27 FENCER. (N.S.H.Q., 0524Z/28 to Admty.)

H.X.230, U/Bs. My 0001Z. 2 U-Boats located shadowing 8 miles astern in visibility 2 miles. Both at least damaged. WATCHMAN remaining in vicinity. HURRICANE rejoining. Convoy course 30 until 0900Z. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.15, 0545Z/28 to Connav, (R) C.T.F.24, Admty., etc.)

Movements. Arrival 27th U.S. Army Tanker Y.37. Departures 27th U.S. Minesweeper CATBIRD, Colon 28th. (R.O. Port Limon, 0930/28 to Admty.)

/Arrival ...

1127

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. (Contd.)

(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 1046Q/28 to Admty.) My 0905/25th H.M.C.S. Q.065 left 27th March. (R.O. Caymen Islands, 1125/28 to S.B.N.O.W.At.) San Francisco departed 27th ATHENE.

Arrival Grosislet 28th U.S.A.T. T.W. DRENNAN.

(N.S.H.Q., 1233Z/28 to Admty.)

Departures BUXTON, CHICOUTIMI, MILLTOWN escorting H.H.X.231 UNGAVA with FOUNDATION FRANKLIN to assist BARON BELHAVENN.

(N.O.I.C. Halifax, 1343Z/28 to Admty.) Honolulu 24th FORT ROYAL (U.S.) San Francisco 31st. (N.S.H.Q., 1611Z/28 to Admty.)

Honolulu 26th CATHWOOD (U.S. San Francisco April 4th. (N.S.H.Q., 1626Z/28 to Admty.)

Arrivals Bermuda U.S.S. Y.P.61. Departure ARETHUSA for Charleston. My 2209/27. H.M. L.S.T. 323 and 368 returned with defects.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 2127P/28 to Admty.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	Modify my 0148/28 (N.T. in W.D.) GUEEN OF BERMUDA arriving (corrupt group) 08°00'S. 18°
	00' W. approx. 0300P/29 course 320° altering
	course 007°, speed 14.5.
	(Washington, 0957/28 to Admty.)

Dates asked for in your 1622/27 (Dates on which ships will be ready for service) are approximately: GRIFFIN - May 3rd. DECOY - May 10th. FORTUNE - June 21st. EXPRESS - June 28th. Transfer of Destroyers to R.C.N. (D.O.D.(H), 1108A/28 to N.S.H.Q.)

ovements	Ship	Position	Course	Sp.ed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 18th March.	C.U. 1) 4 sloops) ATTACKER)	43° N. 31 ¹ 2° W.	054°	14
jo on maron.	22 L.C.I.(L)8	27° N. 26 ¹ / ₂ ° W.	090°	10
	F.S. GEORGES) LEYGUES)	07° N. $28\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.	Patrol	Blank
	17 L.C.I.(L)s	35° N. 71° W.	117°	10
	MILFORD with) Floating Dock)	$07\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 56° W.	118°	6
	CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	352° S. 51° W.	264°	5
	A.T. 39	$44\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $26\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. Z/28 to Opnav, (R)	075°	191
	(D. C. D. (L) - LTTL	a vo opnav, (n)	oomid ou	

BAYNTUN, BAZELY.

M S 1 2

Your 1256/25th Feb. and 1404/12th Feb. BAYNTUN and BAZELY should be ready to leave Bermuda about April 2nd. Request next destination and that B.A.D. will obtain route. As above arrived singly suggest in future it is unnecessary to sail ships in pairs if this will cause material delay to one. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 1122/28 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.) Reply: Admty. 1916A/30.

1128

28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Atlantic Area Commands. / Cominch Serial 00461/14 March. Concur in proposals in A.C.C.1 Appendix A and in your comments thereon.

2. Date of actual change of Commanders will presumably be settled between you and Canadian Naval Board.

3. There appears no necessity, however, to delay putting into effect all recommendations not immediately affected by change of Command. In particular, we consider that establishment of new "Chop" line proposed in Appendix A, para. 7 should be put into effect forthwith.

4. We accept recommendations in A.C.C.2 Appendix A and Appendix B and your comments.

5. A.C.C.1 Appendix B. C. in C. Med. is being asked to discuss Command arrangement with C. in C. Allied Forces and A.O.C. in C. Med. C. in C. Allied Forces will presumably obtain General Marshall's concurrence to any working arrangements which may be reached. Admiralty will similarly consult General Marshall through B.A.D.

(1st S.L., 1324A/28 to Cominch, (R) Canadian Naval Board, B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., Air Min.)

As amended by Hd. of M.(II), 1613A/29 to Cominch, etc.)

HEPATICA, H.X.233.

Your 1916/27. Request HEPATICA be held as additional escort for H.X.233 sailing from New York 6th April.

(C.O.A.C., 1337Z/28 to B.A.M.R.) Your 1916/27th. Request HEPATICA be sailed to Halifax for working up under Capt. (D) Halifax and then for duty in Western Local Escort Force. (N.S.H.Q., 1624Z/28 to B.A.M.R., (R) Admty., HEPATICA, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Capt. (D) Halifax, S.B.N.O.W.Af.) Amended by N.S.H.Q., 1516Z/29.

X.B.40. Sailing telegram. Estimate of ships from O.N.173 (list). For Convoy X.B. 40. New York EMPIRE NEWTON for Boston total 24. D.L. HARPER is straggling. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1357Z/28, 1359Z/28 to Admty.)

U.G.S. 6A.

British L.S.T. 323 and (368? 291?) have returned to Bermuda. My 2329/27th.

(N.O.B. Bermuda, 1412/28 to Cominch.) My 2329/27th. V.P. covered convoy U.G.S.6A until 1915Z/28 10 31.32 N. 60° W. E.T.A. 40° W. "Chop"

0330Z/3. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 2351/28 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med., 8th U.S. Fleet, Connav, C.T.F. 60, S.B. N.O.W.At., V.A. Gibraltar, Commorseafron.)

X.B. 39.

Boston and Cape Cod portions arrived. (B.R.L.O. Boston, 1434Z/28 to Admty.)

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War Diary.

28.3.1943. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and Test Indies - Contd.

ARET HUSA.

Charleston 1900Z/28th through (A) 31° 52' N. 65° 10' W. (B) 32° 01' N. 72° 27' W. (C) 32° 62' 79° 15' thence seaward end searched channel speed 19. Time of arrival entrance searched channel 1300z/30th. Request all practicable air coverage and Pilot at entrance searched channel. Communication accordingly A.B. Doctrine. Guards N.S.S. Fox and 2716 k/cs within 200 miles Charleston. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 1506/28 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Commandant 6th U.S. Nav. Dist. Charleston, C.E.S.F., Cinclant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., (corrupt group), Commandant 5th U.S. Nav. Dist. Hampton Roads.)

Cinclant 2154/24. ARETHUSA depart Bermuda for

(Cominch, 1526/28, 1527/28, 1557/28, 1558/28, 1559/28, 2131/28.) S/M Estimate 28th March, U.S. S/M Notice.

Refitting.

1. Your 241717 Feb. To effect even distribution of ships refitting throughout the year. Request every endeavour be made to have two corvettes from among CAMROSE, MOOSEJAW, ALGOMA, AMHERST and BATTLEFORD refitted in U.K. commencing in April or early May. 2. Understood that LUNENBURG is refitting in U.K. early April.

(C.O.A.C., 281527 to N.S.H.Q., (R) F.O.N.F.)

Fast unescorted Transports,	Your 1820A/27th concur. (Cominch C. & R., 1547/28th to Admty., (R) N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., C. in C. W.A., Port Director
R/V.	New York.) Your 1820/27 concur in proposal. C.O.A.C. will
	comply. (N.S.H.Q., 1559Z/28 to Admty., (R) Connav, B.A.D.,

U/B.

D/F bearings on 10265 k/cs at 1101Z indicate U-Boat within 100 miles of 48° 30' N. 32° W. (D.D.I.C., 1634A/28 to U.S.S. SYMBOL, (R) Cominch, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C. Port Director New York.)

A/S Trawlers as Escorts for Ocean Convoys.

Your 1731/27. As a result of conversations at the Washington conferences it was agreed that the relative effective strength of groups in the Mid-Ocean and Western Local Escort Forces should be six and four respectively. The protection antici-pated from shore based aircraft and from support groups in the North Atlantic were of course taken into consideration in arriving at the above figures.

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

for Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

A/S Trawlers 2. The six R.C.N. corvettes released from escort as Escorts of local convoys by the six large R.N. trawlers will therefore be allocated to the Western Local Escort Force instead of the Mid-Ocean Escort Force as stated in my 1616/16 Feb. 3. The proposed dispositions of all escort vessels under R.C.N. control as of the 1st of

July 1943 was attached to N.S. MS-1057-3-6 dated 12th March 1943 copies of which were forwarded to Secretary of the Admiralty D.O.D.(H) and D.T.D. by Bomber mail. (C.N.S. of Canada, 1704Z/28 to Admty., (R) B.A.D., C. in C.W.A.)

NASTURTIUM, CELANDINE.

N.O.I.C. 2315/27th (N.T. in W.D.) Request information of date of arrival in U.K. of convoy M.K.F.11 and whether considerations have been given to proposal in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 2004/9th (N.T. in W.D.) that remaining corvette should be sailed direct to Halifax from Gibraltar.

2. If this was done NASTURTIUM could relieve CELANDINE in Newfoundland. N.S.H.Q. 1707/25th refers. (N.S.H.Q., 1720Z/28 to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., C. in C. Med., Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.C.C.S.)

LORD MIDDLETON. My position 1500 G.M.T. 48.?(48 or 61) N. 48° 21' W. Have encountered moderate ice packs. Am still in company with GMDW (BARON HAIG) of O.N.S.1. Request instructions and ice report. (LORD MIDDLETON, 1725Z/28 to C.O.A.C., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns, N.F.)

H.X.230, U/Bs.

Indefinite D/F bearings at 1544Z/28 an at 1557 and 1619 indicate U-Boats still in vicinity of convoy possibly reporting it. (D.D.I.C., 1816A/28 to Escorts of H.X.230, 3rd Escort Group, (R) C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.,

A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.) D/F bearings at 2010Z, 2014Z and 2018Z indicate convoy is bring shadowed.

(D.D.I.C., 2227A/28 to Escorts H.X.230, 3rd Escort Group.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary.

All times Z. Para. A. Surface craft attack sub. 56° 35' N. 37° 26' W. p.m./27th. Para. D. Patrol vessel sights periscope: 39° 37' N. 71° 50' W. 1130/27. U.S.S. FAVORITE sights sub. 12° 38' N. 83° 08' W. 2100/27. A.T.C. plane sights 2 subs. one area 05° 18' N. 52° 23' W. 1205/18, another 04° 15' N. 51° 05' W. 1236/27. (Cominch, 1924/28 to Admty.)

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

S/Ms for A/S Training, SEAWOLF. Your 1921/12th. U.S. Authorities are unable to assist with Training S/Ms for Canadian Coast. 2. Approved as a temporary measure to retain SEAWOLF for duties in para. 3 (b). (A.C.N.S.(H), 1949A/28 to N.S.H.Q., (R) F.O.(S), C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., Com. i/c Bermuda, B.A.D.)

U/B.

S/M sighted 055° 55' N. 034° 50' W. at 1754/28th. (C.O.A.C., 2101Z/28 to G.B. 7A.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial No. 431, March 27th. Forenoon R/C Liberator claimed probable hit, 2 near misses 35 feet on 8,000 ton merchant vessel in Bogia Harbour. 7 barges nearby. (2) Photos Lae Harbour show seven barges. Four Bostons bombed enemy defences outside Lae at daybreak 27th.

(4) Early hours 27th single enemy aircraft ineffectually bombed Oro Bay and another jettisoned bombs off Buna midday.

(6) Two Liberators bombed waterfront and township Saumlaki (Manimbar Islands) about noon.

(7) Photos taken 26th show 2 heavy cruiser, 1 merchant vessel, 1 small unidentified ship in anchorage near Kavieng not 20 miles south-west New Hanover.

Ref. Digest No.430, para. 1. Possible aircraft carrier not covered by photos.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0630Z/28.)

Movements.

Arrival 26th Fremantle Hired Transport QUEEN MARY. 27th Port Moresby U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN. 28th.Townsville R.F.A. BISHOPDALE. V.S.I.S. MERKUR depart Brisbane 27th due

Townsville 31st. Hospital ship WANGANELLA depart Fremantle 27th due Melbourne 1st April. (A.C.N.B., 1008Z/28 to Admty.)

C.M. Fields, maintenance. Your 1552/25 (N.T. in W.D.) A.U. C.M. Fields now laid local craft for maintenance will probably (? not) be ready before Dec. 1943. (N.Z.N.B., 1126M/28 to Admty., (R) A.C.N.B.)

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28.3.1943. Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

MASAYA sunk. U.S. Motor Vessel MASAYA (1174 tons) attacked and sunk by 5 dive bombers 28th in Hinchinbrook Channel position 5 miles Oro Bay. (A.C.N.B., 1550Z/28 to Admty.)

CYGNUS.

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Departure Aitutaki U.S.S. CYGNUS for Auckland E.T.A. 0600Z/4th April. (D.N.I. Wellington, 2200Z/28 to Admty.)

U-BOAT' CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1342A/28, 1350A/28.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Paravanes / 1. Except for drill purposes, merchant ships in convoy are not to run paravanes unless so directed by the C. in C. of the Station.

Home Commands.

2. The 4th Escort Group (INGLEFIELD, ICARUS, FURY and ECLIPSE) sailed from Londonderry at 4th Escort Group. 2300A today to act as support group.

E-boats off Smith's Knoll. 3. At least 12 E-boats operated last night off Smith's Knoll, possibly engaged in minelaying, but more probably intending to attack Convoy F.S.74, which would have been located if it had not been 2 hours ahead of programme time. At 00052 M.G.Bs. 333 and 321 engaged five and subsequently 3 E-boats, and it is considered almost certainly sank two and damaged at least two more. No survivors were found. BLEN CATHRA and WINDSOR were in contact with E-boats in the early hours of today, off Smith's Knoll. The former engaged and drove off a group of boats, obtaining hits; the latter damaged one E-boat. At 0204 and 0337 aircraft of 841 Squadron attacked E-boats and in the latter attack in 53.04 N. 03.04 E. a near miss with bomb is reported. There were no casualties in our forces, and only slight damage to the stem of M.G.B. 333 from ramming an E-boat.

Search for blockade runners in north.

4... At 1153 an aircraft sighted a merchant ship of over 2000 tons in 59.05 N. 11.09 W. steering 270° at 10 knots. M/V GROENLAND (independent) should have been near this position at this time, but the Admiralty did not inform C. in C. Home Fleet until 0225A/30. C. in C. Home Fleet cancelled the orders to PENN at 1319A and instructed her to proceed to Scapa. CHARYBDIS who had been diverted yesterday to search in 58.50 N., 09.30 W. was apparently ordered to resume her course for Milford Haven (she is required for Biscay patrol) between 1347A and 1530A, for at the latter time she reported to C. in C. Plymouth her position course and speed 58.14 N. 11.00 W. 140° 18 knots. BELFAST and INTREPID were ordered at 1633A to reinforce patrol "White" (sailed at 0009A/30) and BRECON to proceed to Patrol "Black" forthwith (sailed at 2030/29). Later, BERMUDA and ATHABASCAN were ordered to reinforce BRECON, and they sailed from Scapa at 2109/29. Air patrols were asked for.

/Biscay...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

U.K. - Gibraltar convoy route.

Biscav blockade runner patrol.

runners in Biscay.

3 Blockade 6. HIMALAYA and probably two other blockade runners appear to have left French ports during last night.

5. NEWFOUNDLAND returned to Plymouth at 1733A from Operation "Regulation" and protection of

At 1650A aircraft reported an enemy merchant ship resembling the German CREFELD, but identified by photographs taken by Coastal Command aircraft at 1650/29 as either M/V 450 ft. HIMALAYA M.18 or her sister ship M.5 FUSIJAMA, probably the former, escorted by 5 destroyers in 45.50 N. 06.22 W. (130 miles N.E. of Cape Ortegal) steering 250° (corrected later to 255°; photographs subsequently showed courses between 200° and "westerly"). HERRING, SOKOL and UPROAR (P.31) were disposed to intercept, and at 2331A C. in C. Plymouth instructed N.O.I.C. Milford Haven to sail Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS as soon as possible to intercept. SHAD is in the S.E. corner of the Bay of Biscay.

7. BURZA has sustained heavy weather damage whilst on passage to Argentia and is returning to the U.K. (arrived at Greenock 31st March).

8.

Air and U/B attack on S.L. 126, 4 ships torpedoed.

Convoy S.L. 126 was sighted by a F.W. Kurier on 26th and 27th and in both cases homing signals were received shortly after the sighting. PELICAN reported at 1601 that convoy S.L. 126 was being bombed by enemy aircraft in 46.08 N. 16.58 W. No damage was reported.

U-boats were sighted and attacked today by the patrolling aircraft but lack of fast ships in escort and shortage of fuel prevented offensive action from being undertaken. The convoy was without air coverage from 1600 to dusk today. At 2102 and 2147 the convoy was attacked presumably by U-boats, in 46.27 N. 16.48 W. (360 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre) and the following ships were torpedoed: - UMARIA - Sunk.

EMPIRE WHALE - Sunk.

OCEAN VICEROY - Salvable in 46.44 N. 16.38 W. part of the crew remaining on board. Proceeded under her own power to Loch Foyle (arrived 4th April)

NAGARA - torpedoed in 46.44 N. 16.38 W. abandoned taken in tow by DEXTEROUS 2nd April screened by ACANTHUS. Sank on 4th April in 47.52 N. 14.03 W. No escort can be spared for the two latter ships and PELICAN asked C. in C. W.A. to send tugs (the escort consists of 1 sloop 3 frigates and 1 C.G. Cutter) All escorts will be short of fuel by daylight tomorrow.

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Convoy H. X. 230. 9. At 2146 G.M.T. WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE reported that she had been torpedoed at 2140 in 56.57 N. 24.15 W. the ship was a straggler from Convoy H.230. An unknown ship reported at 2148 that she had been torpedoed in the same position: this was evidently WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE.

10. The Admiralty today communicated to C. in C. H.F. for his remarks an organisation which is under consideration for the operation and administration of Escort Carriers, M.A.C. ships, and later, Light Fleet Carriers which will become available.

 279 out of 323 aircraft attacked St.
 Nazaire last night; the attack is considered to have been well concentrated.
 29 out of 49 Venturas with fighter escort attacked the Wilton Shipyard at Rotterdam today.

North Atlantic.

12. A German seaman picked up today in 16 N. 51 W. claims to be a survivor of the German SS. DOGGER BANK which was sunk on 3rd March in about 31 N. 37 W. by an unidentified submarine presumed by the Admiralty to be an Axis U-boat.

South Atlantic.

13. SS. CELTIC STAR, U.K. for Freetown and Buenos Aires was torpedoed at 2250Z in 04.08 N. 17.33 W. FANDANGO, AIMWELL and WASTWATER searched for survivors. The U-boat was identified as Italian.

/14...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic - Contd.

14. The Admiralty today instructed F.O.C. West Africa to sail UGANDA for the U.K. to assist in maintaining the patrol of one cruiser and two fleet destroyers for the protection of convoys between 42° N. and 50° N. against the threat of enemy destroyers based on Biscay ports. UGANDA sailed at 1830Z/30 but her orders were amended on 1st April (q.v.)

15. F.O.C. West Africa estimates that a Hudson aircraft damaged a U-boat at 1500Z today in 22.56 N. 17.46 W.

16. At 0837 today a Hudson aircraft from Gibraltar sighted in 38.40 N., 00.51 E. a U-boat on the surface steering 280° at 8 knots, leaving an oil track and dropped depth charges. No result is reported other than that the oil track stopped where the U-boat submerged. This is presumably the U-boat which was attacked and damaged yesterday, 50 miles S.S.E. of Alicante. There are good indications that it eventually sank as the result of damage sustained. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar on the morning of 30 March informed TACTICIAN on patrol that two Spanish destroyers left Cartagena today for Cape San Antonio, to save the crew of a damaged German ship or submarine.

17. New Zealand troops entered Gabes at 1100 today.

East Indies.

18. M.V. PALMA (Colombo for Table Bay and U.K.) reported at 0830 G.M.T. in 31.42 S. 50.30 E. an unknown tanker steering 165° at 7 knots. The tanker was carrying a sail on the foremast, which she lowered on being sighted.

19. At 1302 CITY OF EXETER made a signal, the accuracy of which is doubtful, that she was seriously damaged. The ship was on passage from Lyttleton, New Zealand to Colombo and was estimated to be about 1060 miles S. by E. of Colombo.

: 1137

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

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4

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

20. 4 B.24s bombed Tavoy docks and shipping today.

Australia & New Zealand.

21. Six enemy bombers raided Oro Bay before dawn, causing some damage to the docks and destroying a small fuel dump.

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Carriers, M.A.C.Ships, and Light Fleet Carriers.

Organisation / My 1449/9th January. In view of the number of of Escort Escort Carriers, M.A.C.Ships and, later Light Fleet Carriers becoming available, following organisation is under consideration for their operation and administration which under present arrangements will be beyond the capacity of staff of C. in C. Western Approaches, V.A.A., H.F., or Flag Office-in-Charge, Greenock:-(1) V.A.A. will be responsible for training of

Carriers in Home Waters until they are turned over to their respective Commanders-in-Chief as at present. (2) C. in C. Western Approaches to carry out final operational training from bases in Northern Ireland of Escort Carriers turned over to him.

(3) V.A.A. to have full administrative control of all Carriers in Home Waters whether training or operational.

(4) A Rear-Admiral or Commodore 1st Class to be appointed as Flag Officer or Commodore Aircraft Carriers, Home maters, with necessary staff; to fly his Flag ashore on the Clyde and to be responsible to V.A.A. acting as V.A.A.'s Deputy when the latter is not present.

2. V.A.A. would thus be responsible to C. in C., Home Fleet for administration of Home Fleet Carriers and C. in C. Western Approaches for administration of Carriers in that Command. In the absence of V.A.A. the Flag Officer Aircraft Carriers, Home Waters, would similarly be responsible to the respective Commanders-in-Chief.

3. Request your remarks. (1st S.L., 1837A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Russian procedure. Your 0958/26. Golovko has been instructed to give permission to transmit, subject to coordination and co-operation with Russian Authorities. (30 Mission, 1844C/29 to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

PATHFINDER, PENN PANTHER.

My 1103/5. PATHFINDER, PENN, and PANTHER are temporarily allocated to the Home Fleet. 2. As the first three H.F. destroyers, now operating with Support Groups, become due for refit, C. in C. H.F. is requested to transfer PAT HFINDER, PENN, and PANTHER to W.A. Command to replace them. (D.O.D.H., 2030A/29 to C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

MILNE. MATCHLESS,

Intend sailing Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS from Lough Foyle at 0800A today. S. of A. 28 knots. E.T.A. Milford Haven 1800A/29. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 0155A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

S/M Movements. Your 1401/28. Concur in para. 1. Captain (D) Greenock is requested to sail escort and inform Campbeltown of E.T.A. there. N.O.I.C. Campbeltown is requested to sail P.511 accordingly.

(Capt. S.7, 0903A/29 to WESTERN ISLES.) Intend sailing H.50 escorted by Z.5 from Rothesay at 2000A today by searched channel and normal route to Londonderry, E.T.A. Lough Foyle buoy 0800A/30. Thence H.50 as ordered by Cdre. Londonderry who is requested to sail H.28 and H.44 to R/V Z.5 at O800A/30 March off Lough Foyle buoy. Thence H.28 and H.44 escorted by Z.5 by reversed route to Rothesay, E.T.A. 2000A/30.

(Capt. S.7, 1035A/29.) 0.14 sailed for Scapa.

(Capt. S.9, 1237A/29.)

Proceed to Campbeltown passing Gate Out at 1830A/29. On arrival take P.511 under your orders and proceed to Tobermory via Sounds of Islay and Mull.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1534A/29 to COMMANDANT DETROYAT.) On arrival Scapa tomorrow, 0.14 enter Switha.

(2) LOCH MONTEITH proceed westward to R/V UNA escorted by ALECTO due Scapa 0830/30th from Westward.

(3) When met LOCH MONTEITH take over from ALECTO and escort UNA to Dundee by searched channel. (A.C.O.S., 1555/29.) My 1713/28. Add new para. (L) H.50 escorted by Z.5 leaves

Rothesay 2000/29th due Lough Foyle 0800/30th.

(F.O.S., 1614A/29.)

(C. in C. W.A., 1654A/29.)

Position of submarines at O800A/30th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. SHAD in Zone K.508.
B. HERRING vicinity 44° 12' N. 11° 50' W.
C. UPROAR 43° 28' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day due 43° 00' N. 12° 54' W. at 1530/30, thence to Gibraltar.

D. SPORTSMAN and TRESPASSER escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leave vicinity Campbeltown 2359/30 due 360° Round Island 7 miles at 1400/1st.

E. X.5, X.6 and X.7 due Port HHZ unescorted from southward at following approx. times respectively 0300/30, 0100/1st April, and 1700/30th.

F. 0.10 escorted by LANCER leaves Tobermory 1600/30, E.T.A. Campbeltown 1000/31st.

G. UNA escorted by ALECTO due Scapa 0830/30 from westward, thence UNA escorted by LOCH MONTEITH to Dundee. H. 0.14 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH arriving Scapa from Dundee.

J. TEMPLAR, SEA NYMPH and TRUCULENT in Zone K.148, K.150 and K.151 respectively.

K. H.28 and H.44 escorted by Z.5 leave Lough Foyle 0800/30, due Rothesay 2000/30.

(F.O.S., 1736A/29 to Admty.) My 1713/28. Add new para. (M). P.511 escorted by COMMANDANT DETROYAT leaves Campbeltown about 2300/29 via Sounds of Islay and Mull for Tobermory. My 1736/29. Add new para. (L). P.511 escorted by COMMANDANT DETROYAT vicinity Oban for Tobermory. (F.O.S., 1829A/29 to Admty.) Capt. S.7, 1035A/29. H.44 will not be ready until p.m./30th.

Intend therefore sailing H.28 and H.44 escorted by Z.5 from Lough

1 11 1140

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (Contd.)

Foyle at 2000A/30 arriving Rothesay 0800A/31. (Cdre. Londonderry, 1901A/29 to Capt. S.7.) Capt. (S) 3's 1603A/27th. Three hours late (UNA). (ALECTO, 1937A/29 to F.O.(S My 1035/29. Sailed (H.50.) (Capt. S.7, 2001A/29 to F.O.(S).) 1937A/29 to F.O.(S).)

Sailed P.511 escorted by COMMANDANT DETROYAT in accordance with F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1534A/29. E.T.A. 1015/30.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 2215A/29.)
My 1736A/29. Amend as follows (B) HERRING vicinity 44° 46' N. 011° 50' W.
(C) UPROAR vicinity 45° 10' N. 012° 50' W.
(D) SOKOL vicinity 44° 14' N. 012° 26' W.
(F.O.(S), 2301A/29 to Admty.)

Cancel my 2215A/29. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 2330A/29.)

COURBET.

My 1826A/23. Intend to sail COURBET towed by tugs SAMSONIA and GROWLER from Needles 1700/30 for Clyde.

2. Route. Estimated S.O.A. 5 knots. 3. COURBET will be escorted by LIMBOURNE, (S.O.), VERDUN, and M.Ls 205 (S.O.), 246, 124, 182 and 194 (S.O.), 187, 189, and 190. 4. Tow will be swept by 4 LL sweepers (M.M.S. 165 S.O.) from Yarmouth (I.o.W.) till last light when LL sweepers will return to Needles. Tow will be met by 3 Plymouth LL Sweepers (M.M.S. 78 S.O.) off Portland about 0001/31st (as ordered by N.O.IC. Portland) as extra escort till daylight and then sweeping ahead of tow. 5. Air escort will be arranged for as far as The Smalls.

Codeword "Match".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1648A/29.)

Your 1136/29. Intend sailing OPPORTUNE and OPPORTUNE. OBDURATE at 0001A/31, arriving Clyde 0700A/31 OBDURATE. to confer with ARCHER before sailing. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry, 1817A/29.)

JAMAICA.

Proceed to Barrow to arrive (? from) Knoll Buoy at 0800A/1st. 2. Route via Minches and (? adjoining) channels. (C. in C. H.F., 2217A/29 to JAMAICA.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

5 E-Boats position 025° 57 Buoy 5.5 miles, course Engagement with E-Boats. 110. 2 E-Boats probably destroyed. 3 E-Boats damaged.

(Call sign 3NLK, 0005/29 to Yarmouth W/T.) 3 E-Boats 046° 57 Buoy 3.5 miles, course 090°. (M.L.333, 0015/29.) E-Boat D/F positions.

(Nore, 0046A/29, 0058A/29, 0102A/29, 0124A/29, 0137A/29, 0204A/29, 0205A/29, 0300A/29.) ROADSTEAD on patrol "Bat" 0145. (Local Spare Groups, 0121A/29.)

3 M.G.B. proceeding Z.52 from Lowestoft via 3C Buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Chatham, O139A/29 to VIVIEN.)

Consider 3 groups of E-Boats operating. Engaged middle group of 4 boats obtaining hits. Driven off in general direction of (? 070°).

(BLENCATHRA, 0215A/29 to C. in C. Nore.)

Suspected E-Boat activity between F and W. (C. in C. Nore, 0252A/29.)

3 M.G.B. leaving Harwich for Z.50.

(C. in C. Nore, 0301A/29 to S.E.E.C.C.D.) Departures M.G.Bs 81, 111, 112. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 0336A/29.) Preliminary report of E-Boat activity night 28th/29th. 1. At least 12 E-Boats appear to have operated in Smith's Knoll area. Although possibility of minelaying near 57 Buoy cannot be ignored it is more probable from enemy movements and other indications that intention was torpedo attack on F.S.74 which would have been located if it had not been two hours ahead of programme time.

2. From 2320 onwards M.G.Bs 333 and 321 on Z.55 and R.M.Ls on Z.22 reported H.E.

At 0005 Z.55 (sic) engaged 5 E-Boats 025° 57 Buoy 5, steering 110°. Second E-Boat in line engaged by M.G.B 333 blew up at 0008 wreckage being blown onboard M.G.B.333 who then rammed leading E-Boat about 20 feet from stern. Enemy heeled over to 45° and part of stern seen to break away. Meanwhile M.G.B.321 engaged 4th and 5th E-Boat inflicting serious damage on former. M.G.B.333 subsequently found and engaged three more E-Boats at 0015 claiming pom-pom hits on last boat in line. Consider two E-Boats almost certainly destroyed and at least two damaged by these M.G.Bs. A short search after action showed wreckage but survivors were not found. Walrus aircraft on A.S.R. duty at daylight reported large oil patch in this position. Further air and surface search now in progress.

3. At 0100 BLENCATHRA on Patrol 4 engaged 4 E-Boats close to 57 Buoy and drove them East. Hits are claimed. At 0106 WINDSOR on Patrol 5 engaged at least 5 E-Boats about 4 miles south of 57 Buoy. One E-Boat damaged. M.G.Bs. 333 and 321 acting independently tried to intercept WINDSOR's E-Boats but starshell illumination ceased at critical moment.

4. Other C/Fs moved as situation developed but did not make contact. No casualties among our forces but slight damage to stem of M.G.B.333.

5. At 0204 aircraft of 841 Squadron attacked 2 E-Boats in 52° 53' N. 02° 50' E. At 0337 same aircraft claimed near miss with bomb on one of 8 or 9 E-Boats in 53° 04' N. 03° 04' E. 16 Group Beaufighters went out at first light but did not locate E-Boats.

(C. in C. Nore, 1536A/29 to Admty.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Search for Enemy Unit.

Search for surface vessel reported 8 miles south of Faroe Island at 1959/28 will be carried out by single A.S.V. fitted Whitley commence 0501/29th assuming M.L.A. between 240° and 260° Aircraft informed speed between 20 and 25 knots. of position of PENN and CHARYBDIS.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 0114/29 to C. in C. H.F.) My 0114/29. Area between 001° W. and 002° 30' E. and 62° N. and 63° 30'N. will also be searched by 3 Whitley aircraft commencing 1000/29.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 0139/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 0114/29th. Sunderland taking over search 0800/29 assuming M.L.A. between 230° and 250°, speed between 20 and 25 knots.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 0416A/29 to C. in C. H.F.)

Cancel my 2325/28. Proceed to Scapa.

(C. in C. H.F., 1319A/29 to PENN.) Your 1201/25. Hvalfjord arrival BLANKNEY at 1239.

(A.C.I.C., 1326A/29 to R.A.D.)

ECHO Patrol "White". GLASGOW, EARRAID Faxafloi to north-west.

(A.C.I.C., 1523A/29 to Ships.)

Having embarked mails and passengers proceed to Scapa passing boom at 1830 and proceeding West of minefield.

(C.S.10, 1525A/29 to BRECON.) Cancel my 1038/28. BELFAST, INTREPID reinforce Patrol "White" as in my 1159/25.

(2) BRECON proceed to Patrol "Black" forthwith.

(C. in C. H.F., 1633A/29 to C.S.10.) Most desirable air patrols should be reinstituted as in my 1249/25.

(C. in C. H.F., 1637A/29 to A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.) BERMUDA take ATHABASCAN under your orders and proceed to

pass Hoxa Gate at 2115A/29. 2. Routed through position (A) 002° Butt of Lewis 20.

(B) 060° 01' N. 010° 01' W. to position (C) 062° 40' N. 014°
01' W. S. of A. 19 knots.
3. R/V with BRECON and establish a patrol to intercept inward

bound blockade-runners in "Black" area.

(C. in C. H.F., 1803A/29 to BERMUDA.) My 1633. Proceed to position (C) 062° 40' N. 014° 01' ... and patrol on line 330° 150° 25 miles on either side of position (C). (2) Object to intercept inward-bound blockade runners.

(C. in C. H.F., 1807A/29 to BRECON.)

Your 1633A/29. Am proceeding in BELFAST with INTREPID to R/V GLASGOW and ECHO in 066° 20' N. 025° 05' W. at 0930A/30th. BRECON sail to patrol "Black".

(C.S.10, 1952A/29 to C. in C. H.F.) Add to my 1544/29. BERMUDA, ATHABASCAN leaves Scapa 2115 to north-west.

(A.C.O.S., 2009/29.) Hvalfjord departure at 2030/29 BRECON.

(A.C.I.C., 2106A/29.) Scapa departures BERMUDA, ATHABASCAN.

(A.C.O.S., 2109/29.) E.T.A. 1300A/30th. (PENN, 2115A/29 to A.C.O.S.)

A/C sighted M/V over 2000 tons, P.C.S. 59° 05' N. 11° 09' W. 270°, 10 at 1153. (2) Have you any information. (C. in C. H.F., 2246A/29 to CHARYBDIS.) /Coastal ...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. Your 1339/28. Returned. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0655/29 to C. in C. Plymouth.) My 1005A/28. "Device" returned 0648.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 0710A/29.)
(1) Newhaven. 2 M.G.Bs, 2 M.T.Bs short notice.
(2) M.L. 309 and 572 to patrol latitude 050° 12' N. between 000° 45' W. to 001° 20' W. from 2330/29th to 0545/30th as cover for movements of 5 and 6. Codeword, "Advent". (3) Chaser 14 at St. Helens. WHESLEYDALE, KINGSTON TURQUOISE,

LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth,

(4) Portland. M.L.233, Rescue M.L.516 patrolling 050° 20' N. between 002° 25' W. and 001° 45' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1344A/29.)

Harwich Auxiliary patrols not manned tonight owing to weather.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1842A/29.)

Biscay Patrol. Search for Blockade runner.

My P.C.S. 0900A/29 049° 35' N. 008° 50' W., 082°, 27 knots. E.T.A. 1545. Have been shadowed. Request fighter escort. (NEWFOUNDLAND, 0836A/29 to C. in C. Plymouth.) 1 cruiser and 2 Fleet destroyers to patrol between 42° and 50° N. to counter threat to convoys from destroyers based on Biscay ports. Orders to UGANDA.

(Admty., 1021A/29.)See South Atlantic.

Request you sail Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS at 0700A tomorrow to proceed as follows. S.O.A. 16 knots. (2) Route. By Q.Z.L.18 to position (A) 049° 01' N. 014° 01' W. and thence as necessary to comply with para. 3. (3) Object. To (? cover) convoys in passage across Bay of Biscay against surface attack. (4) Information - Own. O.S.45 and M.K.F.11 expected in area on 31st March. O.S.45 to be considered principal care after convoys have crossed. Enemy. Four NARVIK destroyers located Gironde River on 20th March. Blockade runners may be met bound East or West. (5) Further orders will be signalled by C. in C. Plymouth. Destroyers are to return to Plymouth when fuel shortage requires keeping north of Q.Z.X.259.

(6) Communication. Constant watch on broadcast B N irrespective of area. Guard on 19 Group reconnaissance frequency. Set D/F watch on 385 k/cs on receipt of enemy report of surface ships from aircraft who will carry out procedure laid down in S.2/43

Article 165 (G). (C. in C. Plymouth, 1555A/29 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.) P.C.S. of two medium M/V 48° 18' N. 10° 38' W., 070° 4 knots.

(A/C, 1640/29 to 19 Group.) Six unknown 360°, 20 knots, 45° 50' N. 06° 22' W. (uncertain) (A/C No.7, 1650/29 to 19 Group.) Arrived NEWFOUNDLAND.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1733A/29.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Patrol. Search for Blockade runner. (Contd.)

/ Aircraft report at 1650A/29, one enemy merchant ship escorted by 5 destroyers, one of which NARVIK class, (? in position) 045° 50', 006° 22', course 250°, speed unknown possibly 12 knots. 2. Submarine proceed so as to reach following patrol positions by daylight 30th. HERRING 044° 46', 011° 50'; SOKOL 044° 14', 012° 26'; UPROAR 045° 10', 012° 50'. (F.O.(S), 2229A/29 to S/Ms.)

Aircraft sighted M/V escorted by 5 destroyers or torpedo boats in 45° 50' N. 06° 30' W., course 250°, at 1650/29.

(D.D.I.C., 2250A/29.)

My 2229/29. Merchant ship resembles German CREFELD. Correct estimated course of enemy to 255°.

(F.O.(S), 2318A/29 to S/Ms.)

Cancel para. 1, 2 and 3 of my 1555/29. Request you sail Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE with MATCHLESS as soon as possible proceeding as follows speed 20 knots. 2. Route by Q.Z.L. Message 18 and thence to 044° 01' N. 016° 59' W.

3. Object to intercept blockade runner reported in 045° 50' N. 006° 22' W. at 1650/29, course 255°, speed 10 - 13 knots who may be escorted by 3 NARVIK destroyers.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 2331A/29 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Engagement with E-Boats on 27th March.

Following E-Boat activity on nights 26th/27th and 28th/29th March.

1. At 0041/27 an unidentified plot was recorded 8 miles south-east of Eddystone, steering east at 18 knots and fading at 0059.

2. At 0149 M.G.Bs 330 and 324 on patrol had a brief encounter with E-Boats 13 miles south-west of Start Point, but lost the enemy in smoke and did not regain touch with this group of E-Boats which remained in the area until retiring at 0445 a second group of E-Boats may have been in the vicinity of position 5 miles S.S.W. of Start Point. 3. Convoys P.W.314 and W.P.314 were towestward of E-Boats and were not attacked, W.P.314 being turned to the westward at 0257 for 2 hours.

4. At 0202/29 an unidentified plot was recorded 242 Eddystone 6, at which time W.P.315 was in position 020 Eddystone 4. Plot believed of 3 E-Boats proceeded on easterly course and to seaward of convoy, and retired at high speed to southward at 0342, apparently after being illuminated by starshell of escorts. A second track appeared at 0245 in position 243 Eddystone 21 and faded at 0314 in the same vicinity. 5. No attacks by enemy reported. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1137A/29 to Admty.)

Operation "Substance".

The highest security must be maintained relating to Operations at Port HHY and Major Boddington of Security Service is co-ordinating and directing security activities.

12. ...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Substance". (Contd.)

2. Flag and C.Os are requested to afford him every facility and assistance observing that certain geographical areas will require to be closed temporarily to traffic for short periods during the specific hours when Operation "Substance" is being put into effect. (A.C.N.S.H., 1409A/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command operations.

On day 28th March 23 Venturas of 2 Group, escorted by fighters, attacked the Wilton Shipyard at Rotterdam. The attack was made from 12/14,000 ft. in fine weather. Bursts were seen on the southern half of the Wilton Yard with

two hits on a vessel of the Sperrbrecher type; since confirmed by photographs. Other bursts were seen on the Nieuve Waterweg Building Yards and on the floating pontoon alongside. On night 28th/29th 279 A/C bombed St. Nazaire.

 $(H_Q.B.C., 1230A/29.)$

Altenfiord R/C Altenfiord today failed owing to clouds over R/C.Fiord. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1507A/29.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen reports that F.W. crossed Island west of Berenberg at 0820, then easterly direction. Jan Mayen. (A.C.I.C., 1238/29.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported.

W. (A/C 199 Sqdn. Duty Z, 1037/29 to 19 Group.) Swirl seen 45° 45' N. 16° 40' W.

Am over enemy S/M in position 45° 37' N. 17° 30'

(A/C 199 Sqdn. Duty Z, 1213/29 to 19 Group.) D/Fs at 1237Z, 1308Z and 1312Z indicate that U-Boats are in contact with convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 1500A/29 to Escorts H.X.230.) Am over enemy submarine in 56° 13' N. 25° 55' W.

(A/C 1SHJ, 1841/29 to 15 Group.)

A.M. 1331A/29. Further transmissions on Series 1 indicate convoy is being shadowed. (D.D.I.C., 1856A/29 to Escorts S.L.126.)

D/F at 1929Z indicates U-Boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 2131A/29 to EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.)

Via Wick. Bearing Class 1, 267°. Distress SSSS. (Gallon Head Radio, 2146 G.M.T./29 to A.C.O.S.) Ship attacked.

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical.

Lowest speeds for ramming U-Boats.

With a view to minimising damage to escort vessels when ramming U-Boats request information as to slowest speed considered necessary for each class of escort vessel (i.e. Fleets, Vees, and Town class destroyers, Frigates, Corvettes and Hunts) to penetrate the pressure hull. (C. in C. W.A., 1846A/21 to Admty.)

Casualties and Defects.

BARON STRANRAER has fouled 4A Buoy moorings BARON round screw. TORUQUOISE standing by. (WESTMINSTER, 0236A/29 to C. in C. Nore.) STRANRAER.

DANUBE V off Station owing to generator break-DANUBE V. down. Estimated date of completion 1st April. (M.S.R.T. Harwich, 1217A/29.)

Your 2046A/27 and 2052A/27. CHESAPEAKE. Owing to recent strike of Welders, Owners Repairs fitting of oiling-at-sea gear and depth charge stowage in CHESAPEAKE will not be completed before approx. 7th April at earliest. 2. Ship will not be available for either O.N.S.3 or O.N.177. (N.O.I.C.N.I., 1218A/29 to Admty.)

Cancel my 1204/19. RIPLEY delayed with engine RIPLEY. defects. (C. in C. W.A., 1710A/29 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

F.O. Humber received 1810 B.S.T. de M.T.B. No. M.T.B.668. 668. Returning to port. Engines defective. May we enter 1910 B.S.T. (Humber Radio: No. T.O.O.)

SSSS from unknown station 56.57 N. 24.15 W. Unknown course 94°, speed 12, torpedoed de GCK 2148/19. Vessel. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 2155 G.M.T./29.)

A.M. 2310/28. 2 firings carried out in simplest JAMAICA. possible conditions, have shown that spreads from A. and B turrets are now excessive. Exchange of all 3 guns of B turrets and right gun of A

turret considered necessary. (2) Understand work can be undertaken at Barrow. JAMAICA will be sailed to arrive a.m./1st April. (3) Request work of installation of type 272 R.D.F. may be progressing during time ship is in hand. (C. in C. H.F., 2237A/29 to Admty.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects - Contd.

BURZA.

Following damage sustained p.m. today, by heavy weather and continuous bumping. Details. (3) In view of inability to proceed even (? at slow speed) into anything but good weather

without risk of serious damage, am returning to U.K. Request instructions. (4) My P.C.S. at 2000Z/29, 054° 48' N. 021° 04' W., 085°, 15. Weather 3868 9667. (BURZA, 2250Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

MARIPOSA. U.S. Ship MARIPOSA arrived Clyde. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 0904A/29.)

K.M.S.12. MONKLEIGH. Intend sailing at 1800A/29 MONKLEIGH to R/V with K.M.S.12 as in para. 1A of Admiralty's 1216A/26. Speed 7 knots to R/V. Escorted by SETTER. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1024A/29.)

P.W. 316. EMPIRE JILL. It is requested that EMPIRE JILL with an important cargo may be sailed in P.W.316 on 30th.March for Clyde where she is required to arrive by 5th April.

It is requested that you will arrange escort. Should departure of ship be delayed, request she may be sailed independently with special escort to arrive by date required. (D.T.D., 1029A/29 to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

O.N. 177. CALGARY. CALGARY. When ready for sea, request you will sail CALGARY as required by C. in C. W.A. 2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to include CALGARY in O.N.177 sailing 6th April if possible. (D.O.D.H., 1503A/29 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

Enemy aircraft bombing 46° 08' N. 16° 58' W., Convoy 006°, 8 knots. (PELICAN, 1601/29.) S.L.126. EMPIRE S.L.126 attacked 46° 27' N. 16° W., course 036°, WHALE sunk. 8 knots. (PELICAN, 2102Z/29 to Admty.) My 2102Z/29. UMARIA, OCEAN (A) 21052/29, 046° 44' N. 016° 38' W. (B) 3 and not known. (C) 2 on star VICEROY, NAGARA (C) 2 on starboard hand. torpedoed. (D) UMARIA sinking. EMPIRE WHALE sunk. (E) OCEAN VICEROY and NAGARA. Send tugs. (F) Nil. (G)ROTHER short. All escorts short of fuel by daylight. (H) 17 42, 32 64. (PELICAN, 2330Z/29 and 1030Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy S.L.126. EMPIRE WHALE sunk. UMARIA, OCEAN VICEROY, NAGARA torpedoed.

016° 38' W. No escort can be spared. Request tugs may be sailed. (PELICAN, 2317A/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

2 torpedoed ships salvageable in 046° 44' N.

PASTEUR.

(Contd.)

My 1308Z/28. Sailed. C. in C. W.A. 0950A/29 also refers. E.T.A. Halifax 0200Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1700Z/29.)

Rescue Craft.

Following is Comnaveu's 291701 addressed Opnav. Reference Opnav 261530 of Feb. Due to recent experience of H.X.229 in which all Escort Vessels were engaged in rescue work except 2 staying with the Convoy, and due to possibility of large

numbers of passengers being transported in North Atlantic Convoys, the Admiralty again feel that Rescue Vessels should be considered in most serious light. Full information is requested on Salvage and Rescue Transports giving number and prospective dates.

(Comnaveu, 291702 to Admty.)

Use of Paravanes. Except for drill purposes, merchant ships in convoy are not to run paravanes unless so directed by the C. in C. of the Station, who is to be responsible for issuing the necessary instructions in the light of the latest mining information available. C.A.F.O. 265/43 refers. (D.T.D., 1813A/29.)

Support Groups.

Morale and The small number of close escorts provided for large convoys is liable to act adversely on merchant service morale. S.O. of Support Groups should therefore bear in mind advisability of showing their Group to Convoys when convenient opportunities occur. S.O. of close escorts should also consider heartening convoy by announcing arrival of Support Group.

(C. in C. W.A., 1817Z/29.)

(Paras. 1, 4 and 5 follow in cypher). C.E. and C.W.Convoys. (2) It is intended that, where timetables permit the destroyer escorting the C.W. Convoy returns the following day with the C.E. Convoy. C. in C.

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29,3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

C.E. & C.W. Convoys. (Contd.) Portsmouth is requested to signal in advance the estimated times of departure of C.E. Convoys in order that arrangements may be made accordingly. (3) 16th and 21st Flotillas will provide destroyer escorts alternately: the 16th providing for C.W.168 and C.E.166. Destroyers

detailed from 16th Flotilla are to be sailed to arrive Southend p.m. the day before Convoy sails. All destroyers detailed are to be reported 48 hours before Convoy sailing.
(6) In order to facilitate buttoning by Q.Z.S.376 N.C.S.O. Thames is to request approval on receipt of C.E. timetable to delay the sailing of the appropriate F.N. Convoy up to 0930 having regard to the number of ships and speed of the F.N. N.C.S. Tug will be at East Shingle S Buoy to button by Q.Z.S. 376 and, unless buttoning is required at B2 Buoy, further signals will not be made.
(C. in C. Nore, 1835A/29.)

C.U. 1.

The U.S. flag tankers composing this convoy will act under U.S. Navy instructions as to gas-freeing after discharge. Gas-freeing may be omitted. Ministry of War Transport is aware of this possibility. (D.T.D., 2045A/29.)

E.G. 4.

Sailed INGLEFIELD, ICARUS, FURY, ECLIPSE in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1905A/28. (Cdre. Londonderry, 2300A/29.)

0.N.S. 2.

Commander M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11 in ITCHEN H/F D/F plus KENOGAMI, NAPANEE, BATTLEFORD, SHEDIAC, CAMROSE, MOOSEJAW, OXLIP, KITCHENER sailed to meet O.N.S.2. ST. LAURENT, ST. CROIX both H/F D/F sailed Iceland to fuel and join. Anticipate VILLE DE QUEBEC will sail a.m./30th. BURWELL p.m./30th to overtake. (C.T.G. 24.7, 2350Z/29 to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Use of Paravanes. Subject to any special directions which may be given to Masters with their routeing instructions, merchant ships proceeding independently are to run paravanes when they are inside the 200 fathom line off any coast, but only if zig-zagging 2. A.M.S.I. 56/43 in course of distribution, will be amended. (D.T.D., 1649A/29 to A.I.G.11).

North Atlantic.

Air Report. A.I.285. Operational summary 147 for 24 hours ended 1800 hrs. 28 March. (G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson L/48 on A/S sweep east attacked U-boat in 37.42 N. 00.10 W. at 1125A/28 with 4 torpex D/Cs. Periscope wake seen to be

moving. D/C straddled track, large air bubbles seen and black oil which spread to 75 yards. (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 0225Z/29).

U/B attacked.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 9HY/V via Gibraltar, 0840A/29 to R.A.F. Gib.) Am over enemy S/M in position CPCZ 4051 (?CZCP 4051 = 38.40 N. 00.15 E.) sighted on surface

and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 280° estimated speed 8 knots. (A/C 9HY/V, 0840Z/29 to R.A.F. Gib.)

Dispositions.

Situation report at 1955A/29. R.S. 3X, KUMAON 33.28 08.47 through 33.10 09.20 thence 229°, 7. 2. 2 S.C., 2 merchant ships 31.58 09.30 coast-

wise to Agadir 6.

3. C.G. 21, CHICKADEE 34.39 07.03 through 35.50 06.33 to

Gibraltar, 7. 4. C.G.22, 2 U.S. Destroyers, leaving Casablanca 0800/30th through 34.56 06.45 thence C10°, 10. 5. Portuguese Gunboat LAGOS and 3 submarines exercising 29th/

30th Cezimbra area.

6. M.L. (?173) MARIE LOUISE MACKAY working cables in vicinity 35.56 05.48 moving into territorial waters during darkness. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1041A/29.)

S/M UPROAR passing 43.00 12.54 at 1500A/30th (? thence) 155° diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night 7 knots. 2. S/M PRICKOL (sic) passing 42.56 12.25 at 0800A/30th thence 158° diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night 7² knots.

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MATTOLE detaching from convoy C.T.G. 62.1
32.15, 13.53 through 31.03 15.58 thence 291° (?10)
M.K.F.11 WREN 38.09 14.03 through 40.01
16.15 thence 003° 12½. (see amendment 1554A/29).
S.R.3 CADMUS, 29.23 12.20 035° 7³/₄. Dispositions. (contd). 7. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 40.45 14.01 through 40.01 14.01 thence $142^{\circ} 11\frac{3}{4}$. 8. 21 L.C.I.(L)s S.O. L.C.I.(L) (?170) 27.02 21.51 090° 10. 9. QUERCY. U.S. Aircraft Tender SWAN, 24.05 15.55 Northbound coastwise (?13¹/₂). 10. M.K.S.10, BROADWAY, 37.55 12.04 310° 7¹/₂. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1206A/29). My 1206/29 para. 5. Amend position and speed to read (0) 38.28 14.28. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1554A/29). Situation 1958A/29th, area Z. G.U.F. 6, C.T.64, 029° 01' 030° 16' through 28.59 35.04 thence 290° 13½. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1218A/29). White flares sighted 04412 at 41.55 N. 13.30 W. Flares. by C.54. (N.A.S. Port Lyautey, 1205/29 to Radir, Casablanca, pass to St. Eval). Intend sailing ADVENTURE for Mers-el-Kebir at ADVENTURE, BICESTER, 2030/29th escorted by BICESTER and QUANTOCK routed through 52, (?92), 109, speed of advance 20 QUANTOCK. knots. (2) On ADVENTURE entering Mers-el-Kebir BICESTER, QUANTOCK part company and return to Gibraltar routed through 109, 86, 50, 66 S. of A. 18. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1235A/29 to C. in C, Med., N.O.I.C. Oran, Admty. R.A. (M)). Arrival H.M. Trawlers MULLET, WHITING, M.T.B. 651, M.L. 449, and 460, M.G.B. 645, 644, 646, 643. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1246A/29 to Admty). Movements, Gibraltar. Submarines leave Scilly Is. at 1400A lst April diving by day to 043° N. as follows (A) P.312 TRESPASSER, SPORTSMAN. (TRESPASSER) route brown, E.T.A. 0130A/7th April, 120 miles a day. Paint blue. (B) P.229 (SPORTSMAN) route green, E.T.A. 0130A/7 April, 115 miles a day. Paint grey, no numbers. 2. Communications. (Capt. S.3., 1431A/29 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.(S), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, S.O.(S), Gibraltar, P.312, (TRESPASSER), P.229 (SPORTSMAN)). D/F on 11,068 k/cs at 1006Z indicates U-boat in your vicinity. Since A.M. 2304A/28 W/T activity R.S.3 U/Bs. from your area has been on Series 3 as well as Series 1.

(D.D.I.C., 1551A/29 to Escort of R.S.3., (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. Commorseafrom).

/MANUCHO...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MANUCHO. Spanish AMNUCHO expected to complete loading ore at Sagunto for Germany today and may leave at any time for Caronte. (D.E.W.D., 1600A/29 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med).

O.S.45 Ore Ships. Request permission to sail to join O.S.45 nine ships for loading Ore West African Ports. Agreed M.W.T.R. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1730A/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.W.A. S.N.O. Casablanca Area). Concur. (D.T.D., 1510A/30).

ASHANTI Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 1905/25 to Admty. etc).

NEWFOUNDLAND Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND sailed for Algiers in accordance with your 1211A/28. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2020A/29 to P.S.T.O. Med., (R) Com. Algiers, C. in C. Med., Admty).

ANDES Arrived. (S.N.O.C.A., 2130Z/29 to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Casablanca. March 29, P.C.480 and U.S.S. CHICKADEE departed with C.G.21, U.S.S. ROWAN from Gibraltar and U.S.S. MAYRANT arrived. (S.N.O.C.A., 2135Z/29 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals ACUTE, HUSSAR, GAVOTTE, VISENDA from escort duties east. Departures M.T.B. 656, M.G.Bs. 642, 647, for Algiers. F.F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA local escort east. ADVENTURE, BICESTER and QUANTOCK to Mers-el-Kebir. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2210A/29 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

ANDES

Intend to sail SS. ANDES 1200A/(?3rd) for New York S. of A. 19, route to be signalled later. (S.N.O.(?Casablanca) 2235Z/29 to Port Director New York (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. Med., N.S.H.Q. etc).

Air Report. Op. Sum. No. 148 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 29 March. 1 Hudson diverted to hunt for U-boat attacked by V.48, 23 hours. 4 Hudsons East? afternoon still airborne. 22 hrs. 1 Catalina CWA hunt for U-boat attacked by V.48? still airborne. (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 2250Z/29). Part 2. (G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson L.233 on U-boat

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air Report. (contd). hunt for U-boat attacked by L.48 at 1125/28 sighted a U-boat on surface and down by stern leaving large oil track course unknown speed 5 knots at 1754/28 38.10 N. 00.10 (or 17) E. U-boat opened fire with 2 M/Gs and large guns

1 A/S bomb burst 82? yards from U-boat on port quarter. Combat continued 4 MG?s dropped nearest exploded 30 feet from U-boat? port quarter. U-boat seen leaving circular oil patches 30 feet across also oily track? seen before attack. Course 045 5 kts still on surface. Hudson V.48 on A/S sweep East sighted at 0837 29? 38.40 N. 00.51 E. a U-boat on surface leaving thin streak of oil 4 miles long with patches 50 feet wide course 280 8 kts. (2 or 4?) D/Cs dropped when periscope just visible. 1 explosion just aft of periscope and 1 large explosion of 3 D/Cs together at apex of periscope wake. Oil? track left by U-boat before attack did not continue beyond D/C? Scum. Nothing seen further. (H.Q., R.A.F., Gibraltar, 2300Z/29).

1154

War Diary.

29.3.1943. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

S.T.60.

(?Sailed) Convoy S.T. 60 at 1230Z/28th March. Escorts CROCUS, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON, M.L. 277 and 265. (2) BAHARISTAN and BEGUM for Cape, SANSU, ISIPINGO and HEIMSVARD for Takoradi, (? CAP)

PADARAN, EURYBATES, GABON and SORVARD for Lagos, MATADIAN for Opobo. (3) Red route. Estimated speed made good 9 knots. (4) Cape ships disperse in position M. CROCUS escorting CAP PADARAN from position N. direct to Lagos. Remaining Lagos ships and MATADIAN disperse in approx. 004 06 N. 002 46' W. at 1900Z/1st April. (5) PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON and 2 M.Ls. with Takoradi ships arrive Takoradi a.m. 2nd April. (R.A.W.A. 00592/29 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, CROCUS, C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Freetown.) (S.O.I. Freetown 0940Z/29 to Admty. etc.)

R.S.3, MOANDA torpedoed 28 March.

My 2308/28th. BURDOCK standing by MOANDA (Belgian) torpedoed and on fire in amended position 024° 44' N. 016° 48' W. My P.C. and S. 024° 24' N. 016° 50' W. 193° 10 knots, LADY DENNISON PENDER and 1 tug in company.

(BRIDGEWATER 0115Z/29 to F.O.C. W.A. Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gib. THYME, ORFASY.)

Ref. 0115Z/29th from BRIDGEWATER. MOANDA burnt out and presumed sank. No trace of wreckage at daylight. Rejoining convoy, estimated time of R/V 0700Z/30th. BURDOCK 0701Z/29 to F.O.C.W.Af. BRIDGEWATER (R) F.O. Gib.)

Movements. Durban.

Arrived QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, RAIDER. (N.O.I.C. Durban 0941Z/29 to Admty.)etc.

W.S. 27.

Sailed FROBISHER escorting convoy W.S.27 routed as N.C.S.O. Durban's 1022/29th.

2. Local escort FOXHOUND, NAPIER, CATTERICK, ROTHERHAM operating vicinity 025° S.

3. Shifting W/T organization to group N.U. at 2300Z/31st March. C. in C. E.F. is requested to instruct escorts when to shift to group V.

(N.O.I.C. Durban 0951Z/29 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

Durban Section (?W) S.27 sailed 0900Z/29th to R/V outer end Durban swept Channel at 1000Z/29th with Capetown Section Durban Ships 182 knots CAPETOWN CASTLE 182 knots, STRATHMORE, 20 knots, STRATHAIRD, to Aden, 16 knots, CHRISTIAAN HUYENS to Kilindini. E.T.A. Kilindini p.m. 7th April 2. Amended route. 3. Amended Stragglers route. Escort (? FROBISHER) FOXHOUND, NAPIER, ROTHERHAM, (?CATTERICK) N.C.S.O. Capetown's 1507/26th March refers (N.C.S.O. Durban 1022Z/29 to Admty., C. in C. S.A. C. in C.

E.F. etc.)

S.T.O. Capetown 0805/27th E.T.A. Aden 12th April.

(D.S.T.O. Durban 1622B/29 to D. of S.T. S.T.O. Aden (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Biscay Patrol, UGANDA.

Intended to maintain one cruiser and two Fleet Destroyers at sea in vicinity of all convoys between 42° and 50° N. to counter threat from destroyers based on Biscay Ports. 2. F.O.C. W.Af. is requested to sail UGANDA for

U.K. as soon as practicable to take part. 3. UGANDA is to come under orders of C. in C. Plymouth on crossing 40° N. 4. F.O.C. W.Af. pass to UGANDA. 5. This need not interfere with arrangements made in F.O.C.W.Af. 1151/23rd March. (DESPATCH to go to Rio for repairs.) (D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 1021A/29 to F.O.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth (R) F.O., Gib. etc.)

LISS.

Tanker LISS expected to arrive Freetown early April for repairs. Request confirmation that L.A. or HA/LA gun and Oerlikons are available and can be mounted. Vessel could be diverted to Lagos if considered preferable.

(D.T.D. 1031A/29 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) D.E.M.S. Officer, Freetown.) Reply 051702Z April.

Durban	P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1256/27 para 1.
U.K. Convoy	Request confirmation that it is unacceptable to
MALOJA,	include MALOJA, MOOLTAN and CALIFORNIA in convoy
MOOLTAN,	and thereby reduce speed of convoy to 15 knots
CALIFORNIA.	or possibly a little less.
	(C. in C. S.A. 1114B/29 to Admty, (R) C. in C. E.F.
	F.O.C.W.Af., Com. i/c Durban.) Confirmed see Admty.
	1919A/31.

RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS.

Sailed RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS routed Cape Virgin. (a) 030° 35' S. 031° 12' E. (b) 031° 22' 030° 43'.

(c) 033° 40' 028° 15'.
(d) 034° 45' 025° 35'.
(e) 035° 00' 020° 00'. E.T.A. RACEHORSE Simonstown
E.T.A. RELENTLESS Capetown 1730B/31st. S. of A. 1000B/31st. 20 knots. 2. Shift W/T organisation to group S.L. at 1900B/29th March.

(Cdre.i/c Durban 1131B/29 to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions.

U.S. Destroyers, DUPONT, DICKERSON, ELLIS with

Dispositions. U.S. Destroyers, DUPONT, DICKERSON, ELLIS with convoy 0.T.3. 025° 57' 025° 30' 039° 12½. BURDOCK about 024° 44' 016° 48' to south. BRIDGEWATER, THYME, ORFASY with R.S.3 021° 17' 017° 36' 190° 10. French sloop DUMONT, D'URVILLE, QUERCY, 024° 48' 015° 30' to north by coastal route 13½. F. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 007° 00' 028° 30' 19. (F.O.W.A. 1155Z/29.)

Position at 2000Z/29th.

NORTHERN CHIEF, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD 027° CO'S. 013° 50'E. to Walvis Bay 9 knots. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 040° OO'S. 018 20'E to Capetown 12 knots. RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS 033° OO' S. 028° 50'E. to Simonstown and Capetown 20 knots.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.)

FREESIA 031° 15' S. 033° 05' E. to Durban 12 knots. LE TIGER, LADY ELSA 031° 40' S. 033° 40' E. to Durban 9 knots. FOXHOUND, FROBISHER, NAPIER, CATTERICK, ROTHERHAM with W.S. 27 030° 15' S. 033° 25' E. to 031° 25' S. 040° 05' E. 12½ knots. (C. in C.S.A. 1230B/29.)

(C. in C.S.A. 1230B/29.) Situation at 2000Z/29th. CROCUS, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.Ls. with S.T. 60 05.12 12.26 to 03.53 11.18 thence 108° 9. CILICIA on patrol about 04.01 23.01 14. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 04.47 S. 17.35 007° 14 $\frac{1}{2}$. WASTWATER, M.M.S.5,6,7 and 8, 03.04 18.12 041° 9. SARABANDE escorting 00.23 03.48 E. 132° $5\frac{1}{2}$. M.L. 290 escorting 04.53 05.03 to Sassandra $5\frac{1}{2}$. Allied Naval units on patrol in Ascension St. Paul's Rocks area. (R.A.W.A. 1400Z/29.)

UGANDA.

Following is a repetition of my 2518/13 to above addressees. Begins "Arrival 2417/30 March, UGANDA. (Ends.) (S.O. (I) Freetown 12142/29 to Admty. etc.)

LULWORTH HILL. Overdue shipping, LULWORTH HILL, due Freetown 26 March from Capetown not arrived. Ship estimated to have been in vicinity of distress message from unnamed ship in 11° 44' S. 01° 44'

E. at 1958Z/18. (F.O.C.W.A. 1241Z/29 to Admty, (R) C. in C. S.A., Connav.) W.D. Note: LULWORTH HILL, 7628 tons. Mauritius for Freetown and U.K., sailed TableBay 11 March.

GRANICOS. Overdue ship GRANICOS Greek. Due Freetown 26th March from Rio de Janeiro not arrived. (F.O.C.W.A. 1243Z/29 to Admty. (R) Ass, S.O. (I) Connav.) W.D. Note: 3689 tons, left Rio 12 March for Freetown and U.K.

INDUSTRIA (sunk 25 March). March). Swedish ship INDUSTRIA torpedoed and sunk 06002 March 25th in Oll[®] 40' S. 035° 55'. W. 22 Burvivors landed at Bahia. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1259Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. S.O. (I) Jamaica.)

Movements, Arrivals 27th March KEREN, LARGS. Freetown. (S.O. (I) Freetown 14052/29 to Admty. etc.)

MAURETANIA. MAURETANIA sailed 28th E.T.A. 5th April, fuel taken etc. Survivors embarked ex EMPRESS OF CANADA (numbers). Other personnel on board. Total 1414 passengers, details in my code 1513/29. (D.S.T.O. W.A. 1505Z/29 to D.S.T. (R) Admty. etc.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

OSTHAV. Have you any news of OSTHAV (Norwegian) due Simonstown 23rd March from Hormuz? (D.T.D. 1537A/29 to C. in C. S.A.) Reply: 1216B/30.

U-Boat. Aircraft report S/M in 22° 56' N. 17° 46' W. at 1500Z/29th March. (F.O.W.A. 1551Z/29 to Fr. Sloop DUMONT, D'URVILLE, QUERCY (R) Comar, Dakar, Admty, S.N.O.Casablanca.)

KAJANG M.T.B.

Your 13052/28th, not to Admiralty. Propose that KAJONG tows M.T.B. No. 2070 Lagos sailing p.m. 30th or a.m. 31st. Agents agree but terms will have to be subsequently settled between Admiralty and owner. Request early approval. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 16302/29 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty, R.N.O. Lagos.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 11442/30.

W.S.28.

1. Intend sailing KENYA, MALCOLM, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, WOLVERINE and WITCH escorting convoy W.S.28 at 11302/30 March. Intend BULOLO, ULSTER MONARCH, KEREN and LARGS to sail in convoy.

2. Convoy is routed through position "Dog" CO7° 28' N. Ol5° Ol' W. and CO3° O7' OlO° 32' "Fox" CO1° 20' CO2° O6' thence by route given in C. in C. S.A. 1142B/28 March. Estimated S. of A. 122 knots. 3. Request RELENTLESS and RAIDER be sailed to fuel at Pointe Noire thence proceeding to arrive position "George" at 1200Z/5th April thence toward position "Fox" to join escort. 4. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, and WITCH will be detached at prudent limit of endurance to proceed Pointe Noire thence as ordered by F.O.C. W.A. 5. QUADRANT and REDOUBT will be fuelled from KENYA or at Pointe Noire. If from KENYA, KENYA may have insufficient endurance to reach Durban. (?System) taken will be signalled by F.O.C. West Africa to C. in C. S.A. 6. Convoy will split in accordance with D. of S.Ts. O355A/27th March. LARGS and ULSTER MONARCH have instructions to proceed to Capetown, remaining H.M. Ships as ordered by C. in C.S.A. 7. Shifting to area Q W/T organization at OOO1Z/7th April. (F.O.C.W.A. 1654Z/29 to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

PORTLAND, OSORNO (German) HIMALAYA (Italian) Admiralty Intelligence grade B.2 indicates that PORTLAND and OSORNO of Hamburg. (?America) and HIMALAYA of Lloyd.....Triestine left Bordeaux for Japan p.m. 25th March or a.m. 26th March. Request French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES be recalled from patrol forthwith to refuel. Request GEORGES LEYGUES then be sailed to patrol area between following points:

following points: J. OlO° 10' N. O31° 32' W. K. Ol4° O3' N. O28° 17' W. L. Ol6° 42' N. O31° 16' W. N. Ol2° 20' N. O34° 10' W. Details of British U.S. patrol will be signalled. (F.O.C.W.A. 1847Z/29 to Comar, Dakar (R) GEORGES LEYGUES, Admty.)

Movements...

1157A.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Recife. Arrival 27th March Brazilian S/M chaser C.S.53, arrival 28th U.S. Cruiser, CINCINATTI, U.S. Destroyers JOUETT, BARRY, U.S. Corvette SPRY and submarine chaser P.C. 493 and 574. Departure 28th Brazilian minelayers CABEDELLO and

CARIOCA and 3 S/M chasers C.S.51, 52, 53. (R.O. Recife 2015Z/29. (as amended 1920Z/14 to Admty.)).

Convoy 0.S.45.

y Sailing telegram. 5. (A) 1200Z/27th. (B) -(C) BLACK SWAN H/F D/F LA MALOUINE. F.S. MYOSOTTS, MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, FANTOME, additional for Gibraltar. Escort Oiler R.F.A. ENNERDALE. (C. in C. W.A. 2141Z/29 to R.A. W.A. N.O.I.C. Freetown (R) Admty, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.O. (I) Capetown. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Med.) 0.S.45. List and destinations. (C. in C.W.A. 2145Z/29 to F.O.C.W.A.F. F.O.Gibraltar (R) Admty, C. in C.S.A. S.O. (I) Capetown, Connav, C. in C.Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

EMPIRE MAIDEN Tangier, armament question.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 1430/25, 1729/25 and Consul General T ngier 1930. EMPIRE MAIDEN is Red Ensign tanker and carried normal D.E.M.S. armament which has been accepted in neutral ports throughout the world. 2. Not only have numerous British merchant ships

similarly equipped been treated as merchant ships in Spanish ports, but Axis tanker BELGRANO with very similar armament was expressly treated by Spaniards as merchant vessel

last October. 3. If Consul General is unable to alter attitude of Tangier authorities N.A.Madrid is requested to take the matter up strongly with Minister of Marine. (Head of M.Branch I Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 0109A/29 to Consul General, Tangier, N.A.Madrid, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements,	Arrival	28th	March	SOUTHER	N MAII) depar	tures	28th
Alexandria	March AI	DENH	AM, M.I	. 361,	M.T.B:	s. 63,	64.	
	(S.0.(I)	Ale	xandria	0915B/	29 to	Admty.	etc.)

Night 27/28 March. Bad weather prevented Bi-weekly Opsum No. 112 operations. March 28. Details of patrols (no part 2. incidents). (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1023Z/29.)

REGENT.

Capt. S.8 1158/26. Onward route through Q. and R. to R/V with sweepers at O830A/lst at end of Malta searched channel. You should not approach within 20 miles of Malta before 0400A/lst. If no sweepers are at R/V proceed into harbour unescorted (Capt. S.10, 1119A/29 to REGENT, (R) Submarines on patrol, C. in C.Med. Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, C. in C.Levant.)

F.O.C.W.Af's 2027/26 (asking if VOLENDAM and M.K.F. Convoys. RANGITIKI can form next M.K.F.convoy). Have no information of further fast convoys to Mediterranean other than that given in Admty's. 1256/18th February, 1943, which indicates next K.M.F. will arrive ex W.S.convoy on about 26th April. In this case next M.K.F. convoy will leave Gibraltar on 1st May.

(C. in C.Med. 1129A/29 to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.C.Gib. Admty.)

P.R.U.

March 29th a.m. Taranto, Messina not covered, aircraft returned early. Further attempt will be made.

(V.A.Malta 1153A/29 to C. in C.Med. etc.) P.R.U. March 29th visuals. 1405 Taranto no results - bad visibility. (V.A.Malta 1703A/29 to C. in C.Med. etc.)

/UNSEEN...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNSEEN, UNRIVALLED, UNITED, SAHIB, DOLFIJN.

1. P.51 (UNSEEN) is to leave zone C. after dark 30th and proceed through zone B. to arrive in zone A. about 0530/31st. 2. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) is to operate in southern half of zone E. during night 30th/31st thence returning zone B. 3. P.44 (UNITED) is to leave patrol for Malta

passing position P. at 0530/31st thence as

ordered by Capt. S.10. 4. P.212 (SAHIB) is leaving zone F. through Northern half of zone E. to pass 039° 13' 013° 12' at 2001/31st 038° 33' 010° 22' at 1958/1st April thence 266°. 5. P.47 (DOLFIJN) operate in zone Eafter 2000/31st keeping well clear P.212 (SAHIB.) (Capt. S.8 1156A/29 to 8th S.F. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10.)

WEST POINT. U.S.N.S. WEST POINT arrived 0420/29th March G.M.T. (N.C.S.O. Suez 1200B/29 to Admty. (R) Cominch, etc.)

Malta Convoy. Arrivals JERVIS, NUBIAN, KELVIN, JAVELIN, ISIS, with EGRA, KAROA, NEURALIA. (V.A.Malta 1200A/29 to Admty. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.Med.)

S.8 1202/23. Propose TURBULENT be paid off on TURBULENT (overdue, 23rd March the date on which she should have presumed lost) returned from patrol. (C. in C.Med. 1215A/29 to Admty.)

My 1033/5th March. Turkish Navy agree to Equipment for Turkey. temporary visit gunnery and torpedo officers to assist me with Adana list. (B.N.A.Ankara 1224C/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

My 1614C/28, (CELENO expected to enter Aegean 0400/29,) CELENO entered Aegean 0915 G.M.T. March 29th course west, north Lemnos, escorted by two destroyers and one Seaplane. CELENO, ALBA JULIA.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul 1330C/29 to C. in C.Levant, etc.) My 1330C/29. CELENO and two escorting destroyers sailed from Imbros 1100 G.M.T. March 29th. My 1605C/26. ALBA JULIA arrived Canakkale 1200 G.M.T. March 29th, bound for Istanbul. (S.O.(I) Istanbul 1641C/29 to C. in C.Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

/E.T.16...

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29.3.1943. Monday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

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Mediterranean - Contd.

E.T.16.

Pass to Cdre. and Escort. E.T.16. Sailed ALCOA PILOT, Gibraltar, 31, N.K.B. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 1404A/29 to S.O.Escorts of Convoy E.T.16, (R) N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C.

Oran, etc.) E.T.16. Intend sailing to join for Oran JADE for Gibraltar OCEAN TRAVELLER (N.D.) EMPIRE TIDE, (Cam.) LUBLIN, HALLANGER (T), HARMATTON, THURLAND CASTLE. Total 7 ships. Cdre. in OCEAN TRAVELLER, Pendant 61. New Pendant numbers will be

signalled by Cdre. on joining. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 1624A/29 to Escorts of Convoy E.T.16, (R)

A.I.G. 259, Comnob,Oran.) E.T.16. TITUS, HILDUR I arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 2300A/29 to F.O.I.S.)

N.A.A.F.	For Eaker, From Spaatz, To C.G.8th Air Force,
Report.	From H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv.
	6. Day 27 March, 3 Marauders sank a 100 ton barge
	off north coast of Sicily. 6 Italians rescued
	from enemy aircraft shot down earlier.
(North African	A.F. 1600Z/29 to Etousa.)

Rescue Tugs. Your 221816. Tug EMPIRE MINNOW and Rescue Tug SCHELDE (Dutch) will be sailing with 1st Group L.C.Ts. for Gibraltar. Tug HUDSON (Dutch) with 2nd Group and Tugs EMPIRE LARCH and EMPIRE HARRY

with 3rd Group. A.M. 192006 March refers. EMPIRE MINNOW to await at Gibraltar for further instructions whilst 2 Dutch Tugs with EMPIRE LARCH and EMPIRE HARRY, paired in this order, will be available for towage to U.K. of damaged Merchant Vessels from Gibraltar or N.A. Ports as required. Further signal will be made regarding Tugs escorting remaining two Groups. (Capt. i/c Rescue Tugs 1619A/29 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C.

Gibraltar.)

SONTAY.

A.M. 1923/25. (Presumably 1923/26. Requesting route for SONTAY carrying Italian prisoners.) Route for SONTAY from Aden through following positions to Alexandria. (C. in C.Levant 1642/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. Cdre. Aden.)

Transport, Malta.

Transports EGRA, KAROA, NEURALIA arrived. (D.S.T.O. Malta 1642A/29 to D. of S.T. Connav, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Movements, Malta.

Sailed M.T.Bs. 77, 61, 84 and 95, M.L. 459 PALADIN and G.S. QUEEN OLGA. (V.A.Malta 1656A/29 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, N.O.I.C. Libya.)

/Repair...

1161

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Repair C. in C.Med. 1721/29. N.T. in W.D. but for Facilities. Admty. reply see 091054B/April.

Protection of Convoys. My 1801/24. (re protection of convoys in Mediterranean.) Request particular study be made of Med. (W) S.G.O. 41 and 42, copies of which are en route by air. (C. in C.Med. 1802A/29 to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements, Haifa. Arrival 29th March CUMBRAE, BURRA, Greek Destroyer AETOS. (N.O.I.C. Haifa 1917B/29th to Admty. etc.)

Movements Oran. EMPIRE FRED, M.L. 555, L.C.Ts. 15,16 and 19 arrived. QUANNET departed. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 1959A/29 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Tobruk, Derna. Arrived KINGSTON CYANITE, SOUTHERN ISLE, M.L. 351, and 355 M.T.B. 63 and 64. Sailed M.T.B. 63 and 64, M.L. 355. Arrived Derna M.L. 354, 357 and 358. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 2001B/29 to Admty.)

Movements Arrived M.T.B. 640, 634, 638. Algiers. (Com. Algiers 2009A/29 to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. A. Part 1 Offensive. Night 28/29 March. Bad weather and heavy rain prevented offensive operations, no shipping target was found. Day 29th March 11 Spitfires made offensive

Day 29th March. 11 Spitfires made offensive sweep over Southern Sicily but sighted no enemy aircraft. Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. 29th March. 0936 hours. 4 plus Me. 109s approached Malta at great height and were intercepted by 4 Spitfires but raiders escaped in thick haze and then turned back to Sicily. 8 other Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 8 Spitfires and 4 Beaufighters provided escort for convoy approaching from South from 0530 hours until its arrival in Harbour at 1000 hrs. (A.H.Q.Malta 2037/29.)

DULVERTON, MIAOULES, BELVOIR, PINDOS, EDSALL, BEAUFORT. C. in C.Levant 1433B/29 (N.T. in W.R.) and S.N.O. Inshore Sqdn. Eastern Med. 1633A. (N.T.in W.R.) Unless other instructions are received DULVERTON and MIAOULES will proceed in accordance with para. A. of C. in C.Levant 1433B/29. BELVOIR, PINDOS, and U.S. Destroyer EDSALL will proceed to Tripoli and fuel and comply with para B. BEAUFORT remain at Tripoli. (DULVERTON 2130A/29 to C. in C.Levant, N.O.I.C. Malta, S.N.O. I.S. E.Med. (R) R.A. 15th C.S. Capt. D.12, R.A.(D) Med.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Walrus A/C for French Navy. / My 2035/23 to Admiralty only. Agreement part 2 for supply of 20 Walrus aircraft to French was signed by Adm. Michelier on 23rd March. Delivery of first 9 aircraft will therefore be expected by first week in May.

therefore be expected by first week in May. 2. Request aircraft may be sent to Gibraltar where onward disposal to Arzu or Tafaroui will be arranged with H.Q.W.A.C.A.F. (C. in C.Med. 2335A/29 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gib. H.Q.Med. Air Command, H.Q.W.A.C.A.F.)

1162A

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.) MESAGE 1255Z/29th March CUT

MOST SECRET

Addressed Mideast

Date 29.3

Publicity, " Battle of Egypt"

disclosures - Instructions.

Cipher

From Air Hinistry.

0Z 290. 29th March 1943.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (M.H.) 365.

Your CC/202 cipher 22 March from Middle East Defence Committee.

We agree in principle paras.5 and 6. Following instructions are being issued. (a) Nomention deception plans releasable under

- any circumstances. (b)
 - Remaining points in your para 5 will not be released in U.K. unless first vetted by I.S.J.B. London and referred to you when nocessary.

2. But must point out Order of Battle and mention of deception given in quote Battle of Egypt unquote released by you in communiques or correspondents! despatches and greater detail contained in New Zealand account passed by Middle East. Hopeyou will be able to help us by controlling this at your end.

1255Z/29

Received in War Registry 1859/29 Circulation:-

Brigadier Jacob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord C.6.Tuls. C.C.O. A.M.C. (C)

- 1343/22

lst Lord 1st 8.L.(2) D.F.S.L. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(F)(2) A.C.N.S.(H) A.C.N.S.(W) A.C.N.S.(M) A.C.N.S.(A) $\begin{array}{c} A.G.N.S.(A) \\ Parl. Sec. \\ P:A.U.(B) \\ D.O.D.(F)(2) \\ D.O.D.(E)(2) \\ D.G.(2) \end{array}$

D.D.I.C.(2) D.N.I.(4) D. of P.(2) D. of P.(Q) Hd. of M.(2) D.P.D. C.N.J. Admiral Blake Admiral Mack (4) -W.D. I.P.(2)

FK

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War Diary.

29.3.1943. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements.

Departure LL Sweeper G.C. HINNOY. (N.O.I.C. Karachi 05202/29 to Admty.) Fleet oiler SEPIA arrived 28th. (N.C.S.O. Abadan 05522/29 to Admty.) BARRYMORE left. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 0800Z/29 to Admty.) Arrival 0836Z/29th TAMWORTH. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 0842Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival BRITANNY. (S.O.I. Bombay 09412/29 to Admty.)

Colombo arrivals 1053Z/29th, Dutch S/M 0.24. (F.O. Ceylon 1149Z/29 to Admty.)

Movements Summary.

Movement Summary 51 March 29th. 1. CAPETOWN left Bombay 26th escorting convoy B.S.

40 1 ship due Aden 1st. April. 2. DURBAN left Bombay 27th due Kilindini 3rd. April. 3. CARTHAGE left Kilindini 26th to R/V with convoy W.S. 27 S.E. Madagascar and escort to Aden. 4. CARADOC leaves Kilindini 1st April to escort Aden portion of C.M. 40 to Aden. 5. FROBISHER leaves Durban 29th escorting convoy W.S. 27 10 ships. Routed E. of Madagascar and W. of Seychelles speed 122 knots. 6. CAIRNS leaves Majunga 29th escorting 4 M.L's to Lindi and Kilindini possibly calling at Mayotte for fuel. 7. Following Y messages are cancelled 186 of 22nd Jan. 189 of

29th Jan. 200 of 5th Feb.

(C. in C. E.F. 0704Z/29 to E.F. 235 Y, Admty. etc.)

ATREUS, ALSEY.

Your 1618M/23rd. (1718/22 intended) ATREUS Melbourne. Presume Admty. will issue instructions regarding ALSEY. (A.C.N.B. 0801Z/29th to Navy Office Wellington (R) Admty. ATREUS, ALSEY.)

Arrived Api Passage at O800Z Monday 29th. Fuel stocks CAIRNS. remaining 72 (Corrupt group) (CAIRNS 0826Z/29 to ? F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

P.B. 33.

21 and 23 C. Sailing telegram. A. 0800Z/29th. (e) 023°21' 062°00'. (f) 8 knots. (f) (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 0840Z/29, 0845Z/29 to Admty.)

Air Report. Night 28/29 March. 2 Hudsons Akyab Town. 8 X 250 lb. Bursts in jetty areas. 1 Hudson Meiktila A/D. 8 X 250 (4 X 250) lb. Bursts on A/D. (c) U.S.A.A.F. reports. Night 26/27 March. 6 B. 24's mined Rangoon River, 6 B. 24's as diversion bombed Rangoon. Bombs believed in area Mingaladon Syriam and Pazaundaung. Rangoon blackout effective. (A.H.Q. India, 1045Z/29)

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29**.3.1**943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CLTY OF EXETER. Following read: Seriously damaged.* (CITY OF EXETER 1302/29 to Colombo W/T (R) Admty. damaged. (for information) *W.R. Note: Accuracy of text doubtful.

? Enemy Tanker. Following has been read. Following from PALMA 0830 G.M.T. 031° 42' S. 050° 30' E. sighted (enemy?) tanker. Black hull brown deck works black funnel steering 165° 7 knots. Sail on foremast lowered on sighting. (Colombo W/T 1600Z/29 to Admty.)

THOMAS COAD, Dr dredger, or Kilindini. re

Dredger THOMAS COAD is now working at Kilindini on new deep water berths which are urgently required. Work will not be completed before first week in May and a further seven days would be required to prepare dredger for return passage.

2. F.O.C.R.I.N. in his 210940Z Jan to C. in C. E.F. stipulated that dredger was required Karachi before the monsoon but if work at Kilindini is to be completed this will not be possible. 3. To enable Overseas Port and Transit Committee assess relative priority of the two requirements please telegraph your views as to effect of maintenance dredging at Karachi and port draft limits if dredger does not return until after monsoon. (Masson, Bombay, T.O.D. 2200/29 to M.W.T. London.)

"S" Report.

SSSS G.W.4 X.N. (Undecypherable in W.R.) 0408 N. 17 unread torpedoed T.O.R. 2305 G.M.T. (Ends.) (Slangkop Radio 2349/29 to Admty.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements.

H J 42

STATE OF IRINIA (U.S.A.T.) sailed Trinidad 26th for Paramaribo 28th. (N.S.H.Q. Oll2Z/29 to Admty.) (N.S.H.Q. 01122/29 to Admty.) 28th March St. Johns Mfld. Arrivals - MALPEQUE escorting H.J.42 VISCOUNT ex O.N.S.L. Departures - BURNHAM to S.C. 124. FREDERICTON, Halifax to O.N.S.1 LETHBRIDGE to screen BARON BELHAXEN. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 0407Z/29 to Admty) Departure BLAIRMORE to escort O.N.173. Arrivals HAMII MANDONIC DEPARTURE DADDIE DEDICINE HAT or O N 173 Arrivals HAMILTON, MANONQUE, BUCTOUCHE, BARRIE, MEDICINE HAT ex O.N.173. SWIFT CURRENT, WASAGA ex J.H.44. (C. Halifax, 1300/29 to Admty.) Arrival 29th March OWERA from Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados, 1315/29 to Admty) Following has been received Addressed S.O. Escorts from Cmdre. Convoy 0.N.175. Serious 0.N.175. Collision. Collision need assistance. No bearing obtained. R.A.F. informed. (Burnham Radio, 0433/29 Admty. C. in C. W.A.) Position. Course. Speed. Ship. Movements

	C.U.1) 46 $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 26 $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. 04 3° 4 Sloops) ATTACKER) 17 L.C.I.(L)s $52\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. 66 $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. 125° Milford with) 06° N. $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. 118° Floating Dock) F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES. 07° N. 29° W. Patrol CILICIA 04° N. 24° W. Patrol CHESHIRE with) $35\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S. $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W. 265° Floating Dock) 265°	Î4 10 6 Blank Blank 5
U/B.	Submarine sighted 39.10 N. 74.30 W. at 1032 (Halifax, 1058Z/29 to Adml. Liverpool)	2 G.M.T.
H.X.230, U/B.	D/F bearings at 0920Z indicate U-Boat proba in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C. 1114A/29 to Escorts H.X.230, (R) W.A., A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.	C. in C
X.B.40. BLAIRMORE.	Rejoin forthwith. (THE PAS, 1259Z/29 to BLAIRMORE (R) Connav, 24, Admty. etc.) BLAIRMORE rejoined X.B.40 at 2145Z/29th. (THE PAS 2150Z/29 to Connav (R) C.T.F.24, A etc.)	

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1402Z/29 to Admty.)

Task / ...

1166

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Task Force 60.

HEPATICA.

HEPATICA, H.X.235. In view of C.O.A.C. Halifax's 1557/28th amend N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1624/28th to read "To Halifax as additional escort for H.X.235" B.R.L.O. New York pass to HEPATICA. (N.S.H.Q., 1516Z/29 to B.A.M.R.(R) HEPATICA, Admiralty, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., Capt. (D) Halifax, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

(Cominch. 1527/29, 1528/29, 1602/29, 1603/29, 1604/29.)

Your 272209 request route and speed of advance. (N.S.H.Q. 291500 to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty. S.O.I. Kingston.)

Submarine estimate 29th March. U.S. S/M. Notice.

L.C.I.(L) Flights. Your 1857/25. Sixth L.C.I.(L) Flight sailed 27th March. (2) Seventh Flight is expected to sail about 9th April. (B.A.M.R.Washington, 16362/29 to Admty, (R) C.in C Med.)

U.S.N.T.

Arrival 29th U.S. Navy Transport 32 Ship, Port of origin unknown. (British Consul San Juan, 1648/29 to Admty. etc.)

Solops 11. 4 destroyers, 1 corvette and 4 merchant ships were observed in Buin-Faisi area on 26th. (B.A.D.1655Z/29 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. (R) Concentric Colombo, Capt. on Staff Kilindini, F.L.O.Delhi.)

Rescue Tugs. C. in C. W.A. 1818/8th Jan. Paras. (3) and (4) of my 1239/1st Feb. still holds good but no rescue tug has yet accompanied any convoy. As TENACITY now unserviceable until retubed and her relief has not arrived urgently request

every effort may be made to carry out purport of C. in C. W.A. 1818/8th Jan. (F.O.N.F., 1857Z/29 to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty, C.O.A.C.)

Supply of Aircraft.

.

Your 2123/26 (N.T. in W.D.). The importance of the U.S. Army Air Corps requirement is appreciated but in view of my 2353/11/5 paras. 2 and 3, B.A.D.2309/15/5 and my 1054/19/5 and 1936/22/5 confirmation is requested that shipping arrangements have been made to ensure the

arrival / ...

1167

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Supply of Aircraft. (Contd.)

arrival in the U.K. of our own U.S. aircraft allocations to meet the requirements of A.M.2353/ 11/3 paras. 2 (a) and (b) and 3 (a) and (b) in time to form Squadrons from May 1st onwards and for the various tactical, technical, handling trials which are inevitably required in new aircraft types. (A.C.N.S.(Air) 1900A/29 to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

U.G.S.6A. "Chop" 40° W. at 0200Z/3rd and 10° W. 0700Z/11th. (Cominch C. & R. 1942/29 C.T.F.60 (R) Cinclant, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Morocco S.F.)

KINGCUP, RADPORT. Expected T.O.A. St. Johns N.F. 2130Z/29. RADPORT in company. (KINGCUP, 2000Z/29 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.F. 24.7. H.Q.C.C. FAME.)

O.N.171. Oiling at Sea.

Your 0917/9/3/43 for C.T.U. 24.1.15 in HURRICANE escorting 0.N.171.
(A) Seven escorts fuelled. (B) ROCHINGHAM failed first attempt weather too rough, second attempt oilers hose was frozen up, third attempt successful. (C) Nil. (D) Oiler to have increased supply of cordage for messengers and more rub-

ber floats. If only one or two oilers with convoy, extra hands be provided in winter months to speed up operation, at present, oilers crew is worn out after oiling two ships. Twenty four hours service would have been welcome during this trip. Importance of pumping air into hose to make it float whilst being picked up requires impressing on Masters. (F.O.N.F. 2024Z/29 to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.T.F. 24. Admty for D.T.D.)

A.T.40. (QUEEN ELIZABETH) My 1425/28. A.T.40 sailed one hour early. (C.O.A.C., 2045Z/29 to Admty, Connav.)

U/B.

Submarine reported heard south of Dominica from 0900 to 1200 local time to-day Monday. Further details have been requested. (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2055R/29 to Opnav, Com. Caribbean Sea, Admty, S.B.N.O. Port of Spain, N.I.D.(18)).

MAVIS
BARBARA.Canadian schooner MAVIS BARBARA sailed Miami 16th
is overdue at St. Thomas.
(N.S.H.Q., 2102Z/29 to Admty. Connav.)

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29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

All times Z.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Escort Vessels under R.C.N. Control. refitting programme.

In order that the refitting programme for escort vessels under R.C.N. Control may be forecast up to December, 51st 1945, it is requested that the following information may be signalled. (A) Is it intended that WAVENEY and LAGAN should continue to operate in Canadian Mid/Ocean Groups. (B) Is it intended to refit DIANTHUS, POLYANTHUS, PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM in U.K. or U.S.A.

(11) Reference 1A the first two R.C.N. Frigates are expected to have completed working up about Mid/July and could relieve WAVENEY and LAGAN if desired. (N.S.H.Q., 2121Z/29 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. B.A.M.R. Washington, B.A.D.)

Sub

Sub All times Z. Attack and Sighting Summary. Para.(A) British plane attacks Sub course 110 55° 21' N. 55° W. 1609/28 P.B.M. attacks sub on surface course 060 16° 52' N. 64° 50' W. 1948/28. Para.(B) SS. W.P. FRYE sights sub 55° 55' N. 34° 50' W. 1754/28. Para. (C) Brazilian Coast Defence Battery reports sub area 05° 55' S. 35° 08' W. 1300/29. O.B.2 N. plane sights conning tower course 090° 11' N. 62° 15' W. 1448/28. Navy plane sights sub 16° 49' N. 64° 56' W. 1320/28. Para. (D) P.E.55 attacks sound contact area 21°41N76° 24' W. p.m/29. U.S.S. STEVENS attacks sound contact 22° 35' N. 74° 35' W. 0405/29. Army plane attacks sub 30° 26' N. 81° W. 1745/28. U.S.S. TOEEN attacks sound contact 29° 55' N. 81° 02' W. 2205/28. (Cominch, 2132/29 to Admty)

Position of Corvettes in Convoy.

When proceeding through field ice and other conditions permit, consideration may well hereby be given to placing Corvettes directly in wake of Merchant Ships both columns, in order to avoid damage to Asdic Dome. This is on basis of recent experience of one escort group. (C.T.24, 2145Z/29 to All Mid/Ocean Escort Ships (A, B and C.) (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) F.O. N.F. N.S.H.Q.)

U/B attacks, Weekly Summary.

Your 1059B/22 July. March 19 U.S. Aircraft damaged with bombs Jap submarine of II-176 class Lae Harbour New Guinea. Submarine was unloading cargo. Only promising attack reported week ending 24002/28. cargo. (Cominch, 2148Z/29 to Admty.)

Passengers Your 1140/16 para. 12, Canadian Government will conform. Numbers. (N.S.H.Q., 2149Z/29 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., C.O.A.C. C.O.P.C, N.Z.M.B., A.C.N.B. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

OAKVILLE / ...

1169 29.3.1943. Monday.___

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

OAKVILLE.

Departure OAKVILLE for New York, estimated stay 10 days. (C. Halifax, 2229Z/29 to Admty.)

Washops 105.

Aleutians. At 0803W/26th Japanese force 2 heavy and 2 light Cruisers, 4 destroyers and 2 transports was

Cruisers, 4 destroyers and 2 transports was sighted by U.S. Surface forces 150° W. of Attu. Action was joined at 0900W and continued until 1220W when U.S. Force proceeded eastward, the enemy probably turning westward. One enemy heavy cruiser was hit by gunfire and probably by one torpedo. One light cruiser was probably damaged. Some damage to U.S. Ships was reported. On 27th air search in area made no contact and no new enemy shipping was sighted at Attu. (J.S.M.Washington 22312/29 to Admty. Air Min, C. in C. E.F. W.O. (R) N.S.H.Q., N.O. Wellington, N.B. Melbourne, F.L.O. Delhi, Concentric Colombo, Capt O/S Kilindini)

BAYNTUN, BAZELY. BAYNTUN and BAZELY are required to proceed to Chesapeake on completion working up to embark special stores urgently required in U.K. They will be sailed thence direct to U.K. all necessary orders being given by COMINCH. Bermuda C.C.O. pass to BAYNTUN and BAZELEY. (B.A.D. 2309Z/29 to S.B.N.O. W. At. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. BAYNTUN, BAZELY.) Reply: Admty. 1916A/30.

A.S.V. Aircraft. / J.S.M. 845. Recommendations of Combined Planners for modification of B.24 aircraft for antisubmarine employment (J.S.M.2329Z/29 to War Cabinet Offices). See Lion Copy. See also Rafdel, 0034Z/30 to Air Ministry)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Brisbane BUNDABERG. Townsville 27th ARUNTA. Port Moresby 26th WAGGA. Darwin 27th LATROBE. Fremantle 28th QUIBERON. Melbourne 27th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, MANOORA. Departure Milne Bay 28th GLENELG for Oro Bay 26th PIRIE for Cairns. Port Moresby 27th KAPUNDA for Milne Bay BALLARAT for Cairns. Brisbane 26th BUNDABERG for Sydney (N.S.W.). Cairns

26 / ...

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MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

2329z/29th March IN Date 30.3.43. Recd.0537z

From J.S.M. Washington.

10.15

....

Cypher.

Addressed War Cabinet Offices, London. Provision of A3.V. among IMPORTANT IZ. 1195. J.S.M. 843. 29th March, 1943.

At today's special meeting on V.L.R. aircraft for anti-submarine duty the Combined Chiefs of Staff -

1. Accepted following recommendations of the Combined Staff Planners Report:-

- (1) That furing the month of April and May, 1943, first priority in equipment and labor at all A.S.V. modification centers be given to all modification of B-24 airplanes for anti-submarine employment, that every effort be made to provide sufficient airplanes to utilize their maximum capacity and to maintain a uniform flow to the modification centers, and that priority in the allocation of centimeter A.S.V. equipment be given to V.L.R. anti-submarine aircraft.
 - (11) That the entire output of V.L.R. A.S.V. B-24's from the modification centers during April and May, 1943, be allocated to antisubmarine operations.
 - (111) That adjustment of priorities for delivery of aircraft be directed as regards the following:-
 - (a) U.S.A.A.F. replacement aircraft scheduled for the less critical theatres.
 - (b) U.S.N. aircraft scheduled for the Pacific.
 - (c) R.A.F. aircraft scheduled for the Middle East and India.

Allocations should be adjusted subsequently, if necessary to insure equitable contribution.

- (iv) That the greatest practicable number of existing V.L.R. A.S.V. equipped aircraft, including Coronados, now assigned to other duties, be diverted to anti-submarine operations in the Atlantic,
 - (v) That if either the U.S.A.A.F., the U.S. Navy or the R.A.F. is unable to match anti-submarine trained crews to any V.L.R. aircraft assigned to it, reassignment to the R.C.A.F. be made in order to get the aircraft into action without delay.

/(vi)

(vi) That V.L.R. A.S.V. anti-submarine crew training be given special priority to keep it in phase with accelerated provision of aircraft.

-2-

Instructed the Combined Staff Planners 2. to make a weekly report of progress to the Combined Chiefs of Staff regarding putting these recommendations into effect together with any pertinent suggestions. (It is hoped that these weekly reports will enable us "to keep the heat on" this vitally important matter and effectively co-ordinate arrangements).

Took note that plans were being made to 3. provide 255 V.L.R. aircraft for anti-submarine duty intthe Atlantic as follows: -

U.S. Navy	•		•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	••	00	
U.S. A.F	•	Q	•		•	•	•	9	•	•			75	
R F.												.10		
R.C.A.F.	•		•		•	•	•	•		•		1	15	

(initial allocation to R.C. ... F. to be provided by R. A. F. attrition to be provided by U.S. A. A.F.)

A firm date could no? be given at this stage by which these aircraft could be made available but every effort would be made to produce them as soon as possible.

4. Took note of a British request that the fifteen V.L.R. aircraft being provided to the R.C.A.F. by the R.A.F. should be replaced from U.S. resources as soon as practicable.

23292/29.

Received from War Cabinet Offices p.m. 30th March.

> War Cabinet Office circulation. Brig. Jacob Foreign Secretary First Sea Lord Admiralty C.6 Tels. War Office. A.M.C.S.(C)

st Lord lst S.L.(2) D.F.S.L. 5th S.L. D.C.N.A.E. V.C.N.S.

 A.C.N.S.(F).(2) D.C.

 A.C.N.S.(W) D.D.I.C.

 A.C.N.S.(H) D.of P

 A.C.N.S.(A) Hd. of P

 A.C.N.S.(A) Hd. of P

 A.C.N.S.(D) Hd. of P

 A.C.N.S.(D) Hd. of P

N.A. Mails P.A.S.(S) D.O.D.(F)(2) D.O.D.(H)(2) D.N.I.(4) D. of P.(2) D.D.I.C.(2) D. of P.(9) Hd. of M.(2)

C.C.O.

W.D. Admiral Blake D.A.W.T. D.N. A. O. C.C.L.S. Hd. of Air D.A/S.W.

MEK.

1170

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

26th BROOME for Milne Bay. Melbourne 27th D.S. TJERK HIDDES for Fremantle. Fremantle 28th U.S. seaplane Tender WILL B. PRESTON for Exmouth Gulf.

(A.C.N.B. 0418Z/29 to Admty.) Arrivals Wellington U.S.S. FIYALHAUJ 1838Z/28 U.S.S. ITAGANAK 0548Z/29.

(D.N.I.Wellington 0601Z/29 to D.N.I. Admty.)

Arrival Melbourne 27th U.S. N.T. HENRY T. ALLEN. (A.C.N.B. 0841Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival Fremantle 28th ADELAIDE. Townsville 28th Departures Thursday Island 27th ECHUCA for WARRAMUNGA. Port Moresby INVERELL for Darwin. Townsville 28th WARREGO. for Milne Bay. Fremantle 28th QUIBERON for Melbourne. (A.C.N.B.1128Z/29 to Admty.)

Arrival 27th Townsville U.S. Transport BONTEKOE. port SWARTENHONDT. 29th U.S. Transport CREMER. 28th U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT. Hired Transport DUNTROON.

Arrival Cairns 28th and departure 29th due Townsville 29th. R.F.A. BISHOPDALE Townsville 28th due Brisbane 30th. KURUMBA departed Thursday Is. 28th due Darwin 31st U. S. Transport BOSPHORUS departed Port Moresby 28th due Townsville 31st. (A.C.N.B. 1201Z/29 to Admty.) Arrival Norfolk Island 1912Z/28 HT WAHINE, U.S.S. SKYLARK.

Departure 0815Z/29 E.T.A. Noumea 2000Z/30. (D.N.I. Wellington 2040Z/29 to Admty.)

LE TRIOMPHANT. Following is a repetition of 9821 F.S. LE TRIOM-PHANT 0205Z/28th (Begins:- On mission 2200Z/25th. Melbourne 2330Z/27th (Ends.) (A.C.N.B. 0717Z/29 to F.N.F.L. London (R) High Commissioner Pacific Tahiti)

Digest Serial No.432 March 28th. Night patrol Catalina dropped light bombs vicinity Cape Gloucester runway where activity noted during early hours. Proceeded to bomb and strafe Finschhafen Strip and Waterfront. (2) Forenoon search Fortress sighted three groups shipping Northwest of Kavieno. First consisted single cargo vessel off West Coast Mussau Island

course N.W. Second comprised 1 destroyer, 1 probable destroyer, 1 tanker, 2 probable medium merchant vessels same course, 50 miles further west. Third included 1 large merchantman, 1 destroyer, 1 gunboat 60 miles West of New Hanover course Southerly. (4) At noon Fortress bombed buildings on Island off Madang and later successfully strafed Second comprised 1 destroyer, 1 probable 2 laden barges beached 20 miles North of Finschhafen. (5) R/C Wewak morning saw 500 ton heavily laden cargo vessel off Wokeo Island (50 miles Northeast Wewak) course 225° also 2 small merchantmen anchored off Wewak. Ground observer reported 1

vessel/ ...

1171

29.3.1943. Monday.

War Diary.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest Serial

vessel departed North after noon. Afternoon R/C. saw 1 vessel stationary off Kairiru Island No.432 March 28th (Contd.) March 28th Badly holed set on fire and subsequently beached. No.432 March 28th (Contd.) March 28th (Contd.) March 28th S4 barges in harbour. (8) At midday 28th 25 enemy medium bombers and 10 to 15 dive bombers with strong fighter support bombed shipping and waterfront Oro Bay. Dutch Freighter BANTAM While unloading hit by 3 bombs from Divebomber. Badly holed set on fire and subsequently beached. U.S.

Auxiliary MASAYA also hit by Divebombers and sank within 1 hour Auxiliary MASATA also hit by Divebombers and sank within 1 hot 5 miles offshore. New wharf hit and severly damaged. 5 or 6 known casualties plus some wounded. Half hour warning of raid and 16 Lightnings 15 Kittyhawks intercepted raiders destroyed 11 Zeros and 2 Divebombers certain, plus probably 8 fighters 4 Divebombers. Our losses 1 Kittyhawk only. (11) Mid morning 2 Hudsons bombed and strafed Dobo Harbour Area. (Q.H.Q. S.W. P.A.0800Z/29)

Solops 11.

4

(B.A.D. 1655Z/29 to Admty etc.) See America and West Indies)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. D.D.I.C. 1400A/29, 1401A/29)

··· 1172

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.V. REGENSBURG scuttled.

1. Early this morning GLASGOW on patrol "White" intercepted the blockade runner M.V. REGENSBURG bound from Rangoon to Germany, who scuttled herself and sank in 66.41 N. 25.31 W. (Denmark Straits) at 0625Z, GLASGOW picked up one officer and 5 other survivors. It is thought there are probably other blockade runners to come. Aircraft reports today were negative.

5th Escort Group.

2. OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE sailed from Londonderry 2034 today: after exercises they will sail from the Clyde with ARCHER to R/V with Convoy O.N.176 in 205° Skerryvore 23 miles at 1700A/ lst April.

3. The sailing of convoy K.M.S.12 is delayed 24 hours on account of the weather.

Blockade runners in Biscay area. 4. At 0945 an enemy merchant vessel was reported by an aircraft of 19 Group in 45.20 N. 10.05 W. (about 120 miles West of Cape Ortegal) steering 310°.

At 1220 the same unescorted merchant ship, believed by the Admiralty to be HIMALAYA, was reported in 44.25 N. 11.04 W. steering 225° at 12 knots. 44.25 N. 11.04 W. steering 225 At 1910 an aircraft sighted a vessel steering 220° at 10 knots in 44.10 N. 11.25 W. and attacked at 2025 without success. This vessel the Admiralty believe may have been PORTLAND. At 1040 an aircraft of 58 Squadron reported 4 destroyers steering 250° in 44.10 N. 13.00 W. (200 miles West of Cape Ortegal). Later signals reported the force to be 2 destroyers and 3 torpedo boats escorting a merchant ship. This may have been OSORNO, and she was last reported at 1123 in 44.08 N. 13.05 W. steering 250° at probable speed of 16 knots. ORKAN and MATCHLESS and CHARYBDIS and MILNE were ordered to proceed to the area for convoy protection and to destroy blockade runners if met. S/MS UPROAR, SOKOL and HERRING were already on patrol and were instructed to intercept the ship sighted at 1220, which F.O.S. believed to be identical with that reported at 1040. Air search was adversely affected by the weather. Convoy M.K.F.ll was diverted and VANITY, VERITY and VENOMOUS were sailed from Gibraltar at 2100 today as extra escorts; none of the three were, however, an efficient escort as no extra ground could be covered owing to shortage of fuel; consequently at 1959/1 VANOC asked C. in C. W.A. to send extra escorts, but this the latter was unable to do. The Admiralty also asked F.O.I.C. Gibraltar to establish aircraft patrol between the enemy destroyers and the convoy.

/5...

1173

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

was sunk.

Home Commands. - Contd.

5. At 1950 G.M.T. a ship made a distress signal in 43.59 N. 12.18 W. stating that she had been ordered to stop by a warship and had abandoned ship. F.O.S. informed the submarines on patrol, stating that it was uncertain whether the signal was genuine. On 31st March SOKOL was ordered to investigate. (There is no further information in W.D.)

Renewed atttack on S.L. 126, 5th ship torpedoed.

H.X.230.

7. The convoy was shadowed all last night by U-boats, in spite of sweeps.

6. Convoy S.L. 126 was attacked again at 0455Z in 47.26 N. 15.53 W. and EMPIRE BOWMAN

8. R/C of Altenfiord by the Russians failed again today.

South Atlantic.

9. C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. jointly send today a message giving a precis of their combined report on the U-boat campaign in South African waters together with recommendations

10. F.O.C. West Africa estimates some damage to a U-boat attacked by a Hudson aircraft at 1847Z today in 19.40 N. 17.29 W.

Mediterranean.

11. It is reported that two Spanish destroyers (later report states that Spanish gunboat EDUARDO DATO accompanied them) left Cartagena yesterday and destroyers left Port Soller, for Cape San Antonio, to save the crew of a damaged German ship or submarine. TACTICIAN on patrol was warned. This presumably refers to the U-boat

/damaged....

1

1174

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

damaged yesterday and it was subsequently reported that some survivors were picked up by a Spanish fishing boat who landed them at Altea.

Reorganisation of escorts.

12. A message from C. in C. Med., today gives details of the re-organisation of escorts which is to take effect consequent on the replacement of the Canadian corvettes in "Torch" area by Hunts and trawlers.

13. Photographic R/C of Naples today shows that a fully laden 7,500 ton merchant ship has been completely destroyed by an explosion which has devastated a large area of dockside and the neighbouring built up area.

U/B attack on E.T.16. / 14. ANTELOPE, escorting convoy E.T.16, (703 G.) reported at 1910 that SS. FORT A LA CORNE and Not. tanker HALLANGER were torpedoed by a submarine in 36.55 N. ?Ol.49 E. (67 miles West of Algiers). Both ships sank later.

Sweep in Gulf of Hammamet. 15. PALADIN and QUEEN OLGA carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Hammamet last night. Nothing was sighted.

16. Convoy M.E. 21 sailed from Malta at 1927A, escorted by 5 destroyers.

Gabes.

17. A Naval party arrived at Gabes at dawn today Defences were reported installed by C. in C. Levant at 2113B/31.

Australia & New Zealand.

/ 18. A destroyer, one of 4 or 5, was hit in the stern by a Fortress off Finschhafen (New Guinea) today. The town and waterfront at Finschhafen were attacked by aircraft several times from dawn to afternoon today and damage was caused in the dock area.

1175

3 0.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

12th S/M Flotilla. Para. eight of my number 435/SM.04349 dated 25rd February. Regret owing to unavoidable delay in relieving C.O. BONAVENTURE to assume new appointment of VARBEL in command and as Capt. (S) 12, formation of 12th S.F. must be deferred. (F.O.S.1921A/30 to Admty.)

Movements.

S/M

Cancel my 1534A/29. Escort is delayed by Movements. Asdic Defect.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0005A/30) P.511 escorted by COMMANDANT DETROYAT left Campbeltown 2300A/29 for Tobermory via Sounds of

Islay and Mull. (C. in C. W.A. 0046A/30 to CHARYBDIS) My 1736/29. Para. (k). Amend to read "Lough Foyle 2000/30th due Rothesay 0800/31st March." (2) Cancel my 1829/29. Ship delayed. /29. Ship delayed. (F.O.S.0901A/30)

Have taken over escort UNA. Position Dunnet Head. E.T.A. Dundee 0630A/31. (LOCH MONTEITH, 0928A/30) S.3's 1603A/27, para. 2. ALECTO is sheltering in

ALECTO is sheltering in Thurso Bay.

(A.C.O.S., 1051/30 to F.O.S.) A.C.O.S.1555/29. On arrival at 25 buoy proceed to Blyth reporting your ex T.O.O.A. to Capt. (S) 6.

(Capt. S.9, 1110A/30 to LOCH MONTEITH, UNA) Proceed to Campbeltown for escort duty with P.57 on 1st April.

(Capt. S.3. 1111A/30 to ALECTO) Sailing TUNA, P.214, P.238 escorted by TADOUSSAC from Holyloch 1200A/1st to 150° Sanda Island 7 miles to meet P.57 at 1730A/lst, thence 4 submarines and escort to Pentland Firth. E.T.A. 0630A/3rd, thence P.57 to Scapa, remainder East of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1730/30 and 3rd April, speed 10 knots. (2) Thence TADOUSSAC to Scapa to escort USURPER to Clyde as ordered by A.C.O.S.

(Capt. S.3, 1113A/30)

Intend sailing SEVERN, BARB escorted by RHODODENDRON from Garroch Head at 1500A/1st West of Orkneys and Shetlands to 000°. Muckle Flugga 5 miles, E.T.A. 1100A/3. (2) Thence submarines as ordered by Capt. (S) 9. (Capt. S.3, 1147A/30) My 2301/29. These three submarines start moving at about 1430 to patrol in positions 070° 20 miles from positions

given.

(F.O.S., 1252A/30 to Admty.) My 1401A/28. Sailed. (WESTERN ISLES, 1601A/30)

My / ...

1176

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 1901/29. Sailing postponed owing to weather. E.T.D. 0830A/31. Arriving 2030A/31 speed 8 knots. (H.28 and H.44)

(Cdre, Londonderry, 1612A/30) Intend to sail ULTIMATUM escorted by PEARL at 1330/31 to Falmouth, thence at 0600/1 to R/V 000 Round Island 7 at 1400/1 with LA CAPRICIEUSE, thence to Holy Loch. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1733/30) In view of weather intend to retain COMMANDANT DETROYAT and P.511 at Campboltorm until 0700/31

and P.511 at Campbeltown until 0700/31.

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown until 0700/51.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1800A/30)
My 1704/30 para. (B). Cancel and substitute H.28 and
H.44 escorted by Z 5 leave Loch Foyle 0830/31. E.T.A.
Rothesay 2030/31. Add new para. (H) ULTIMATUM escorted by
PEARL leaves Plymouth 1330/31st for Falmouth. Leaves Falmouth
0600/1st for Holy Loch.
(F 0 S 21304/30)

(F.O.S.2134A/30)

Cancel my 1735A/30. ULTIMATUM delayed by effects. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2225A/30) My 1147A/50. Amend E.T.A's para. (1) to 0500A/5 April. para. (2) to 1900A/4 April. Amend speed to 14 knots. (Capt. S.3, 2249A/30 to A.I.G.219)

COURBET.

(1) C. in C. Portsmouth's 1648A/29.

COURBET. (1) C. In C. Portsmouth's To40A/29. Intend to sail M.M's 78, 42 and DROBAK as requisite to R/V with MATCH in 197° Portland Bill. 3½ miles at 0001/31. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1057A/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth Your 1648/29. LL Trawlers COURTIER (S.O), SIR GIRAINT, and SOUTHERN CHIEF will meet tow in 51.16.00 N. 04.30.00 W.
Should this position be reached during hours of darkness travlers will meet at daylight following morning

Should this position be reached during hours of darkness trawlers will meet at daylight following morning. (F.O.I.C.MILford Haven, 1137A/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth) C. in C. Portsmouth, 1648/29. Intend to sail three (LL) sweepers DANIEL CLOWDEN, SASEBO S.O. and M.M.S.76 as necessary to R/V "Match" at D one buoy. Three Oropesa Sweepers BILSDEAN, LOCH PARK, RADNOR CASTLE S.O. leave St. Ives 0530/lst sweeping convoy route to position 'A' thence proceeding to anchor Lundy Island. Falmouth (LL) sweepers after dark to act as additional escort to "Match" to position 'A' thence R/V Falmouth (O)sweeper at anchor off Lundy Island. On R/V being made Falmouth (O) and (LL) sweepers proceed in company to Falmouth. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1442A/30) My 1648A/29. Sailed 1910. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1942A/30)

(C. in C. Portsmouth 1942A/30)

North Atlantic Dispositions. 2 Destroyers.

Dispositions of effective units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (c) HOWE, GLASGOW, BELFAST,

Area Scapa KING GEORGE V, CUMBERLAND, DUKE OF YORK, JAMAICA, ANSON, KENT, BERMUDA, SCYLLA, BERWICK, 4 Destroyers.

Area / ...

1177

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

1

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

North Atlantic

Area Clyde, ARGUS, INDOMITABLE, FURIOUS, CARDIFF. Area Londonderry 12 Destroyers. Dispositions. Area Plymouth, NEWFOUNDLAND, CHARYBDIS, 3 Dest-(Contd.) royers. Area Gibraltar, NELSON, CARLISLE, RODNEY, PENE-LOPE, MALAYA, SIRIUS, FORMIDABLE, ADVENTURE, AURORA, 6 Destroyers. (D.O.D.(H). 1259A/30 and 1105Z/31 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

CUMBERLAND.

Proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 0930A/31st to COMBERLAND. Proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 0950A/51st to Hvalfiord routed through position.
(A) 064° 50' N. 006° 15' W. (B) 067° 52' N. Ol4° 54' W. thence south of Admiralty Message
Q.Z.X. 794 to Hvalfiord, S.O.A. 17 knots. (2) If possible
locate ice edge between position (B) and longitude 021° W.
(3) Estimate ice edge runs between position 68.34 15.03,
68,17, 14.01, 67.47 2039, 66.48 25.32, all north andwest.
(4) Orders for intentional breaking W/T silence follow to certain addressees only. (C. in C. H.F. 1801A/30 to CUMBERLAND)

Landing Craft

My 2006/19. Route for flights of landing craft to Gibraltar as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth My 2006/19. to Gibraltar as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth
Route to: K.500l N. 1329 W. L.4900 1402, M. 4230
to 1359, N. 3640 1002, thence as ordered by
Gibraltar. C. in C. Mediterranean. (2) Landing craft
which straggle and are unable to rejoin North of 48° N. are to return to Plymouth. Stragglers
after crossing 48° N. are to proceed through
positions S.4228 N. 1400 W, and T.3642 N, 0958 W, to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(H), 1935A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth)

METEOR, MILNE.

Admiralty's 1246/28 and C. in C. W.A. 1941/28. Cancel My 0950/26. Request you will now retain METEOR and sail MILNE for Scapa as convenient. (R.A.D. 2315A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operations.

Hvalfjord departures C.S.10 in BELFAST with Search INTREPID at 2236. for Enemy (A.C.I.C. 0009A/30) Your 1637/29. (1) Hudson aircraft will carry Main Unit. REGENSBURG out cross-over patrols either side of a line drawn from 065° 53' N. 024° 35' W. 325° to ice edge from 0810 until 1240 and 1445 to 2215. (German 8068 tons) sunk. (2) Aircraft carrying out A/S sweeps south of Iceland have been instructed to investigate all Merchant Ships encountered. (A.C.I.C.0047A/30 to C. in C. H.F.)

4 Hudson / ...

- -

1178

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

4 Hudson aircraft will be carrying out an A/S sweep to the south of Iceland and have been Search for Enemy Main Unit instructed to investigate all Merchant Ships REGENSBURG sighted. (German (A.C.I.C. 0102A/30 to BERMUDA) Your 2246A/29. Reply no. 8068 tons) (CHARYBDIS, 0224A/30 to C. in C. H.F.) Your 2246A/29. M/V GROENLAND (independent) should have been near this position at 1153/29. sunk. (Contd.) (D.D.I.C. 0225A/30 to C. in C. H.F.) Have intercepted Blockade Runner in 66.57 N. 25. 32 W. who is scuttling herself. (GLASGOW, 0635A/30 to C.S.10) My 0635Z/30. Ship which was motor vessel REGENSBURG bound from Rangoon to Germany sank in 066° 41' N. 025° 31' W. at 0625Z. (2) Have one officer and five other survivors. (GLASGOW, 0901A/30 to C.S.10) GLASGOW 0635/30. Was vessel heard to transmit and if so on what frequency. (C. in C. H.F. 1030A/30 to A.C.I.C.) Estimated positions at 1959 tonight. BELFAST, GLASGOW, INTREPID, ECHO patrol "White". BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN, BRECON, patrol "Black". (A.C.I.C., 1523A/30 to Ships) Scapa arrival PENN. (A.C.O.S., 1538A/30) Your 0635/30. Well done. (2) There are probably others. (C. in C. H.F., 1815A/30 to GLASGOW) My 0047/30. All aircraft report negative. (A.C.I.C., 2326A/30 to C. in C. H.F.) Biscay Area. Search for Enemy M/V's. M/V's. P.C.S. of 1 merchant vessel POS 510°, 12 knots (sic) P.C.S. of 4 destroyers 44° 10' N. 15° 00' W, 250°, 12 knots. (A/C. 58 Sqdn, 1040/30 to 19 Group) Position of enemy is 44° 08' N. 15° 05' W. (A/C. 58 Sqdn. 1125/30 to 19 Group) Position 0946 45° 20' N. 10° 05' W. (A/C., 1130/30 to 19 Group) Aircraft report P.C.S. of 4 Destroyers at 1040, 044° 10', 013° 01', 250° 12 knots. Aircraft are carrying out HOMING procedure. Remain at present patrol position. procedure. Remain at present patrol position. (F.O.S. 1142A/30 to S/M's) P.C.S. of 1 enemy merchant vessel 44.25 N. 11.04 W, course 225° speed 12. Believed TANNENFELS 8000. 225° speed 12. Believed TANNENFELS 8000. (A/C. 224 Sqdn. 1220/30 to 19 Group) Following is a repetition my 1226/30. Aircraft report, P.C.S. of one merchant ship 045° 20', 010° 05', 250° 11 knots at 0945. (F.O.S. 1228A/30 to S/M's) 5 ? Destroyers merchant vessel, 3 in front merchantvessel,

2 behind.

(A/C. 58 Sqdn, 1235A/30 to 19 Group) My 1228. To ensure interception in daylight shift patrol position 20 miles in direction 070°.

(F.O.S., 1239A/30 to S/M's)

1179

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Area. Search for Enemy M/V's. (Contd.)

Cancel my 1555/29 and 2331/29. ORKAN (S.O) and MATCHLESS are to R/V in position (D) 000° Round Island 10 at 2100A today and proceed to pass North of AM Q.Z.S. 259 to position (E) OLL °OI' N. 016° 59' W, S.O.A. 20 knots if weather permits. (2) Object. To intercept

(Contd.) if weather permits. (2) Object. To intercept enemy destroyers operating against convoy. Blockade-runners to be sunk if met. (3) Inform-ation. 0.S.45 passing 050° N. Kirkness 2300/30 southbound 6 knots. M.K.F. 11 in 040° 30' N. 016° 15' W. at 0800 today, northbound, 14 knots. UPROAR, HERRING and SOKOL on patrol within 40 miles of 044° 42' N. 012° 24' W. 2 destroyers and 5 T.B's escorting one merchant ship in 044° 08' N. 013° 05' W, course 250°, probably 16 knots at 1123/30. One merchant ship in 044° 25' N. 011° 04' W, course 225° to 250°, speed at 1220/30 unknown. (C. in C. Plymouth 1307/30) My 0945. No warships in company.

My 0945. No warships in company. (A/C. 5 Q.U.F, 1320/30 to 19 Group)

(A/C. 5 Q.U.F, 1520/50 to 19 Group) Following is repetition of my 1522/50 begins. A/C. report at 1220 P.C.S. one merchant ship 044 25', 011 04', 225° 12 knots. Believed TANNENFELS. This probably different ship to that reported in my 1228 ends. (F.O.S. 1555A/50 to S/M's) Cancel my 1259/50. Endeavour to intercept ship reported in my 1535/50 which is now considered same yessel as that in

in my 1333/30 which is now considered same vessel as that in my 1228/30.

(F.O.S. 1348A/30 to S/M's) My 1220. 44° 13' N. 11° 17'W.200° 12 kts, no escort. (A/C. Z3 V.P, 1350/30 to 19 Group)

CHARYBDIS arrived.

CHARYBDIS arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1637A/30 to A.C.O.S.)
CHARYBDIS and MILNE are to leave Milford Haven as soon as ready as ordered by N.O.I.C. Milford Haven and proceed by
Q.Z.1 18 to position (E) O44° O1' N. O16° 59' W. S.O.A. 20
knots weather permitting. (2) Object: information and
communication as in my 1307A/30 with the following amendment:3 M.K.F.11 now diverted S.E.
(C in C Plymouth 1749A/30 to CHARYBDIS, NILNE)

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1749A/30 to CHARYBDIS, MILNE) My 1307A/30 para. 3. Photographs indicate escort probably consists of two NARVIK-Class destroyers and three

T-Class torpedo boats. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1835A/30 to CHARYBDIS, MILNE, MATCH-LESS, ORKAN)

ORKAN sailed at 1530/30 in accordance with my 1307/30. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1843A/30) Enemy merchant vessel P.C.S. 44° 10' N. 11° 25' W,

220° 10 knots.

(A/C. 119 Sqdn. Duty D, 1910/30 to 19 Group)
If nothing has been sighted by dark submarines proceed as
follows HERRING 044° 33', 010° 55'. SOKOL 044° 16', 011° 17'
UPROAR 044° 45', 011° 25'. (11) Submarines are not to be
attacked unless definitely identified as hostile. (111) It is possible enemy destroyers may be encountered return eastward. (F.O.S. 1936A/30 to S/M's)

S.O.S. / ...

-1-0 1180

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Area. Search for Enemy M/V's. (Contd.)

S.O.S. DE (? MANCHESTER COMMERCE). At 43.59 N. 12.18 ordered to stop by warship at 19.50 G.M.T. We left the ship. Bearing from Burnham on Sea We left the ship. Bearing from Burnham on Sea Radio, 229 1/2 Class 5. R.A.F. informed. (Burnham Radio, No. T.O.O./30. Recd.1954/30) Aircraft report P.C.S. of one merchant Vessel at 1910, 44° 10', 11° 25', 220° 10 knots. (F.O.S. 1959A/30 to S/M's) Enemy merchant vessel course 200°, speed 10

knots. Attack unsuccessful. (A/C. 119 Sqdn. Duty D, 2025/30 to 19 Group) Your 1749A/30. Sailed CHARYBDIS and MILNE. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 2231A/30 to C. in C. Plymouth) Following is paraphrase of my 2259/30. begins: My
2232/30. A ship made an S.O.S. at 1950 G.M.T. from 043° 59',
012° 18', stating she had been ordered to stop by Warship. It is uncertain whether this signal is genuine. Ends.

(F.O.S., 2301A/30 to S/M's) Air search 31st by Liberators, Halifax's and Wellingtons between 043° 20' and 045° 20' commences on longitude 007° W, thence westwards.

(F.O.S. 2359A/30 to S/M's)

Coastal Patrols. (1) Intend M.L.235 (S.0) and R.M.L.521 to patrol tonight on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leave Portland at 1945 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/31st. (3) Object anti E-boat patrol. Code word "Device" (F.O.I.C. Portland, 1130A/30) (1) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail following force and give it latest intelligence. (2) S.G.B.6. M.G.B.616. 608

(1) N.O.I.C. Newhaven is requested to sail following force and give it latest intelligence. (2) S.G.B.6, M.G.B.616, 608
M.T.B. 85, 242. (3) Object destruction of enemy shipping.
(4) Execution sail from Newhaven to be E.A.5 buoy at 2000/30.
Thence through passage three to sweep enemy traffic route between Cap Barfleur and Fecamp, returning by passage two to
Newhaven, being within 20 miles of own coast by daylight.
(5) Code word "Advent".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1325A/30)
My 1130A/30. "Device" sailed 1957A/30.
(F. 0.I.C. Portland. 2000A/30)

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 2000A/30)

Exercises.

L.C.T. Towing Trials.

Intend to sail Tug MARAUDER for rough weather towing trials with L.C.T.582 at 1630/31 escorted by M.L's 195 and 155. (2) Trials will be carried out in area radius 3 miles from 115°, Start Point 4 miles. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1711/30)

Allied Air Activity.

R/C Altenfiord again attempted but failed owing R/C of to engine trouble. Altenfiord. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1140A/30 to Admty.)

Western / ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. (Contd.)

Western Channel.

1411/8 from 2100/30th till dawn/31st. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1347A/30 to Escorts W.P.316, P.W.316.) WESTERN CROSSOVER withdrawn. My 1347. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2005A/30) My 1347. EASTERN C ROSSOVER withdrawn also. (C. in C. Plymouth, 2257A/30) My 1347.

Swordfish aircraft will fly patrols as in my

(2) On day 29th A/C. with fighter escort, attacked the Wilton Shipyard at Rotterdam from 13,000 ft. Bomber Command Bombs were seen to fall in the Yards among build-ings which seen to disintegrate, and among Operations. shipping in the dock. (H.Q.B.C., 1635A/30)

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy Air Patrol.

U.S. Aircraft C.54 reports. At 0425 G.M.T./30, 1 Aircraft carrying Orange light came and inspected it. At 0510 G.M.T. at approx. 47° 52' N. 15° 02' W. three aircraft carrying searchlights came and circled it and shone their searchlights and departed. (T.A.C. Prestwick, 1022A/30)

Convoy M.K.F.11. One shadowing A/C 120° 6 miles from HARPER. P.C.S. 41° 16' N. 16° 20' W, 180° 14 knots. (CYGNET, 1508A/30)

Mining.

Request you will carry out operation "Tincture" Operation to complete by p.m. 31st March. (D.M.S.1625A/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven) "Tincture".

Your 1109A/25 para. 3, negative results. Search of Para. 4, top has fallen off (53 Buoy) (M/S.9, 1833A/30 to C. in C. Nore) Q.Z.S.151 and 117.

U-Boats.

Continuing W/T activity on A.M. 1856A/29. **U-Boats** Series 1 indicates several U-Boats still in contact. reported. (D.D.I.C. 0946A/30 to Escorts S.L.126) A.M.1500A/29. Continuing W/T activity on Series 8 from your vicinity indicates probability that shadowing continues. (D.D.I.C., 1023A/30 to Escorts H.X.230) D/F bearings at 1407Z indicate U-Boat still in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 1610A/30 to Escorts S.L.126)

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

- Unknown Ship. Following from Lands End Radio Begins: Important intercept 0454 G.M.T. S.S.S. DE 22 torpedoed. (C.C.O. Plymouth, 0554/30 to Admty.)
- BURZA. Your 2205/29. Return Greenock. (C. in C. W.A. 0902Z/30 to BURZA)
- ROLF JARL. Drifting in Eis Fjord, broken rudder. (ROLF JARL, 1439/30)

WAVENEY. Request you sail WAVENEY to arrive Belfast a.m. April 1st for docking. (C. in C. W.A. 1445A/30 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

H.45. Extensive damage has been sustained by starboard engine of H.45 through overspeeding after a main motor fuse had blown during battery charging. (2) Following are major items of defect.

(6) Request starboard engine repairs and periodical refit of H.43 to be taken in hand at an early date. In the meantime it is intended to employ H.43 locally, using her port engine only. (F.0.S.1829A/30 to Admty.)

LA NANTAISE. P.W.316. LA NANTAISE arrived with broken propeller. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 1958A/30)

JAMAICA. Duration of stay of JAMAICA at Barrow in Furness is to be limited to time necessary to change guns. (C. in C. H.F. 2207A/30 to JAMAICA)

1 .. 1183 30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

My 2317Z/29. One of these ships, VICEROY, has S.L. 126. crew on board.

UMARIA, EMPIRE BOWMAN. sunk.

(PELICAN 0049Z/30 to Admty.) My 2102Z/29, UMARIA torpedoed at 2145Z is making 8 knots and is 11 miles astern of convoy escorted by WEAR till dawn. At 0215Z one of ships

My position 047° 28' N. 015° 51' W. (PELICAN 0430Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.) S.L. 126 attacked, position 047° 26' N. 015° 53' W. course

036°, speed 8 knots.

(PELICAN 0455Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.) Intercept. A.V.102 to A.V.D. 1. Forward deck awash, three boats away. Ends.

(Valentia Radio 0649/30 to Admty.)

Your 0945A/30. PELICAN 45,, River Class Corvettes 30, SENNEN 23%. Estimate situation satisfactory at present but may become critical if further attacks develop.

(PELICAN 0941A/30 to C. in C.W.A.) My 2330Z/29. For EMPIRE GERIAM read UMARIA. (three corrupt groups) when last seen now thought to be sinking, WEAR searching.

Survivors as follows EMPIRE WHALE 9, OCEAN VICEROY 11, the remainder stayed on board. NAGARA afloat when last seen, crew on board.

My 2317Z/29 and 0430Z/30 refers. Attack at 0455Z EMPIRE BOWMAN sunk, 41 survivors. My position 048° 05' N. 015° 00' W. (PELICAN 1030Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.) Sail DEXTEROUS escorted by ACANTHUS to 046° 44' N. 016°

38' W. where the following ships were afloat after being torpedoed at about 2200/29. OCEAN VICEROY crew on board possible under way, (?NAGARA) crew on board, UMARIA probably sinking, H.M.S. WEAR searching for UMARIA. On arrival sail EMINENT and SOUTHER SPRAY to assist DEXTEROUS. (C: in C.W.A. 1539A/30 to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

ACANTHUS arrived.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1545A/30.)

Sailed ACANTHUS escorting DEXTEROUS via Q.Z.L. 18 to assist damaged Merchant Ship or ships last reported 46° 44' N. 16° 38' W. speed 10 knots. Intend additional sailing of Tug EMINENT escorted by A/S Trawler SOUTHER: SPRAY when ready March 31st.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1757/30.)

Your 1539A/30. UMARIA sunk all crew rescued. WEAR has rejoined.

(PELICAN 18352/30.)

My 1835/30. All crew of NAGARA rescued by WEAR. Ship last seen 23,0/29 but not expected to last long. EMPIRE BOWMAN last seen 1300/30th sinking, secret papers still on board.

(PELICAN 2020Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

FOLKESTONE and TOTLAND proceed to assist MAGARA and OCEAN VICEROY torpedoed in 46.44 N. 16.38 W. at 2300/29 but still afloat with crew on board. Ships may be able to steam. Tug DEXTEROUS escorted by ACANTHUS sailed from Milford Haven at 1730/30. ADHERENT and SOUTHERN SPRAY will follow. Air will co-operate tomorrow weather permitting.

(C. in C.W.A. 2109Z/3 to FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND)

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L. 126. My 1539A/30. NAGARA sinking, UMARIA sunk. **A11** UMARIA, EMPIRE BOWMAN, sunk. (Contd.) crews rescued. (C. in C.W.A. 2233A/30 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, ACANTHUS.) NACARA sinking, UMARIA sunk, all crews rescued. If OCEAN VICEROY is not located in 46.44 N. 16.38 W. sweep to North Eastward. (C. in C.W.A. 2343A/30 to FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND.)

0.N.S.2.

Have sailed ST. LAURENT to Iceland independently. ST. CROIX delayed by compass failure. (Comtask 24.7 0150Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.) Sailed H.M.C.S. ST. CROIX and ST. LAURENT. (Cdre. Londonderry 0610A/30.)

VILLE DE QUEBEC sailed to overtake O.N.S.2 latest My 2350Z/29. Q.J.A. 193. BURWELL delayed until at least p.m. 1st by engineering defects. KEHOGAMI returning with leaking after compartments.

(C.T.G. 24.7 1815Z/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

H.X. 230. WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE torpedoed. Following from Resolution Island begins: 2146 G.M.T. SSSS WILLIAM P.FRYE 56° 57' N. 24° 15' W. course 94° 12, torpedoed 2140. No bearing possible. Ends. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 0325/30.) P.C.and S. at 0800Z 056° 26' N. 021° 25' W. 090°

9.5. WHITEHALL's ?2148/29. W.P.FRYE torpedoed when straggling. Do not intend detaching ships to search unless situation improves. U-Boats shadowing all last night in Spitstall of sweeps.

JOHN H.EATON rejoined. Weather 4772 9067. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15 0846A/30 to A.I.G. 303.) Reference SS SS broadcast on B.N. at 2309/29th from unknown ship in 056° 57' N. 024° 15' W. is anything known of this ship. (C. in C.W.A. 1051A/30 to Escorts H.X. 230.)

	Name. Pe Oi		Depth charge remaining.
	OFFA (?40)	80
	ORIBI	33	80
	IMPULSIVE	37	68
	ONSLAUGHT	43	70
	OBEDIENT	33	62
	ORWELL	35	75
		fuelling at sea.	10
Hatch to stewar	d flat and b	each flat in IMPULSIV s should be repaired	
proceed on nex	t duty.		
17 0 0 00001 /00	1 (1) (1)		

(E.G.3 0800A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

/Depth ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

Depth charges in Escorts. Your 1725/29. U.S.Naval Authorities do not intend to carry spare depth charges for their own escorts. Fast U.S.Flag tankers ex C.U.l should therefore not be fitted with improvised stowage.

(D.T.D. 1031A/30 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.) Fitting of tankers for carriage of spare depth-charges and for duty as escort oilers.

2. It is requested that an officer on your staff may be specially detailed to supervise all matters in connection with the above, and that his name may be reported by signal. He should make contact forthwith by telephone with Admiralty Extension 370.

3. Former correspondence on this subject which is of vital importance is being forwarded by courier. (D.T.D. 1032A/30 to F.O.I.C.Tyne.)

OXFORDSHIRE.	Intend to sail Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 1400A/	
	31st March to Gibraltar. Route.	
	(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1039A/30.)	

Escorts for Escort Your 1807A/5, 2357A/20 and 1848A/13. Carriers. Your the loan of destroyers from H.F. will satisfy your requirements for the present, it must be realized that no permanent allocation of destroyers for this purpose is practicable. You must be prepared therefore to provide screens from your own resources or to include these ships in your

support groups. (1st S.L. 1255A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

K.M.S.12.

.12. My 0954A and my 0956A/28. Sailing delayed 24 hours. (N.O.IC. Greenock 1534A/30.) Owing to weather sailing of convoy is delayed 24 hours. (C. in C.W.A. 1545A/30.)

U.R.70 R.U.70. Your 1526/25. Concur. 2. Propose U.R. 70 sails 7th April and R.U.70 on 14th April, then 8 day cycle. 3. Ships in R.U.convoys for O.N.S. convoys should be routed to Oban. (D.T.D. 1535A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

0.N. 176 C. in C.W.A. 1502A/27 and 1147A/28. Intend sailing ARCHER escorted by OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE passing Clyde boom 0730A/1st to R/V with O.N. 176 in 205° Skerryvore 23 miles at 1700A/1st. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1606A/30 to C. in C.W.A.) Sailed my 1817A/29. (OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE.) (Cdre. Londonderry 2034/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMAIDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

T.A. 38A.

Alter course forthwith for new position F. 51.30 N. 21.00 W., new G. 47.28 N. 23.32 W. thence to C. (D.O.D.H. 1716A/30 to PASTEUR.)

D.F.4. SS. LEINSTER allocated for convoy D.F. 4 leaving Clyde 6th April. (D.O.D.H. 1912A/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

T.A.40.

Convoy T.A.40 consisting of SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to leave Clyde for New York p.m. 6th April.

2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship independently by route which will be signalled by Admiralty. 3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection. (D.O.D.H. 1914A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

Ships for S.America. Until further orders ships for the East Coast of South America which would normally sail in O.S.46 are to be sailed in O.N.S. or O.N.convoys. 2. Exceptions to the above are HARMONIC, HARPERLY, and TUDOR STAR. (D.T.D. 1953A/30 to C. in C.W.A.)

T.A.39. A.T.39. Convoy T.A. 39 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND will be ready to leave Liverpool 5th April. 2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool is requested to sail ship independently for New York. 3. Admiralty will promulgate route.

4. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection. (D.O.D.H. 1957A/30 to C. in C.W.A.) Convoy A.T.39 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is due

Convoy A.T.39 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is due Liverpool 31/3 with the following personnel on board. Total 4,327. 3. Vessel should be ready to sail again as convoy T.A. 39 p.m. 5/4. Approximately 2500 personnel will embark p.m. 4/4 and a.m. 5/4. (D.S.T. 2310A/30.)

A.T.40 (QUEEN ELIZABETH) T.A.40. Convoy A.T.40 is due Clyde 3/4. 2. Total of approximately 10,900 personnel will disembark 4/4. 3. Approximately 2,500 personnel will embark at the Tail of the Bank on p.m. 5/4 and 6/4. 4. Convoy T.A.40 should be ready to sail p.m. 6/4. (D.S.T. 2206A/30.)

S.C.123. E.G.3. If at daylight 31st March convoy is no longer threatened proceed at best speed to Londonderry. Commodore Londonderry is requested to sail ORWELL and OBEDIENT to Scapa as soon as refuelling is completed.

(C. in C.W.A. 2320A/30 to E.G.3.)

30**.3.1943.** Tuesd**ay.**

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.123. E.G.3 (Contd.) My 2320/30. Anticipate ORWELL and OBEDIENT will leave Londonderry p.m. 1st April for Scapa. Request PATHFINDER and PENN may be sailed to arrive Londonderry p.m. 1st April or as soon as possible after. These ships will form 3rd Escort Group on arrival. (C. in C.W.A. 2333A/30 to R.A.D.)

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Spanish MANUCHO loaded with ore for Germany may be TACTICIAN. sailing from Sagunto near Valencia bound for information. Garonte in Gulf of Lyons. (2) My 2221/28th. Enemy S/M severly damaged by aircraft* last seen on the surface steering

32° 6 knots. (F.O. Gib. 0007A/30 to P. 314 (TACTICIAN). See also 0954/30. 1112A/30. *W.D. Note: 38° 06' N. 00° 26' E. at 1700/28.

Convoy R.S.3.

W/T activity on Series 3, Lines 1 and 2, continues from vicinity of convoy. (D.D.I.C. 0055A/30 to Escorts of R.S.3, THYME, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C. . W.A., Commorseafron.)

Am over U-Boat in 36.55 N. 00.30 E. U-Boat. (A/C C 80/P via Gib. W/T 0100/30 to H.Q.R.A.F. Gib.) Have lost touch with enemy S/M. Was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.

(A/C C 80/P via Gib. W/T. 0142/30 to R.A.F. H.Q. Gib.)

My 1031/27 sailed. D.Ds. BROOME (Senior) SIMPSON. Convoy (C.M.S.F.F. 0830/30 to F.O.C. Gib., (R) C. in C. C.G.22. Med., Aluslo, Gib., Admty.

From Casablanca departed U.S.S. BRIND with SS. ANDES, U.S.S. SIMPSON and BROOME with C.G. - 22.

(C.M.S.F.F. 2028B/30 to Admty. (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Med.)

TACTICIAN, 2 Spanish destroyers left Cartagena March 29th for information, Cape San Antonio to save crew of damaged German Damaged German ship or S/M. BACHI was expected to sail from Valencia 2300/29th with Iron ore, fruit pulp Unit. bound (?Marseilles). (F.O.I.C. Gib. 0954/30 to P. 314 (TACTICIAN)).

Patrol area given by F.O.C. Gib. 1716/26th is extended French coast.

(Capt. S.8. 1112A/30 to P. 314 (TACTICIAN) (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib.)

SOKOL, UPROAR.

O.R.P. SOKOL and H.M. Sub. UPROAR have been placed on patrol temporarily to operate against ships mentioned in A.M. 2250/29th. (M/Vs. and destroyers sighted by aircraft.) (F.O. (S) 1001A/30 to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2002A/30th. H.M. Hospital Ship AMARAPOORA 36.52 10.52 through 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar $11\frac{3}{4}$. (2) F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE, French A.M.C. 28.40 11.30 Northbound coastwise $13\frac{1}{2}$. (3) 0.T.3, C.T.G. 61.1, 29.48 21.59 039 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. (4) S.R.3, CADMUS, 31.42 10.30 through 33.23 09.06

1129 30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.) (2216) L.C.1 (L) 170, 30.05 18.28 through 31.30 16.20 thence 61° 10. (6) R.S.3 X, KUMAON, 31.42 11.16 229° 7. (7) M.K.S.11 WREN, 043° 28' 015° 58' 003° 14. (See amendment, 1942A/30.) (8) M.K.S. 10, BROADWAY, 39 (?35) 14.30 through 39.58.15 (?10) thence 002° 7. (9) MATTOLE Convoy, C.T.U. 62.1, 034° 01' 018° 12' 270° 10.

(V.A. Gib. 1053A/30 as amended 1542A/30.) My 1053/30th. Amend para. 7 to read (E) 40.05 16.16 through 40.01 16.15 and 37.40 13.30 thence 115° 14. Add new para. 10. VANOC, VERITY, VENOMOUS sailing 2100/30th through 36.20 10.01 to M.K.F. 11 whence KRAKOWIAK, DOUGLAS, GOATHLAND, leave convoy for Gibraltar.

(N.O.I.C. Gib. 1942A/30 to Area K.B.)

My 1137/30th add new para (7). VANOC, VERITY, VENOMOUS, sailing 2100/30th through 36.20 10.01 then 295° to R/V M.K.F.11. On R/V being made KRAKOWIAK, DOUGLAS and GOATHLAND leave convoy for Gibraltar.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 1946A/30 to Area K.A.) Situation (?19) 58 A. 30th.

3. C.G. 22, 35.10 06.42 through 35.50 06.33 thence to Gibraltar 10. 5. M/L 173 MARIE LOUISE MACKAY working cable vicinity 35.56 05.48 moved into territorial waters during dark hours. 6. Portuguese Gunboat LAGOS and 2 submarines exercising 30th-31st Gezimbra area.

(F.O.C.N.A. 1137A/30.)

TAMAROA, survivors. TAMAROA sailed G.U.S.5 embarked R.C.N.V.R. 6 ratings survivors ex WEYBURN, U.S. Navy 6 ratings U.S. Merchant Navy 8, all survivors ex CITY OF FLINT, will require ambulance on arrival. (S.T.O.I.C. Gib. 1208A/30 to B.A.D. (R) C.O. A.C. B.M.W.T. New York, D. of S.T.)

M.K.F.11.

Convoy M.K.F.ll is to reverse its course and proceed by reverse of present route. (D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1239A/30 to Escorts of M.K.F.11 (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A.

H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Plymouth.) A.M. 1239/30. Request you will sail 3 destroyers to reinforce escort of M.K.F.ll. 2. If convoy route is again reversed to continue passage to U.K. destroyers detailed are to relieve KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND and DOUGLAS who are to proceed to Gibraltar for fuel.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1314A/30 to F.O.I.C. Gib.

(R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. Med.) Can aircraft patrol be established between enemy destroyers

and M.K.F.ll.

(D.O.D. (H) Approved A.C.N.S. (H) 1825A/30 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C. Escorts of M.K.F.ll.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.U.F.11. (Contd.)

Destroyers and NASTURTIUM will require to refuel at Gibraltar unless course homeward bound is resumed before 2359/30th. In which case they would have to proceed Plymouth after position M. Sloops have seven days endurance with convoy speed

14 knots. My P.C. and S. at 2101A/30th 39.42 N. 16.21 W.132° 14 knots. My P.C. and S. 14 knots. Weather report. (S.O. 2nd Escort Group 1831A/30 to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.

C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, Escorts M.K.F.ll.)

VANOC, VERITY, VENOMOUS sailed at 2100/30th to reinforce escorts M.K.F.ll. Estimate they will R/V in 37.15 12.32 at 1800/31st. (2) VANOC is to report if not met by 2200/31st. (3) If convoy route is again reversed DOUGLAS, KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, HERO, NASTURTIUM are to proceed to Gibraltar for fuel.

VANOC, VERITY, VENOMOUS will continue with convoy to U.K. (F.O. Gib. 2245A/30 2248A/30 to VANOC, VERITY, VENOMOUS, Admty, Escorts of Convoy M.K.F.ll (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, Escorts of Convoy M.K.S.ll.) A.M. 1314/30. When destroyers from Gibraltar join, M.K.F.ll is to reverse course and proceed to U.K. by previous route. 2. KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND and DOUGLAS are to remain with convoy for as endurance permits, subject to refuelling at Gibraltar as long as endurance permits, subject to refuelling at Gibraltar. After parting company, P.C. and S. of convoy is to be reported.

(D.O.D. (H) 2250A/30 to Escorts of M.K.F.11 (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib., CHARYBDIS, MILNE, MATCHLESS, ORKAN.) * Approved A.C.N.S. (H).

Convoy C.G.21 arrived (four ships). (F.O.C. Gib. 1310A/30 to S.N.O.C.A. (R) C. in C. C.G.21. Med. Admty.)

Convoy T.E.20.

T.E.20. Intend sailing (lists) for Algiers: Oran, Philippeville, Bone, Mers-el-Kebir. (F.O.C. Gib. 1444A/30 to C. in C. Med.)

NASTURTIUM. Your 0917Z/28th. NASTURTIUM 850 hours ALGOMA 140 hours. (F.O. Gib. 1455A/30 to C. in C.W. Approaches (R) C.T.G. 24.7 etc.) ALGOMA.

0.3.45.

Your 1730A/29. (request permission to sail to ioin O.S. 45 nine ships for loading ore.) Concur. (D.T.D. 1510A/30 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. W.A. S.N.O.C.A.)

G.U.S.5.A. D/F bearings on 13565 kc/s at 1334Z/30 indicate U-Boat. U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1720A/30 to Escorts of G.U.S. 5A (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. S.N.O.C.A. Cominch, F.O.C. W.Af.)

/Air ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air Report.

A. 1289/30th March. Op. summ. No. 149 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 30th March. (G) Sightings and attacks. 1 Wellington P/179 on A/S Patrol east at 0100/30 in 36.55 N. 00.30 E. sighted U-Boat visually after S.E. contact, U-Boat submerged too quick to attack.

(Gib. 2100Z/30 to Air Min.)

Arrivals U.S. Ships CHICADEE P.C. 480 with C.G.21 BICESTER, QUANTOCK from escort duties East. Departures M.Ls 443, 341 escorting one M/V to Melilla and back. ASHANTI escorting PRINSES BEATRIX to Algiers. Movements, Gibraltar. (F.O. Gib. 2155A/30 to Admty. etc.)

Catalina patrol.

Your 1825A/30th. 1 Cataline will be on patrol by dawn. (F.O.C. Gib. 2213A/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.C. Escorts of Convoy M.K.F. No.ll.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy R.S. 3. BRIDGEWATER with R.S.3 reported -1. 1150Z/28th March, LAGOSIAN torpedoed and sunk in 25° 35' N. 15° 43' W. 39 survivors aboard EMPIRE DENNIS.

aboard EMPIRE DENNIS. 2. 1344Z/28th March, SILVER BEACH torpedoed or mined in 25.20 N. 15.55 W. Great possibility of mines. Depth of water 120 fathoms.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, O3OOZ/30 to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

BURDOCK and THYME now in company. BURDOCK reported holed. ALLIGATOR at 1530/29th, en route Freetown independent at 10 knots. My 1103/29th. It appears possible A/C may have mistaken this craft for EMPIRE ACE. BURDOCK did not sight EMPIRE ACE after torpedoing of MOANDA and considers there were no survivors from MOANDA.

(BRIDGEWATER, 1421Z/30 to S.O.I.S., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Comar Dakar.)

Following is repetition of ORFASY's 0715Z/30th (begins): N.O.I.C.W.A.F., (R) BRIDGEWATER from ORFASY. EMPIRE ACE not met. Am proceeding Port Etienne. T.O.O. 0715Z/30th. (Ends).

(N.O.I.C. W.Africa, 1414Z/30 to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., BRIDGEWATER, ORFASY.)

S.A.A.F. Sqdn., Takoradi. Your 0354A/26 March. A.O.C. West Africa informs me that Royal South African Air Force Squadron is to be stationed at Takoradi. Request transport may be arranged direct to Takoradi. (F.O.C.W.A., 0343/30 to D.S.T., (R) S.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. S.A., D.S.T.O.W.A.) Reply: D.S.T. 020204 April.

"S" Report.

From unidentified ship, torpedoed 2305Z/29 in 04.08 N. 17.33 W. (Cominch, 0516/30 to Admty.) See America and West Indies.

Banana, proposed flying boat base. Your 1015/27th March. Points raised are appreciated but from R.A.F. viewpoint (? Pointe Noire) is unsuitable as flying boat base as alighting area is too small. This makes it necessary to go out into the swell for a take-off and in anything but an off shore wind this would be unsafe. Even inside sheltered

area, swell would prevent flying with (? a) wind between North and N.W. Furthermore, night flying would be inadvisable. It is realised that facilities are lacking at Banana at present, but when depot ship arrives, this will be remedied and arrangements are in hand to construct fiord shore base. (F.O.C.W.A., O604Z/30 to B.N.L.O.W.Af., (R) N.C.S.O.Freetown, A.O.C.W.Af., Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

/Your ...

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Banana proposed flying boat base. (Contd.) Your 0604/30th. British Overseas A/C maintained regular flying boat service at Pointe Noire for about one year without interruption or damage to aircraft. Pre-arranged night landing has been effected in perfect safety with minimum facilities, and swell conditions (? are) infinitely better than in Bey Bay. Further I cannot too strongly

stress disadvantage (B) and (C) of Banana given in my (? 1015)/ 27th.

(B.N.L.O.W.A., 1555Z/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

MAURETANIA.

MAURETANIA NK recommend diversion to pass through 23° N. 26° W. and rejoin route at D. (D.O.D(H), 0919A/30 to F.O.W.A.)

LADY DENISON PENDER, BRIDGEWATER. Vour 1739/26th (Subject: Docking for LADY DENISON PENDER - N.T. in W.D.) Reference to QUADRANT not understood. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 2234/23rd not received. (2) Arrival BRIDGEWATER at Dakar 8th April. Acknowledge.

(Comar Dakar, 1007Z/30 to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Capt. (D) 18, Admty.)

Convoy D. 70. My 1221/25th and my 1726/26th. Intend convoy D.70 to be sailed as follows -2. From Dakar 1800Z/31st CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE, THEOMITOR, INTENT, CONSBRO, PANORAMA for Casablanca.

 From Port Etienne to join, SURVILLE for Safi.
 Escort from Dakar to Casablanca French Sloop Minesweeper COMMANDANT DELAGE S.O., BIRDLIP from Port Etienne to Bojador.
 ASPIRANT, BRUN. Additional escort joining from Casablanca.
 Speed made good 6 knots throughout routed through following positions (list).
 Full air cover throughout.
 W/T communication.
 Publications held.
 No British Liaison personnel in French Escort

9. No British Liaison personnel in French Escort. (Comar Dakar, 1034Z/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O. C.N.A., Admty., C. in C. Med.)

QUEEN OF	NK. Alter course at 1400Z/30th March to proceed
BERMUDA.	through positions VV 004° 19' N. 013° 15' W., ZZ
	007° 28' N. 014° (? 59') W. to Freetown.
	(F.O.C.W.A., 1113Z/30 to QUEEN OF BERMUDA. (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/30th. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 035° 20' S. 018° (? 30') E. to Capetown 12 knots.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. (Contd.)

RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS 035° 00' S. 020° 25' E. to Simonstown and Capetown 20 knots.

(Contral)
FROBISHER, FOXHOUND, NAPIER, CATTERICK, ROTHERHAM with W.S.27 031° 00' S. 038° 15' E. to 20° S. 042° 15' E., 12.
(C. in C. S.A., 1120B/30 as amended 1657B/30 to A.I.G. 125.) BRIDGEWATER, BURDOCK, THYME escorting 17.53 18.20 188°, 9½.
Fr. M/S LA GRACIEUSE, INKPEN escorting 08.50 13.50 303°, 6. Two M.Ls escorting cable ship ALSACE between Bathurst and Dakar. Fr. (Cr.) GEORGES LEYGUES about 11.52 21.30 to Dakar, 20. UGANDA 08.33 13.42 to 08.32 14.35 thence 295.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1405Z/30.) Situation at 2050Z/30th.

KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, QUADRANT, REDOUBT with W.S. 28, 07.40 14.41 to 07.28 15.01 thence 134°, 122. CROCUS, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, 2 M.L with S.T.60, 03.20 09.40, 109°, 9. CILICIA on patrol about 03.50 23.10, 14. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 00.45 16.05 to 04.19 13.15 thence 329, 141. WASTWATER searching about 04.08 17.33. M.M.S.5, 6, 7, 8 about 05.05 16.29 to Freetown, 8½. H.M. Tug AIMWELL 07.46 14.20 to 04.08 17.33, 11. SARABANDE (Group omitted) 01.01 S. 05.30 E., 132, 52. M.L. 285 escorting off Takoradi to Sassandra to Freetown. 6 U.S. Naval Units on patrol in Ascension, St. Pauls Rocks Area. (R.A.W.A., 1530Z/30.)

KAJANG. RUMBA.

Your 1630Z/29th. Approved for KAJANG to tow RUMBA escorted by PORTSDOWN on arrival. (F.O.I.C.W.Af., 1144Z/30 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., R.N.O. Lagos.) LIDA substituted for KAJANG, see 1535Z/31.

Port Etienne Following convoy sailed from Port Etienne 0700Z/30th for Dakar escorted by M.L.1065 and - Dakar 1066. Convoy. (2) MARY KINGSLEY, BUFFLE, PERSISTANTLIE towing lighter.

(3). Speed 6 knots routed through A. 20.00 N.

17.22 W. B. 18.00 N. 16.18 W. thence keep between 10 and 15 miles of coast, E.T.A. 0700Z/2nd.

(Comar Dakar, 1157Z/30 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.) Your 1157Z/30. In view of U-Boats in Port Etienne area request ORFASY be sailed from Port Etienne to reinforce escort of southbound convoy escorted by M.L. 1065 and M.L. 1066.

Request expected time of sailing.

(F.O.C.W.A., 1740Z/30 to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty., ORFASY.)

OSTHAV (Norwegian)

Your 1537/29 OSTHAV arrived Simonstown 22nd March. N.C.S.O. Capetown's Vesca No.168, T.O.O. 0835/23 refers. (C. in C. S.A., 1216B/30 to Admty., (R) N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

/ U-Boat ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U-Boat Campaign in South African Waters.

/ Following is a precis of our combined report on U-Boat campaign in S.A. Waters together with recommendations forwarded in accordance with the instructions of the First Sea Lord in his 2005/14 March.

1. Comparison between (A) first and (B) second U-Boat campaigns as follows:

(i) of 53 ships lost in (A) 40 sunk in belt 30 to 300 mile off shore;

(ii) of 17 ships torpedoed in (B) and excluding attack on convoy D.N.21 only 2 ships lost in convoy or under escort and only two in area covered by aircraft. Volume of shipping clearing South African ports (B) slightly greater than (A). 2. In (A) defensive measures handicapped by (i) lack of warning (our 1229/30*) refers; (ii) only six E.F. destroyers and an average of five corvettes

available the majority of which arrived after the campaign started:

(iii) limited and untrained air cover; (iv) group sailings had to be limited to outgoing ships on the west coast.

3. In (B) defensive measures improved by (i) sufficient warning; (ii) increased surface and air escort;

(iii) institution of additional convoys;

(iv) improved control by N.C.S.Os.;

(v) more reliable W/T reception by independent ships of diversions ordered.

4. In spite of improvements effected we consider that luck has been on our side in (B) having regard to existing deficiencies in surface and air escorts referred to in our immediately following signal.

(C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F., 1227Z/30.) * Special personal distribution.

The following is in continuation of report on U-Boat campaign in S.A. Waters our 1227/30/3 refers.

(1) Apart from escort requirements for Monsters, Troopships and high speed ships which are unsuitable for inclusion in convoy and have to be met by destroyers provision has to made for the following convoys.

Route No	o. of c	onvoys	Total No. of ships
	per n	nonth	per month
Walvis Bay to Capetown	4		44
Capetown to Durban	4	L to the second	48
Capetown to Deepwater	e		20
dispersal point			~~~
Durban to Deepwater			44
dispersal eight (?point)		
Durban to Capetown	4	L.	36
Capetown to Walvis Bay	4	L	45
Durban to Lourenco Marques	4	L.	12
Lourenco Marques to Durban	4	-	12
Above require eight escort	groups	i .	

/(2) ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

U-Boat Campaign in South African Waters. (Contd.)

(2) With escorts at present available namely seven corvettes 21 trawlers and allowing for boiler cleaning and casualties average escorts that can be provided is limited to two or sometimes three per convoy. To bring escort groups up to strength of two corvettes plus three trawlers each the following additions are required namely 7 corvettes 21 trawlers.

Note. - All escorts should be fitted with most efficient surface warning set possible.

(3) For special ships other than above minimum of six destroyers required. Until these are permanently available requirement must be met from Eastern Fleet and/or West Africa. Any Japanese U-Boat activity on East African Coast would strain destroyer resources seriously.

(4) Air escorts. Catalinas provide for all night escort and long distance day escort which is beyond range of Venturas. Catalinas can only operate fully loaded from Saldanha Bay and St. Lucia (120 miles North of Durban). Amphibians work from Darling (30 miles North of Capetown) and

St. Albans (in vicinity of Port Elizabeth) and are used to bridge gap between Capetown and Durban to meet the foregoing requirements 24 operational aircraft are necessary of which not less than eight should be Amphibians. To avoid undue depletion of Catalina strength in Indian Ocean six additional Catalinas from U.K. are required to meet this requirement. Four Squadrons of shore based aircraft at present available. Additional two Squadrons required to meet requirements for shorter range day cover exclusive of O.T.U. Comments. Present practice of employing Venturas crews that are resting from Middle East not satisfactory. Venturas unsuitable owing to high speed moderate endurance and poor lookout facilities. Aerodromes at present weather proof and likely to become unserviceable in bad weather. (5) Summary of foregoing and other recommendations.
(A) Local escorts to be increased by nine Corvettes and three trawlers. Permanent allocation six destroyers very desirable. (B) Two Squadrons one from Eastern Fleet resources to be stationed permanently in South Africa. These Squadrons to include at least eight Amphibians. Until such time as provision can be made anadditional Squadron to be based permanently in South Africa one Squadron from Eastern Fleet to be available at short notice to proceed to South Atlantic when required. (C) Wellingtons to be substituted for Venturas latter being transferred in other theatres for employment as medium bombers or preferably kept in reserve in S.A. Number of shore based Squadrons to be increased from 4 to 6 but total of six not to include two training Squadrons.

(D) Aerodromes to be weather proofed.(E) Supply of American spares for Catalina engines and airframes to be given high priority.

(F) Air Ministry to be asked to approve detachment from A.H.Q. E.Africa to C. in C. South Atlantic of skeleton wing headquarters. (G) A Naval Officer with experience of convoy protection and A/S warfare to be lent to Union Authorities for Liaison duties with land based air Squadrons. South African Authorities in full agreement with (C) and (D) and are taking action to improve training and experience of crews.

(C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F., 1228Z/30.)

admerally reply to certain paragraphs, ou april 21, p. 779. / Convoy ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy W.S. 28. Sailing telegram. 1. W.S. 28. (2) 1130/30th March. (4) $12\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (5) Route. (6) KENYA, Senior Officer. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1230Z/30, 1338Z/30 to Admty.)

FANDANGO, ARGO. ARGO. ARGO. ARGO. ARGO. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1330Z/30 to Admty., (R) Comar Dakar.)

ARRAN. Arrival 1025/29th March. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1335Z/30 to Admty., (R) R.O. Monrovia.)

MAURETANIA. Figures in my 1513/29 (Passengers for U.K. in MAURETANIA) do not include survivors specified in my cypher 1505/29. Grand total on board 5579. (D.S.T.O.W.A., 1435Z/30 to D.S.T.)

Movements, Freetown. MONARCH. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1513/30 to F.O. Gibraltar.)

AMRA. Hospital Ship AMRA sailed 30th March for Aden. E.T.A. 9th April. Personnel embarked. (D.S.T.O. Durban, 1521B/30 to D.S.T.O. Aden.)

Movements, Recife. Series number 28. 1900/29th, FLORA MACDONALD U.S and ESSO CONCORD U.S. for Ascension 4th April escorted by U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer JOUETT. 0800Z/30th, HERMA Norwegian, escorted by BUTTERMERE with M.M/S 102, 103, 105, 106, 107 in company to Fernando de Noronha thence H.M.

Ships to Freetown. (Asst. S.O.(I) Recife, 1812Z/30 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Freetown, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

Dakar. Naval commitments, to be handled separately. (Admty., 1855A/30.) See America and West Indies.

S.R. 3, D. 70. BRIDGEWATER and BURDOCK with R.S.3 proceed direct Bathurst, THYME being detached to Dakar to reinforce escort of convoy D.70. Signal also repeated S.N.O. Casablanca. (F.O.C.W.A., 1931/30 to BRIDGEWATER, (R) BURDOCK, THYME, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

W.S. 29, K.M.F.13. Convoy W.S.29 consisting of 6 personnel and about 8 M.T. ships, is due to leave U.K. for India and Middle East via Cape on 15th April. One personnel ship is for West Africa only.

Convoy will be joined at Freetown by ALMANZORA D. of S.T's 2150/17th March refers. 2. K.M.F.13 consisting of 9 personnel ships for North Africa and one for Gibraltar, will leave U.K. in company with W.S.29.

3. There will be no K.M.F.12. 4. Further signal will be made about escorts.

(D.O.D.(F), 1940A/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. S.A., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements, Recife.

Departures 29th March, U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE, U.S. Destroyer DAVIS. Departures 30th U.S. Cruiser CINCINNATI, U.S. Destroyer WINSLOW. (R.O. Recife, 2022Z/30 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

S.L.127.

1. Intend sail convoy S.L.127 at 1245/31st March. Route AY 10.29 N. 17.23 W. AZ 14.00 N. 18.00 W. AB 20.02 N. 19.05 W., thence by route given in Admty. 1435/22nd March. Escorts ROCHESTER.

SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, HYDRANGEA, BALSAM, BUTSER. 2. MATANG will be detached for Bathurst at dusk 2nd April.

3. N.O.I.C. Bathurst sail INKPENN escorting TOVELIL to R/V in position X 14.29 N. 18.06 W. at 1400Z/3rd April. INKPEN returning to Bathurst.

4. Comar Dakar is requested sail FINISTERRE and MEDIE II to R/V in position X. From position X LAMBERT CADWALADER will be detached to proceed Dakar. 5. FORTOL will sail in convoy and will detached to return

Freetown as necessary escorted by BUTSER.

6. NORMAN is requested detach HYDRANGEA escorting FINISTERRE and MEDIE II to Casablanca, HYDRANGEA rejoining escort to U.K. after refuelling if practicable. 7. Escorts shift to N. Atlantic W/T organisation at 0001Z/8th

April.

(F.O.C.W.A., 2031Z/30 to Admty., etc.)

CHESHIRE, THAMES, ROODE ZEE, A.F.D.

CHESHIRE arrived 1230Z today 30th. Tug THAMES with one section of dock in tow entered port during the afternoon. Tug ROODE ZEE with other section expected to enter this evening. (N.A. Montevideo, 2101Z/30 to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.) See also 1830Z/31.

/UGANDA ...

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30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

UGANDA (for Biscay patrol). Sailed UGANDA for U.K. at 1830Z/30th March in accordance with A.M. 1021A/29th. Route -A. 008° 34' N. 014° 34' W. B. 017° 01' N. 033° 00' W. C. 030° 00' N. 033° 59' W. D. 041° 00' N. 029° 01' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymou h.

Estimated speed made good 18 knots. E.T.A. position (D) 0200Z/6th April. Fuel stocks remaining at position (D) about 600 tons (4 days steaming). UGANDA shift to (? North Atlantic) W/T organisation at 0001Z/4th April. (F.O.C.W.A., 2119Z/30 to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., C. in C. H.F., UGANDA.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. No arrival signal for EMPIRE MIGHT at Dakar or Freetown has been received. 2. Request early report of her whereabouts, condition of cargo and proposals for her onward passage or repairs. (D.O.D.(F), 2305A/30 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Comar Dakar.) Reply: 0302Z/31.

SAUCY.

Departure 29th U.S. Corvette SAUCY. (R.O. Para,?2325/30 to Admty., (R) B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

1200

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy M.T.Bs. Following has been read. Position of 3 enemy M.T.Bs. is 38.24 N. 12.33 E. (A/C FFO/P via Alexandria W/T OlOOA/30).

P.A. 30 Convoy P.A. 30 arrived plus AKBAR. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 0720Z/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant etc).

PALADIN, QUEEN OLGA. Arrival PALADIN and QUEEN OLGA from operations. (V.A. Malta, 0815/30 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 29th March WOLBOROUGH. Departure 29th March ABERDARE, BAGSHOT, FAREHAM, HARROW. M.L. 1032. Arrived and sailed 29th March Greek Destroyer PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0909B/30 to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

TACTICIAN Patrol area extended to French Coast. (Capt. S.8., 1112A/30, See North Atlantic.)

PAKENHAM, PETARD. PAKENHAM and PETARD leave Malta 1515 today 30th for sweep in Gulf Hammamet during night. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1114/30 to C. in C. Med., H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F., H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 201 Group (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant). Sailed PAKENHAM and PETARD on operations. (V.A. Malta, 1602A/30 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant)

TRIDENT Intend sailing TRIDENT 1830/31st for patrol in Gulf Genoa between 007° 40' E. and 010 00' E. North of 042° N. routed TJ 037° 52' (?4°) 20' at 0300/1st April, 042° 27' 007 40' at 0530. (Capt. S.8., 1116A/30 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 10, 8th Subs. Cdre. Algiers).

UNITED Capt. S.8s 1156/29 (P.44 (UNITED) to leave patrol and proceed Malta). Onward route through Q and R to arrive Malta searched channel at 0830A April 2nd. (Capt. S.10, 1122A/30 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) Submarines on patrol, Capt. S.8., Capt. S.1. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

Convoy M.C.6 Sailing telegram. (2) 1100Z/30. (3) E.T.A. Kilindini 1500Z/5 April (4) 112 knots. (5) (route)(6) CERES (10 and 12) ARUNDEL CASTLE, MALOJA, ORDUNA, CITY OF PARIS. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 1134Z/30, 1139Z/30 to Admty. C. in C. E.F., etc). /ALBA...

1201 1

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

ALBA JULIA, My 1641/29th March. Roumanian ALBA JULIA arrived 0830 G.M.T./30th. Hungarian SZEGED arrived from Bourgas 29th. SZEGED. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1143C/30 to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I.)

Enemy Units. Aircraft report 2 enemy medium size merchant ships, 4 destroyers, P.C. and S. 038° 27' N., 011° 26' E. 200° 5 knots at 0956. (V.A. Malta, 1144A/30 to S/Ms on patrol).

Departure 29th midnight BACHI Marseilles Iron BACHI Ore Fruit Pulp. (Spanish). (Valencia, T.H.I. 1215/30 to Gibraltar, (R) M.E.W. Admty).

L.S.T. Convoy. L.S.T. Convoy including EMPIRE DACE arrived. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 1321A/30 to A.I.G. 259 etc). EMPIRE DACE, BJORKHAUG, sailed in L.S.T. convoy. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 1856A/30 to V.A. Gib. Connav, Admty).

Convoy 0.T.3. 0.T.3. Destinations as follows: For Gibraltar, ESSO HARTFORD, COLORADO, ESSO BIZERTA, and CHERRY VALLEY. 2. For Casablanca, ESSO ROCHESTER, MONMOUTH. (C. in C. Med., 1415A/30 to C.T.G. 61.1 C.M.S.F.F)

Malta.

Situation report W/E 27th March 43. a. Enemy air. Two daylight alerts. Approx.
15 fighters both occasions probably recco.
2. Own activity. 40 Spitfire daylight offensive
sweeps Sicily. No decisive combats. 6 Spitfire bomber sorties

escorted by Spitfires. 2 attacked factory at Sampieri. By night 26 Mosquito intruder patrols Sicily and S. Italy. Man Many trains and railway installations shot up. Torpedo aircraft active every night. Few suitable targets. M/V 5000 (or 5500) hit another probably hit. Other torpedoes dropped, no results observed. Convoy M.W. 23 unloaded by 24 Mar. Total tonnage approx. 3.

19000. (Govr. Malta, 14302/30 to W.O).

Arrival 03012 MARGUERITE departure 11042 CERES. Movements, (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1431Z/30 to Admty. etc). Aden.

6 Merchant Ships, 3 destroyers, 2 E-boats, at 1420A P.C. and S. 039° 40' 012° 22' 220° 10 Enemy Units. knots at 1310. (Capt. (S) 8, 1541A/30 to 8th S/M Flotilla (R) Capt. (S) 10).

1202

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. My 1541, enemy last observed in 039° 33' 012° 00' (contd). steering 142° at 1610. (Capt. S.8., 1623/30 to 8th S.F.)

P.212 (SAHIB). You may have been sighted near Cape Milazzo last night or at noon today. (Capt. S.8., 1550A/30 to P.212).

- Movements, Port Sudan. March 30th. Arrivals EL NIL (EG) Departures TALMA for Massawa. (S.S.T.O. Port Sudan, 1631Z/30 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)
- E.T.16 Amendments to list in his 1515/27 and my 1121/29. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1641Z/30 to C. in C. Med).
- M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 95, 77, 61, 84, returned. (V.A. Malta, 1646A/30 to Admty. etc).
- P.R.U. March 30th visuals 1520 Naples no major naval units. Taranto Messina obscured by cloud. (V.A. Malta, 1700A/30 to C. in C. Med., etc).
- PALADIN, QUEEN OLGA. Sailed PALADIN G.S. QUEEN OLGA for Benghazi. (V.A. Malta, 1721A/30 to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Benghazi).
- PARTHIAN You may have been sighted at 1515 this afternoon. (Capt. S.l., 1851B/30 to PARTHIAN).

E.T. 16, FORT A LA CORNE, HALLANGER, sunk. BORT A LA CORNE and HALLANGER torpedoed by Submarine in 36.55 N. ?01.39 E. (ANTELOPE, 1910A/30 to C. in C. Med). FORT A LA CORNE afloat, back broken, unsalvable. HALLANGER afloat. ALBACORE and LADY HOGARTH standing by. ALBACORE report situation direct C. in C. Med., Fleet.(ANTELOPE, 1945A/30). 3 M.L.s numbers unknown joining you from North West for A/S Search. (ANTELOPE, 2001A/30 to ALBACORE, (R) C. in C. Med).

My 1945 ALBACORE and Group 53 standing by. (ANTELOPE, 2020A/30 to C. in C. Med). Wrecks have sunk. Am rejoining with KING SOL in company. (ALBACORE, 2058A/30 to C. in C. Med., (R) ANTELOPE)

TRIBUNE

You were probably reported in position 211° focal point A 63 miles at 1340 today. (Capt. S.8., 1924A/30 to TRIBUNE).

1203

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.E.21. Sailed convoy M.E. 21 escorted by JERVIS. JAVELIN KELVIN, NUBIAN, ISIS. (V.A. Malta, 1927A/30 to Admty. etc).

Arrivals CARLISLE, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EGGESFORD, Movements. TANGO, TYNEDALE, STORNOWAY, KINTYRE, QUANNET. French Escorts CHASSEUR 3, LA SERVANNAISE, GOELAND M.L.s 494, 258, 468. M.T.Bs. 656. Motor Gunboats, 642, 647. Algiers. Departures LAMERTON, TYNEDALE, STORNOWAY. (Cdre. Algiers, 2002S/30 to Admty, etc).

/A.I.562 30th March. C.S.R. Part 1 offensive. Night 29th/30th March. Low Malta Air Report. cloud and poor visibility curtailed all offensive operations. No shipping target was found. Day 30th March. 12 Spitfires on offensive sweep over southern Sicily found no enemy aircraft.

Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Nil. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 2005Z/30).

U/B

A S/M was sighted 10 miles S. S. W. of Ustica at 1810. (Capt. S.8., 2020A/30 to 8th S.F.)

Arrival. ADVENTURE (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 2021A/30 to Admty. etc).

Arrived M.T.Bs. 63, 64. Sailed AMBER. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2134B/30 to Admty). Movements, Benghazi.

Movements, Arrival BEAUFORT F.S. COMMANDANT DOMINE, POOLE, M.L.C. 105, Departure BRIGAND, SKUD 5, L.C.T.129. Arrived and departed M.L. 459 DULVERTON, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, PINDOS, MIAOULES. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 2214A/30 to Admty). Libya.

Boom Defence / C. in C. Levant's letter 206/00105/3/5 dated Craft. 21.1.43 and message 2015B/14 and your 1146A/16. Acute shortage of boom craft throughout Mediterranean and Levant is appreciated, but this shortage is world wide and even after a recent review of defensive commitments it has not been found possible

to make any large redistribution. 2. Trawler JAN DE WAELE and possibly one Bar Class vessel are being transferred to Levant from Eastern Fleet shortly and BARFOIL is in Western Mediterranean awaiting through passage. 3. In addition BARHILL is leaving U.K. early April, BARBERRY mid April, and BAROVA, BARCOCK and BARNDALE after refitting within 10 weeks, all for you allocation.

1204

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

4. Few of boom vessels employed in U.K. ports are suitable for passage overseas. Every endeavour is being made to provide reinforcements Boom Defence Craft. (contd). commensurate with defence requirements. (D.B.D. Approved by A.C.N.S. (F), 2253A/30 to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements, Tobruk.

Arrived ABERDARE, BAGSHOT, FAREHAM, HARROW, RAGLAN CASTLE, M.T.B. 267 and 313. Sailed SOUTHERN ISLES, M.L. 349 and 351. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2314B/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant,)

Escorts, / Following re-organisation of escorts is to take effect consequent on replacement of Canadian Organisation. Corvettes by Hunts and trawlers. (A) Normally based on Gibraltar administered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.

2. 56th Division composed of HOLCOMBE, BROCKLESBY, 1. 13th D/F.

QUANTOCK, LIDDESDALE, ATHERSTONE. 3. Escort Group 36, PENTSTEMON, VETCH, CONVOLVULUS, 4. 29th Trawler Group TANGO, FOXTROT, PIROUETTE, GAVOTTE. (B) Normally based Algiers administered by Captain F.

Destroyer Division No. 57, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, WILTON.
 Destroyer Division No. 58 BICESTER, OAKLEY, ZETLAND.
 Destroyer Division 60, WHADDON, BADSWORTH, EGGESFORD,
 3rd Auxiliary A/S Group MAN O' WAR, KING SOL, STELLA CARINA,

REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA. (C) Destroyer Division 59, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE, TYNEDALE, HAYDON are attached to H Force.

(D) On arrival CLEVELAND, BRAMHAM, LAUDERDALE will join destroyer 57,58,60 respectively.

(E) Minesweeping Flotillas 12 and 13 administered by F.O.C. Gibraltar and Capt. (F) respectively are temporarily based Gibraltar and Algiers respectively.

(C. in C. Med., 2318A/30 as amended 0801A/31 to Med. Stn. 337 K 021214A April, 341 K and 031944A, April 347 K)

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.)

SECRET

MESSAGE: 1630Z/30 March In.

From Algiers

DATE. 31.3.43.

120UA

REC'D 1042Z

Colonial Office.

Junisia - Situation Report.

Addressed USFOR, Midoast, Britmilat Washington, Armindia Delhi, P A.I.C, Landforces Melbourne, Deschiefs Pretoria, Deschiefs Capetown, Force Nairobi, Defender Wellington, H.M.Ambassador(Pass to U S.Ambassador)Passed Madrid) by Ankara(for Marshal Chakmak))Foreign Office

Resident Minister Achimota)Passed by

LINREP No. 33.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 25 to 28 March 1943.

Cypher

EIGHTH ARMY.

1. On 25th March our forward troops occupied positions about 4 miles East of Mareth and good progress was made by the Indian Division which reached Ksar El Hallouf, 18 miles West South West of Medenine. The advance of this Division was continued on 26th and forward troops reached 10 miles West of Toujane. During the afternoon 26th March an attack was launched by New Zealand forces supported by tanks in the area South West of El Hamma. This was successful and during the following night our armored forces passed through the Gap that had been created by the infantry. The following morning our leading troops reached two miles South of El Hamma and mopping up of enemy positions continued in the hills to the Southwest. To meet this threat to his flank the enemy was compelled to withdraw from his positions on the Mareth Line. On the morning 28 March our forces advanced in this sector and by nightfall had occupied Arram and Mareth. Meanwhile our armoured forces had occupied El Hamma and New Zealand Forces towards Gabes.

TWO CORPS

1. Southeast of El Guettar the enemy continued his attacks without success on 25th March. Fighting continued in this area throughout the period and on 28th our forces passed to the attack. Stiff enemy resistance was encountered. Our progress was slow. Weather hampered operations.

120HB.

2. In the Maknassy sector fighting continued throughout the period to clear the enemy from high ground to the North and South of the Pass. Enemy attempts at infiltrating Northwards through the hills were repulsed. Further to the North on 27th March American Troops advanced and occupied Fondeuk and the hills to the South with only slight opposition.

2

FIRST ARMY

1. Active patrolling continued throughout the period in the French sector. French infantry supported by artillery reached the hills to the East of Ousseltia before being shelled by enemy artillery.

2. Some opposition was encountered ten miles Southcast of Kesra on the Maktar-Pichon road. In the North our forces launched an attack along the coastal road during the night 27/28 March. Progress was made in difficult country during 27/28, operations were greatly hampored by bad weather.

3. Many attacks were made by Western Desert Air Forces on enemy vehicles and tanks. Particularly successful operations were carried out on the afternoon 26th March when for a period of 32 hours bombers and fighter bombers continuously attacked enemy concentrations Southwest of El Hamma.

POLITICAL

1. Lemaigre du (?) Dubreil has resigned as Delegate General for Interallied Affairs.

2. Rene Mayer has been designated as Head of the Bureau of Communications.

3. General Catroux arrived on Friday. There are definite signs of progress in the negotiations although at once, General de Gaulle is not expected.

> 1630Z/30 Circulation by Air Ministry -

lst Lord lst S.L.(2) 4th S.L. 5th S.L. D.C.N.A.E. V.C.N.S. A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(A) A.C.N.S.(W) D.A.W.T. Upper War Room. 0 D.(5) C.C.L.S.

B 6

Brig. Jacob C.6.Telegrams, Fereign Secretary War Office. First Sea Lord A.M.C.S.(C) Mr.Radeliffe. Mr.Strang.

Ops (3) D. cf P.(3) M (2) I.P.(3) C.N.I. D.P.D. W.D. D.N.I (5) Admiral Bloke

D.D.O D.(M) A.L.O: Admiral Mack (4)

1205

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P.74.

Sailing telegram. Salling telegram.
(2) Ol30Z/30th. (3) E.T.A. position (F) R/V Karachi portion 0830Z/lst April.
(3A) E.T. crossing 062° 1230/2nd April.
(3B) E.T.A. West of Quoin Is. 0430Z/4th April. (4) 9 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 0142Z/30, 0144Z/30 to Admty.)

Following is a repetition of my 1326Z/28. (Received undecypherable in W.R.) (Begins.) Movements. Colombo arrivals 28 March OlOOZ SONAVATI O130Z Departures 1000Z JUMNA (Ends.) JUMNA. (Colombo C.C.O. 0205Z/30 to Admty.) Departures 0140Z ORISSA (R.I.N.) with B.P.74. Arrival 0430Z IPSWICH 0655Z ZERANG towing ROCKBREAKER, NAUTILUS. (S.C.I. Bombay 0659Z/30 to Admty.) Departure 1101Z/30th TAMWORTH. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 1102Z/30 to Admty.) Colombo arrivals 30th 0200Z TULIP 0230Z GAWLER. (F.O. Ceylon 1105Z/30 to Admty.) Left TOOWOOMBA.

(F.O. E. Africa 1256Z/30 to Admty.)

CALIFORNIA. Sailed from Bombay 29th CALIFORNIA due T. yours (?Capetown) 14th April. Passengers embarked. (P.S.T.O.I. 0505Z/30 to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D. of S.T.)

Cancel M.E.I.R.I. amendment number 9 section 2A M.E.I.R.I. para 3A. My 1439/25th (1429/25th intended.) 2020 (C. in C. E.F. 0754Z/30 to E.I. Station (C.203.)).

As proposal in para 2A. of my 1019 Feb.17th has been agreed to by A.H.Q. India vide their 1030/4th March para 2, authority has been given to F.O. Air Bases Ceylon. Ceylon to progress these works in anticipation of your ?covering approval. (C. in C.E.F. 0933/30 to Admty. (R) Air Ministry. 222 Group. R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, Commas.

Convoy B.M.47.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1030Z/30th March. (3) Expected time to pass Cochin 0030Z/2nd April (3A) E.T.A. Colombo 1130Z/3rd April. (4) 9¹/₂ knots. (5) (B) 014° 27' 073° 24' (C) 009° 32' 075° 33' (D) 007° 56' 077° 03' thence to Colombo. All ships ordered Colombo but hold routes to destination. (6) BENGAL. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 1041Z/30, 1043Z/30 to Admty.)

U-Boat Campaign. C. in C. S.A., and C. in C.E.F., 1227Z/30, 1228Z/30. See South Atlantic.

A.H.Q. India F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. Ceylon.)

1206

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

BENGALArrived 0750Z BENGAL with one ship and departureB. M. 47.1230Z with B.M. 47.
(S.O.I. Bombay 1242Z/30 to Admty.)

India Air Report. B. Offensive R/C. 29th March. 12 Hurricanes Mayu. 4 Mohawks Mongmit. 1 Wellington Arakan coast machine gunned and bombed coastal shipping. D. U.S.A.A.F. reports. Night 27/28 March. 5B. 24s mines Rangoon River. (A.H.Q. India 13102/30 to Air Min.)

B.P. 74, EL MADINA. B.P.74. A.M. EL MADINA sailed from Bombay 30th March for Basra. Requirements. E.T.A. Rooka a.m. 5th (?April). Ship required Karachi on completion of disembarkation. (P.S.T.O.I. 1812/30 to D.S.T.O.P.G. (R) D.S.T.)

1207

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Oiling At Sea, Stirrup rail trials in ABBEYDALE.

Demonstrations of stirrup rail method were carried out in ABBEYDALE and were attended by U.S. Representatives, B.A.D. and B.M.W.T. Opinion of U.S.N. is still as indicated in Para. 1. of my 0143/23. They are developing their own method and there appears to be no likelihood of their considering stirrup rail method further unless

the system they are evolving proves unsatisfactory in actual use. Their method provides for use of either Admiralty pattern buoyant hose or of 4" commercial hose.

2. Drawings and instructions for use of U.S. method are being revised to include latest modifications. Copy will be forwarded as soon as available. (B.A.D. 0127Z/30 to Admty.)

FENCER.

San Francisco departed for trials 1920/29 FENCER. (N.S.H.Q. 0410Z/30 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

Unidentified Unidentified ship using call GW4XN X torpedoed ship torpedoed 2305Z/29 04° 08' N. 17° 33' W. (Cominch 0516/30 to Admty.) W.D.Note: ?CELTIC STAR, see F.O.C.West Africa 2359Z/31.

U.S. S/M (Cominch 0615/30, 0616/30, 0835/30, 1522/30, notice. S/M 1523/30, 1607/30, 1608/30, 1609/30, 1918/30.) estimate 29/3.

- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				Course 101°	
F.S. GEORĜEŚ) LEYGUES)	08° N.	28°	w.	056°	19
MILFORD with)					
Floating Dock)	05° N.	51 ¹ / ₂ °	W.	118°	6
				085°	26
	17 L.C.I.(L)s. F.S. GEORGES) LEYGUES) CILICIA MILFORD with) Floating Dock) A.T.40	17 L.C.I.(L)s. $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.F.S. GEORGES)08° N.LEYGUES)08° N.CILICIA04° N.MILFORD with05° N.Floating Dock05° N.A.T.40 $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N.	17 L.C.I.(L)s. $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $62\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ F.S. GEORGES)08° N. 28°LEYGUES)08° N. 28°CILICIA04° N. 24°MILFORD with)05° N. $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ Floating Dock)05° N. $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ A.T.4042\frac{1}{2}^{\circ} N. $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$	17 L.C.I.(L)s. $31\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $62\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.F.S. GEORGES)08° N. 28° W.LEYGUES)08° N. 28° W.CILICIA04° N. 24° W.MILFORD with)05° N. $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.Floating Dock)05° N. $51\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.A.T.40 $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $53\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.	17 L.C.I.(L)s. $3l_2^{\frac{1}{2}}^\circ$ N. $62\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ W. 101° F.S. GEORGES)08° N. 28° W.056°LEYGUES)08° N. 24° W.PatrolCILICIA04° N. 24° W.PatrolMILFORD with)04° N.04° N.

BUTTERMERE, Minesweepers, HERMA. A signal from Commander 4th Fleet. BUTTERMERE and M.M.S. 107, 106, 105, 103, 102, departed Recife 0600P/13 escorting Norwegian HERMA as far as Fernando Noronha proceeding thence to Freetown through 04° N. 21° W. Engine speed 8.5 knots to Fernando Noronha thence 9 knots

to Freetown. E.T.A. Freetown April 7th. BUTTERMERE shifts W/T guard from N.S.S.F. to Group F.T. at 1800Z/3rd. (Cominch 1125/30 to B.A.D. Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. V.P. 83 Task Force.)

/T.A.G.51...

1208

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

T.A.G. 51,	1. Sailing telegram. 2. 1500Z/30 March.
G.N. 51.	4. 8.5 knots (A) Route. Escorts JAN VAN BRAKEL
	U.S.S. BADGER, CLARKIA, U.S.S. P.C. 1192, P.C.
	564, S.C. 522 7.
	(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 12010/30, 12030/30 to Admty.)

North Atlantic Area, Command. Frainard to R.Adm. Murray on 30th April. Preliminary arrangements should be made accordingly. Have not yet received concurrence of all concerned as to Air Command. Other recommendations of A.C.C.l will be treated in separate despatch. (Cominch 1257/30 to N.S.H.Q. Cinclant, (R) Admty. C.T.F.) Concur (V.C.N.S. 011987A/4.)

BERRY.

When ready about April 2nd sail BERRY Boston to Bermuda. Advise time of departure, route, S.O.A. (Cominch 1351/30 to C.E.S.F.)

FENCER.

When ready about April 2nd Cdr. Western S.F. sail FENCER to Balbao independently. Advise time of departure, route, S.O.A. Action addressees furnish protection as practicable. Cdr. Panama

Departure 30th U.S Army transport T.W. DRENNAN

S.F. route onward to Norfolk in trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other S.F.Commanders concerned. No operating planes on board. (Cominch 1352/30 to Cdr. Western S.F. Cdr. Panama S.F.)

Movements.

Barbados 30th. (B.R.L.O. St. Lucia 1417Q/30 to Admty.) Departure 29th U.S. Army Tanker Y.37, Puerto Barrios 31st. (R.O.Port Limon 1625/30 to Admty.)

Arrival 30th U.S. Army transport T.W. DRENNAN from St. Lucia. (Harbour Master Barbados 1700/30 to Admty.)

MONTANA. Arrival Halifax 19th March U.S.S. MONTANA from "Item U.S.1" lost (?route). (N.C.S.O. Halifax 301424Z to Admty.)

B.X.39. Arrived B.X. 39 less (Nor.) BERNHARD returned to Boston damaged. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1444Z/30 to Admty.)

/VERVAIN...

1209

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

VERVAIN, LETHBRIDGE, BARON BELHAVEN (broken down) LETHBRIDGE, BARON BELHAVEN in company P.C. and S. (My P.C. and S.)? at 1500Z 049° 28' N. 043° (group missed) W. S. 208° 14 altering to 288° in 046° 10' N.

(VERVAIN 1502Z/30 to C.T.F. 24, (R) C.T.U. 24.1.4. MONCTON, Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C Comtask 24.7 Connav, C. in C.W.A.) Is tug still required for BARON BELHAVEN?

(F.O.N.F. 1825Z/30 to LETHBRIDGE, (R) C.O.A.C. C.T.24.) Your 1825/30th March. Yes. Main Engines expected to break down entirely.

(LETHBRIDGE 2206Z/30 to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T. 24, Connav, Admty. etc.)

Oiling at Sea.

F.O.N.F's 2024/29th March is being passed to you for information. Glad if you will inform me what action can be taken to fulfil this request. I have taken action to stress importance of clearing hose of oil on completion of oiling operation. (C. in C.W.A. 1525A/30 to Aamty. D.T.D.)

TRACKER, FENCER, Supply of

Your 1900/29. Pending consultation with C.O. TRACKER and determination of exact sailing date of FENCER a firm intention cannot be given. Aircraft. 2. If present dates hold, the best solution, taking into consideration A. U.S.A.A.F. urgent need for assistance B. Availability for shipment of F.A.A.Aircraft C. Desirability of sending A.C.Vs. to U.K. with a full load D. Necessity of getting A.C.Vs.

to U.K. quickly appears to be to loan either FENCER or TRACKER to U.S.A.A.F. and to fill the other with F.A.A. Aircraft. 3. To get a full load of F.A.A. aircraft would necessitate sending some unmodified Martlet V.S. Either way it is improbable that any aircraft will arrive before May 10th. 4. Further signal will be made as soon as situation is clarified. (B.A.D. 1641Z/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med. V.A. Gibraltar.)

EGLANTINE.

My P.C. and S. at 1500Z 45° 20' N. 48° 30' W. (U) 293° 14.5 E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0800Z/31st. ROSE in company. (EGLANTINE 1709Z/30 to C.T.F. 24, (R) FAME, 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.)

Change my 1916/23. (Contained in Comnaveu Dispositions. 0829/24/3.) Serial 67. Atlantic - ALBAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, RANGER, AUGUSTA, TUSCALOOSA at Cascobay. New York - OMAHA, MARBLEHEAD, MEMPHIS, BROOKLYN at sea. BOISE, SANTEE at Norfolk. MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI at Recife. Pacific - NORTH CAROLINA at Pearl Harbour NASSAU at San Francisco. CORE, NEW ORLEANS at sea. ALTAMAHA at San Diego. Admiralty pass to Comnaveu for information. (Cominch 1721/30, 1731/30 to Admty.)

1210

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

H.J. 43.

Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 1800/30. 3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0900/3 April. 4. 7.5 knots. Route. 6. THREE RIVERS, WASAGA. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1745Z/30, 1749Z/30, 011346Z/4 to Admty.)

1. Louisburg section sailing telegram. 2. Louisburg 0400Z/31st. 3. R/V position D. 1300Z/31st with H.J. 43. 4. 7 knots to R/V thence $7\frac{1}{2}$ Route. 6. MANITOULIN. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 1814Z/30 to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

F.H.45.

Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1832Z/30 to Admty.)

Dakar Naval Commitments.

C. in C.Allied Forces has recommended to U.S. and British Chiefs of Staff, that "all Dakar Naval commitments except fuel should be handled separately, since Dakar is in British Naval Strategic Zone controlled by F.O.C.W.Af. and is not part of "Torch" Naval Area."

2. Adm. Glassfurd's despatch enclosing list of French Naval requirements for Dakar now received. List involves considerable supply and shipping commitment. Desired to clarify procedure for satisfying French needs at Dakar as economically as possible. 3. B.A.D. is requested to report Cominch's views on C. in C. Allied Forces' proposal and what action, if any, is being taken on Adm. Glassfurd's despatch. Admty. view is that F.O.C.W.Af. should be authority to submit priorities and quantities of French requirements for purposes of shipment, irrespective of source of supply.

4. F.O.C.W.Af. is also requested to report what stocks of initial stores and dockyard materials are in his view urgently required. C. in C.Med's. 1916/25 refers. Owing to other heavy commitments initial stocks should be restricted to essential items. (4th S.L. 1855A/30 to B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C.Med.)

B.A.D. 2309/29 and 0017/26 and S.B.N.O.W.At. "Captain" Class Frigates. 1122/28.

1. B.D.Es. and D.Es. are in future to be referred to as "Captain" class Frigates.

2. Destination in U.K. for BAYNTUN and BAZELY (after complying with B.A.D. 2309/29) is Londonderry (W.D.Note see also 2240/30.)

3. Amend para 2 of my 1404/12 as follows, Delete the words "in pairs from Bermuda" and substitute "on completion of working up at Bermuda."

(D.O.D.(H) 1916A/30 to B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. Com. i/c Bermuda, SOMERS ISLES, Cdre. Londondeny F.O.N.F. Cominch.)

J.H.45.

Sailing telegram. 2. 1930Z/30. 3. E.T.A. Halifax 1200Z/3. 4. 7 knots. Route. 6. VEGREVILLE, UNGAVA. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 1932Z/30, 1933Z/30 to A Admty.)

1211

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Trans Atlantic To reduce communication and to give complete Convoy sailings information it is requested that Trans.Atlantic information. convoy sailings be listed in two messages addressed to Cominch C. and R. and all interested

commands in the following forms:- Part one 1. Designation of convoy. 2. Time and sailing date of convoy. 3. Time passing first ocean position and S.O.A. 4. (?"chop") dates, and shift of radio watch. 5. Ocean route of convoy. 6. Ocean escort designation, name of ocean escorts S.3.O. Ship listed first. 7. Number of ships. 8. Stragglers route. 13 A. Commodore's name, ship and port of disembarkation. B. Vice Commodore's name, ship and port of disembarkation. 14. Recoding tables of ships in convoy. 15. Convoy W/T call sign. Part 2. 1. Designation of convoy. 10. Flag, speed and names of ships. 11. Cargo including numbers of passengers and bags of mail where applicable. 12. First port of arrival. (Cominch C. and R. 1957/30 to Action Commoroccanseafron, (R) C. in C.Med. V.A.Gibraltar.)

Movements.

Arrivals L.S.T. 319, 321, 366, 406, from Boston. SASKATOON, KENORA, ex H.X. 231. Departure TROIS RIVIERES, WASAGA, escorting H.J.43. (Cdre. Halifax 2209Z/30 to Admty. etc.)

Overdue Ships. BEATRICE (Venezuelan sailing vessel) sailed Kingston March 20th for Curacao. HELEN MAY SCHOCH (U.S. sailing vessel) sailed Port Everglades March 15th for Ciudad Trujillo. Both vessels now overdue. (N.S.H.Q. 2219Z/30 to Admty. Connav.)

BAYNTUN, BAZELY. Cinclant directs N.O.B. Bermuda, sail BAYNTUN, BAZELY when ready about April 2nd Bermuda to Yorktown, Virginia for loading Special stores. C.E.S.F. sail onward upon completion of loading and fuelling via: K. 36.01 67.03 L. 36.02 54.58 M. 36.03 44.02 N. 40.30 34.25 0. 43.25 22.30 P. 52.25 20.15 Q. 55.20 09.10 thence to Belfast. Advise times of departure and Speeds of Advance. (Cominch 2240/30 to Cdr. Gulf Sea Frontier, C.E.S.F. (R) Commandant 5th US. Naval District Hampton Road, S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.O.B.Bermuda, V.A.Gibraltar.)

ARETHUSA. ARETHUSA arrived Charleston 0940Q. (Commandant 6th U.S. Naval Dis. Charleston 2241Z/30 to C.E.S.F. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Admty. etc.)

/HEPATICA...

1212

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

 HEPATICA,
 Comply C.O.A.C. 1337Z/28.

 H.X. 233.
 (Cominch 2247/30 to C.E.S.F. (R) N.S.H.Q.

 Admty. F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O.W.At. C.O.A.C.)

U.S.A. Transports. San Francisco March 28 SEA WITCH for Suva and Noumea. LURLINE for Honolulu. Port Hueneme, Calif., March 25 PRESIDENT MONROE for Espiritu Santo. (All U.S. Army Transports.) (N.S.H.Q. 2258/30 to Admty.)

New Title of C. inC. C.N.W.A. (formerly C.O.A.C.) As from 1st April, the title of C.O.A.C. Halifax will be replaced by that of C. in C. Canadian North West Atlantic (Short title C.in C.C.N.W.A.). The duties at present carried out by C.O.A.C. Halifax are to be continued by the C.in C.C.N.W.A. until such time as they are amended by N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. 2. Request Admiralty and Cominch will promulgate to the necessary British and U.S.Navy Authorities. (N.S.H.Q. 2309Z/30 to C.O.A.C. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, N.M.C.J.S.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE torpedoed 56° 57' N. 24° 15' W. 2140/29. Planes attack sub. 17° 44' N. 63° 48' W. 1810/29. **Plane** sights sub. course 090 56° 13' N. 25° 55' W. 1741/29. Para. C. Plane Radar contact 18° 48' N. 87° 15' W. 1623/29. GEORGE WASHINGTON

Plane sights sub. course 090 56° 13' N. 25° 56 W. 1741/29. Para. C. Plane Radar contact 18° 48' N. 87° 15' W. 1623/29. GEORGE WASHINGTON sub. contact 13° 21' N. 62° 31' W. 2120/29. Para. Dl. U.S.C.G. MONOMOY sound contact 39° 25' N. 50° 40' W. about 1700/30, plane Radar contact 12° 45' N. 69° 58' W. 0345/30. Sub. sighted 43° 59' N. 63° 17' W. 1615/29. (Cominch 2356/30 to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

CANADIAN STAR, survivors. My 1451/25th Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) Newspaper reports published in Australia on 24 March giving names of survivors indicate loss of CANADIAN STAR. Suggest full list of survivors be signalled.

2. Further request in future A.C.N.B. be advised of loss of all M/Vs sailing from Australia, giving details of survivors as far as practicable. (A.C.N.B. 0107Z/30 to Admty. (R) D.S.T.) Reply Admty. 1313A/31.

/Digest...

1213

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest Serial Morning R/C revealed convoy 5 merchant vessels, No. 433 March l tanker, 2 probable destroyers, 30 miles south by East Cape Matanalem, New Hanover course 300° l large merchant vessel 30 miles North Cape Matanalem course 005° and 4 unidentified vessels

reported 50 miles southwest Kavieng heading S.W. 3. R/C Fortress sighted 3 barges in Monumbo Harbour (5 miles Northwest Bogia Harbour) morning and at noon reported 1 merchant vessel 400 tons and several small craft in Wewak Harbour and new 100 foot wharf with several barges approaching at Dagur (21 miles W.N.W. Wewak.) 4. One Fortress bombed harbour area midday and strafed villages

south of Saidor.

5. Refer digest 433 para. 8 enemy returned Aidor area in launches afternoon 29/3.

7. Six enemy bombers raided Oro Bay before dawn causing some damage to docks and destroying small fuel dump. 8. Six Hudsons attacked Toeal Langgoer Wabsek villages midday with unobserved results. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 0816Z/30.)

Movements.

Arrival Brisbane 29th U.S.VICTORIA. (A.C.N.B. 0832Z/30 to Admty.)

Arrivals Silver Shafte Bay 29th BROOME, BOWEN.

Port Moresby 28th U.S.S. BAGLEY (?Scotstoun) 29th PIRIE. Townsville 29th BALLARAT. Brisbane 28th U.S.S. SELFRIDGE.

Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th BUNDABERG. (A.C.N.B. 0957Z/30 to A.I.G. 115.) Arrivals 29th Fairlie H.T. AQUITANIA, Port Moresby U.S. Transport PRESIDENT GRANT, Townsville H.T. DUNTROON, U.S.Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Townsville 29th due Brisbane 3rd April. (A.C.N.B. 1227Z/30 to Admty.)

Arrival Wellington U.S.S. MONTICELLO.

(N.Z.N.B. 1958Z/30 to Admty.)

BANTAM K.P.M. vessel BANTAM was attacked by enemy (3322 tons) aircraft Orobay 28th March. Vessel beached but burned out and is a total wreck. No European destroyed casualties. (A.C.N.B. 1129Z/30 to Admty.) by A/C.

sation.

S.W.Pacific G.M.T. 389 A following is a repetition of C.S.W.P's Force, organi- 0650Z/5 begins: New U.S. Organisation effective 1200Z/15 March S.W.Pacific Force designated 7th Fleet with assignment of Task Force Nos. 70 to 79. Current assignment of units in Task Forces will not be changed. Previous Task Forces area

designated as new one has folios old 50 new 70, old 42 new 72, old 44 new 74 old 51 new 71. Air Souwespacfor to be new 73. Old 46 new 76. New 75, 77, 78, 79 unassigned at present. Ends. Apparently this information has not been communicated to you by U.S.Naval Authorities for general promulgation. (A.C.N.B. 1549Z/30 to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

1214

War Diary.

30.3.1943. Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C. 1410A/30.)

1215

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The weather today caused some dislocation of coastal convoys and shipping.

2. The German aircraft carrier GRAF ZEPPELIN is

expected to begin trials in April. The new

GRAF ZEPPELIN.

U.S.Task

Group

24.7.

German Naval Command are likely to adopt a more vigorous offensive strategy and to employ the GRAF ZEPPELIN in conjunction with other surface units to operate against our lines of communica-tion to North Russia and in the Atlantic and on raids. If persisted in, this would greatly aid the enemy U-Boat campaign by reducing our air cover on the convoys. The Admiralty, therefore, asked the Air Ministry to try to destroy or damage the ship whilst she lies at Kiel, before she becomes fit for active operations.

3. On arrival of Convoy C.U.l in the U.K. Desdiv 14 with BABBITT and UPSHUR will become T.G.216. C.T.G.24.7 will become Escort Control Officer at Londonderry for U.C/C.U. convoy escorts for which purpose he will be known as C.T.U.21.2.5 and will be in charge of training, maintenance and administration of T.G.21.6. The Admiralty will exercise operational control of U.C/C.U. convoys and T.G.21.6 whilst to the eastward of the boundary of the West Atlantic area.

4. The Chief of the U.S. Naval Staff has expressed disappointment at the results achieved by the U.S.S/M's under British control and inferred that better use might be found for them in the Pacific.

Northern Patrol.

5. At 1931Z BRECON had to quit Patrol "Black" for Scapa on account of weather damage.

Biscay Area. (see also South Atlantic)

Search for blockade runners in 6. At 1015 aircraft reported one merchant vessel escorted by 5 destroyers, steering 70° at 12 knots (probably a homeward bound blockade runner) in 44.05 N. 07.32 W (22 miles N.E. of Cape Ortegal). This was PIETRO ORSEOLO. SHAD in S.E. part of Bay of Biscay was ordered to proceed on the surface at full speed to intercept. An hour later the same aircraft reported 4 destroyers and a merchant ship steering 80° at 17 knots, after which the aircraft were recalled to base on account of bad weather. An outward bound enemy merchant ship was estimated to be in 42.25 N. 16.42 W. (about 320 miles west of Finisterre) steering 245° at 12 knots at 14.00A,

though / ...

1216

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for blockade runners in Biscay Area. (See also South Atlantic) (Contd.) though she may be 4 hours behind. BROADWAY (S.O) and SHERWOOD, part of the escort of Convoy M.K.S.IO, which at O8IO was estimated to be in 40.17 N. 15.08 W. were placed under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth, who at 1555A ordered them to proceed forthwith at best speed to intercept. At 1740A SHERWOOD had to rejoin M.K.S.1O as her thrust block was running hot and she could only maintain 15 knots. The Admiralty asked F.O.C. Gibraltar to arrange co-operation in the search if practicable. At 1715A C. in C. Plymouth ordered ORKAN to return to Plymouth and MATCHLESS to R/V with CHARYBDIS and MILNE and act as cover for Convoys O.S.45, M.K.S.10 and M.K.F.11. SOKOL and UPROAR were ordered to leave patrol at 2009A and proceed to Gibraltar.

7. 33 out of 101 aircraft of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command which were dispatched attacked the Wilton Shipyards at Rotterdam today. Bombing results are considered to have been poor.

North Atlantic.

Landing Craft. 8. 20 L.C.I(L) arrived at Gibraltar from U.S.A. today.

9. MALAYA (attached temporarily to Force H) requires 3 days in Dock, to replace with spare a propeller which she damaged whilst entering Gibraltar harbour p.m. today.

South Atlantic.

10. F.O.C. West Africa estimates some damage to a U-Boat attacked by a Hudson aircraft at 1722Z today in 20.27 N. 20.40, W.

11/ ...

1217 31.3.1943.

Wednesday.

.11

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

11. PAKENHAM and PETARD carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Hammamet last night.

12. Summer time on the Levant Station began at 2100 G.M.T. today, after which zone minus 3 time is to be kept until further notice by ships and establishments.

Air Attacks on Sardinia.

95 aircraft of 12th U.S. A.A.F. attacked /13. Cagliari harbour and aerodromes in Sardinia today. At Cagliari, 2 large merchant ships & several smaller vessels were hit with 500 lb. bombs. Nine enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and about 70 on the ground in Sardinian aerodromes. 29 B.25s escorted by P.38s in two shipping sweeps claim one large merchant vessel sunk, direct hit on another, and 3 more left on fire.

M.T.B. action.

14. M.T.B's 266 and 315 on a sweep from Bone carried out an unseen attack on a convoy of 3merchant vessels heavily escorted south of Cani Rocks at 2545. The M.T.B's attacked through a screen of 4 destroyers and 6 E - Boats. M.T.B. 266 fired torpedoes at one target which sank. M.T.B.315 proceeded through survivors to fire at her target, which received 2 hits and is estimated also sunk. The escorts then engaged each other. M.T.B.266 sustained damage from a heavy sea on the return journey.

East Indies.

Gunboats.

The river gunboats SCARAB and COCKCHAFER 15. are being transferred from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean, leaving Basra about April 8.

America and West Indies.

SS. MARAVI made a submarine distress signal 16. at 2214 in 29.24 N. 86.12 W.

1218

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BROADWAY, SHERWOOD. BROADWAY and SHERWOOD are placed under the orders of C. in C.Plymouth for interception of blockade runners subject to returning to U.K. when necessary on account of fuel. 2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange air co-operation if practicable. (A.C.N.S.H. 1157A/31.)

M.Ls. for M.Ls. 188, 226, 228 and 231 are to be withdrawn from operational service forthwith and sailed to Falmouth for fitting for foreign service. Gibraltar. 2. On completion of fitting C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail boats to Milford Haven for inclusion in the next Coastal Force Convoy to Gibraltar. (D.D.O.D.C. 1204A/31 to C. in C.Rosyth.)

S/M Routes "Gold" & "Rose."

In order to meet operational requirements of H.Q.C.C. propose to institute forthwith two new submarine routes across Bay of Biscay. Route "Gold" Position 1. 49° 00', 06° 40' to Position m. 43° 00' 09° 50'. Route "Rose." n. 49° 00' 07° 15' to Position o. 43° 01' 10° 20'.

2. In order to comply with F.S.A. 6 propose standard bombing restrictions areas 20 miles either side of above routes. Area 1 between 49° and 47° Area 2 between 47° and 45°, Area 3 between 45° and 43°.

3. If you concur propose issuing above routes to holders of F.S.A. 6 by signal.

(F.O.S. 1241A/31 to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Belfast sea	My 1248A/28th February. Sea Unit B. is now
units.	out of action owing to cable fault at the unit.
	Request return of STRAIDE may be expedited.
	(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1031A/31 to Admty.)

of S.L. Batteries.

Withdrawal / Air Ministry telegram 1610/23. Admiralty agree to withdrawal of searchlight batteries from Belfast, Milford Haven, and Swansea as stated, but do not agree to withdrawal from Orkneys at present.

2. Trials in the use of searchlights as protec-tion against low flying attack are now being carried out in the Orkneys. If subsequently it is found possible to agree to withdrawals Air Ministry will at once be informed.

(A.C.N.S.H. 1442A/31 to Air Ministry.)

A.M. 1815/21. Following received from Air Ministry, begins:

/Reference...

1

1219

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence for United Kingdom.

Withdrawal of S.L. Batteries. (Contd.)

Reference proposed new ceiling for A/A command, proposals in C.O.S.(43) 36 provisionally agreed by Chiefs of Staff include reduction of 15 searchlight batteries in G.D.A's. Now proposed to withdraw batteries inter alia from following areas: Belfast 3 batteries, Milford Haven 2 batteries, Orkneys 4 batteries,

Swansea 1 battery. Personnel are urgently required for conversion to Lt. A/A. Your concurrence requested. 16107/23. Ends. 2. Admiralty agrees to withdrawal of searchlight batteries from Belfast, Milford Haven and Swansea as stated, but do not agree to withdrawal from Orkneys at present. (A.C.N.S.H. 1443A/31.)

Loop at Londonderry.

Loop M.3 put out of action by Merchant ship anchoring during a gale. Propose to retain MINER to execute repairs and request that necessary working parties may be sent.

2. Suggest area of prohibited anchorage may be promulgated to prevent recurrence of damage to Loops and danger to shipping. (Cdre. Londonderry 1951A/31 to Admty.)

Movements.

COURBET.

M.Ms. 42 and DROBAK returned to Portland owing to weather. LIMBOURNE informed. (F.O.I.C. Portland 0012A/31 to C. in C.Portsmouth). My 1648A/29. M.Ls. only carry charts for as far

Request they may be detached in accordance with as Lands End. my 1826A/23.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 1118A/31 to C. in C.Plymouth.) After passing Lands End detach M.Ls. to arrive Newlyn first light/1.

(C. in C.Plymouth 1544A/31 to LIMBOURNE.)

My 1442Z/30. Amend to read 3 prefix 201 R/V "Match" in O66° D. One Buoy 6 miles with the 3 L.L. sweepers. Oropesa sweepers sweep ahead at first light 1 April. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1652A/31 to LIMBOURNE.)

S/M Movements. Intend to sail COMMANDANT DETROYAT escorting P. 511 at 0700/31 to Tobermory. E.T.A. 2200/31. (N.O.LC. Campbeltown 0017A/31.) Sailed COMMANDANT DETROYAT escorting P.511 in accordance with my OO17A/31. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0815A/31.)

Arrival (0.10.)

(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 0909/31.) My 1704/30. Amend para. E. to read operating in S.E.Bay of Biscay. (F.O.S. 1124A/31.)

My 1111/24. Intend to sail UPSTART and ULA escorted by VIRGINIA 0900A/2 Northabout to Clyde. Speed 8¹/₂ knots. E.T.A. Cumbraes 0600A/3.

(N.O.I.C. Barrow 1221A/31.)

/Positions ...

11

1220

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Movements. (Contd.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/lst April and movements for the following 24hours. A. H.44, H.28 escorted by Z.5 arriving Rothesay

from West.

B. SEVERN, BARB escorted by RHODODENDRON sail Clyde 1500/1st via Minches west of Orkneys 14¹/₂ knots.

C. TUNA, SATYR, STUBBORN, UNIVERSAL escorted by TADOUSSAC sail Clyde 1200/1st via Minches to Pentland Firth 10 knots. D. TRESPASSER, SPORTSMAN, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Trevose Head via 000° Round Island Scillies thence diving by day TRESPASSER through 49° 50', 09° 01' and 49° 50' 12° 30'. SPORTSMAN through 49° 30' 09° 00' and 49° 30' 12° 30'. E. HERRING, SOKOL, UPROAR operating off N.W.corner of Spain.
F. SHAD operating in S.E. of Bay of Biscay. (F.O.S. 1602A/31 to Admty.) My 1602/31. Add Para. G. TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, TEMPLAR in zones K.151, K.150 and K.148 respectively.

(F.O.S. 1646A/31.)

ULTIMATUM escorted by PEARL is leaving Plymouth passing Gate at 0930/1st and proceeding meeting LA CAPRICIEUSE at 1630/1st in 180° Runnelston 3 thence LA CAPRICIEUSE and ULTIMATUM to Holy Loch, PEARL to Plymouth. LA CAPRICIEUSE after leaving TRESPASSER and SPORTSMAN is to R/V and relieve

PEARL. (C. in C.Plymouth 1735/31.) E.T.A. Cumbrae 2200. H.28, H.44 in company. (Z.5 1800A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) Market Company. (Z.5 1800A/31 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.) My 1602/31. Add para. H. ULTIMATUM escorted by PEARL sails Plymouth 0930/1st to 180 Runnelstone 3, thence escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to Holy Loch.

(F.O.S. 2201A/31 to Admty.) My 1521/19. Cancel SATYR who is to be held for A/S training. (F.O.S. 2327A/31 to C pt. S.3.)

My 1602/31. Delete para. E. Add paras. J. HERRING approaching zone K.505 from westward. K. SOKOL passes through 43° Ol' N. 12° 26' W. at 0700/1st to Southward.

L. UPROAR passes through 42° 59' N. 12° 54' W. at 1500/1st to southward.

(F.O.S. 2328A/31 to Admty.)

CUMBERLAND.

Scapa departure at 0930A/31st CUIBERLAID. (A.C.O.S. 1007A/31 to A.C.I.C.)

B. 5. Group BRYONY, BERGAMOT.

C. in C.W.A. 0959A/23. Intend to sail B.5 Group 1500A/2/4 for St. Johns N.F. Commodore Londonderry is requested to sail BRYONY and BERGAMOT to R/V with Group in 270° 6 miles Oversay at 0700A/3. S.O.A. 12 knots. E.T.A. St. Johns p.m. April 9th. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1210A/31.)

/KING...

2.00 1221

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

KING GEORGE V. Intend sailing KING GEORGE V to Rosyth on 14th April for quick docking and to give home leave. Ship will be required to sail for fleet base on 30th April. (C. in C.H.F. 1439A/31 to Admty.)

My 1039A/30. Add 26 hours to all times. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth 1533A/31.) OXFORDSHIRE.

C. in C.Med. 2031/22. It is probable that the 79 L.C.P.(L) marked X.one and X.9 formed part of the ASSAULT Force embarked in MARINX VAN L.C.P.(L) Craft X.1 and X.9. ST. ALDEGONDE. 2. Request C. in C.Med. be asked to report the

types and serial numbers of the Engines removed from these two craft so that their identities may be established. (C.C.O. 2055A/31 to Admty.)

Operations.

Search for Enemy Main Unit.

6 Hudson aircraft will carry out diverging sweeps from Skagi to the west and north west as far as the ice edge, taking off at 1500 today. 2. One Catalina aircraft will carry out ice R/C from 066° 30' N. to the S.W. alongside ice-edge, taking off at 0730.

3. No aircraft are available for patrol over area S.E. of Iceland.

(A.C.I.C. 0003A/31 to C.S.10, GLASGOW, INTREPID, C. in C.H.F.)

Your 1030/30th. Nothing was heard ashore. Originator of message 0635/30 has not broken W/T silence to reply to A.C.I.C.'s query.

(A.C.I.C. 0214A/31 to C. in C.H.F.)

Your 1030/30 and my 0214/31. Following now received from GLASGOW addressed A.C.I.C. repeated C.S.10, begins: Short irregular H/F transmissions were heard very close as ship was engaged and were suspected of being ad ressed to a consort. Signals were unreadable but completely swamped 3215 k/cs. Frequency not obtained. Ends. (A.C.I.C. 0517A/31 to C. in C.H.F.) Your 0214/31. My 1030/30 was addressed you to avoid

GLASGOW having to break W/T silence.

(C. in C.H.F. 0959A/31 to A.C.I.C.)

2000 position estimated tonight. BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN, BRECON on patrol "Black." CUMBERLAND 061° 12' 003° 30' E. Faeroes to North westward.

(A.C.O.S. 1552/31.)

Estimate position at 1958 tonight. BELFAST, GLASGOW, INTREPID, Patrol "White", BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN, BRECON Patrol "Black".

(A.C.I.C. 1623A/31 to Ships.)

/Bottom...

1222 ** with

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for Enemy Main Unit. (Contd.)

Bottom buckled and leaking, rivets out under fore magazine. Owing to weather intend returning to Scapa. E.T.A. Boom Gate Vessel 0630A/2nd. Route as laid down in your 1803A/29th.

(BRECON, 1931Z/31 to C. in C. H.F.) Weather 5588 8167 improving. Position 062° 57' N. 014° 22' W. Have missed BRECON, BERMUDA will be north of latitude 62.40 N. during night and will pass through position C at 1100 tomorrow steering 235°. Request BRECON be informed and instructed to set watch on 210 k/cs at 0900A and call me at 1100 if not in V/S touch. ATHABASKAN has flooded a magazine and 38 provision room but can continue on operation.

(BERMUDA, 2031A/31 to C. in C. H.F.) Hvalfjord arrival at 2141 ECHO. (A.C.I.C., 2207A/31 to C. in C. H.F.)

Coastal Patrols. My 1130/30. "Device" returned to harbour at 0706. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 0745A/31.)

2. 2 M.G.B., 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven to carry out covering patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between 00° 45' E. and 00° 10' W. to be at eastern end of patrol by 0130 and keep south-eastward of convoy during its passage, leaving patrol at 0600. 3. M.L.309, 464 patrolling southward of E.A5. 4. Chasseur 15 at St. Helens. ESKDALE, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1405A/31.)

Unknown Operation.

VALSUND sailed for C.R.U. XIII and Pisces. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 1120/31.)

Search for Enemy M/Vs.

Biscay Area. P.C. and S. of enemy 44° 03' N. 07° 32' W., 070° 12 knots. (A/C KH3B, 1013/31 to 19 Group.)

The total enemy forces sighted consist of 3

destroyers, 1 merchant vessel 8,000 tons. (A/C KH3B, 1038/31 to 19 Group.) P.C. and S. of enemy battle fleet, 4 destroyers, 1 merchant vessel 8,000 tons 44° 06' N. 07° 18' W., 080°, 17. (A/C 210 Sqdn., 1113A/31 to 19 Group.)

Aircraft report one M/V and 3 destroyers, P.C. and S. at 1013, 044° 03' 007° 32', 070°, 12 knots. Proceed at full speed on surface to intercept. Own aircraft are being recalled owing to weather.

(F.O.(S), 1122A/31 to SHAD.) My 2259/30. Proceed to investigate.

(F.O.(S), 1211A/31 to SOKOL.) My 1122/31. At 1113 same aircraft reported course 080°, 17 knots. total of 4 destroyers and one merchant ship. (F.O.(S), 1234A/31 to SHAD.)

Admty. 1157A/31. At 0900A/31 BROADWAY has fuel for 6.7 days at 12 knots, 5 days at 15 knots, 4 at 18 knots, and 3.3 at 20 knots. SHERWOOD 7.5 at (? 12) knots in proportion. P.C. and S.

/13302/31 ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Area. Search for Enemy M/Vs. (Contd.)

1330Z/31 041° 40', 015° 02',002°, 8 knots. BROADWAY has H/F D/F. (BROADWAY, 1325z/31 to C. in C., Plymouth.) Enemy merchant ship estimated in 042° 25' N. 016° 42' W. course 245°, 12 knots at 1400A/31,

but may be 4 hours behind. 2.BROADWAY and SHERWOOD proceed forthwith at best speed to intercept.

3. If not intercepted report position and fuel remaining at 0800/1st.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1335A/31 to BROADWAY, SHERWOOD.)

Photographs taken by Coastal Command A/C at 1650/29 show the following vessels reported as on a westerly course at 45° 50' N. 06° 22' W. One large M/V identified as either M/V 450' HIMALAYA M.18 or her sister ship M.5 probably the former, with escort of 5 units comprising two probably ELBING class D/Rs, two T.1-19 class T/Bs and one probably MOWE class T/B.

(Medmenham, 1455/31.)

ORKAN return to Plymouth forthwith, pass through position W. 049° 40' N. 008° 45' W. and X. 180° Bishop Rock 10. At 0800/1st ORKAN report E.T.A. position X to C. in C.Plymouth. 2. MATCHLESS to R/V CHARYBDIS and MILNE in position F. 046° 40' N. 013 40°. 54' W. at O800A/1st April, approaching R/V on course

3. After meeting CHARYBDIS with MILNE and MATCHLESS act as cover to 0.S.45 and M.K.S.10 keeping to westward of 013° 30' W. and within supporting distance of both convoys.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 1715A/31 to CHARYBDIS. MILNE,

MATCHLESS, ORKAN.) Your 1335A/31. SHERWOOD thrust block running hot. Speed 13 knots. Cannot intercept. Rejoining convoy. My P.C. and S. 1800A, 041° 54', 016° 01', 280°, 20 knots. Your 1307/30, assume intention is to sink at sight.

(BROADWAY, 1740A/31 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Leave present position and patrol in Area K.505.

(F.O.(S), 2007A/31 to HERRING.)

SOKOL and UPROAR leave patrol forthwith for Gibraltar proceeding on the surface.

SOKOL pass through 043° 01' 012° 26' at 0700/1st. UPROAR through 043° 01' 012° 54' at 1500/1st thence as ordered by F.O.(S).

(F.O.(S), 2009A/31 to S/Ms.) My 1122/31. If you have not made contact by 0400/1st return patrol in Zone K.507 and K.508. (F.O.(S), 2326A/31 to SHAD.)

N.W. Norway, / Your 1710A/27, para. 3. This is agreed. S/M Patrols. Para. 4. Date pass agreed but Russians Para. 4. Date pass agreed but Russians require 3 days notice of intended change as their submarines cannot receive signals when submerged. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 1629A/31 to Admty.)

My 1401/19. Additional temporary Zone K.190 to K.199 are established between 070° and 075° N. Southern limit of K.190 is 070° N. and Northern limit of K.199 is 075° N. Each Zone is 30 miles from north to south and all zones are bounded by meridian of 013° and 016° E. (F.O.(S), 2353A/31.)

1. 1224

Wednesday. 31.3.1943.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

L.C.T. My 1711/30. Ships will now sail at 1130/31, Towing returning Dartmouth 1930/31. Trials. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 0935/31.) MARAUDER.

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan Mayen.

Following from Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard to coast 0215/30. Northerly direction. (A.C.I.C., 0507A/31.)

Jan Mayen report. Float plane observed alongside coast 1002. East/West returning East. Weather foggy. Med. Wing Monoplane, with single Fin and snub nose. (A.C.I.C. 1545A/31.)

GRAF ZEPPELIN. GRAF ZEPPELIN is expected to begin trials in April. Estimated duration of trials 3 months but this may be reduced if the enemy really set out to achieve early readiness of this unit. 2. The new German Naval Command are likely to

adopt more vigorous offensive strategy and to emply GRAF ZEPPELIN in conjunction with other surface units to operate against our lines of communication not only to North Russia but also in the Atlantic. Raids on shipping and shore installations in Iceland, Shetlands and Faeroes are a further possibility. 3. Apart from their direct effect on our sea communications, these operations, if persisted in, would greatly aid the enemy U-boat campaign by reducing our air cover on the convoys. The Admiralty therefore wish to reaffirm the importance of this vessel as a bombing target whilst she is lying in Kiel and the great advantage of destroying or damaging her before she becomes fit for active operations. (lst S.L. 1347A/31 to Air Ministry.)

Mining.

Rosyth Command. From 30th December 1942 to 30th March 1943 the following Stranded and Drifting Mines have been dealt with in this Command. Details. (C. in C. Rosyth, 311700 to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Catapult Ships. German A/C Catapult ships not identified have been sighted at following places during March. Number Position 1 Billefjord 1 Alten Fjord. 2 Transo area. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 1201/31 to Admty.)

/Biscay...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

QLASGOW

Biscay Area. Enemy M/Vs. and Destroyers.

My 1909A/16. No further reports of raiders. 2. Blockade runner REGENSBURG from Far East intercepted and sunk by H.M. Ship at 0630/30th March in 63° 37' N. 26° 32' W. 3. HIMALAYA and probably two other blockade runners appear to have left French ports during the night 28th/29th March. Last reported positions are as follows:-HIMALAYA in 44° 13' N. 11° 17' W. at 1220/30. Vessel "B" in 44° 10' N. 11° 25' W at 1910/30. Four Destroyers in 44° 08' N. 13° 05' W. at 1123/30th may have

had vessel "C" in company. Vessel B and C may have been PORTLAND and OSORNO. 4. A ship probably homeward-bound blockade-runner was sighted at 1100/31st March in Biscay proceeding towards the French coast.

(D.D.I.C. 1903A/31 to A.I.G. 13.)

HERMOD. LIEGE, MARIANNE, TOFT.

Following information received graded B.2. Result of M.T.B. attacks on German convoys off Dutch Coast. On February 25th following vessels sunk: HERMOD, Swedish 1495 tons, LIEGE, Belgian 4398 tons MARIANNE TOFT 1911 tons. Also one other Danish vessel name unknown. On February 28th; Dutch Coast. None of seven vessels in convoy sunk. Several.

damaged by machine-gun and delayed to make repairs. (D.D.I.C., 2201A/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

U-Boats attacked. My 1059 of 22nd July, 1942.1. At 0910/25th March a Fortress aircraft in 62° 12' N. 16° 40' W. attacked a U-boat sighted on the surface steering 240°. The U-boat re-surfaced shortly after being attacked and was again attacked as it

submerged for a second time. After the attack oil covered an area 1,000 yards in diameter and pieces of yellow and white debris came to the surface. 2. At 1130/27 a Fortress aircraft in 60° 45' N. 15° 25' W.

attacked a fully surfaced U-boat. The U-boat submerged after the attacked a fully surfaced 0-boat. The 0-boat submerged after attack and oil covering an area of 100 yards diameter was seen. 3. During the period from dusk on 20th March to dawn on 28th March a concentrated air patrol was carried out night and day between 7° W. and 10° 30' W. in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay. For 1340 hours flying, base to base, a return of 27 sightings and 16 attacks resulted. Some of these attacks appear promising.

(D.A/S.W., 11242/31 to Cominch.)

U-Boat reported. D/F bearings at 1257Z indicate U-boat within 100 miles of 44° 30' N. 12° W. (D.D.I.C., 1906A/31 to S/Ms.)

Navigational

Cape Villano Light.

From Corunna W/T. Notice to all ships - The damage to Cape Villano light having been repaired, the beacon signal is again operating. T.O.I.1151/31/3. (C.C.O. Plymouth, 1252/31 to Admty.)

1226 1 -1

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

MANSFIELD.

MANSFIELD 1855/30. A leak has occurred in MANSFIELD after augmenter condenser shell. (2) Permanent repair would take 2 to 3 weeks.
(5) Temporary repairs are being effected which it is anticipated will enable ship to comply with your 1030/21.

(Capt. D. Greenock, 0016/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

Local M.F.V. SALLY ANN left Humber 0732/26 to SALLY ANN. fish in vicinity 62 C buoy. Engine broke down 1600/26 and strong westerly winds carried vessel

to eastward. Search A/C sighted vessel at 1130/29 in 55° 49' N. 00° 40' E. R.M.L's 547 and 550 co-operating with aircraft from 16 group located vessel at 1145/30 in 54° 18' N. 01° 03' E. Entire crew of 5 men taken off. Weather unsuitable to tow vessel to Humber and she was abandoned. Vessel equipped with trysail and mizzen which were not sufficient to make any headway against strong westerly winds. Crew landed at Grimbsy, all unin jured.

(F.O.Humber, 0029A/31)

- Scapa departure 0640 JAMAICA. JAMAICA. (A.C.O.S.0844/31 to N.O.I.C. Barrow)
- My 1040A/50. Undocking of BRUISER delayed owing to weather. Sailing postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C. N.I. 0910A/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock) BRUTSER.
- Arrived BURZA. BURZA. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1127A/31)

Intercept 1037 G.M.T. D.E. unknown Station. Unknown S.O.S. followed by short series of dashes. (Humber Radio, 1143BST/31 to Immingham) Vessel.

While proceeding in Haulabout Group 67 Trawler CAULONIA. CAULONIA: CAULONIA ran aground and foundered at OlOO/31, in approx. 50° 55' 00" N. 00° 50' 20" E. Of the crew of 24, twenty-one reached the shore, eleven being slightly injured. The bodies of the remaining three were recovered later.

(V.A.Dover, 2342A/31)

Following from WASHINGTON EXPRESS. 0 230 N, WASHINGTON engine breakdown, speed of advance 11. (Rosyth W/T, 2359/31 to Admty) EXPRESS.

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Cancel my 0731/26 as EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND is now EMPRESS OF proceeding to Liverpool. (D.S.T. 0026A/31) SCOTLAND.

P.W. 316.

Intend entering Falmouth with P.W.316 owing to weather. E.T.A. D l buoy 0730/31. (TANATSIDE, 0340A/31 to N.O.I.C. Falmouth) Convoy entered Falmouth on account of weather

less AGIENA MARIE FLORE M.F.V. SAUVEUR DE MONDE and M.F.V. 12 (all at Dartmouth) and less escort EWALD. Intend sailing at O800/1st April, plus escorts Falmouth and sub port ships as in my 1213A/30 but NJORD now for Newport. OMMERING ROTTERDAM additional escorts for Milford Haven for onward routeing Holyhead codeword "Nation". (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 1037A/31 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Clyde arrivals OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE. 0.N.176. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0724A/51 to Cdre. Londonderry)

S.L.126.

1 enemy aircraft shadowing convoy. Posit 50° Ol' N. 12° 21' W, course 057° 8 knots. (PELICAN, 0938/31) Position Cancel my 0938. Shadowing. (PELICAN, 1020A/31 to Admty) Keep look-out for OCEAN VICEROY torpedoed in 046° 44', 016° 38'

at 2300A/29, believed still afloat with crew on board. (2) Following proceeding to assist. (A) FOLKESTONE and TOTLAND from 050° 22', 021° 05' at 2358A/30, 134 knots.
(B) Tug DEXTEROUS escorted by ACANTHUS sailed Milford Haven 1730A/30 8 knots.

(C. in C. W.A. 1721A/31 to Escort O.S. 45) Intend detaching WEAR at O600Z/1st to proceed Liverpool with 250 survivors.

(PELICAN, 1900Z/31)

My 1545/30 not sailing owing to weather. (N.C.S.O.Lyness, 1000/31 to N.C.S.O. Methil) W.N.9A. ABIGAIL.

Atlantic Convoy Rescue Ships.

This is Opnav 261530 of February, 1943. Although no rescue transports are under construction due to greater urgency being placed on other types, eleven have been authorized. Salvage vessels now being built which have dates of delivery in 1945 are being considered for conversion to make them available for use as salvage vessels and also rescue transports. Refers to

Comnaveu 221356.

(Commaveu, 1001/31 to Admty)

Note by War Reg: Comnaveu's 1701/29 refers.

Request immediate approval for the fitting out of the 13 trawlers referred to in para.5 (A). 2 of these trawlers are being sailed with each slow transatlantic convoy as rescue ships beginning with O.N.S.J. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested (to detail 2 NORTHERN Class trawlers for this commitment. (B) (A) To allocate the remaining 11 trawlers as necessary. It is

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic Convoy Rescue Ships. (Contd.) requested that the utmost priority may be given to the necessary work. These ships will be carrying out essential duties in the Battle of the Atlantic. (C. in C. W.A. 1906A/31 to Admty. F.O.C.N.I.) My 1916/28 para. 5 (B) The reduction from 3 to 2 escorting tankers for U.R/R.U convoy is to begin with U.R.70. (C. in C. W.A. 2347A/31 to N.O.I.C. Belfast.

A.T.39. (EMPRESS OF (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1056A/51) SCOTLAND)

0.N.176. My 1606A and my 1634A/30. Read all times three hours later. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1506A/31) Your 2034/30 arrived (OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE) (N.O.I.C. Barrow, 1632/31)

O.N.S.2. It is presumed ? escort orders and plans having been promulgated by C.O. ITCHEN, and special tactical work given him with his group on tactical table, he will continue as Escort Commander after VILLE DE QUEBEC joins as additional escort though latter senior. (C.T.G.24-7, 1617Z/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

- P.S.1. P.S.1 Cancelled. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 1635/31)
- T.A. 39 A. Intend to sail MAIRPOSA passing Clyde boom O200Z/2nd to pass through position (E) at O900Z/2, thence in accordance with A.M.1913A/30. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1656A/31)
- W.P.317. Sailing of W.P.317 posponed 24 hours on account of weather. F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1730A/31)
- H.X.251. Convoy sailing telegram. 67 ships. Names and destinations. (D.T.D.1907A/31)
- W.P.M. 317. Sailing of W.P.M. 317 postponed 24 hours. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 2007A/31)
- K.M.S.12. Convoy sailed as in my 0954/28. 24 hours late. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 2034A/31)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy M.K.F.ll. M.K.F.ll. Your 1851/50 and my 2250/50. HERO and NASTURTIUM are also to be detached to fuel at Gibraltar if necessary. (Duty Capt. 0150A/51 to S.O. 2nd E.G.(R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

Convoy C.G.22 arrived (2 ships) (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 0801A/31 to Commonseafron (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 2000A/51st. M.K.F.11. WREN, 57.21 12.41 through 57.40 15.30 and 40.00 16.15 thence 005° 14. (2)0.T.5, C.T.G. 61.1, 53.42 18.21 through 55.55 18.10 thence 079° 12½ (3) R.S. 5
(X) KUMAON 29.54 13.40 through 29.19 14.54 and 28.04 14.55 at 1500/1st thence 188°. 7. SNOWDROP detached as necessary to R/V with one tug in 28.08 15.20 at 1000/1st thence to rejoin convoy in 28.04 14.55. (4) M.K.S.10, BROADWAY, 42.10 15.03 002° 7. (5) KRAKOWIAK, NASTURTIUM 5 destroyers 36.47 10.44 to Gibraltar 15. (F.O.Gibraltar, 1021A/51) Paras. (6) and (7) See 0424/1/4.

M.K.S.10.

F.W.200 aircraft from Bordeaux are operating in your vicinity and probably reported the convoy at 0915.

(D.D.I.C. 1036A/31 to Escorts of M.K.S.10, (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib.) Following has been read addressed Whitehall W/T. One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy "Ribband" 41° 22' N. 15.03 W. 002° 8 knots. (BROADWAY, 1125Z/31)

ARETHUSE, SULTANE. Intend sail French Submarines ARETHUSE and SULTANE escorted by P.C.473 departing Casablanca 1000A/2 April via Q.K.A.92 (B) 35-50 N 06-33 W thence Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar. S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. 4 miles South Tarifa 0700/3. F.O.C. Gibraltar requested return P.C.Comfairwing 15 provide daylight coverage to 35° N Mission 55. (C.M.S.F. 1040/31 to Com. N.O.B. Casablanca, Comtsunit C.F.W.-15, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. etc.)

Cable	My 1208/17 (repairs to Gibraltar-Madeira cable). Repairs completed p.m/30.
Repairs.	(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1103A/31 to Admty (R) C. in C. Med.)

MAURETANIA. After passing J steer for new K 55° N 26° W and rejoin route at D. (D.O.D.(F), 1119A/51 to MAURETANIA, (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. F.O.C. W Af.) See also South Atlantic 1445Z/51)

1230

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

1 5 38

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

BORDSEE. German 64 arrived 31st. (Consul (Bilbao), 1145/31 to Admty (R) M.E.W. etc)

BRIQUETAS, ZORROZA. Spanish Swiss chartered BRIQUETAS ZORROZA leaves Genoa 3rd April for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D., 1326A/31 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

ALLIGATOR. Las Palmas 0200/28 British ALLIGATOR (Tug) Sierra Leone. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1447A/31 to S.O.(I) Freetown)

L.C.I(L)'s. Arrived L.C.I.(L) 170,104, 184, 116, 105, 110, 182, 108, 113, 106, 111, 119, 186, 240, 256, 103, 248, 254, 101, 251. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 1639/31 to C. in C. Med. S.B.N.O. W.Af. (R) Cominch, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Commorseafron)

T.E.20. Your 1112/30th. (Ships for inclusion) ZENA 14 MEROPE 23. WILLIAM MCKINNEY 24 4 T.L.S.'s 42, 33, 34, 44. ST.CLEARS 35, EMPIRE FRED, 64. (F.O. Gibraltar, 1657A/31 to Com. N.O.B.Oran)

SANTA Swiss Legation, London, state Portuguese SANTA IRENE.
IRENE will resume Portuguese markings when Swiss charter expires i.e. after discharging Swiss cargo at Genoa. (2) N.A.Lisbon should ensure at least four days' notice is received from
Portuguese Government of vessel's sailing dates, informing
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. and Admiralty on this and any future similar occasion. (3) Consul General Lisbon
Arfar No.515 to M.E.W. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar refers.
(D.E.W.D. 1917A/51 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.A.Lisbon (R)
C. in C. Med.)

BOREAS. March 51, arrived. (S.N.O.C.A. 1928/51 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Gibraltar. Arrivals 2 U.S. Ships BROOME, SIMPSON with C.G.22. French SAVORGNANDE BRAZZA from escort duties east. Departures. ACUTE, POLRUAN, CLACTON, FELIXSTOWE, ESPIEGLE for M/S operations. U.S. Ships SIMPSON, BROOME, CHICKADEE, P.C. 480 for Casablanca. French LA GRANDIERE to Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 2005A/51 to Admty etc.)

MALAYA.

Damage (S.O. Force H, 2347A/31) See Mediterranean.

1231

51.5.1945. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ELIZABETH-VILLE. VILLE. (D. of S.T. 0029A/31 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) F.O.C.W.Af. etc.)

SONTAY, Italian Repatriations. Your 1154/27. As ten days' notice of sailing is required by the Axis to ensure safe conduct, SONTAY can not sail Durban before 10/4 but further signal will follow. (2) .S.T.O.Middle East is requested to report earliest date SONTAY can be accepted by him. (D.S.T., 0051A/51 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. Middle East. (R) C. in C. E.F. D.S.T.O. Kilindini, D.S.T.O. Durban)

Convoy W.S.28. Move of S.A. Div. Your 1257/27. Agree your proposal. Suggest it might be possible by concentrating personnel remaining on board, to leave one or two ships wholly available for native personnel of S.A. Division. (2) If any space is still available, movement to India would be assisted if a limited number for India were embarked. P.S.T.O.

number for India would be assisted if a limited number for India were embarked. P.S.T.O. Middle East is requested to report what number he could accept for onward movement to India within the limits of my 1140/16. (5) It is presumed that you will now use ILE DE FRANCE for personnel for Bombay instead of Suez. C.M.41 will presumably be all for India also. (4) Agreed. (D. of S.T. 0200A/51, to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C's in C. S.A. E.F., P.S.T.O's Mid East, India, D.S.T.O. Durban)

EMPIRE MIGHT. Your 2305/30th. EMPIRE MIGHT arrived Dakar 2300/25th and report will be signalled by Comar Dakar. (F.O.C.W.A., 0302Z/31 to Admty (R) Comar Dakar)

Convoy D.N.29. Sailing telegram. (2) 510600Z. (5) 8 knots. (5) (Y) 028° 54' S. 032° 50' E. (Z) 028° 00' (?082°) 00'. (6) JASMINE, LADY ROSEMARY, SONDRA, HERTFORDSHIRE.

Lourenco Marques ships escorted from Position (Y) by SONDRA E.T.A. p.m. 1st April. Codeword "Grazing". (N.C.S.O. Durban, 0848Z/31 to Admty etc.)

DUNERA,
ROSLIN
CASTLE,
QUEEN-
BOROUGH.Sail DUNERA and ROSLIN CASTLE to Port Elizabeth
at 0900Z/jlst, route coastal, S. of A. 1j2
knots, escort QUEENBOROUGH.CASTLE,
QUEEN-
BOROUGH.knots, escort QUEENBOROUGH.
Elizabeth 1600Z/lst April.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 0936Z/31 to Admty. etc.)
Sailed QUEENBOROUGH TO Simonstown escorting
S.S. DUNERA and S.S. ROSLIN CASLTE, to Port
Elizabeth.
N.C.S.O. Durban's 0936/31 not

to / ...

1232

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DUNERA, ROSLIN CASTLE. QUEEN-BOROUGH.

(Contd.)

to Cdre. Supt. Simonstown refers. (2) QUEEN-BOROUGH will pass E.T.A. Simonstown to C.C.S.A. through Port Elizabeth port War S/Sta. (3) QUEENBOROUGH shift W/T organization to group S.L. at 2500B/51st March. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1138Z/51 to Admty. C.C.S.A. 26, C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Supt. Simonstown, N.L.O. East London, N.L.O. Port Elizabeth, N.L.O. Capetown.)

Your 1055/31st. (EMPIRE SUCCESS will be ready to join S.L.127 - N.T. in W.D.). Yes. Intend ORFSAY, M.L.1065 and 1066 escort Dakar to R/V. EMPIRE SUCCESS. (Comar, Dakar, Oll156Z to F.O.C.W.A.(R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2000Z/31st.

KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BULOLO, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, ULSTER MONARCH, KEREN, LARGS, with W.S. 28, 04.03 11.30 to 03.07 10.32 thence

102 12.75. CROCUS, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, 2 M.L., with S.T.60, 03.11 06.05 074°9.

CILICIA on patrol about 03.50 23.10 14.

M.L.271, M.L.305, escorting off Freetown to South East coastal 6. AIMWELL, FANDANGO, searching the vicinity 04.08 17.33. WASTWATER, 05.38 16.20 to Freetown 10. M.L.285, M.L.290 escorting independently in Port Bouet-Cape Palmas Area to Freetown 6.

U.S. Naval Units in Ascension - St. Paul's Rocks area. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 05.25 13.50 to Freetown (corrupt group) 8. (?SARABANDE) escorting 02.30 S. 07.05 E. 132 5.5.

M.L.261 off Acera. (R.A.W.A., 1203Z/31) Position at 2000Z/31st. GENISTA, NORTHERN DUKE with C.N.15. 033° S. 016° 30' E. to disperse at 031° 40' S. 012° 20' E. QUEENBOROUGH with DUNERA and ROSLIN CASTLE 032° S. 029° 30' E. to Port Elizabeth. RAIDER 032° 20' S. 035° 25' E. to R/V. with ILE DE FRANCE at 033° 41' S. 038° 08' E. FROBISHER, FOXHOUND, NAPIER, CATTERICK, ROTHERHAM with W.S. 27 030° 00' S. 038° 15' E. to 020° 00' S. 042° 15' E. JASMINE, HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY with D.N.29, 028° 40' S. 032° 30' E. to 025° S. 041° E. SONDRA with D.N. 29 detached off St. Lucia with Lourenco Marques section. (C. in C. S.A. 1215B/31) Situation at 2001Z/31st. ORFASY 18.50 16.58 177 10. COMMANDANT DELAGE, THYME, BIRDLIP with D.70 off Cape Verde to

18.00' 16.11' 6.

M.L.1065, 1066 escorting 17. 20 16.14 to Dakar coastwise 6. French trawler VICTORIA escorting Dakar to Bathurst 7. UGANDA 11.11 20.17 295 18.

LA GRACIEUSE, INKPEN, escorting 10.07 15.50 to 11.01 17.18 (?thence 002 6).

ROCHESTER / ...

1233

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- Dispositions. ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, (Contd.) MIGNONETTE, HYDRANGEA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER escorting S.L.127 08.49 13.57 296 7. (corrupt group) off Dakar 266 19. (F.O.C.W.A. 1311Z/31)
- Movements. Arrivals 51st March. Simonstown RACEHORSE. Capetown RELENTLESS. (C. in C. S.A. 1237B/21 to Admty. Cdre. Durban)

Blockade Runner Patrols.

A.M.1955A/27th March (Report on sailings of HIMALAYA, PORTLAND, OSORNO from Bordeaux for Japan) indicated possibility of outward bound blockade runners. Patrol will be carried out as follows: (1) French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES in area bound by following points J OlO° 10' N.

as follows: (1) French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES in area bound by following points J OlO[°] 10' N. Ojl[°] 32' W. K Ol4[°] Oj[°] 028[°] 17' L. Ol6[°] 42' Ojl[°] 16' N Ol2[°] 20' Oj4[°] 10' commencing a.m. 2nd April. 19 knots. (2) French Cruiser GLOIRE in area A Oll[°] 48' O27[°] 41' B OO9[°] 54' 25[°] O4' C OO6[°] 42' O27[°] 37' D OO8[°] 56' O29[°] 56' commending p.m. 4th April. 19 knots. (3) CILICIA continues in area E OO6[°] O1' N. O23[°] O1' W. F OO4[°] O1' O20[°] 59' G OO2[°] OO' O25[°] O0' H OO4[°] O1' O24[°] 40' 14 knots. (4) CARNARVON CASTLE in area bounded by points O OO5[°] 18' N. O18[°] 45' W. P OO1[°] 30' N. (corrupt group) 45' W. Q OO5[°] 18' S. O17[°] 30' W. R OO0[°] 56' S. OL4[°] 55' W. commencing a.m. 4th April, 15½ knots. (5) Intend DESPATCH to proceed from S O07[°] 14' N. O21[°] O4' W. at 1200Z/2nd April to T O05[°] 26' N. O28[°] 07' W at 1200Z/jrd April thence in accordance with separate instructions. (6) Units of 4th U.S. Fleet are on patrol south of equator between O19[°] W. and O25[°] W. (F.O.W.A. 1324Z/jl to Admty. (R) Comar Dakar etc.) Amended by Oll150 April q.v. Admiralty remarks, Oll620 April, q.v.

UGANDA. Departure 1910Z/30/3. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1341Z/31 to Admty etc.)

Movements, Recife. This is re-encipherment of Alusnob Recife 1516/30 (begins) Sailed ESSO CONCORD and FLORA MCDONALD 2030Z/29 for Ascension Island escorted by U.S.S. MILQAUKEE and U.S.S. ? JOUETT. Speed 10.5 knots E.T.A. 040800Z. 1516/30 (Ends) (Radio Washington 1352Z/31 to Information F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

WASTWATER, A/C crash. A/C crash. Aircraft crashed in 004° 30' N. 017° 12' W. after sighting survivor. Send aircraft and destroyer with fuel. We are running out. Am proceeding on course south (2 corrupt groups) for survivors. Have bicked 3 from aircraft. (WASTWATER, 1420Z/31 to F.O.C.W.A.)

1234

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

WASTWATER, A/C crash. (Contd.) Have picked up survivors position Light Buoys 003° 50' N. 017° 25' W. Proceeding full speed Freetown. (WASTWATER. 1805Z/31 to R.A.W. Africa.) W.D. Note: Re WASTWATER transmitter defective, see Admty. 061727B, April.

MAURETANIA. MAURETANIA sighted by aircraft at 1919/30 March in 19° 20' N. 22° 18' W. course 290° speed 18 knots. (F.O.C.W.A., 1445Z/31 to Admty.)

Towage of RUMBA. Your 1144Z/30. Intend substituting LIDA for KAJANG sailed 3rd April. Agreed Agent and M. of W.T. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 1535Z/31 to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty. R.N.O. Lagos)

W.S.28. Dechief attaches great importance to arrival of the 2 portions of Armoured Division in Egypt about same time and strongly presses for

about same time and strongly presses for accommodation in W.S. 28. Request earliest confirmation this is acceptable. (2) There should be room for about 3,500 in Cape Town section W.S. 28 which could be used for India personnel if P.S.T.O. Egypt agrees.

for India personnel if P.S.T.O. Egypt agrees. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 1741B/31 to D.S.T.) Departures 0730/30 March. MALCOLM, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BULOLO, KENYA, KEREN, LARGS with W.S. 28. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1801/31 to Admty C. in C. S.A., C.C.O)

ROODE ZEE, A.F.D. My 2101Z/JOth Tug ROODE ZEE with second section of dock entered port this morning March Jlst. (N.A. Montevideo, 1830Z/Jl to Admty (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Durban-U.K. Convoy. MALOJA, MOOLTAN, CALIFORNIA.

C. in C. S.A's 1114/29th March, Confirmed that it is not acceptable to include these three ships in convoy. (2) P.S.T.O. Capetown's 1256/27th March para. 5. As it will be impossible to reinforce escort through U-Boat areas limitation to three personnel ships of minimum speed of 16 knots imposed by A.M.1441/14th March must stand. (D.O.D.(F) 1919A/51 to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C. W. Af. Com.i/c Durban, P.S.T.O. Capetown). Reply : C. in C. S.A. 011225 B April.

Movements / ...

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51.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Arrived THYME 1430/31st.

Movements, Convoy D.70.

(2) Sailed convoy D. 70 1745 comprising ships in my 0034/30th less CONSBRO and PANORAMA. Additional escort THYME in accordance with F.O.C. W.Af. 1931/31st to THYME only. Sa: VICTORIA escorting TOURS and GABRIEL GUISTHAU 1840/31st. Sailed

Arrived ANDRE MOYRAND Sailed F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES 1835/31st. 0730/31st.

(Comar, Dakar, 1932Z/31 to F.O.C. W. Af. (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.O.I.C. Casablanca)

PANORAMA, CONSBRO.

Unforeseen delay in repair to My 1942/31. Unforeseen delay in repair to TAKORADIAN docked with PANORAMA prevented latter being undocked in time to sail with convoy D.70. (2) Owing to U-Boat activity CONSBORO withdrawn from convoy to allow estimated convoy speed of (5) Intend to sail PANORAMA and CONSBORO in

75 knots. company and escorted at first opportunity. (Comar Dakar 1933Z/31 to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Admty.)

S.L.127.

My 231517Z/March. Following ships did not sail. Cancel SUTHERLAND. GRANICOS not yet arrived. Delete LULWORTH HILL. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1943Z/31 to Admty. (R) M.W.T.) List of ships and details. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1950Z/31)

Departure 29th March U.S. Destroyer JOUETT. (R.O. Pernambuco, 20392/31 to Admty) JOUETT.

My 2027A/25th November. Following are March Attacks assessments of attacks in your area. on U/B's. Assessment. Position. 03°52' N. 06°33' W. Ship. Date н. 13/2/43. ADRIAS (D.A/S.W., 2125A/31 to R.A.W.A.)

Ship believed to be CELTIC STAR heard to make S.S.S.S. (in position?) OO4 O8' N. 017 55 W. at 2505Z/29th March. FANDANGO, WASTWATER "S" Report, CELTIC STAR. W. at 2305Z/29th March. FANDANGO, and AIMWELL are searching for survivors. (F.O.C.W.A., 2359Z/31 to Admty)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

12th A.F. Report. U/B attacked. To: Eaker. To: Brereton. From: Spaatz H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv. 5. On 28th March a Hudson sighted a U-Boat at periscope depth at 1652 hours, blowing it to the surface with bombs and later machine-gunning it. Hunt continued throughout the night and 29th. 1 Hudson attacked by Ju.88, 1 of crew killed. (12th Air Force, 01452/31 to Etousa.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one enemy medium merchant ship and two destroyers 38.13 N. 12.21 E., 230°, 10 knots. (A/C APX/Duty A via Alex., 0205A/31 to A.O.C. in C. Malta.)

RAINSTORM. Arrival. (Cdre. Aden, 0503Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, EVVIVA and FORFAIT arrived 1600/30. Bone. (F.O.I.S., 0906A/31 to A.I.G.259.)

Movements, Alexandria. Departures 30th March WoLBOROUGH, ST. MONANCE, M.T.Bs 267, 313, L.C.T.138. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 0908/31 to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Repairs & Salvage, N. Africa. Your 1254A/30 (sent by W.R.) Following is a repetition of paras. D & E. of C. in C. Med.'s 1721A/29 (begins) -(D) U.S. Navy to arrange for establishment such additional repair tasks and provide additional facilities as needed to augment existing bases

N.W. Africa. (E) A central Industrial Supply Depot headed by appropriate U.S. Supply Staff and under the force maintenance officer to be established at Oran for storage and distribution of material in support of above industrial activities and as required by U.S. salvage operations. (Ends). (Algiers C.C.O., 0943A/31 to Admty.)

Damaged M/Vs., Salvage. / There are already at least 6 large damaged merchant ships in "Torch" area which are constructive total losses. Most of the deck equipment, auxiliary machinery, and in some ships main machinery and boilers is in good order and could be readily sailed and shipped to U.K. or U.S.A.

for fitting in other ships provided a special squad and equipment were sent to North Africa. Suggested constitution of squad is one foreman, 3 leading men, 3 slingers, 6 engine

1237

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Damaged M/Vs., Salvage. (Contd.)

fitters, 6 carpenters, 15 oxy-acetylene burners. Equipment required would include 18 oxy-acetylene burning equipments complete with 100 per cent spares, supplies of oxygen and acetylene tackles, chain purchases, racks, ropes, wires, and dismantling tools. Propose that early consideration be given to sending these men and equip-

ment items to Algiers. M.W.T.R. concurs. (C. in C. Med., 0946A/31, 1446A/31 to Admty., (R) M.W.T.)

E.T.17. List. All to Gibraltar for orders. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 0959A/31 to F.O.I.S.)

WEST POINT, prisoners. Your 1617/21st March. Captain WEST POINT will not accept any prisoners of war without direct authority to him from U.S. Naval Authorities Washington. Request this may immediately be signalled as vessel ready to sail 1st April. 1014B/31 to B.A.D., (R) Admty. for D.S.T.) Necessary authority already given in Vice Opnav's 310039 to WEST

(B.A.D., 1723Z/31 to P.S.T.O.M.E., (R) Admty. for D.S.T.)

Movements, Arrived M.L.459, PAKENHAM and PETARD. Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1030A/31 to Admty., etc.)

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 112, part 4.

Night 29th/30th March. Operations battle area cancelled owing to bad weather. 6 Liberators,3
B.24s which left to attack railway Ferry terminus Messina unable to locate objective owing to low cloud. 1 B.24 bombed chemical factory Cortone, bombs bursting on centre of factory area and in

bombs bursting on centre of factory area and in railway sidings. Second dropped bombs in area of Vibo Valentia Aerodrome. Third jettisoned over Italy position unknown. 1 Liberator jettisoned over sea. Remainder returned with bombs. 6 x 1000 lb. H.E. on Cortone at 0450Z hours 30th March. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1033Z/31.)

Movements, Arrivals UNISON (P.43), REGENT. Malta. (V.A. Malta, 1108A/31 to Admty., etc.)

P. 37 (UNBENDING) Tunisia.

The Army is advancing on Sfax and Sousse. (? General) movement of light craft would justify an immediate enemy report from you. (2) M.T.Bs from Malta will be operating tonight South of Kuriat. They have orders not to attack S/Ms West of O12° E. (Capt. S.10, 1126A/31 to P.37, (R) Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant.)

/UNSEEN ...

1238

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

Sec.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNSEEN, UNRIVALLED.

April. (2) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) operates in Zone A after daylight 1st April and passes position P at 0545/2nd April.

(1) P.51 (UNSEEN) passes position P at 0515/1st

(3) P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.45 (UNRIVALLED) thence to Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. (Capt. (S) 8, 1134A/31 to P.51 (UNSEEN), P.45 (UNRIVALLED), 8th S/M. F., Capt. (S) 10.)

Sweep of		Nothing sighted.	
Gulf	(V.A. Malta,	1136A/31 to C. in C.	Med., (R)
Hammamet.	Admty., C. in	n C. Levant.)	

P.R.U. March 31st. Visuals. 0945, Taranto, 2 battleships, 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 1246A/31 to C. in C. Med., etc.) P.R.U. March 31st. 1500, Taranto, 1 battleship, 1 cruiser only seen 8/10 clouds obscuring harbour. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1659A/31 to C. in C. Med., etc.)

TRIBUNE, TORBAY. 1. TRIBUNE passes 039° 30' 013° 01' at 2000/1 April thence through 038° 17' 010° 14' at 2100/2 thence course 270°, 140 miles a day. 2. P.47 (DOLFIJN) is in Zone E. 3. TORBAY operating south of 040° 10' between latitude 012° and 014° after 2000/1st April. (Capt. (S) 8, 1248A/31 to TRIBUNE, TORBAY, (R) S.8, Capt. (S) 10)

E.T.16. Sailed as in my 1515A/27 and my 1641A/30 plus JOHN A. BROWN. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 1300A/31 to C. in C. Med.) E.T.16, JADE, SAMUEL LIVERMORE and CHRISTOPHER GADSEN arrived. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 1635A/31 to C. in C. Med.)

P. 339 (TAURUS). Intend sailing P.339 1830/1st for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea routed through 038° 37' 004° 40' at 1030/2nd April, 038° 37' 010° 05' at 0330/4th. (Capt. (S) 8, 1304A/31 to C. in C. Med., (R) 8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

P. 212 (SAHIB) Para. 4 of my 1156/29. Onward routeing through O38° 15' OO3° 53' at 2230/3 thence R/V escort to Algiers in O36° 57' OO3° O7' at O615/4. (Capt. (S) 8. 1338A/31 as amended 1144A/1 to P.212 (SAHIB), (R) C. in C. Med., 8th S/M.F., Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Port Conditions, Sousse, Sfax, Gabes.

65690 cipher (M.I.14) dated 31st March 1943. 1. Grateful your appreciation of port conditions at Sousse, Sfax and Gabes giving (a) present state of ports including clearance facilities. (b) time required to open and work them after capture. (c) estimated phased capacities for

discharge indicating size and number of ships that can be handled. (d) extent to which small ports like La Skira and jetties at various points recently constructed by Axis can be used. 2. Would appreciate urgent interim reply. (W.O., 1450A/31 to A.F.H.Q. Algiers, (R) C. in C. Middle East.) Reply: C. in C. M.E., 032200C April.

M.T.Bs.

Sailed M.T.Bs 73, 65, 82 on operations. (V.A. Malta, 1512A/31 to Admty., etc.) M.T.Bs 73, 65, 82 returned. (V.A. Malta, 1826A/31 to Admty., etc.)

Felucca ? SEAWOLF or ?WELCOME.

Felucca SEAWOLF (sic) (? WELCOME intended - see 011824A) leave Algiers 1800/1st April route through 115° Aire Island 10 miles and 042° 52' N. 009° 00' E. to operate off Northern Point of Corsica on night 4th/5th and 5th/6th April, returning to Algiers by reverse outward route. speed 61 knots. (Capt. (S) 8, 1546A/31 to 8 S/M.F.) Delayed, see 011824A April.

CANADA, French Hospital Ship.

On behalf of French Admiralty, Adm. Moreau has offered to lend Naval Hospital Ship CANADA to R.N.

2. Please send M.O. to inspect CANADA at Dakar. 3. Main features of ship and hospital are known but it is desired to have an informed opinion of her suitability for dealing with British wounded.

4. Request report so that I can complete arrangements with Adm. Moreau.

(C. in C. Med., 1558A/31 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty.)

T.E. 20.

Intend to sail (list) 9 ships to Bone, 1 ship for Philippeville, 2 ships for Bougie. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to allocate Pendant numbers. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 1559A/31 to F.Os. I.C., etc.)

M.L.258 and 468 will meet you in 036° 56' 003° SARACEN 00' at 0630/1st April, one for each submarine. SHAKESPEARE. 2. 3 friendly Hudson aircraft will observe your approach to Algiers from about 0630/1st.

/3. ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

SARACEN, SHAKESPEARE. (Capt. S.8, 1720A/31 to SARACEN, SHAKESPEARE.) (Contd.)

EMPIRE TERN, FOXTROT. Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 1730A/31 to Cdre. Algiers, A.I.G.259.)

UNBROKEN, enemy units. Aircraft reports one small unidentified vessel and one escort vessel 220° Cape Spartivento 3 miles, course 090°, 6/7 knots at 1415A/31st. (Capt. (S) 10, 1746A/31 to P.42 (UNBROKEN).)

UNSEEN. From P proceed by reverse of outward route to arrive Malta searched channel 0830A April 3rd. (Capt. (S) 10, 1749A/31 to P.51 (UNSEEN), (R) C. in C. Med., S/Ms on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Levant.)

PARTHIAN. If you are in the vicinity patrol off Mudros a.m. tomorrow. (Capt. (S) 1, 1802B/31 to PARTHIAN.)

JURA (torpedoed 7th Jan.) Admty. pass to C. in C. Med. (passing action being taken by W.R.) Request clarification attack on JURA reported N.C.X.F. 1730A/7th Jan. (see page 243, Jan.) B.A.D. Washington advises ship in service in Clyde in February. Survivors report stated survivors rescued by STRONSAY. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 1903/31 to C. in C. Med.) Reply: (C. in C. Med., 021204A April.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.567, C.S.R. 31st March.
(A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 30th/31st
March. Low cloud and poor visibility curtailed
all offensive operations. 5 Mosquitoes made
intruder patrols over Sicily 3 patrolling Comiso

all offensive operations. 5 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily 3 patrolling Comiso Catania and 2 patrolling Trapani Palermo area but no suitable target was found. Day 31st March. 2 offensive sweeps were made over Southern Sicily by total of 25 Spitfires but no enemy aircraft was found.

Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 30th/31st March. 1 Beaufighter was airborne for raid which turned back before reaching Malta. Day 31st March. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which turned back before reaching Island. 9 Beaufighters provided escort to shipping southbound from Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1910Z/31, 2007Z/31.)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Effect of British Naval Shellfire. Your 1100/26/2. Information asked for will be forwarded by post. 2. Request you will endeavour to ascertain from French Authorities the extent of damage to DUNKERQUE caused by aircraft torpedoes at Oran in July 1940. 3. Information regarding damage to RESOLUTION by French submarine torpedo is available in exchange. (D.T.S.D., Approved A.C.N.S.(W), 1936A/31 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Port Said. 31st March Port Said arrivals PANTHER, BURRA, WOLBOROUGH, Tug ST. MONANCE, L.C.T.138. Departures PANTHER, BURRA, COUNDOURIOTIS, WOLBOROUGH, R.F.A. BARDAPUR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 2057B/31 to Admty., etc.)

Situation Report No. 17. Tunisia. Naval party arrived Gabes dawn 30th March. Defencés installed. 2. Tripoli (L). My 1428/28th March, para. 1. Convoy arrived 30th March, no further attacks. 3. Levant. Egyptian Coaster RUSHHI torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat at 2200/28th March in 31° 46' N. 34° 23' E. BURRA picked up Master, apparently sole survivor. (C. in C. Levant, 2113B/31 to Admty.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrived MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ROTHESAY, WILTON, BRIXHAM, PRINSES BEATRIX, ASHANTI, Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND. Departures FOXTROT, NEWFOUNDLAND, Submarine TRIDENT. (Cdre. Algiers, 2116A/31 to Admty., etc.)

Attacks A.M. 091916 July 1942 not to C. in C. Med. on U/Bs. All positions north and East.

421	111012 Feb.	SPETSAI, AETOS,	32°	48'	34°	48'	H	
		KLO.					(E)(F)	Nil
422	221909 Feb.	GLOXINIA	32°		20°		H	Nil.2
423	171435 Feb.	COUNDOURIOTIS			23°		I	Nil
424	201625 Feb.	HYACINTH, PROTEA			21°	46'	E	Nil
425	121720 Mar.	NUBIAN	37°	50.	-		Н	Nil
					25°	59 '	11	14 7 7
426	040051 Mar.	(PRIMULA ?),	31°	021	28°	581	न्त	Nil
		SAKTOUR IS.					±.	TITE
427	191335 Feb.	ISIS, HURSLEY &)						Prob-
		Wellington)	32°	56'	20°	54'	A	ably
		A/C of 38 Sqn.)						German
428	210900 Mar.	Beaufort A/C)	330	101	21°	401	P	Nil
		of 47 Sqn.)	00		A		£*	NTT
(C.	in C. Levant,	2125/31 to Admty.	.)					

DULVERTON.

Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 2243/31 to Admty., etc.) /Situation ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Situation Report No. 75. (1) My 1822/28, para. 7. EMPIRE ROWAN is
(? considered) total loss all possible gear being salved. Amend last sentence to read 7 enemy A/C claimed shot down and 2 damaged by fighters. 1 shot down by A/A fire from FLUELLEN.
(2) Demonstration and feint landing including

bombardment by LAFOREY and O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA carried out near Cape Serrat at 272200 according to plan.
(3) PALADIN and G.S. QUEEN OLGA carried out sweep in Gulf Hammamet during night 29th/30th March, nothing was sighted.
PAKENHAM, PETARD operated similarly night 30th/31st March.
(4) M.T.Bs from Malta were off (? Beirut) night 29th/30th March. Further M.T.B. operations arranged from both Bone and Malta for 30th/31st March were cancelled owing to weather.
(5) SS. FORT A LA CORNE and SS. HALLANGER in convoy E.T.16 were torpedoed by U-Boat at 301945 and subsequently sank in position 036° 55' N. 001° 39' E.
(6) (? SPLENDID) reports: (a) At 1040/17 (? off) Trapani fired 4 torpedoed at 10,000 ton southbound tanker escorted by 4 destroyers. 3 hits, ship believed sunk.
(b) In 038° 05' N. 014° 10' E. fired 3 torpedoed at damaged 3000 ton eastbound tanker in tow at 211502. One hit, ship believed sunk.

(C. in C. Med., 2314A/31 to Admty.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrival at Derna M.L.349 and 351. Arrived and left ALDENHAM, ROCKWOOD. Sailed M.T.Bs 267, 313. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 2328B/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Benghazi. Arrived and sailed PALADIN, QUEEN OLGA G.S. Sailed M.T.Bs 64, 63. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 2337B/31 to Admty.)

MALAYA, damage. On returning to harbour from practice last night MALAYA damaged port wing propeller on moorings of number 8 buoy. Considered undesirable for ship to steam pending replacement by spare prop-

eller which is available be given priority for docking in number 1 dock on completion of repair to SAMARIA. Estimate time required in dock 3 days. (S.O. Force H, 2347A/31 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, MALAYA, Admty.)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

PLADDA (cyclone damage.) Ref. my 1408/15th Feb. PLADDA was refloated on 25th March. She will be towed to Diego Suarez on about 8th April to be made ready for steaming, after which she will be sailed to Durban for permanent repairs. (C. in C.E.F., 06522/31 to Admty.)

Japanese Identification Signals. Following information should be promulgated by Secret Hand Messages to H.M.S. (Corvettes and fleet auxiliaries) and through N.C.S.O. for Masters of Merchant Ship proceeding to Bay of Bengal and Australian Waters at N.C.S.O.'s

discretion. (Begins) - Japanese instructions regarding identification signal for exchange with friendly foreign vessel which came into force March 1st are as follows -Japanese Vessel will transmit several times by white signal lamp the morse letters H.Q. Friendly foreign vessel will use the morse letter GR. Letters SA and symbol MM (barred) letter B are reserved for alternatives respectively. Where Japanese vessel first received calling signal HQ or GR they must answer with regulation answering (code) (Ends.) (C. in C.E.F., 0902Z/31 to F.O.N.I.C.92 (R) Admty., for D.N.I., D.N.I. Melbourne.)

Convoy C.M.40A. Arrived Kilindini 0945Z/31st. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 1003Z/31 to Admty.)

Arrived.

Movements. Colombo departures 31st March. 0230Z GAWLER. 0230Z SCOUT. 0300Z M.L.1080. (F.O. Ceylon, 1205Z/31 to Admty.)

Dispositions. My 1831/17. Following changes have been reported. NORTH CAROLINA at Pearl Harbour. NASSAU at San Francisco. CORE, NEW ORLEANS at Sea. ALTAMAHA at San Diego. (D.O.D.(F), 1224A/31 to C. in C. E.F.)

WAYLAND.

(F.O.E.A. and Z., 1231Z/31 to Admty.)

Military Transports. l. Following received from P.S.T.O. (Begins) -Request you hold all personnel transports at your port pending further reply from D. of S.T. T.O.O. 0435/30 March (ends.)

2. Embarkation of Mideast Units quoted in my 0747/27th March para. 1 already in hand. Expected time of sailing VARELA and SALWEEN 2/4 ASCANIUS 4/4. Interruption of programme will entail acute transport disorganisation. 3. No decision yet received about Units quoted in my 0747/27 March para. 2, but if these are to proceed expected time of sailing VARSOVA p.m.4/4. 4. Request immediate decision whether ships in 2. above are to proceed Mideast, also earliest possible

/decision...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Military Transports. Contd.

decision re VARSOVA. 5. KOSCIUSZKO returning India with urgent details to capacity. decision re VARSOVA. Expected time of sailing a.m. 1/4. (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, 1235Z/31 to D.of S.T., (R) P.S.T.O.H., P.S.T.O. M.E., P.A.I.C., ARMINIA.) Reply: D.S.T. 010416A April.

Air Report, India.

(B) Offensive R/C. 30th March. 1 Wellington Arakan Coast machine gunned coastal shipping off Cheduba. (A.H.Q., India, 1250Z/31 to Air Min.)

Oiling at Sea.

.

Your 1342/17. British systems detailed in C.B. 4080/42 and in drawings forwarded with Admiralty letter dated 18th December 1942. N.S.018587/ 39887 and as fitted in EAGLESDALE and EASEDALE have proved adequate, both with trough and with er stern. These systems do not necessitate large buoyant hose over stern. increase in personnel proposed and assistance of D.E.M.S. ratings not on watch suffices. Uniformity of equipment of R.F.A.'s very desirable H.M. Ships adapt themselves to U.S. methods when fuelling from U.S. tankers. Considered U.S. ships should reciprocate when fuelling from British tankers. Approved therefore for ARNDALE to be equipped with platform and

stirrup rail like EAGLESDALE and EASEDALE. (4th S.L. 1354A/31 to C. in C. E.F., (R) C. in C.S.A., Com I/C Durban, C.S. Durban.)

A/S Protection, Indian Ocean.

From various signals which have passed between Air Ministry and air authorities in and bordering on East Indies Station, it would appear that Anti (?U-boat) Committee has evolved a plan for provision of convoy protection in Indian Ocean. (2) I am unaware of any new policy affecting allocation and distribution of aircraft or escort vessels for trade protection in Indian Ocean, and request any such plan may be communicated.

(C. in C.E.F., 1358Z/31 to Admty., (R) Air Ministry.)

Ceylon movements. Summary 0.44 of 31st March. (1) FALMOUTH left Aden 26th March escorting A.P. 26 due Khor Kwae 4 April due to leave Banda 4th April with ASTER escorting P.B. 34.

(3) SCOUT and GAWLER left Colombo 31st March to rendezvous and escort O.W.3 to Colombo due 2nd April. (3) SUTLE arrived Bombay 25th March. (4) JUMNA left Colombo 28th March escorting M.B.30 due Bombay 1st April M.L. CLIVE arrived Bombay 26th March. (6) SOCAYATI arrived Colombo 28th March leaves for Diego Garcia and Addu Atoll 1st April. (7) MARGUERITE and CAPETOWN due to leave Aden 3rd April escorting
A.B.6 to Bombay. (8) TULIP arrived Colombo 30th March.
(9) VERBENA arrived Calcutta 23rd March. (10) LISMORE arrived Colombo 27th March. (11) BATHURST and LAUCESTON left Banda Abbas 29th March escorting P.A.31 due Aden 6th April. (12) JAN DE WAELE left Addu Atoll 25th March due Seychelles lst April.

(F.O. Ceylon, 1430Z/31 to Admty., etc.)

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC.

Am sailing from Reunion Is. for Mauritius 1959Z/31st. E.T.A. Port Louis O600Z/1st March. (April intended.) Request pilot. Requirements. (COMMANDANTE DUBOC, 1610D/31 to N.O.i/c Mauritius. (R) N.O.i/c Diego Suarez, F.S. LEOPARD, C. in C. E.F., F.O. East Africa.)

Ptongwe N.A.Depot jetty.

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3

Request your recommendations on A.S. Kilindini 1148/19 and remarks on expectation of increase in importance of armament depot. Overseas Port and Transit Committee consider there is still a strong case for early completion of deep water berths. Reports are still received here for congestion at Kilindini, imports are expected to continue high for some time and exports are expected to increase. (Head of M.II, 1717A/31 to C. in C.E.F., (R) F.O.E.A., A.S. Kilindini, D.D.A.S. E.F.)

SCARAB COCKCHAFER. Gunboats SCARAB and COCKCHAFER are being transferred from Persian Gulf to Mediterranean leaving Basra about 8th April. 2. Two tugs for Trincomalee from Khor Kuwai to approaches to

Aden already arranged by S.N.O.P.G. One tug JAMES E. HUGHES can proceed to Suez. 3. Request you will arrange second tug for onward towage from Aden and arrange passage through Red Sea. 4. E.T.A. Aden about 20th April to be confirmed by S.N.O.P.G. in due course. (C. in C.E.F., 1721Z/31 to F.O.R.S.C.A.(R) S.N.O.P.G., N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

M.L. 1172 Informed by U.S. Naval Attache M.L. 1172 arrived Antilla March 30th minor engine repairs. Expect to depart April 1st. (B.R.L.O. Havana, ?20/31 to Admty).

ARETHUSA Charleston arrived 0957Q/30. (N.S.H.Q., 0036Z/31 to Admty).

U.S. Submarine (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 0115/31, 1535/31, 1536/31, notice. S/M 1555/31, 1556/31, 1557/31, 1936/31). estimate 31st March.

North	Make preliminary arrangements accordance Cominch
Atlantic	1251/30 (1257/30 intended).
Area Command.	(C. in C. Lant, 0321Z/31 to Comtask for 24 (R)
	Cominch, N.S.H.Q., Admty).

X. B. 40.

Boston section arrived 1227/30th. This cancels my 1302/30th (N.T. in W.D.) (Cdr. 1st U.S. Nav. Dist. Boston, 0700Z/31 to Connav, Admty. Cdr. Eastseafront, (R) (?C.O.A.C.) N.S.H.Q.)

U/B

Intercept submarine sighted 19° 50' N., 75° 04' W; at 0820Q. (Kingston, 1016R/31 to Admty).

S.C.122 Report of U/B attacks. Following is preliminary report of convoy S.C.122 Escort consisted of HAVELOCK, Senior Officer, plus one frigate and five corvettes. Group was reinforced by U.S. destroyer UPSHUR who was ordered to join O.N. 170 p.m./13th but rejoined S.C.122 at 1400/14.

2. S.C.122 consisted of 50 ships, including a rescue ship, in 11 columns, numbered 3 to 13. Speed 7½ knots. CAMPOBELLO dropped astern and became Marine Casualty on 16th for reasons not fully understood. Senior Officer, UPSHUR and rescue ship fitted H/F D/F, reports from which indicated 6 U-boats in touch on 16th. 3. Night 16/17. First attack was at 0201 position 52° 14' N. 32° 15' W. Ships in positions 51, 52, 61, 124 were torpedoed. "Half-Raspberry" carried out and snowflakes fired from between the columns. Weather and visibility were good. Attack was preceded by signal made close ahead of convoy. 4. Day 17th. First aircraft was homed on to convoy at dawn and made two attacks before leaving about noon. At 1406 No.41 was torpedoed in excellent visibility. Asdic contacts were attacked by UPSHUR and GODETIA. Air escort again provided p.m. and resulted in one sighting and one attack. There was no aircraft present at time of attack on convoy. H/F D/F bearings obtained were passed to aircraft and sweeps were made by 3 surface escorts.

/5 ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S.C. 122. Report of U/B Attacks. (Contd.) 5. Night 17th/18th. Convoy was attacked at 2214 Nos. 92 and 84 were torpedoed. Previously, at 2208 U-Boat was detected by R.D.F. but dived immediately and was not found. "Half-Raspberry" was carried out without success. Weather and visibility were moderate and snowflakes were not used. At 256 U-Boat surfaced near wreck and

was attacked by GODETIA who was standing by. 6. Day 18th. 0800 position 53° 25' N. 27° 02' W. One straggler air escort provided by 5 aircraft, made 4 attacks and 2 sightings.

7. Night 18th/19th. An attempted attack at 2203 was frustrated. U-Boat made signal close on port bow, was R.D.F'd., and attacked by escort. At 0550/19 No.132 was torpedoed, visibility good to excellent in bright moonlight. A contact was attacked by SWALE on the starboard side.

8. 19th. Continuous air escort provided from 0834/19 to 0302/20 by 6 aircraft all of whom met. 4 attacks, 2 of which are considered promising. Offensive sweeps, also covering H.X.229, resulted in 2 attacks and one sighting.
9. 20th. Air cover by 13 aircraft resulted in 4 attacks and 2 sightings.

General Remarks.

40

10. Snowflakes were used during first attack only. Communications and co-operation between air and surface escort were excellent, many attacks and sightings by the former being result of H/F D/F bearings obtained by the latter. R.D.F. conditions were normal but results were disappointing. B.A.D. pass to Cominch. (D.A/S.W., Approved by A.C.N.S.(UT), 1027A/31 to B.A.D.)

H.X. 229. Report of U/B Attacks.

Following is preliminary report of convoy H.X.229. Escort consisted of 2 destroyers and 2 corvettes and support force of 1 destroyer; latter remained with convoy until after main attacks. HIGHLANDER, Senior Officer of group, was delayed and did not join until after the attacks on the convoy.

2. H.X. 229 consisted of 39 ships, speed 9 knots. Was first reported shadowed on 16th. 0800 position 49° 30' N. 37° 40' W. MANSFIELD obtained H/F D/F bearing fine on port bow at 1346/16.

3. Night 16th/17th. Four attacks were made on the convoy, details as follows. Read in four columns.

/No. of ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 229. Report of U/B Attacks. (Contd.) 1 2215/16 101 U-Boat not detected though "half-rasp- berry" carried out. 2 2334/16 103 One corvette astern. 93 picking up survi- 22 vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port quarter of convoy. 3 0259/17 72 Only 2 destroyers 91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks 4. Day 17th. 0800 position 51° 13' N. 33° 30' W. at 1305 Nos.					
22334/16103though "half-rasp- berry" carried out.22334/16103One corvette astern. 9393picking up survi- 22vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port quarter of convoy.30259/177230259/177291with convoy. U/Bs not detected.40456/17815.0. rejoined just before attack.40456/1781S.O. rejoined just before attack.93U-Boats not detected.940456/1795U-Boats not detected.96U-Boats not detected.97U-Boats not detected.98U-Boats not detected.99U-Boats not detected.90U-Boats not detected.91U-Boats not detected.91U-Boats not d	Report of U/B Attacks.		Time	convoy of ships	Remarks
2 2334/16 103 93 picking up survi- 22 vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port quarter of convoy. 3 0259/17 72 Only 2 destroyers 91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks		1	2215/16	101	though "half-rasp-
93 picking up survi- 22 vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port quarter of convoy. 3 0259/17 72 Only 2 destroyers 91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks		2	2334/16	103	
22 vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port quarter of convoy. 3 0259/17 72 Only 2 destroyers 91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks		_		-	
 3 0259/17 72 Only 2 destroyers 91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then consisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks. 					vors. One U-Boat was attacked with negative results, and one sighted 4 miles in port
91 with convoy. U/Bs not detected. 4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks.					
4 0456/17 81 S.O. rejoined just 111 before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks.		3	0259/17		with convoy. U/Bs
111before attack. Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks					not detected.
Escort then con- sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks.		4	0456/17		
sisted of 3 ships. U-Boats not detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks.				111	
detected. One destroyer left to search round wrecks					sisted of 3 ships.
destroyer left to search round wrecks					
search round wrecks					
	4. Day 17th.	0800 008	ition 51°	13' N. 33°	

4. 104 and 82 were torpedoed on starboard sides. Search was without result. Convoy made 2 turns to port. At 1355 destroyer attacked 2 U-Boats, one considered severely damaged. 5. At 1630 2 aircraft met convoy at a range of 1000 miles from base. Air escort remained till 2100 and sighted 6 U-Boats, 3 of which were attacked.

6. Night 17th/18th. No attacks on convoy. Day 18th. 0800 position 53° 30' N. 28° 28' W. At 1552/18th Nos. 21 and 33 torpedoed. "Artichoke" carried out by escort. U-Boat was sighted by merchant ship between 2nd and 3rd columns; escort obtained one contact which was attacked without result. At 1905 escort was reinforced by HIGHLANDER and BABBITT. 7. Air escort was provided by 4 aircraft from 0800 to 2000. None met. 2 U-Boats were sighted, none attacked. An offensive sweep was made by one aircraft from 1600 - 2200 and resulted in one attack.

8. Night 18th/19th. Attempted attacks on convoy frustrated. Surface escorts attacked from 3 to 5 U-Boats. Estimate 2 damaged.

9. Day 19th. 0800 position 54° 47' N. 25° 16' W. Air escort by 6 aircraft, all but one met. One promising attack made. Offensive sweeps by 5 aircraft, also covering S.C.122, resulted in 2 attacks and one sighting.

10. No further attacks made on convoy though U-Boats estimated still shadowing a.m./20th. Air cover during whole of 20th by 13 aircraft. 4 attacks and 2 sightings resulted.

/11. ...

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31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

H.X. 229. Report of U/B Attacks. (Contd.) 11. General Remarks. Attacks on convoy appeared to develop from starboard bow but majority of U-Boats sighted appeared to be coming up from astern. Conditions of attack considered unaffected by weather. Illuminants not used owing to the bright moon and excellent visibility. Heavy losses incurred are

visibility. Heavy losses incurred are attributed to (A) Small size of surface escort during critical period. (B) Lack of rescue ship which resulted in escorts being absent from convoy picking up survivors. (C) Inability of shore based aircraft to provide cover during early period of the action.

B.A.D. pass to Cominch. (D.A/S.W., Approved A.C.N.S.(UT), 1028A/31 to B.A.D.) As amended 1918A/31.

Movements Summary	Ship 17 L.C.I.(L)s	Position 30 ¹ / ₂ ° N. 57 ¹ / ₂ ° W.	Course 105°	Speed 10
1800 G.M.T. 31st March.	MILFORD with) Floating Dock)	$03\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N. $49\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ W.	133°	6
	CILICIA A.T. 40 (D.O.D.(F), 1103Z/	04° N. 24° W. 42½° N. 39½° W. /31 to Opnav, (R)	Patrol 091° Comnave	26

H.X.231, SCEBELI.

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Following has been transmitted to escorts with H.X.231 (Begins): Following from SCEBELI (begins) Lost convoy please send immediately independent route orders or R/V in position for 30th March 31st March (ends).

(2) Indicate R/V for SCEBELI for 31st March and 1st April to be broadcast B.A.M.S. 1637Z/30. (Ends). (C.O.A.C., 1221Z/31 to Connav, C.T.F., etc.)

Movements. U.S. Submarine Chaser 649 arrived and left March 31st on patrol. (R.O. Santa Marta, 1345/31 to Admty.) Departures H.M.C.S. ANNAPOLIS, BRANTFORD, MATAPEDIA, SASKATOON escorting L.S.Ts 319, 366, 406 and S.C. 125. Arrival H.M.C.S. NIPIGON from Argentia. (C. Halifax, 22492/31 to Admty.)

G. Z. 26.	Arrived.				
	(B.R.L.O.	Cristobal,	1406R/31	to	Admty.)

H.X.231. H.X.231, arrived Halifax 31st March Norwegian ORNNAVFJELL, requires bunkers, British SALUTA, unable to maintain H.X. convoy speed, later developed boiler trouble. Escort pass to Cdre. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, N.S., 1456Z/31 to Admty., (R) M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.5, etc.)

/ U/B ...

1250

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B Report.

My 2055/29th (Submarine reported heard south of Dominica). No further details obtainable. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 1519R/31 to Opnav, Admty., etc.)

Direct BERRY, B.D.E.3 when ready proceed New York via Cape Cod Canal and Long Island Sound report Comeastseafron for onward routeing to B.D.E.3. Bermuda.

N.O.B. Bermuda pass to S.B.N.O.W.A. (Comeastseafron, 1529/31 to C.T.G. 02.1, (R) Cominch, B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.A., N.O.B. Bermuda, Admty., C. in C. Lant, C.T.Gs. 02.2 and 02.3.)

U.S. S/Ms	My 2125Z/1. In a similar conversation today
under	Chief of Naval Staff expressed disappointment
British	at results achieved by American submarines under
control.	British control and inferred better use might
	be found for them in Pacific.
	(B.A.D., 1609Z/31 to Admty., (R) F.O.S.)

Oiling at Sea gear.

(1)

Canvas hose, trough, adaptors and other oiling at sea gear is to be removed from SCOTTISH MUSICIAN, due New York shortly from O.N.S.1 and returned to U.K. 2. Name of vessel on which this gear will be

embarked should be reported to Admiralty. (D.T.D., 1704A/31 to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) D.D. of S. New York, C. in C. W.A.)

Your 2048/29, what is required is a convoy Convoy arrival signal on lines somewhat similar to the arrival arrival signals sent by Admiralty regarding signals. H.X. and S.C. convoys. Such reports are already sent by B.R.L.O. New York regarding New York

portions and the picture would be complete if N.C.S.O. Halifax sent an arrival signal regarding Halifax portions. This would conform with C.B. 04024 (41) Article 92A. (D.T.D., 1735A/31 to N.S.H.Q.)

MAVIS BARBARA. My 292102 Canadian Schooner MAVIS BARBARA arrived St. Thomas 29th March. (N.S.H.Q., 2013Z/31 to Admty., Connav.)

Assessment of attacks on U/Bs by A/C of Convoy Escorts.

It is proposed that, on the forthcoming command relations in the North Atlantic becoming effective, attacks by the surface and shipborne aircraft escorts of H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys should be assessed by Admiralty and attacks by the escorts of U.G., C.U. and O.T. convoys by Cominch. 2. Request your remarks as to assessment of attacks by shore based aircraft. (A.C.N.S.(UT), 2027A/31 to Cominch, (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.D.)

/L.S.Ts. ...

1251

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

L.S.Ts.

Sailed L.S.Ts. 319, 366 and 406 to U.K. in S.C.125. 2. Anticipate L.S.T. 321 delayed by defects will proceed with S.C.126. (C.O.A.C., 2030Z/31 to Admty., (R) Cominch, B.A.M.R., C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

Sub. attack All times Z. and sighting Para. C. K. 24 Radar contact: 19° 05' N. 75° 04' W. 1220/31. U.S. C.G. MONOMY attacks sound contact 39° 28' N. 50° 37' W. 1815/30. U.S.S. MATAGORDA Radar contact and sighting 18° N. 63° summary. 39' W. 2335/30.

Para. D. P.C.1193 sound contact 25° 39' N. 80° 05' W. 0224/31. Navy plane sights sub. submerging area 26° 19' N. 79° 31' W. 1300/31. S.C.1018 sights sub. 27° 10' N. 79° 41' W. 2350/30. Plane sights sub. 42° 10' N. 70° 10' W. 1740/30. Sound contact reported 15° 10' N. 61° 22' W. 1400/29. (Cominch, 2105/31 to Admty.)

Bermuda arrivals H.M. L.C.I.(L) 269, 297, 250, 298, 266, 253, 185, 114, 117, 275, 273, 276, 187, 314, 317, 299, 263, 249. Departure U.S.: HOWARD and ARIEL. Movements, Bermuda. Departure U.S.S. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 2109P/31 to Admty.)

Army Transport FLORIDA (U.S.) arrived Key West FLORIDA. March 30th. (N.S.H.Q., 2131Z/31 to Bank Block London.)

Navy Department are anxious to get the benefit A.C.Vs of all experience of operating A.C.Vs with experience, convoys. BOGUE, 2. They are holding a meeting on this subject ATTACKER. on Monday 5th April at which the BOGUE's experience will be available. They request that any useful experience gained by ATTACKER F.O. C.U.1 may be signalled so as to be available at that

meeting. They will inform you of any experience gained by BOGUE. F.O.I.C. Greenock pass to ATTACKER. (B.A.D., 2141Z/31 to Admty., C. in C. W.A., (R) ATTACKER.)

H.X. 232.

1. Sailing telegram part 1. 2. Position G at 1730Z/1st April. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafron's 261545 March except all times 22 hours earlier. Task Unit 24.18.6, TIMMINS S.O., TRAIL, DUNDAS, NORANDA. Escort tanker SAINTONGE 5" flotation, stand by THORSHOVDI, improvised. (Port Director New York, 2142/31 to Admty.)

/O.N. 174 ...

1252

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

O.N. 174.

My 2214Z/31st (N.T. in W.D.) (1) 0.N.174 in 047° 12' N. 045° 45' W. at 2200Z/31st course 177°, speed 6.5. 39 merchant ships in company.

(2) Intend altering for Z.K at 0830Z/1st.
(3) In view of time required to make good defects reported in my 1846Z/30th intend ESCAPADE leave convoy in charge of GARLAND and proceed Argentia in time to arrive there at daylight Tuesday 2nd April.

(4) Note ROSELYS F.S. after parting company with convoy calls at St. Pierre with mail and personnel before proceeding Argentia. Special weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.17, 2230Z/31 to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7,

H.Q.C.C.)

G 10

90

MARAVI, "S" Report. Kingston Radio reports "Intercepted 2214 New Orleans Radio" 'S S S HPAL SS. MARAVI 29° 24' N. 86° 12' W." (S.O.(I) Kingston, 2315R/31 to Admty.)

U.S. and British

J.S.M. 850, 31st March. Chiefs of Staff from F.M. Dill. Imports. Ref. 1497, 29th March. S. of A. Foreign Affairs to Prime Minister, para. 3. Foreign Secretary before leaving for Canada told me that President had informed U.S. Chiefs of Staff through Marshall that American share of our import programme must be

No. 1 on schedule of American execution. As for schedule, Leathers will be hearing from Salter tomorrow. As we under-stand it, U.S. Chiefs of Staff and Service Depts. have strongest objections to guaranteeing as a first charge an unknown amount of American tonnage to achieve 27,000,000 tons, whatever British An agreed fixed charge is not importing capacity proves to be. open to the same objection.

(J.S.M., 2331Z/31 to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

U.G.S. 7.

1. Sailing telegram.

2. 1930Z April 1st. 2 seaward end of swept channel.

3. Position J at 0200Z April 3rd. S. of A. 9 knots. 5. (Route).

6. Task Force 69. U.S.S. STEVENSON, S.O., U.S.S. STOCKTON, FOOTE, CLAXTON, CHARLES AUSBURNE, RINGOLD, SCHOEDER, SPEN, ENOREE.

16. First "Chop" 100800Z C. in C. to Admty. 2nd "Chop" 172400Z Admty. to C. in C. Med. Radio watch F all way. Also B N from 100800Z to 150600Z, G 150600Z to destination. (Port Director New York, 2358Z/31 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. & R, (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.E.S.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q., Moroccan Sea Frontier Forces, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, C. in C. Med.)

1253

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Noumea 2030Z/30. U.S.S. SKYLARK

escorting H.T. WAHINE. Departure Wellington 0550Z/31 U.S.S. FOMALHAUT for Noumea E.T.A. 2200Z/3 April direct route

14 knots.

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(D.N.I. Wellington, 06032/31 to Admty.) Departure Noumea U.S.S. SKYLARK escorting H.T. WAHINE to Norfolk Island, E.T.A. 2000Z/1st April.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 0800Z/31 to Admty.) R.A.F.A. BISHOPDALE arrived Brisbane 30th March. V.S.I.S. MERKUR arrived Townsville 30th. H.T. TAROONA departed Townsvilee 29th due Fall River 31st. U.S. Transport CREMER departed Townsville 30th due Brisbane 1st April. (A.C.N.B., 1118Z/31 to Admty., Connav.) Arrival Port Phillip 30th U.S. Naval Transport MOUNT

VERNON.

(A.C.N.B., 11492/31 to Admty., Connav.)

Arrival Milne Bay 30th KAPUNDA. Departure Palm Island Area 30th U.S.S. MUGFORD for Brisbane. Port Moresby 30th U.S.S. BAGLEY for Palm Island Area. Milne Bay 29th BOWEN for Townsville. Sydney 30th ROCKHAMPTON, WARRNAMBOOL for Brisbane.

(A.C.N.B., 1535Z/31 to Admty., C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B., C.O.I.S.)

Digest Serial No. 434 30th March. Liberator noon sank schooner Cape Gloucester area and later unsuccessfully attacked small camouflaged vessel near Ubili. (2) 4 unidentified vessels sighted morning 29th south-west Kavieng course S.W. Ref. Digest 433 para. 1, believed same vessels described

as 4 destroyers seen by Fortress stationary 5 miles off Finschaffen early hours 30th, when 5th ship believed small cargo vessel also seen in area. Aircraft scored hit on stern 1 destroyer. Convoy departed northwards after 2 hour, and 4 destroyers seen after daybreak north of Cape Gloucester, course N.E. speed 25 knots. Shadowing Liberator encountered 3 flights of 8, 9 and 4 Darros respect-ively, whereof 2 definitely destroyed, plus 2 probables. 5 Liberators unable to locate convoy early afternoon due weather, bombed Gasmata aerodrome.

(3) Finschhafen town and waterfront attacked between dawn and noon by 2 Fortresses, 3 Liberators. Early afternoon 9 Beaufighters also B.25s and Bostons covered by 12 Lightnings hit same area. Reports not complete but damage inflicted dock area and fires started, but nil stores, nil loaded barges

or unusual activity seen. (4) One Liberator bombed strafed beaches badges at Ulingan (44 miles N.W. Madang) morning and also reported sighting two small vessels Wewak harbour and bridges spanning coastal track between Wewak and Madang. Later strafed Saider area. (7) Three enemy bombers raided Oro Bay before dawn 30th March

causing slight damage to communications. (8) Six small vessels sighted vicinity Kaimana bay noon. (10) Indications enemy submarine 11° 37' S. 139° 39' W. at 1151Z/28.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 0730Z/31.)

1954

31.3.1943. Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand. - Contd.

Task Force 78. My 1549Z/30. Task Force 78 now comprises all U.S. Navy escort vessels and mine craft in S.W. Pacific area. Task Force Command, Capt. Penn L. Carroll. (A.C.N.B., 1022Z/31 to Admty., (R) C. in C. E.F, N.Z.N.B.)

AQUITANIA. Fremantle 1355Z/30th March AQUITANIA Capetown 0600Z/10th April. S. of A. 19.25 knots, days 12.

Section 2. W. 036° 10' S. 095° 00' E. X. 036° 30' S. 072° 00' E. Y. 039° 20' S. 045° 00' E. Z. 040° 00' S. 023° 00' E. A. 034° 19' S. 018° 00' E. (23) (24) 1 Ship 33. Q.G.A.127, "Chop" 110° E. 0500Z/31st March. (A.C.N.B., 1032Z/31 to Connav, Admty., etc.)

CANADIAN STAR	Your 0107/30. Names of casualties and survivors of Australian personnel sent by Owners, Blue
	Star Line to their Sydney Office 22nd March
loss,	
casualties.	by cable.
	2. Commencing 1st April Admiralty will signal
	A.C.N.B 1. Name of Ship. 2. Date.
	3. Position. 4. Cause of loss of merchant
ships lost on	voyages from Australia.
3 Information	as to casualties is passed by Owners.
(D.T.D., 1313A	/31 to A.C.N.B.)

ORANJE.

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Hospital ship ORANJE sailed Sydney 30th March E.T.A. Aden 13th April, with Italian protected personnel and Australian military guard. (A.C.N.B., 1625Z/31 to D.S.T., (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions. (D.D.I.C., 1400A/31, 1425A/31.)