

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2260

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

- Weather. 6. The weather continues to cause dislocation of coastal convoys and shipping.
- 5th Escort Group. 7. The sailing of ARCHER from the Clyde with OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE (5th Escort Group) with Convoy O.N.176 was postponed on account of the weather.
- 3rd Escort Group. 8. The 3rd Escort Group (see 25th March) returned to Londonderry today from S.C.123.

South Atlantic.

- Blockade runner patrols. 9. Patrols will be carried out in the Atlantic narrows by GEORGES LEYGUES, CILICIA & CARNARVON CASTLE.
The blockade runners HIMALAYA, PORTLAND and OSORNO are thought to have left French ports on the night 28th/29th March.
UGANDA, which sailed on 30th March for U.K., is to patrol between 30° N. - 35° N., 30° W. - 35° W. proceeding to fuel at Gibraltar at limit of endurance.

Mediterranean.

- Convoy "Outwit". 10. A convoy of 12 empty merchant ships sailed eastward from Malta at 1914 today, escorted by 5 destroyers and an auxiliary minesweeper.
- M.T.B. collision. 11. M.T.Bs 63 and 64, which left Benghazi yesterday for Malta, collided at about 0500 today. M.T.B.64 returned to Benghazi on 3rd April badly damaged. M.T.B.63 was abandoned in 30.50 N. 19.50.5 E., heavy weather preventing towage. HAILSTORM rescued all the crew.

War Diary.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

12. 13 Wellingtons bombed Bizerta docks and seaplane base last night.

America and West Indies.

13. The Panamanian MARAVI (Guantanamo to Mobile) made a submarine distress signal at 0345 today in 29.24 N. 86.12 W.

14. SS. LYSEFJORD, Norwegian, 1091 tons, was torpedoed and sunk in about 23.08 N. 83.12 W. p.m. today.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. Shipping in the Kavieng area was attacked by 7 Liberators and 3 Fortresses after sundown. Probable hits were scored on 2 medium merchantmen and a third ship was straddled and believed damaged.

B.24s made a low level attack last night on 5 Japanese destroyers and a merchant ship southwest of Kolombangara Island. A smoke screen prevented the results from being seen.

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

VARNE,
ULA. Admiralty Letter P.0562/43 of the 17th January.
At Ceremony held Barrow 28th March, H.M. King
Haakon of Norway renamed VARNE with Norwegian name
ULA.
(P.S.O. Barrow, 011325 to Admty).

Commodore 2 A.L/M. 01476/43 of 25th March 1943. As Admiral
B.5. Fraser will relinquish appointment of V.A.2 on
15th April and Vice Admiral Moore will not hoist
his flag as V.A.2 until 22nd May. Request
Captain H.R.G. Kinahan, C.B.E. be appointed
Commodore 2nd Class and Commodore 2nd Battle Squadron temporarily
to date 15th April and Anson in command in continuation. This
will allow normal administrative functions of V.A.2 to continue
interim period.
(C. in C. H.F., 011402A to Admty).

BOY PHILIP,
TILLY DUFF.
WELCOME
HOME. Your 011131. "LL" Drifters BOY PHILIP, TILLY
DUFF and WELCOME HOME should be paid off as soon
as convenient.
(D.M.S., 011858A to C. in C. Nore).

Defence of the United Kingdom.

Loop M.3 Your 1951/31. MINER 2 should sail as previously
at Londonderry. arranged. Repair to loop will be undertaken
at a later date when gear is available.
(D.T.M., 012249A to Cdre. Londonderry).

Movements.

S/M Delete reference to SATYR. My 1113/30 refers.
Movements. (Capt. S.3., 010923A to F.O.S.)
My 311735A. Sailed ULTIMATUM and PEARL.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011001A)
Sailed TUNA and STUBBORN, escorted by TADOUSSAC
to R/V with UNIVERSAL thence in accordance with S.3's 301113A as
amended by his 010923A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011246A).
My 301051. ALECTO proceeded at 1255.
(A.C.O.S., 011424).
My 1602/31 Para. (D). After Trevos Head amend to read
proceeding to Mounts Bay. E.T.A. 1530.
(F.O.S., 011426A to Admty).
Sailed SEVERN, BARB, RHODODENDRON in accordance with S.3's
1147A/30.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 011448A).
SICKLE leave position (Y) 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles at
0230/6 proceeding dived by day to position (W) 049° 50' N.,
009° 00' W. thence by "Brown" route to position, (V) 043°
01' N., 013° 22' W. E.T.A. position (V) 1700/11. Thence as
ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(Capt. S.5., 011645A).
My 1602/31 para. (D) and my 011426. Add sailing to arrive
000°. Round Island 7 miles at dusk, thence diving by day as in
my 1602/31.
(F.O.S., 011649A to Admty).

/positions...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions of submarines at 020800A and movements for following 24 hours.
 Movements. (A) TRUCULENT, SEA NYMPH, and TEMPLAR in zones (contd). K.151, K.150 and K.148.
 (B) SEVERN and BARB escorted by RHODODENDRON vicinity Northern End Little Minch speed 14½ knots, proceeding west of Orkneys and Shetlands due 000° Muckle Flugga 5 miles at 031100.
 (C) TUNA, STUBBORN, and UNIVERSAL escorted by TADOUSSAC vicinity Southern end Little Minch due Pentland Firth 030630, thence UNIVERSAL to Scapa. Remainder proceed East of Orkneys due Lerwick 031730.
 (D) ULTIMATUM escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Smalls for Holy Loch.
 (E) TRESPASSER 49° 50' N., 09° 20' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N., 12° 34' W. and 49° 10' N., 13° 22' W, thence to southward daily advance 120 miles.
 (F) SPORTSMAN 49° 30' N., 09° 05' W. dived by day through 49° 30' N., 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N., 12° 54' W, thence to southward, daily advance 115 miles.
 (G) HERRING in zone K.505.
 (H) SHAD in zone K.508.
 (F.O.S., 011728A to Admty).
 My 311602A para. (C). Cancel SATYR.
 (F.O.S., 012134A).
 My 011758A. Delete reference to H.28 and KIHNA.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 012244A).
 F.O.S., 312327. Request you sail SATYR for Londonderry as soon as convenient for A/S training.
 (D.O.D. H., 012300A to F.O.S.)
 My 011728. Add new para. (J). (J) H.28 escorted by KIHNA leaves Rothesay 1200/2nd for Plymouth. E.T.A. 0700/5, speed 8 knots. Add new para. (K). UPSTART and ULA escorted by VIRGINIA leave Barrow 0900/2, due Cumbræes 0600/3.
 (F.O.S., 012321A to Admty).

CUMBERLAND Your 301903. Observed P.C. and S. 065° 30' N. 008° 20' W, 310° 17 knots. Weather 5781 1086.
 (CUMBERLAND, 011602A to C. in C. H.F.)
 My 1801/30. Amend position B to read 067° 48' N. 017° 01' W.
 (C. in C. H.F., 011636A to CUMBERLAND).

Operations.

N.W. Norway My 1521/19 and 2353/31. S/Ms are to patrol in zone S/M Patrol. as follows:- P.238 K.190. TUNA K.191. SEVERN K.192, BARB K.193.
 2. Object to attack and report enemy main units. Very early information of any enemy movements is of vital importance.
 3. U-boats may also be attacked providing a full salvo is kept for heavy ships.
 4. Capt. (S) 9 is to arrange bombing restrictions and route.
 5. P.315 and P.223 will be withdrawn from patrol to Lerwick p.m./6th April.
 P.316 will be withdrawn to the Nore zones at same time and to Lerwick 2 days later.
 (F.O.S., 010006A).

/F.O.S....

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

N.W. Norway F.O.S. 312353 and your 311629 March. Patrol zones K.190 to 193 will be occupied from the 6th April.
S/M Patrol. (contd). 2. 2 Submarines on patrol in areas K.150 and K.151 will be withdrawn to the U.K. on the 6th April. Submarine in K.148 will be withdrawn to the Northern zones at the same time and return to U.K. 2 days later. (D.O.D. H., 011453A to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

Search for Cross over patrol "Trudge 1" enclosed by 063° 00' N., 015° 48' W, 061° 38' N., 013° 15' W, 061° 58' N., 012° 50' W, 062° 40' N. 016° 08' W. will be flown by Whitleys and Hampdens continuously till last light first April. 1st aircraft Z patrol 0900.
Enemy Main Units. (C. in C. Rosyth, 010010A to BERMUDA, ATHABASKA).
My 0003/31. (Para. 1) Similar patrol will be flown by 3 Hudsons taking off at 0730A today.
(2) 4 Catalinas will also carry out diverging sweep from Reykjanes to the W.S.W. and S.W. taking off at 0715A.
(A.C.O.C., 010101A to C.S.10, GLASGOW, INTREPID).
My 0003/31. All reports negative.
(A.C.I.C., 010125A to C. in C. H.F.)
BERMUDA will pass through position "Charlie" at 011100A, course 235°.
(2) If not in visual touch set watch on 210 k/cs at 0900 and call BERMUDA at 1100.
(C. in C. H.F., 010627A to BRECON).
Return to Hvalfiord with BELFAST, GLASGOW and INTREPID.
(C. in C. H.F., 011118A to C.S.10).
Return to Scapa with ATHABASKAN.
(C. in C. H.F., 011122A to BERMUDA).
My 291637A. Requirements cease at dusk 1st April.
(C. in C. H.F., 011128A to A.C.I.C.)
Estimated positions at 2005 today. BELFAST, GLASGOW, INTREPID patrol "White". CUMBERLAND 067° 15' N. 012° 50' W. to N.W. BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN patrol "Black".
(A.C.I.C., 011335A to Ships).
My 010109 para. one and 2. All negative report.
(A.C.I.C., 012036A to C. in C. H.F.)
This is the Arctic Wireless silence and H.M.S. CUMBERLAND breaking it. My P.C.S. 066° 37' N., 012° 06' W. 302° 17 knots. Nothing sighted. Weather 4782 2071.
(CUMBERLAND, 012254A to C. in C. H.F.)

Biscay Area. Photographs taken by Coastal Command aircraft
Search for at 0935 hrs. 1220, and 1910 hrs. on 30/3 show
Enemy M/Vs. one large M/V identified as either M/V 450 HIMALAYA M.18 or her sister ship M.5. FUSIJAMA, probably the former, without escort. On the three occasions photo'd vessel was reported by Pilot to have position and course as follows. 0935 hrs. at 45° 20' N., 10° 05' W, westerly course; 1220 hrs. at 44° 25' N. 11° 04' W. course 225° 1910 hrs. at 44° 10' N. 11° 25' W, course 200°.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 0100A/1 and 0240A/1).

/Your...

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1.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Biscay Area. Your 1335/31st nothing seen. Searched from 042°
Search for 07' 017° 38' at 2140/31 to 041° 19' 020° 54' at
Enemy M/Vs. 0600/1, to 041° 10', 021° 03' at 0700.
(contd). My P.C.S. are 041° 15' 020° 49' 065° 12 knots.
Fuel stocks remaining 4.8 days at 12 knots.
Weather 47 72 33 24.

(BROADWAY 010800A to C. in C. Plymouth).

Further to para. 3 of my 1715A/31. M.K.F.11 is also to be covered from 012359.

2. When fuel situation necessitates MILNE and MATCHLESS are to be detached in company, MILNE to Falmouth or Milford Haven and thence Scapa, and MATCHLESS to Plymouth.

3. Destroyers when on return passage are to cover M.K.S.10 if convoy is still south 050° N. and are to pass North of Q.Z.X. 259 and through position 180° Bishop Rock 10.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 011631A to CHARYBDIS).

Arrived ORKAN.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 011931A)

Coastal
Patrols.

1. No night movements. 2. Short notice at
Newhaven 1 S.G.B. 2. M.G.B. 1 M.T.B.
3. 2 M.L. 1 Chasseur at St. Helens. GLAISDALE,
KINGSTON TOPAZ at St. Helens.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011632A).
M.Ls. 139 and 143 patrolling Newcome to Inner
Lade Buoys.
(V.A. Dover, 011706A).

Allied Air Activity.

Western
Channel.

Swordfish Aircraft will fly patrols as in My
1411/8/3 from 012100 till dawn/2.
(C. in C. Plymouth 011213A to Escorts P.W.317).
Cancel my 011213A.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011457A to Escorts P.W.317)

Mining.

Dover.

Mine swept yesterday in 51° 01' 05" N.
01° 07' 45" E.
(V.A. Dover, 011119A).

Enemy Intelligence.

Suspicious
Ship.

Following from Niton Radio.
Intercept. 1635 G.M.T. bearing 100° approx.
Gonio A Class 4. de unknown station.
QQQQ N D Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011735 to Admty).

/ "Hanomag...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

"Hanomag storm Boat". A report graded C.3 gives the following details of a new type of craft, the "Hanomag storm boat" being developed by the Germans -

(a) Length about 50' 0" electrically driven but speed unknown.

(b) Is fitted with a detachable explosive bow with a time fuse.

(c) Crew of two using oxygen apparatus.

(d) May be distinguished by two glass domes on the deck one behind the other.

(e) Can travel on the surface or submerged and is fitted with stabilizing fins. A periscope may also be fitted.

(f) The object of the craft is to attack vessels at anchor.

(g) Mode of operation - the craft approaches its target submerged, releases the explosive bow from inside the crew space. The bow is magnetically attracted to the hull of the ship.

(V.C.N.S.011919A)

Navigational.

Ice. Following from Jan Mayen. Free from Ice.
(A.C.I.C., 010755A)

Technical.

DASHER. In regard to the loss of DASHER it has been proved the cause of the disaster was due to petrol stowage internal explosion probably petrol. (2) Certain precautions. alterations petrol-stowage arrangements have been recommended. (3) The following precautions are to be taken. Details.
(V.A.A. H.F., 011301A to ARCHER, etc.)

Do you consider that, subject to stipulation laid down in your 011301 it is a justifiable risk to continue to operate these ships until alteration to petrol stowages have been made.
(C. in C. H.F. 012356A to V.A.(A) Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

JAMAICA. Your 0844/31. Arrival JAMAICA.
(N.O.I.C.Barrow, 010915A to A.C.O.S.)
Your 302207. Estimated JAMAICA will sail p.m./7th April.
(N.O.I.C.Barrow, 011610A to C. in C. H.F.)

ST.CROIX. Part of Port propeller guard torn off and has holed ship's side in steering compartment above waterline. Now trying to pump compartment sufficiently to allow temporary patching. Hole ragged and about six by seven inches. ST.LAURENT in company.
P.C.S. 059°40' N. 014° 45' W. 314° 7. Weather 5878 1076.
(ST. CROIX, 011000Z to C.T.G.24.6).

My 011000Z. Temporary patch fitted. Proceeding at 15 knots. LAURENT in company.
(ST. CROIX, 011652Z).

E.T.A.021300Z. Require repairs to port propeller guard and hole in ship's side. ST.LAURENT (?in company). Request you advise best route through A.M. Q.Z.X.950.

(ST. CROIX, 011830Z to C.T.G.24.6 (R) C. in C. Plymouth.

/BRUISER ...

War Diary.

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

BRUISER My 0910A/31. Undocking of BRUISER further delay. Sailing postponed further 24 hours. (F.O.C. N.I., 011140A to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Search for Lifeboat. If nothing found by dark tonight proceed to Reykjavik. My 1252A/31 refers. (C. in C. W.A., 011257 to E.G.4). Your 011257A. Nothing found. E.T.A. Reykjavik 2030A. (INGLEFIELD. 012131A to C. in C. W.A.)

DASHER See Technical.

Barge LADY BRASSEY sailed at 0718 today recovered Barge MCC 210 adrift off Dungeness and returned to Dover at 1309. (V.A. Dover, 011442A).

T.L.C. When complete with fuel proceed at best speed consistent with weather conditions to search for tank landing craft with four men on board reported with sea anchor out in 057° 36' N., 022° 10' W. at 311315A. Aircraft will co-operate. (C. in C. W.A., 011845A to SHIKARI). Sailed SHIKARI. (Cdre. Londonderry, 012339).

HAZEL Intend to sail HAZEL about 10th April to U.K. for general refit, alterations, and docking ship. 14 months out of dock. (A.C.I.C., 011910A to Admty).

TSD HS
7 APR 1943
RECEIVED

336
57

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SECRET

War Diary

~~H.~~
~~J.~~
~~D.D.~~
~~D.D.~~
TSD/HS

N.I.D. U.C. Report No. 316.
1st April, 1943.

GERMAN BATTLESHIP TIRPITZ

(Former N.I.D. U.C. Report No. 279)

(From information received up to 30th March, 1943).

N.I.D. U.C. Report No. 279 stated:

TIRPITZ developed defects during September in North Norway. Repairs were started and continued after the ship arrived at Trondheim at the end of October 1943. Since then the following reports have been received:-

<u>Report</u>	<u>Grading</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1. The following damage to the TIRPITZ's port side has been reported made good at Trondheim by the end of December: (a) A hole in the waterline beneath the forward turret. Many plates had been destroyed both above and below the waterline. (b) Several plates buckled above the waterline beneath the after turret. Temporary repairs had been previously made with cement and wood. New plating has only been fitted in places, damage has still to be repaired (N.A. Stockholm 29.1.43).	C.3.	TIRPITZ was inactive at Trondheim from October 1942 to January 1943.
2. TIRPITZ is not believed fully efficient for action. A hole in her bow plating had been made good with cement, but fire by main armament has again opened up her side. (N.A. Stockholm 18.3.43).	B.3.	She was reported carrying out gunnery practice & exercising at the end of January & beginning of February.
3. The TIRPITZ has about 5,000 tons of cement on board on account of damage to her bottom. (Secret Sources 15.3.43).	B.O.	The report may exaggerate the amount of cement but supports the statements that damage has been sustained and temporary repairs effected.

CONCLUSION:

Since completion of repairs to defects which developed in September 1942, TIRPITZ has been damaged. The repairs which she has undergone suggest collision or fetching up heavily when going alongside. Although the ship is now reported to have moved to Narvik she is not fully effective.

Requests for further information on this subject should be made in writing or by telephone to N.I.D. (1), telephone Whitehall 9000, extension 839.

(sgd.) C.R.W. LAMPLOUGH
D. D. N. I.
1. 4. 43.

N.I.D. (1)

Distribution:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
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| A.C.N.S. (H) | F.O.N.A.S. | N.S.O., G.H.Q. Home Force |
| A.C.N.S. (A) | P.A.S. (S) | D.M.I. War Office |
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| F.O.C. Orkneys & Shetlands | | |

3 APR 1943

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.S.10.

M.K.S.10 diverted through following positions at 0800A/1st, 043° 30' N. 014° 55' W. thence 050° 01' N. 013° 30' W. thence 055° 00' N. 010° 00' W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 010025A to CHARYBDIS, MATCHLESS, MILNE.)

S.L.126.

Survivors from UMARIA, NAGARA, and EMPIRE BOWMAN.

Report your P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A. 010016Z to OCEAN VICEROY)
Have searched with star shell and R.D.F. on broad front to north eastward from 046° 44', 016° 38' without result. Percentage fuel remaining noon today 28. My P.C.S. 047° 55' N. 014° 54' W, 045°, 11.25.
(FOLKESTONE, 010757Z to C. in C. W.A.)
E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 012130A A.F.O.2901/41 and 4715/42. (A) WEAR. (B) UMARIA, EMPIRE BOWMAN, NAGARA. (C) None. (D) 15 D.E.M.S. ratings (Naval) (E) 49.18 from UMARIA, 20 from NAGARA, 11 from EMPIRE BOWMAN. (F) 175. 81 UMARIA, 65 from NAGARA, 29 from EMPIRE BOWMAN. (G) Nil. (H) 13 other ranks (D.E.M.S. Army) (I) to (M) Nil. (N) 252. (O) All under (F) one Chinese, one Swedish, one Norwegian, one Finnish, one Greek, 80 Lascars. (P) One of (F) Lascars. (Q) One of (E) 2 of (F) All British total 3. (R) and (S) Nil. (T) 15. (U) Nil.
(WEAR, 011311Z to N.O.I.C.Liverpool)

Your 010757Z. If nothing found by dark tonight FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND proceed to Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A. 011333A to FOLKESTONE)

One merchant vessel damaged in 45° 56' N. 15° 22' W.

No crew aboard.

(A/C 115 Sqdn. Duty T. 011615 to 19 Group)

Proceed to search for SS. NAGARA reported in 46° 15' N. 15° 38' W. at 011015A. Vessel is abandoned but reported in no danger of sinking.

(C. in C. W.A. 011728A to ACANTHUS)

Following received from ER 37 by W/10 at 011015.

NAGARA abandoned in 46.15 N. 15.38 W. Torpedoed foremost hold. No danger of sinking.

(Mount Batten, 011745A to C. in C. W.A.)

One medium merchant vessel in 46° 06' N. 15° 29' W. course 060°. Hove to, damaged. One funnel, hull grey, 2 masts, 5 (hoists) 6000 tons.

(A/C.L9CU, 011823A to 19 Group)

Proceeding to investigate Merchant Ship reported hove to damaged 046° 06', 016° 29'. E.T.A. 020800A.

(BROADWAY, 011925A to C. in C. W.A.)

Request you sail WEAR to Londonderry as convenient when survivors and bullion have been landed.

(C. in C. W.A. 011928A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool)

Your 011333A. Nothing found. Endurance does not permit investigating aircraft's 1823A. Proceeding direct to Londonderry west of Ireland. TOTLAND in company. My P.C.S. 049° 30', 012° 20', 013° 12½.

(FOLKESTONE, 012002Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 011925. Your longitude should read 015° 29'.

(C. in C. W.A. 012059A to BROADWAY)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

- E.G.3. Arrived OFFA, ONSLAUGHT, ORIBI, OBEDIENT, ORWELL, IMPULSIVE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 010640 to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.176. Cancel my 1502A/27. Owing to weather ARCHER will not sail with O.N.176.
(C. in C. W.A. 010803A)
Cancel my 301606A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 010909)
- C.E.165. My 1547/31. Convoy C.E.165 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011010A/1)
- K.M.S.12. Sailing in accordance with A.M.1438A/22 as amended by A.M.1801A/29, 24 hours late.
Routed in accordance with A.M.1216A/26.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 011024A).
Admiralty 1438/22, para. 5. Add to escort COWSLIP.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 011704A)
K.M.S.12 sailed at 2024/31 March. Names of 39 ships.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 2130/31)
- O.S.46. COMMANDANT DETROYAT is to sail as additional escort with O.S.46 on 15th April.
(C. in C. W.A. 011031A to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
- U.R. and R.U. Convoy Cycle. Commencing with U.R.70 sailing 7th April U.R. and R.U. Convoys will sail on an eight-day cycle.
(D.T.D., 011216A)
- U.C. and C.U. Convoys. Following from Comnaveu addressed Admiralty. Upon arrival C.U.1 in U.K. Desdiv fourteen will pass from my Command to that of Cinclant. Desdiv 14 with BABBITT and UPSHUR will then become Taskgroup 2 1.6. C.T.G. 2 four point seven will become Escort Control Officer at Londonderry for U.C. - C.U. Convoy Escorts. Will be known as C.T.U.2 1.2.5 for that purpose and will be in charge of Training Maintenance and Administration of Taskgroup 21.6 Cinclant request Admiralty exercise operational control of U.C.-C.U. Convoys and Taskgroup 21.6 while to Eastward of boundary of West Atlantic Area. Please inform Comnaveu of acceptance of this request. 311451 ends. (2) Acceptance has been made to Comnaveu.
(D.T.D. 011437A to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 31/1451 has been passed to C. in C. W.A. Operational control of convoys will be accepted east of "Chop".
(D.T.D. 011455A to Comnaveu)

U.C.2 / ...

War Diary.

1.4.1945.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

- U.C.2. All Tankers arrived in C.U.I. will be ready to sail in or join U.C.2 if sailed A.M. 9th April from Milford Haven. Request you will say whether escort will be available. It is proposed to route convoy south of Ireland (R) (D.T.D., 011456A to C. in C. W.A.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 011555A. E.T.A. Gibraltar 071500A. (N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 011627A)
- MAURETANIA. Destination changed to Liverpool. (D.O.D.(H), 011732A to MAURETANIA)
- M.K.F.11. VANOC, VERITY can remain with convoy until position M 49.18 N. 15.32 W. and then just make Plymouth at economical speed providing no adverse weather is encountered or increase on convoy speed called for. VENOMOUS can just reach Clyde. None of 3 is efficient escort as no extra ground can be covered. Request extra escorts as soon as possible and relief before reaching M. Request route up channel from soundings. Position 40.56 N. 16.10 W, speed made good 13.7. (VANOC, 011959A to C. in C. W.A.)
- GLENARTNEY. GLENARTNEY with very important cargo for Middle East will sail independently from Liverpool on 3rd April. (2) C. in C. W.A. is requested to give such A/S air protection as may be available without prejudicing the safety of convoys. (3) Other Cs. in C. are requested to afford such protection as may be practicable and expedite the passage of the ship to Suez. (D.O.D.(H), 012000A)
- O.N.177. Request you will sail ST. ALBANS to St. Johns as additional escort with O.N.177. ST.ALBANS is allocated to Western Local Escort Force. (C. in C. W.A. 012245 to C.I.G.24.7)

War Diary.

1.4.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.SOKOL
UPROAR.

After crossing 043° (?01') N. at 0700/1st April onwards route diving by day in accordance with my 2254/27th with amended times as follows.

Position (p) 0430/5th. (q) 0240/6th. (r) 0940/6

(s) 1030/6th. 2. Amend date and time to read 0630/6th.

3. Amend date and time to read 0240/6th. 4. Amend date and time to read 0700/1st.

(F.O. Gib., 010314 to SOKOL O.R.P. (R) F.O.C. (S), C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3, P.31. (UPROAR)).

After crossing 043° 01' N. at 1500 April 1st onward route diving by day in accordance with my 2304/27th (2301/27 intended) with amended times as follows:

(?position) (T) 04.00 April 6th. (U) 04.10 April 7th. (V) 11.10 April 7th. (W) 12.00 April 7th.

2. Amend to read S. of A. diving by day 88 miles per 24 hours.

After passing position (U) proceeding on the surface at your discretion at 10 knots. Do not cross meridian of 006° 40' W. before 0630 April 7. 3. Amend date and time to read April 7th. 4.

Amend date and time to read 1500 April 1st.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 010349 to P. 31 (UPROAR)).

My 1021/31st (?new) para's (6) and (7). S/M SOKOL passes through 043° 01' (012°?) 26' at 0700 April 1st thence 158° diving by day speed 6½/2 unless otherwise ordered.

S/M UPROAR passes through 043° 01' 012° 54' at 1500 April 1st. thence 155 degs. diving by day speed 6/2 knots.

(F.O. Gib. 010424 to A.I.G. 55 B.)

T.E.20.

Sailed as in my 301444 plus OCEAN WANDERER and FORT MCLOUGHLIN for Algiers. Commodore Cdr. Hayward R.N.R. and staff in GEORGE DAVIES. (F.O. Gib. 010747 to C. in C. Med. (R) Comm. Algiers, Admty, Connav etc.)

M.K.F.11.

Your 2250/30th GOATHLAND, DOUGLAS, HERO, NASTURTIUM, and KRAKOWIAK parted company for Gibraltar. My P.C. and S. 038° 44' N. 014° 42' W. 318° 13½ knots. Weather report.

(CYGNET 010915 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. V.A. Gibraltar, CHARYBDIS, MILNE, MATCHLESS, MYRMIDON.)

U-Boat.

A510 APL1. Following intercepted from 24 Sqdn. Dakota FD772 in flight to Gibraltar (begins). Suspected submarine wake 36.32 N. 08.18 W. (Ends.) T.O.O. 0738Z.

(O.A.C. Glos. 010915Z to Air Min. (DONC) (R) Admty, H.Q.C.C.)

R.S.3.X.

Your 1545A/29th (N.T.in W.D.) EMPIRE OBERON reports ALLIGATOR sailed a.m. 29th alone. Am proceeding to rejoin R.S.3.X. Weather report. (SNOWDROP 010945Z to V.A. Gib. (R) Admty, E.A.C.D. KUMAON.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.

1.4.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation 011957A.
 S/M UPROAR 42.50 12.50 155 2/6.
 2. Polish S/M SOKOL 42.34 12.14 158 2/7½.
 3. M.K.F.11. WREN 41.44 16.08 003° 14. (see amendment, 011518A). 4. R.S.3X, KUMAON, 27.45 14.58 through 27.24 15.02 thence 210 7. 5. O.T.3, C.T.G. 61.1 34.49 12.27 through 33.59 08.05 and 35.49 06.09 thence Gibraltar 12½. 6. O.S.45, BLACK SWAN, 45.30 15.26 182 6. 7. CHARYBDIS, MILNE, MATCHLESS, covering convoy O.S. 45 and M.K.F.11 keeping west of 13.30 W. 8. Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA, 35.43 07.12 266 12. (F.O. Gib. 011030A)
 My 011030A. Amend para 3 to read:
 M.K.F.11 WREN (E) 040° 40' 016° 11' 003° 13½. Add new para 9. (?HERO) 4 Destroyers 037° 45' 011° 50' to Gibraltar 15. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 011518A)
 My 011030A.. Add new para 10. Swedish relief ships FENRIS and BARDALAND 021°. Cape Spartel (?5 miles) 266° 12. (F.O.C. Gib. 011751A.)
 Situation 2001A/1st.
 S.R.3 CADMUS, 34.58 07.22 (?through) 35.45 06.30 to Gib.6½.
 3. French S/M ARETHUSE and SULTANE sailing from Casablanca 021000A through Q.K.A. 92 to 35.04 07.06 at 022001A 10 knots.
 4. PENTSTEMON sailing 021700A to Tagus 12. 5. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND pass Europa Point 020100A to 37.01 11.01 14.
 7. French Sloop M/S LA BOUDEUSE and 2 French escorts 35.47 06.20 through 33.55 07.53 to Casablanca 7. (N.O.I.C. Gib. 011115A).
 My 011115 add new para.
 (8) HERO 4 destroyers 037° 45' 011° 50' to Gibraltar 15. (F.O. Gib. 011514A).
 Situation 012003A.
 G.U.S.5A. C.T.F.67 029° 01' 031° 37' through 029° 02' 034° 59' thence 287° 8½. 2. U.S.S. MATTOLE convoy C.T.G. 62.1 034° 33' 027° 40' 284° 10. (F.O. Gib. 011220A).

M.K.F.11. In position (?Z) 38.35 N. 14.30 W. at 010900A. Course 323° speed 13½. GOATHLAND, HERO, DOUGLAS, NASTURTIUM, KRAKOWIAK, detached at 010900A for Gibraltar, speed 12½ knots. E.T.A. 022359A. Weather report. (GOATHLAND, 011134 to Admty, C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) E.G.2.)
 DOUGLAS and HERO detached at 20 knots. E.T.A. 1600/2. Request berth under crane for DOUGLAS to shift 286 P. aerial type A.T.Q. with R.D.F. assistance and 24 hours with dockyard assistance to repair 3 main steam joint leaks. (Weather report). Position 037° 27' N. 012° 08' W. (DOUGLAS 012130A to F.O. Gib. (R) GOATHLAND.)

/Aircraft...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Aircraft Control, Gibraltar - Casablanca. AX. 701 1st April. Ref. your 00461/14 March. I agree with recommendations concerning air protection contained in Appendix A to A.C.C.1. We are endeavouring to find a workable solution to difficulties of control in Casablanca/Gibraltar area and a meeting of all concerned is being held at Gibraltar on 2nd April. (Air Ministry 011545Z to Cominch (R) Admty, C.N.S. Ottawa, C.A.S. Ottawa Radfel (Webber W.61)).

U-Boat survivors loaded in Spain. Your 2026/31. (N.T. in W.D.) Information that 9 survivors were picked up by fishing boat as given in my 1213/30? was obtained from Spanish Intelligence report from Alicante via secret source and could not have been a ruse as it was reported to Spanish Intelligence in Madrid and not to me. It is still not quite clear who actually landed them. 2 destroyers and Spanish Gunboat EDUARDO DATO left Cartagena and destroyers left Port Soller for search. Awaiting further information before tackling Ministry of Marine but Embassy has sent note verbal to M.F.A. stating that understand survivors of submarine landed from Warship and demand internment. (N.A. Madrid 011901A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)

M.K.F.11A. X.K.4. Propose to sail for U.K. about April 4th either (a) Fast convoy M.K.F.11A consisting of SAMARIA 15 knots DUALA 14 knots THURLAND CASTLE 13½ knots PORT FREMANTLE 13 knots or (b) Slow convoy X.K.4. consisting of 21 ships. Speed 6 knots. 2. DOUGLAS, KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, NASTURTIUM would escort either 1 (a) to U.K. or 1 (b) to P.L.E., fuelling at Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. providing relief escorts. 3. No ocean convoy commodore available. (F.O.C. Gib. 011912A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., C. in C. W.A.) Replies, C. in C. W.A. 021808A, C. in C. Med. 021717A, Admty., 031252A

Movements, Casablanca. Arrival April 1st U.S.S. SIMPSON, BROOME, CHICKADEE and P.C. 480 from Gibraltar. U.S.S. RHIND from escort. French LA GRANDIERE from Gibraltar. Departed BOREAS. (S.N.O.C.A. 011925Z to C. in C. Med.)

S.R.3. E.T.A. 020900A. 10 ships in convoy. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE has developed defect and is following Convoy about 20 miles astern. Cmdre. has asked for pilot. (CADMUS, 012029A to F.O.C. Gib., N.C.S.O. Gib.)

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

E.T.16. Arrived 17 ships.
(F.O.C. Gib. 012130A to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Arrivals p.m. 31st March. ACUTE, CLACTON,
Gibraltar. FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN from M/S Sweep West. 1st
April, M.Ls.443, 341 from local escort duties
East. ANTELOPE, TYNEDALE, LAMERTON, ALBACORE,
KING SOL, LADY HOGARTH, STORNOWAY with E.T.16,
ACUTE, ESPIEGLE, FELIXSTOWE from M/S Sweep West. Departures ACUTE,
CIRCE, FELIXSTOWE for M/S Sweep West. BICESTER, LIDDESDALE, BUDE,
CLACTON, POLRUAN, GAVOTTE, VISENDA, REIGHTON WYKE, L.S.T.362 with
T.E.20. BONITO, MULLET, WHITING for Oran. French ships
LA BOUDEUSE, LA SENTINELLE, FRUCTIDOR for Casablanca.
(F.O. Gib. 012150A to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic

W.S.28. Convoy W.S.28 sailed 30 March. List, fuel, passengers etc. 6. Majority of ships are carrying landing craft slung over-side which cannot be hauled inboard. This for your guidance in berthing. 8. KEREN, BULOLO, and LARGS also sailed in convoy. (D.S.T.O.W.A. 010441Z to P.S.T.O. Capetown D.S.T.O. Durban etc.)

HILDESAY, Escorts for M/Vs. Sailed HILDESAY escorting SS. MARIKA PROTOPAPA to Lourenco Marques, Tug EMPIRE SAM to Beira, and cable ship RECORDER as far as 15° S. My 311514 and N.C.S.O. Durban 090714 refer. (N.T.in W.R.) 2. HILDESAY keeps continuous watch on 500 k/cs shifting to read B.M.A.S. routines.

3. HILDESAY S.O.A. from 15° S. 8 knots. E.T.A. Diego Suarez 101000Z/April. (Cdre. Durban 010601Z to Admty. C.in C.S.A. C.in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

Convoy N.C.9. Sailing telegram. 2. 010600Z. 3. D.D. 4. 10. 5. Coastal. 6 NORTHERN CHIEF, CAPE WARWICK, WELLARD. 8. Master CITY OF BARODA. (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 010601Z 010603Z to Admty.etc.)

Convoy D.N.29A. Sailing telegram. 2. 010630Z. 4. 8 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. HILDESAY. (N.C.S.O. Durban 010714Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy C.A.17. Sailing telegram. 2. 010730Z/April. 3. Dispersing at position C. 4. 10 knots. 5. A. 034° 26' S. 018° 26' E. B. 035° 50' S. 019° 05' E. C. 039° 15' S. 021° 30' E. thence in accordance with Capetown Serial Numbers 763 to 767. 6. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ST. ZENO. Codeword "Justice B.E.K." (N.C.S.O. Capetown 010842Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/1st April.
NORTHERN CHIEF, WELLARD, CAPE WARWICK 25.45 S. 14.15 E. with N.C.9 to Saldanha Bay 8 knots.
RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS 30.40 16.10 to Pointe Noire 20
GENISTA, NORTHERN DUKE 32 S. 13 E. with C.N.15 to dispersal point 31.40 12.20.
VIMIERA, ST. ZENO escort to 40 S. 19 E. with C.A.17 to dispersal point 39.15 18.30.
QUEENBOROUGH 34.35 24.20 to Simonstown 18.
QUAIL 30.45 31.40 escorting two M/V to Capetown 14.
RAIDER 31.20 33.20 escorting ILE DE FRANCE to Durban 18.
HILDESAY off Cape St. Lucia with D.N. 29A to Delagoa Bay.
SONDRA off Cape Inhaca. JASMINE, PINTAIL, HERTFORDSHIRE 27.20 35.40 with D.N.29 to 25 S. 41 E.
(C. in C.S.A. 011006Z.)
ORFASY 2 M.L. escorting to about 15.04 17.27 to Dakar 6.
COMMANDANT DELAGE, BIRDLIP, THYME with D.70 17.00 16.36 to 18.00 16.11 (?then) 333 7.
(?UGANDA) 14.(?12) 26.51 to 17.01 33.00 thence 356 18.
LA GRACIEUSE, INKPEN escorting to 11.42 17.17.

/ROCHESTER...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. ROCHESTER, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, HYDRANGEA, COLTSFOOT,
(Contd.) BALSAM, BUTSER with S.L. 127 (?10).03 16.28 296 7.5.
GEORGES LEYGUES (?14).17 25.10 304° 19.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011409Z.)

Situation at 2001Z/1 April.

WASTWATER about 07.28 14.09 to Freetown 11.
FANDANGO 06.50 14.55 to Freetown 9.5.
AIMWELL 05.45 15.55 to Freetown 10.
CILICIA about 04.01 24.30 325 14.
DESPATCH 08.04 15.55 to 07.14 21.04 thence 241 20.
M.L. 271, 305 escorting about 07.02 12.26 to S.E. 6.
M.L. 285 escorting Cape Palmas to Freetown 6.
KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BULOLO, QUADRANT, REDOUBT,
ULSTER MONARCH, KEREN, LARGS with W.S.28, 02.18 06.26 102 13.
M.L. 290 escorting off Liberia Coast to Freetown 6.
SARABANDE escorting 04.01 S. 08.34 E. 132 5.5.
CROCUS, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON, M.L. 277 with S.T.60, 04.10 02.30
to Takoradi and Lagos 9.
PETUNIA, CORINTHIAN, BELLWORT, DUNKERY with T.S.34, 04.16 02.28
262 7.5.
M.L. 261 off Accra.
M.L. 265 about 06.01 13.01 to Freetown 9.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011444Z.)

DESPATCH. 1. Sail DESPATCH at 1200Z/1st April for Pernambuco
routed through: S. 007° 14' N. 021° 04' W.
T. 003° 26' N. 028° 07' W. U. 004° 40' S. 028°
22' W. thence Pernambuco.

Estimated speed made good 20 knots. E.T.A. Recife 1300Z/5th April.

2. DESPATCH will require 900 tons oil fuel and 100 tons water on
arrival Recife. Request she be sailed to arrive Rio de Janeiro
a.m. 8th April.

3. Wireless watch will be shifted group F.T. to Washington "Fox"
at 1200Z/3rd April.

(F.O.C.W.A. 011020Z to Cdr. 4th Fleet, (R) N.S.H.Q. DESPATCH,
B.A.D. C. in C.S.A. Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.A.Rio de Janeiro,
C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

Movements Arrivals a.m. 1st April French Auxiliary Patrol
Bathurst. Vessel VICTORIA escorting SS. TOURS.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 011049Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
Comar Dakar, Admty.)
Arrival p.m. 31st March BRIDGEWATER and BURDOCK
escorting EMPIRE DENNIS, EMPIRE ACE and LADY DENISON-PENDER.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 011057Z to R.A.W.A.F. (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

Blockade 1. HIMALAYA, PORTLAND and OSORNO probably left
Runner French Ports night 28th/29th March.
Patrols. 2. Destroyers sighted in 44.13 N. 11.17 W. at
1220Z/30th March.
3. PORTLAND and OSORNO probably within 100 miles of
HIMALAYA at that time.
4. Amend patrol given in my 1324Z/31st as follows.
5. F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES proceed forthwith to new area bounded by
20° and 25° N. 34° and 37° W. GEORGES LEYGUES returning direct
Dakar.6. CILICIA proceed forthwith to area previously assigned
to GEORGES LEYGUES.

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Blockade
Runner
Patrols.
(Contd.)

7. CARNARVON CASTLE will now patrol area bounded by position O. 08.36 N. 22.59 W.
P. 05.01 25.48 Q. 02.01 23.01 R. 06.01 19.00 commencing p.m. 3rd April.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011150 to F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES, CILICIA, (R) Admty., CARNARVON CASTLE, UGANDA, Commr. 4th Fleet, Cdre. Dakar, DESPATCH.)

Your 311324/March. Admiralty appreciation is that none of these ships can cross 30° N. before 1200/3rd April. Request you will adjust patrols defined in your 311324/March accordingly.

3. Request you will order UGANDA to proceed so as to be north of 30° N. by 1200/3rd April thereafter patrolling northwards to 35° N. between 30° and 35° W. She is to remain on patrol until limit of prudent endurance consistent with fuelling at Gibraltar. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 011620A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Cominch, Cdr. 4th Fleet, Comar Dakar, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Plymouth.)

Movements,
Dakar.

Arrived MARY KINGSLEY, BUFFLE, PERSISTANTE escorted by M.L. 1065, M.L. 1066. ORFASY ordered to proceed Dakar.
(Comar Dakar 011154Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

Durban - U.K.
Convoy
BRITTANIC,
DEMPO.

Your 1919/31 para. 2. Consider BRITTANIC more reliable and valuable ship than DEMPO for inclusion in homeward convoy and therefore intend former should turn round at Capetown instead of Durban and that latter should return to U.K. independently from Durban.
(C. in C.S.A. 011223B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af. P.S.T.O.Capetown, Com. 1/c Durban, D. of S.T.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Departure 1437Z/30th March French Ship LA GRACIEUSE and INKPEN escorting.

(S.O.(I) Freetown 011451Z to Admty. etc.)

Departures 311511Z/March. ROCHESTER, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, HYDRANGEA, BALAM, BUTSER with S.L. 127.

(S.O.(I) Freetown 011502Z to Admty. etc.)

Departure 311850Z/March M.L. 271, 305 escorting French ship VENDOME (S.O.(I) Freetown 011450Z to Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Comar, Dakar.)

A/C attacks
on U/Bs.

Following attacks on submarines carried out by aircraft in period 28-31 March. Read all times Z.
281551 25° 20 N. 16.00 W. course 150.
290745 22.50 N. 16.32 W. course 360. 291507
22.56 N. 17.46 W. course 090. 301847 19.40 N.
17.29 W. course 180. 311240 20.19 N. 20.37 W.
course 190. 311722 20.27 N. 20.40 W. course 180.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011541 to Admty. (R) Comar, Dakar, F.O.C.Gibraltar, S.N.O. Casablanca Area, C. in C. Med.)

/S.T.61...

War Diary.

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- S.T. 61. Intend sailing convoy S.T. 61 at 021700Z "Brown" Route. 9 knots. E.T.A. Takoradi 070700Z Escorts ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, M.L. 278, M.L. 279. (F.O.C.W.A. 011551Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) N.O.I.C. Lagos, Admty. ARMERIA.)
- Convoy D.C.17A. 2. 011600Z. 4. 13 knots. 5. Coastal. 6. QUAIL. (N.C.S.O. Durban 011612Z to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Durban. Sailed QUAIL to Capetown escorting SS. ALMANZORA and SS. AFRICA DAWN. N.C.S.O. Durban 011612 refers.
2. QUAIL shifting W/T organizations to group S.L. at 0400Z/2nd April. (N.O.I.C. Durban 011614Z to Admty. etc.)
- SALVIKING. Have you any news of salvage vessel SALVIKING due Welvis Bay 24th March from Lagos? (D.T.D. 011645A to C. in C.S.A.)
- Convoy T.S.34. 011600Z/April. T.S.34 route "Orange", S.O.A. 7.5 knots, E.T.A. Freetown 061909Z/April. List, etc. Convoy codeword "Bamboo." Wireless call sign MJA-VPDQLA 165 (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 011659Z to Admty. etc.)
- BRIDGEWATER, LADY DENISON-PENDER. General dimensions of BRIDGEWATER are to be signalled to Comar Dakar and dock plan sent by air. BRIDGEWATER and LADY DENISON-PENDER should be sailed for Dakar to dock as ordered by Comar Dakar. (F.O.W.A. 011703Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Comar, Dakar, Capt. D.Freetown, Admty.)
- U/B. U-Boat reported by R.A.F. aircraft in 002° 15' N. 004° 00' W. at 011424Z. April. (F.O.C.W.A. 011705Z to Ships in Area P.3 (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- Transport of S.A.Units. / In interests of discipline and morale of troops and for political reasons it is important that South African Units which have volunteered for Service abroad and are now collected ready to sail should leave for Mid East as soon as practicable. High Commissioner agrees. P.S.T.O. 1741/31 to D. of S.T. refers. (C. in C.S.A. 011709B to Admty.)

/SCARBOROUGH...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

SCARBOROUGH, Sailed SCARBOROUGH to overtake and join escort.
ROCHESTER. (F.O.C.W.A. 011739Z to ROCHESTER, (R) Admty.
Capt. D.Freetown, SCARBOROUGH.)

Pointe Noire Fuel. Fuel storage tanks at Pointe Noire will be
complete 1st July but fuelling of small warships
cannot be undertaken until arrival of mooring
buoys requested in my 69/1209 of 16th Jan.
Request confirmation that they will be available
by that date and that particulars of despatch will
be communicated.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011745Z to Admty. (R) B.N.L.O.W.A.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. Your 302305. Estimate EMPIRE MIGHT ready to
sail about 4th. Cargo intact and damage limited to
boiler room.
(Comar Dakar 011818Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. 1. Intend to sail QUEEN OF BERMUDA for U.K. at
021800Z. Route add A. 008° 31' N. 014° 59' W.
B. 016° 29' N. 032° 01' W. C. 040° 00' N. 033°
02' W. D. 042° 00' N. 032° 01' W. E. 056° 01' N.
019° 01' W. thence as ordered by C. in C.W.A.
S.O.A. 16 knots.
2. Shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 070001Z April.
3. Admty. 201121A refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011826Z to Admty. C. in C.W.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Greenock,
F.O.I.C. Southampton, U.S. Destroyer CONNER, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, Comar Dakar, GEORGES LEYGUES.)

Movements Takoradi. Sailed 011600Z/April. T.S.34 CORINTHIAN (S.O.
Escort) BELLWORT, PETUNIA, DUNKERY, E.T.A. Freetown
061900Z/April.
Sailed 010615Z/April M.L. 1042 and ASSINI escorting
and screening SS. KAJANG, then returning to
Takoradi.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 011830Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.
R.N.O. Lagos.)

Movements, Recife. Arrival 31st March U.S. Corvette SPRY from
Maceio. My 292015Z March for CAMAQUA substitute
CARIOCA.
(R.O.Recife 011920Z to Admty.)
Former amended.

Ships for M.E. All ships leaving Durban or Simonstown for Middle
East are to be fully stored and victualled before
leaving.
(D.O.D.(F) 011929A to C. in C.S.A. Cdre. Durban.
(R) C. in C.Levant, C. in C.E.F.)

/Floating...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Floating Dock M.A.S.T. 761. Following from Burton Chadwick.
Montevideo. My 757. Your 1654.

1. A. From experience of behaviour of towing in moderate weather and in view of probable conditions at this season, Tug Masters are of opinion that docks will not reach Capetown or any other port on coast safely.
B. They are particularly emphatic that passage round Aghulas to Port Elizabeth is impossible until the summer. C.O. CHESHIRE fully agrees with this.

2. (Reasons.)

3. They are of opinion that to ensure safe passage, dock should leave Montevideo Dec. 1st.

4. Further question arises of tugs' fuel endurance which experience shows would almost certainly not be enough to reach Capetown except under best condition obtainable, i.e. in Dec. and Jan.

5. A. C.O. CHESHIRE is of opinion that while passage from Capetown to Port Elizabeth would be extremely dangerous except during Dec. Jan. Feb. there is a fair chance of dock being able to reach Capetown but weather may necessitate making for Walvis Bay where dock would winter.
B. He agrees so far with Tug Masters that docks may be lost even going to Walvis Bay.

6. After careful examination of dock, surveyors do not agree with 2C. (re pounding when towed into head seas) and they consider dock should not have returned. No doubt surveyors are anxious to uphold their certificate that "Dock is in an efficient condition and fit for towage to undisclosed port, etc." This certificate they now re-affirm after examination of docks.

8. Dock Master Cowie is anxious to proceed.

9. Unless instructed otherwise O/C now hope to be ready to resume voyage 5th April.
(Chadwick via N.A.Montevideo 012020Z to Shipminder.)

W.S.28.

Departures 300730Z/March MALCOLM, QUADRANT,
REDOUBT, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BULOLO, KENYA, KEREN,
LARGS with W.S.28.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 012352 to Admty. C. in C.S.At.)

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- SICILIN.** Received from Niton Radio. Following intercepted at 0153 G.M.T. on 500 Kc/s (begins) - Italian hospital ship SICILIN P.C.S. 0400, 34.21 N. 11.24 E. course 90° medium speed. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 010153, to Admty)
- CAPETOWN.** Arrival. (Cdre. Aden, 010711Z to Admty etc.)
- Movements, Malta.** Arrived. BECKENHAM, BRIGAND, SKUD V, L.C.T.129, EXMOOR, MIAOULES, BELVOIR, PINDOS. (V.A.Malta, 010844A/ to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Alexandria.** Arrivals 31st March. SOUTHERN SEA, PROTEA, M.L.355, F.S. LA MOQUEUSE. Departures 31st March. SOUTHERN MAID, HURSLEY. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 010918C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- SONTAY.** D.S.T's 310031. G.H.Q. M.E.F. advise can accept as soon as possible. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 010921C to P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T. (R) C. in C. E.F. D.S.T.O.Kilindini, D.S.T.O. Durban.)
- E.T.17.** Pass to N.C.S.O's E.T.17. Intend to sail (list, 9 ships) (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 010928 to F.O.I.S. etc) 2 ships added (040951A)
- F.O.I.S.** is requested to sail E.T.17 at 041800, speed of ships 8 knots, of advance 7 knots. (2) Route through 96.36 92, 036° 51' N. 003° 05' E. 89.44. 109. 13. 8. 16 lettered L to U. to Gibraltar. Stragglers route as convoy. (3) Section Joining and detaching with local escort as follows Philippeville in 037° 14' N. 006° 57' E. at 050200, Bougie in 037° 09' N. 005° 12' E. at 051400, Algiers E.T.A. 060600, entering bay sailing again 061000, Oran in 109 at 071500. Gibraltar E.T.A. 000100. (4) Escort from Bone CARLISLE, BIC-ESTER, ZETLAND, WILTON, LIDDESDALE, CLACTON, POLRUAN, GAVOTTE, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA. (5) CARLISLE, BICESTER and ZETLAND will be detached to Algiers. (6) 1st 2 letters of W/T callsign S.X. (7) Fighter protection 2. Codeword "Gladstone". (8) All times A. (C. in C. Med. 011207A to F.O's i.C. etc.)
- UNRIVALLED.** From position P return Malta through Q and R to arrive searched channel at 0830A April 4th. (Capt. (S) 10, 011126 to P.45 (UNRIVALLED) (R) C. in C. Med. Submarines on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1st Capt. (S) 8th. C. in C. Levant.)

SAHIB / ...

War Diary.1.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

- SAHIB. My 311338A March. Amend first position to read $038^{\circ} 15' 003^{\circ} 53'$.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011144A to P.212 (SAHIB) (R) C. in C. Med. 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10. Cdre. Algiers)
- SIBYL. Intend sailing P.217 (SIBYL) at 1830A/2nd for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea routed through $038^{\circ} 36' 003^{\circ} 24'$ at 0445A/3rd, $038^{\circ} 36' 010^{\circ} 02'$ at 1800A/5th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011224A to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10)
- TRIBUNE. Onward route through $038^{\circ} 17' 010^{\circ} 14'$ at 2100/2 $038^{\circ} 17' 004^{\circ} 18'$ at 2102/4 to R/V escort for Algiers in $036^{\circ} 57' 003^{\circ} 02'$ at 0615/5.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011338A to TRIBUNE, (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10th S/M, 8th S/M Cdre. Algiers)
- Felucca, WELCOME. Felucca WELCOME leaving Algiers at 1800A/2nd routed through (A) (corrupt group) Aire Island 10 miles thence to area between Mentone and Bordighera to operate there on nights 6th/7th or 7th/8th April, thence proceeding to Cupabia Bay, Corsica, operate there 7th/8th or 8th/9th. WELCOME returning through (A) to Algiers speed 6 knots.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011600A to 8th S.M.F.)
My 1546/31st March. Sailing of Felucca is delayed 24 hours.
(Capt. (S) 8, 011824A to 8th S.M.F.)
- French Evacuees. French estimate earliest date for evacuation of refugees as 15th April and ask for report of employment of SIDI BRAHIM. Can you confirm date?
(C. in C. Med. 011805A to B.N.A. Lisbon (R) F.O. Gibraltar, B.N.A. Madrid, Admty.)
- Malta Convoy. Sailed convoy "Outwit" ^(ME.22) with DULVERTON, BELVOIR, EXMOOR, MIAOULES, PINDOS and SKUDD V.
(V.A. Malta, 011914 to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Libya.)
- Dinghy Distress. Following received from Malta W/T S.O.S. Dinghy and six men 3720 N. 1102 E. at 1426 G.M.T. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 011949 G.M.T. to Admty)

CANADA / ...

War Diary.1.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

CANADA, French Hospital Ship. Your 2154/23 March. Request you will convey to French Admiralty expression of Royal Navy's gratitude for this generous offer. (2) Before vessel is operated she will require to be notified to enemy powers under Geneva Conventions. French will not be in a position to do this since the Axis would be unlikely to regard them as a Sovereign Belligerent Government. Therefore necessary to notify vessel as British Hospital Ship under British Flag. Some risk that Germans and Italians may not respect this (Giraudist) hospital ship CANADA as such. Consider she should be renamed. When notifying her to Axis her description would be camouflaged. Request you enquire whether French Admiralty agree, which would not affect understanding that vessel is merely on loan to us.

(Head of M.(I), Approved 4th Sea Lord, 011956A to C. in C. Med.)

SARACEN, SHAKESPEARE, TAURUS. Arrivals SARACEN (P.247), SHAKESPEARE (P.221). Departure TAURUS (P.339.) (Cdre. Algiers, 012005A to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Tobruk. Sailed ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW, RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 012128C to Admty)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals PRINSES BEATRIX, BADSWORTH, EGGESFORD, L.C.I.7, L.C.I.176. Departures PRINSES BEATRIX, BADSWORTH, EGGESFORD. (S.O.I.S., 0122084 to C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.)

Movements, Benghazi. Arrived SOUTHERN ISLE M/L 354 M/L 358. Arrived and sailed NUBIAN, KELVIN M.T.B.267, M.T.B.313. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 012315C to Admty)

Enemy Units. Following has been read. One enemy medium sized M/V, one destroyer and one vessel unknown type in 38.10 N. 11.45 E. course 210° speed 10 knots F. (A/C CYP/J via Alexandria W/T, 012348A)

12th A.F. Report. From HDQS N.A.A.F. ADV. From Spaatz, For Eaker, To CG 8th Air Force. 322855 Ref. No.0387 (N.T. in W.D.) (1) The 700 successful sorties resulted in 31 enemy aircraft destroyed. 1 large merchant vessel sunk and 4 other large merchant vessels severely damaged. 95 B.17s including 27 of 99 group on 1st mission bombed landing grounds in Sardinia and Cagliari harbour. (3) At Cagliari

direct / ...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.12th A.F.
Report
(Contd.)

direct hits with 500 pound bombs on 2 large merchant vessels and several smaller vessels and railroad station. 29 B.25s escorted by P.38s in 2 shipping sweeps claim 1 large merchant vessel sunk, direct hit on another and 3 additional left blazing. 2 direct hits on transport. (12th A.F.(Constantine), 011451Z to Etousa)

E.T.17.

Intend to sail (List 12 ships.) All for Algiers. (V.A. Malta, 011454A to N.O.I.C. Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bougie. (R) S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area.)

WEST POINT.

WEST POINT sailed for Melbourne via Massawa and Aden 1011/1/4 G.M.T. E.T.A. Massawa 0900Z/3rd April. Routeing from Red Sea to Melbourne with E.T.A. will be sent later by N.C.S.O. Aden. Passengers embarked Suez. (N.C.S.O. Suez, 011645C to Admty etc.)

A/C attack
on U/B.
12/2.

The attack by Hudson Aircraft F. of 48 Squadron on 12th Feb. 1943, has been assessed as probably sunk. (2) Request you will give our congratulation to those concerned with this success. (D.A/S.W. Approved 1st Sea Lord, 011740A to Air Min.)

Malta
Air
Report.

AI.579 April 1st. C.S.R.
(A) Part 1 Offensive. Night 31 March/1st April. Poor visibility curtailed all offensive operations no shipping target was found. 6 Mosquitoes were airborne on intruder operations, low cloud and much haze encountered, no aircraft activity

seen.

Day 1st April. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep south Sicily found no enemy aircraft.

Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Day 1st April. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta, 011921Z)

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrivals FOXTROT.
Departures PRINSES BEATRIX, EGGESFORD, BADSWORTH, MINNA KINTYRE. French ships LA SERVANAISE, GOELAND.
(Cdre. Algiers, 012005A to C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Movements,
Libya.

Arrived PALADIN, G.S. QUEEN OLGA.
Sailed PALADIN.
(N.O.I.C. Libya, 012245A to Admty)

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Transport
Movements.

Your 1235/31. My 0520/27 was not intended to interfere with movements already in progress.
 2. Agree ASCANIUS, VARELA, SALWEEN, and if required VARSOVA may be used as in your 0747/27.
 3. Pass to P.A.I.C. and Armindia.
 (D.S.T. 010416A to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, (R) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. M.E.)

DOMINION
MONARCH.

Your 0513/26. Confirmed no objection to DOMINION MONARCH proceeding to Capetown.
 (D.S.T. 010420A to P.S.T.O. India, (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

DUMANA.

Ref. F.O.C.W.A's 1510/25 DUMANA should be sailed as soon as possible after drydocking from Bombay to Lagos. 2. Request report of anticipated date of sailing.
 (D.S.T. 010425A to P.S.T.O. India.)

W.S. 28,
troops for
India.

Your 202705Z (Distribution Troopships.)
 Armindia attach more importance to arrival of W.S. 28 troops in India than they do to return of 5 Division.
 (P.S.T.O.I. 010455Z to D.S.T.)

Convoy
C.M. 40.

Sailing telegram.
 (2) 010400Z. (3) E.T.A. Aden 081300Z time of passing 010° N. 060500. Route List (5 ships)
 (N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 010536Z, to Admty.)

Convoy
M.B.30.

Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 010550A to Admty.)

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC arrived; N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez pass to F.N.F.L. Antananarivo.
 (N.O.I.C. Mauritius, 010601Z to Admty. etc.)

B.P. 74.

Karachi portion B.P. 74 sailed 0547Z/1st/4 to R/V.* THORSHAVN, ballast, Abadan, knots 12.
 (N.C.S.O. Karachi, 010607Z to Admty.)
 *300142Z from N.C.S.O. Bombay refers.

CARADOC.

Left.
 (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 010731 to Admty., (R) F.O.I. C. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

BRITTANY.
boom
defence.

BRITTANY can be released on completion of refit A. M. 291333 March refers. She has a full load of indicator nets on board and is being fitted with Asdics during present refit.
 (C. in C. E.F. 010925A to Admty.)

War Diary.

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Movements, Arrival 0246Z. JUMNA with M.B. 30 0530Z HINNOY.
Bombay. (S.O. (I) Bombay, 010956Z to Admty. etc.)

SONAVATI. Colombo departure 1st April 0530.
(F.O. Ceylon 011149Z to Admty. etc.)

Air (D) U.S.A.A.F. Report 29 March 4 B. 24's Tavoy
Report. Docks and shipping. 22 X 500 lb. (?4) direct hits
in dock area.
(A.H.Q. India, 011220.)

KOSCIUSZKO. Transport KOSCIUSZKO sailed today.
Numbers. Requirements.
(D.S.T.O., P.G., 011332Z to S.S.T.O. Bombay.)

Movements, Vesca arrivals.
Basra. 1st. VARSOVA, ASCANIUS, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, U.S.A.
(N.C.S.O. Basra, 011405Z to A.I.G. 88.)

Trooping Your 0439/26/3. D.S.T.O. P.G.'s 0747/27/3 and my
Requirements. 0520/27/3. Agree your proposals generally, but
following Indian Ocean trooping requirements will
also have to be provided for:- (list)

Future requirements after W.S. 28 are likely to be as follows:-
W.S. 29 approx. Mid. May. W.S. 30 approx. Mid. June, both
10,000 needed capacity.

P.S.T.O. Capetown should report anticipated requirements.

(e) P.S.T.O. Middle East should report what troopships he is
likely to require to retain in the E. Med. up to end of May.

(Reply: 141236C.) 2. When position regarding above require-
ments is clear, you should report whether it is anticipated that
they can be met as well as the programme in your 0545/25/3.

3. Pending clarification your programme should continue as
arranged.

(D.S.T., 011930A, to P.S.T.O. India, (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., D.S.
T.O. P.G., S.N.O. P.G., N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C. E.F., F.O.
Ceylon, P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, D.S.T.O. Kilindini,
F.O.R.S.C.A.)

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. U.S. Army Transports MADISON and FREDERICK FUNSTON arrived Balboa March 29th. (N.S.H.Q., 010018Z to Admty.)
Balboa March 26th U.S.A.T. H.A. SCANDRETT for Los Angeles via Punta Arenas, Costa Rica 29th. (N.S.H.Q., 010140Z to Bank Block, London.)
M.L.1172 departed Antilla 31st March. (B.R.L.O. Havana, 011003A to Admty.)
Trinidad departures April 1st ALCANTARA, AMARANTHUS, at 1100Z speed 12 knots in accordance with port Director Port of Spain 252218 March paras. (C) and (E) arrivals B.Y.M.S. 17, 10, 18, 25. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 011032Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Admty., etc.)
Departure 1st April U.S. Army Transport T.W. DRENNAN for Trinidad. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 011306Q to Admty.)
Departure 1st April U.S. Coast Guard 157 for Trinidad. (Harbour Master, Barbados, 011308Q to Admty.)
Departure WESTMOUND for Pierte via Louisburg arrival SALISBURY ex J.H.44A. (C. Halifax, 011358Z to Admty.)
Armed Yacht S.C.649 arrived a.m./1st. (R.O. Barranquilla, 011627R to Admty.)

U.S. (B.A.D., 010025Z to Admty.)
Floating See Lion Copy.
Docks -
Allocation.

Convoy D/F bearings at 1847Z/31 indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 60° 30' N. 33° 30' W. (D.D.I.C., 010031A to Escorts O.N.175, (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G. 24.7.)
O.N.175,
U/B.

FENCER. San Francisco arrived 310015Z FENCER from trials. (N.S.H.Q., 010335Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

MARAVI Following has been received. 0313 G.M.T. SSSS "S" Report. de HPAL (MARAVI) 29° 24' N. 86° 12' W. (Halifax, 010345 to Admty.)

T.A. 38A Convoy T.A.38A comprising PASTEUR sailed from (PASTEUR) U.K. 29th March for Halifax.
2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by the W.O. to N.S.H.Q. and Milstaff Washington. (D. of S.T., 010440A to N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C., (R) B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York.)

/Neutral ...

A.W.I.
them

1. 4. 43.
Thursday
29A

MOST SECRET

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 010025Z/April IN
Date 1.4.43
Recd. 0803
From B.A.D. Washington

Naval Cypher X plug by Cable

Addressed Admiralty

*U.S. Floating Docks -
Allocation.*

679.

The question of the assignment of a capitalship and cruisordock for the Indian Ocean was discussed at a meeting with Admiral Reeves this morning. He read out a telegram from London in the following sense "Director of Dockyards Admiralty informs that destination of American 50,000 ton sectional dock if assigned is Malta. 50,000 ton dock now building Bombay is to go Kilindini and 50,000 ton dock to be built at Calcutta will go to Bombay." Our already slender chances of obtaining this dock from Admiral Reeves repeat Admiral Reeves were thereby at once reduced to zero.

2. The whole of our case for the American dock rests on immediate Indian Ocean requirements, will be taken by C.M.A.B. next week and will then probably be for S.V.S. decision. We realise that the American telegram above is quite untrue and probably the result of a misunderstanding but the damage is done as Navy Dept. believe implicitly the reports of their observers. At the best they now doubt our good faith in this matter while at the worst they disbelieve our correct expression of Admiralty policy.

3. Our negotiations are now at their most difficult and delicate stage and whatever their outcome we must at least be assured that we start on a firm basis vis-a-vis the Americans. It is essential therefore that the wrong impression conveyed to the Americans in London be immediately removed, that they cancel at once their offending signal and state the true facts including if possible our vital need for this dock.

4./

4. I cannot stress too strongly the untold harm that a misunderstood word said to the American observers can do to our Mission here and this affair is a very good case in point.

5. See also B.A.D. 2315/23* which is another case of an American observer reporting without knowing the full facts.

010025Z

* Hush Most Secret.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- D.F.S.L.
- Cont.
- Vice Cont.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- A.C.N.S.(F) (2)
- A.C.N.S.(UT) (2)
- Sec.
- Naval Sec.
- P.A.S.(S)
- A.S.(C)
- U.W.R.
- D.N.I.(4)
- D.O.D.(H) (2)
- D.O.D.(F) (2)
- Hd. of M.(2)
- D. of P.(2)
- I.P.(2)
- D. of D.
- Ad. Blake (4)
- W.D.
- Dep. Cont.
- D. of D. for action
- Hd. of S.W.R.

)
) Bath by courier
)

AFP
JH

War Diary.

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Neutral Shipping. Routeing. Your 1437/23. Route in A.M. 9/12 applies only to Swedish ships engaged on Greek relief. 2. Separate telegram referred to in A.M. 1921/7 was not sent. Position is that Opnav reported on 28th Feb. that it was believed Germans had established new route for all neutrals navigating between U.S. East Coast and limits of German operational area as follows:-
From point two miles South Overfalls Lightships along 38th parallel to 63° W.; thence to 34° N. 61° W.; thence along 34th parallel to 39° W.; thence to destination. 3. Neutral Governments are being consulted and question of routes is being considered. You will be informed when matter is settled. Signal will be repeated to Gibraltar, Lisbon and Madrid.
(Hd. of M.(I) 011052A to N.S.H.Q.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	SS. ANDES	34½° N. 26½° W.	278°	19
1800 G.M.T.	17 L.C.(L)s	29½° N. 53° W.	105	10
1st April.	MILFORD with } Floating Dock } BUTTERMERE } 5 M.M.S. }	02° N. 48° W.	133°	6
	T.A. 38A	02½° S. 30½° W.	056°	9
	(D.O.D.(F), 011120Z to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)	45½° N. 31½° W.	260	19½

L.C.I.(L)s. Officers and personnel.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 011212Z to Admty., (R) C.C.O., F.O.C.N.A.S.)

O.N.174. My 312230Z March. ESCAPADE parted company with O.N.174 at 011130Z in 046° 20' N. 045° 58' W., course 237°, speed 9 knots. GARLAND assumed S.O. Escort. Special weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.17, 011220Z to C.T.F.24, (R) Connav, Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C.)

A.F.D. 24, ALCANTARA, AMARANTHUS. My 2212/26th March. ALCANATAR, escorted by AMARANTHUS departed Boca Denavios. My 1230Z April 1st (? 011032Z intended). Will follow route of convoy A.F.D.24 joining convoy at position J, E.T.A. My 1100Z April (? 1st) (?) knots 14. Com. 4th Fleet requested to pass daily position of A.F.D.24 to ALCANTARA.
(N.O.B. Trinidad, 011301 to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Cominch C. & R., Cdr. Caribbean S.F., Abdacom, N.S.H.Q., Alusnob Belem, Com. 4th Fleet, (? S.B.N.O.W.At.), Admty., Cinclant.)

/J.H.44A ...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

J.H. 44A. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 011424Z to Admty.)

BARON NANAIMO escorting FOUNDATION FRANKLIN sailed
BELHAVEN St. Johns N.F. to assistance of BARON BELHAVEN.
broken down. (F.O.N.F., 011500Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, (R)
C.T.24, Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.A.,
N.S.H.Q., C.T.G. 24.7, LETHBRIDGE.)

ST. KENAN (F.O.N.F., 011520Z.)
etc. Cancelled, see 012319Z.

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 011523Z, 011524Z, 011546Z, 011547Z,
April 1st, 011548Z.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

Trawlers, Ref. C.N.S. of Canada's 1616/16 Feb. and 1704/28
dispositions. March. Signal proposals for 6 large R.N.
trawlers mentioned in Admiralty's 2006/9 March
A. Temporary allocation. B. Allocation after
commencement of Gulf convoys.

2. Attention is called to proposed dispositions appended to
N.S. M.S.1057-3-6 dated 12th March.
(N.S.H.Q., 011515Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., (R) Admty., F.O.N.F.,
C. in C. W.A.)

H.F. 45 Following is repetition of my 011159Z. (Begins):
"Arrived H.F.45". (Ends).
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.B., 011544Z to Admty.)

R.C.N. Your 1714Z/15.
Escort Your proposal to organise R.C.N. mid-Ocean
Forces. Escort Forces into 7 groups in order to keep 5
operational has been carefully examined.
2. While appreciating that in theory team work
would thrive under this scheme we are doubtful
if this advantage would ever materialise for following reasons:
(a) Division of available forces into 7 groups would reduce
size of each group to an operational minimum. Therefore if it
became necessary on account of action or weather damage to
withdraw a ship or ships from a group, a ship or ships from
another group would have to be brought in to make up numbers.
Group system would thus degenerate into a kaleidoscope.
(b) In order to retain its entity it will be necessary for a
group to stand off for duration of longest refit irrespective
of when the other ships in group are ready for service. This
will cause a quite unacceptable wastage of escort strength.

/(c) ...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

R.C.N. Escort Forces. (Contd.)

(c) Any major reshuffle among groups will involve a loss of effective time which cannot be afforded at present time.

(d) Advantage of present system which allows a certain elasticity in periods of refit whilst maintaining minimum strength of a group will disappear.

3. For above reasons we recommend that there should be as little disturbance to present group system as is practicable.

4. If as new construction becomes available any re-organisation of your groups becomes necessary we suggest for your consideration that R.N. ships at present allocated to 'C' groups should be gradually assembled in one group with a view to its eventual transfer to W.A. Command which would be an advantage from administration, leave and refit points of view.

(V.C.N.S., 011827A to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., (R) Cominch, C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., B.A.D. for N.M.C.J.S. Washington.)

ROXBOROUGH. ROXBOROUGH expected sailing date now p.m./13th April. Request destination. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 011916Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., C.T.24, C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.At., ROXBOROUGH.)

North Atlantic Area, Command. Your 1257/30. Concur. (V.C.N.S., 011937A to Cominch, (R) Canadian Naval Board, Cinclant, C.T.F.24.)

BAYNTUN, BAZELY. My 281122 March and your 292309 March. BAYNTUN is in quarantine for Scarlet Fever. Doctor from BAZELY has been lent to BAYNTUN. (2) Unless U.S. Health Authorities object intend BAYNTUN and BAZELY leave Bermuda 2nd April in accordance with Cominch's 302240 March and that either (A) BAYNTUN completes the full complement from ASBURY or (B) returns via Bermuda to collect cases under observation who should be ready to rejoin on 5th April. (S.B.N.O.W.At., 012002Z to B.A.D., (R) Admty.) Change destination my 302240 March to Londonderry instead of Belfast. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 012134L to C.E.S.F., (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty., Com.5, N.O.B. Bermuda, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. N.W.A.)

SS. GEORGIAN. SS. GEORGIAN returned to Boston with heavy weather damage from H.X.231. Comeastseafron pass to C. in C. W.A. (Port Director N.Y., 012004Z to Admty., (R) Cominch C. & R., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24.)

/Sub. ...

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

All times Z.

Para. A. Attacked course 050°, 20.22 N. 61.55
W. 011130.Para. D. SS. MARAVI sights sub. 29.24 N. 86.12
W. 010314. C.G.R. 3082 sound contact 39.28 N.
71.42 W. 010710.

(Cominch, 012020 to Admty.)

MONOWAI.

Your 0219/25. Combined military transportation
committee recommend that MONOWAI should be
converted to troopship in U.K., and then
employed on the North Atlantic or W.S. runs.
2. Cominch is informing Comsolant of this
decision.(B.A.D., 012025Z to Admty. for D. of S.T., (R)
N.Z.N.B.)

SCEBELI.

Following from SCEBELI.

Lost convoy proceeding independently telegraph
immediately route orders our position 048° 30' N.
034° W. course 74 at 1930 G.M.T. 1st April.(Burnham Radio, 012030 to C. in C. W.A., (R)
Admty.)

U/B.

Plane sighted S/M 43° 27' N. 56° 42' W. at
011905.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 012047 to G.B. 7A.)

Dakar
Naval
requirements.Cominch is referring the whole question of
French Naval requirements to C.C.S. and this
will include questions raised in para. 3 of your
301855.(B.A.D., 012307Z to Admty., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.,
C. in C. Med.)J.H. 45,
ST. KENAN,
AYRSHIRE.
PAYNTER.Cancel my 011520Z/4 intend to sail ST. KENAN,
AYRSHIRE, PAYNTER at 022003Z escorting J.H.45A
to Halifax through (X) 46° 42' N. 54° 50' W.
(Y) 44° 12' N. 56° 58' W. (Z) 44° 33' N. 62°
25' W. Escort to R/V with J.H.45A consisting
of TALARALITE and POLARLAND in position 46° 42'
N. 54° 50' W. at 031730Z speed 7 knots.(F.O.N.F., 012319Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., (R)
Cominch, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q., Admty., ST. KENAN.)

U.G.F. 7.

Sailing telegram, part 1.

2. 1700Z/2 April Point Z seaward end of swept
channel.

3. Position C at 032300Z. S. of A. 13½ knots.

War Diary.1.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

U.G.F. 7. 5. C. 37.10 N. 65.50 W. D. 34.55 N. 55.40 W.
(Contd.) E. 31.50 N. 44.20 W. F. 32.27 N. 34.30 W.
G. 32.20 N. 24.02 W. H. 31.35 N. 16.01 W.
J. 34.20 N. 09.48 W. K. 33.50 N. 08.03 W.
6. Task Force 66. U.S. Battleship ARKANSAS,
S.O., DAVISON, MERVINE, QUICK, BEATTY, TILLMAN, COWIE, KNIGHT
DORAN, EARLE.
16. First "Chop" 080200Z C. in C. to Admty. Second "Chop"
122300Z Admty. to C. in C. Med. Radio Watch F all ways.
B N 080200Z to 110600Z. G 110600Z to destination.
(Port Director New York, 012358Z to Cominch C. & R., (R)
Cinclant, C.E.S.F., Admty., N.S.H.Q., Moroccan S.F.F., C. in C.
Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland 311826Z March U.S.S. TRYON
for Noumea E.T.A. 030400Z April direct route.
Departure Noumea 010500Z U.S.S. WHARRON for
Wellington E.T.A. 041900Z N. 30° S. 166° 40' E.
speed of advance 15 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 010506Z to Admty.)
Arrivals Milne Bay 31st March WARREGO. Port Moresby
ECHUCA. Brisbane 31st U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Sydney 30th
COWDRAY, U.S. Destroyer CRAVEN. Darwin 31st INVERELL.
Fremantle 31st TJERK HIDDEN. Departures Milne Bay 31st BROOME
for Orplant Bay. Port Moresby 31st ECHUCA for Thursday Island.
Townsville 30th BALLARAT for Port Moresby 31st, ARUNTA for
Milne Bay. WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby. Sydney 31st U.S.
BUCHANAN for Noumea.
(A.C.N.B., 011048Z to Admty.)

Air Raid Following is a repetition of my 0815Z/18 referred
Port Darwin to in your 302048 (quoted). My 201149
15th March. (disposition of tankers) was passed by cable,
latter company being asked to investigate.
(A.C.N.B., 010724Z to Admty.)

Digest (2) Salamaua area attacked for 3 hours after
Serial daybreak by 13 Bostons in two waves 4 Beaufighters
No. 435 covered by 8 Lightnings. Area well worked over.
March 31st. Photos show tug towing 2 barges laden with
gasoline drums off Kela village.

/(3) ...

War Diary.

1.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (3) In morning 5 Hudsons bombed airfield area
Serial Timika (Kaukepnu). Saw 20 barges concealed
No. 435 mouth Keaukwa River (7 miles east of Kankenau).
March 31st. (4) 5 Liberators bombed Babo late afternoon
(Contd.) hitting buildings and dump area. 18 bombers or
transport type aircraft seen on aerodrome plus
fighters taking off. One medium merchant vessel
seen at jetty and another manoeuvring Bentoni
Bay. Further 4 ships including 1 barge cargo seen off Faer
Island (3° 22' S. 132° 44' E.)
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 010803Z.)

Troop My 1715/12 February. Your 0438/13 March, 0351/27
Movements. March. Further 1,000 reinforcements for 2nd
N.Z.E.F. Middle East available early May.
Request accommodation early May for 3,000 if this
can possibly be arranged. If you are unable to
arrange earlier opportunity embarkation acceptable in NIEUW
AMSTERDAM late May for 3,000 to embark at Wellington. Your
para. 2 information is lacking regarding general employment of
vessel but consider Wellington definitely preferable for
disembarkation New Caledonia troops and embarkation N.Z.E.F.
Transport TRANS-TASMAN involves considerable difficulties for
shipping and escorts also loss of time and double embarkation
whereas on New Zealand New Caledonia run frequent opportunities
for transport and escorts occur. As an alternative suggest
that with adequate escort from vicinity Tonga ship could call
Noumea en route Wellington and thence as requisite.
(N.Z.N.B., 011045M to D. of S.T., (R) A.C.N.B., B.A.D.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 011350A, 011407A.)

War Diary2.4.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.

1. Up to the end of March, 9 N.D. ships were attacked with nets streamed. Three were undamaged and 3 were damaged but saved. Details are given in an Admiralty Message today.
2. Steps are being taken to eliminate ships of under 8 knots from the Trans-Atlantic Trade, the primary object being to reduce straggling caused by insufficient power, rather than reduction of time on passage.

Home Commands.

- | | |
|---|---|
| North Russia Convoys suspended temporarily. | 3. In view of the German Naval concentration in north Norwegian bases north Russian convoys have been suspended pending further developments. The Russians have not yet succeeded in carrying out air reconnaissance of Alten Fjord. (P. 49) |
| Patrol "White." | 4. CUMBERLAND sailed to carry out Patrol "White" for the interception of eastbound blockade runners. |
| Weather. | 5. The weather caused some dislocation of convoys and shipping today. |
| H.X. 230. | 6. Convoy H.X. 230 arrived in Liverpool Bay today. C. in C.W.A. reported (4th April) that the operation of the 3rd Supporting Group, the first of the 5 newly formed groups to be operated, contributed materially to the safe arrival of the convoy. |
| Biscay Patrol. | 7. CHARYBDIS at 0800 detached MILNE and MATCHLESS to cover convoys M.K.S.10 and M.K.F.11. CHARYBDIS was ordered to discontinue patrol in time to arrive off the Bishop Rock at 040400B. P.R.U. today shows that a blockade runner (Italian PIETRO ORSEOLO) has arrived in Bordeaux, presumably with a valuable cargo from the Far East. |
| Landing craft convoy. | 8. A convoy of landing craft escorted by HALCYON and SALAMANDER sailed from Plymouth for Gibraltar this evening. |

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic.

O.S.45
attacked.

*Assumed "Known Sunk."
(Ch. 04050/42(5))*

9. Convoy O.S.45 was attacked at 2120Z today in 41.02 N. 15.40 or 39 W. (about 300 miles W.S.W. of Cape Finisterre) and SS. GOGRA and KATHA were torpedoed. BLACK SWAN and STONECROP, two of the escorts, reported promising attack on a U-Boat.

South Atlantic.

10. NORTHERN CHIEF, one of the three trawlers escorting convoy N.C.9 to Saldanha Bay reported that a ship was torpedoed at 1900Z in 26.56 S. 15.21 E. (about 70 miles south of Luderitz Bay) and believed the ship to be one of convoy N.C.9 which at this time was in 27.56 S. 15.21 E. proceeding in a thick fog. The ship was CITY OF BARODA (7129 tons). NORTHERN CHIEF, whose asdic is defective, proceeded to investigate. On 6th April aircraft reported the ship to be aground with her back broken.

11. U.S.S. BARRY attacked a sound contact at 1925 in 09.52 S. 35.25 W. (southwest of Recife.)

12. SS. GOIAZLOIDE, Brazilian, reports being attacked by a submarine at 1402 G.M.T. 20 miles east of Da Silva Reef. She claims to have hit the submarine with machine gun fire.

Mediterranean.

Tunisia.

13. Cape Serrat, north coast of Tunisia, 37.11 N., 9.12 E., was evacuated by the enemy today and occupied by a naval and small commando party on April 3rd.

/M.T.B...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.B.Lost.

14. At 0500A, M.T.B. 267, which had left Benghazi at 1600A yesterday for Malta in company with M.T.B. 313, broke her back while going at 10 knots into a short head sea, wind force 4, and had to be sunk at 1230C in approx. 34.26 N. 16.14 E. by M.T.B. 313 after the crew had been rescued.

15. SS. DUMDRUM CASTLE on passage from Aden to Suez caught fire and blew up at 2230 today in 14.37 N. 42.23 E. (Straits of Perim): All the crew were saved.

Enemy Air Operations.

16. The enemy is employing the ruse of aircraft approaching convoys at night with navigation lights burning. Friendly aircraft are warned by C. in C.Mediterranean not to approach within 5 miles of a convoy at night. Unidentified aircraft detected within 5 miles of a convoy at night are to be treated as hostile and engaged if it is considered the convoy has been spotted.

17. 4 Liberators bombed Messina last night and 2 B.24 Ds. made surprise low level attacks today on the ferry terminals at Messina and San Giovanni.

9 out of 27 B.24s made a dusk attack on the estimated position of Naples harbour in completely overcast weather; no results were seen.

24 B.24s set out to bomb Palermo but were defeated by 10/10ths cloud over the target.

East Indies.

Indian Ports, Security.

18. F.O.C.R.I.N. asks Admiralty for an experienced security officer to inspect Indian ports and naval establishments and advise, and to inaugurate a system of security lectures. He considers the question urgent as "We are sadly behind the times."

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

19. SPENCER and DIANTHUS, two of the escorts of Convoy O.N. 175, attacked a U-Boat in 58.40 N. 38.03 W. at 0645Z today.

20. U.S.S. FIDELITY (minesweeper) attacked a U-Boat in about 22° N. 70.24 W. (north of Haiti.)

21. A Catalina aircraft attacked a U-Boat at 1410 in 20.10 N. 61.57 W. (N.W. of Leeward Islands).

Australia & New Zealand.

22. 13 Allied fighters bombed and machine gunned an enemy merchant ship off Vella Lavella Island; the ship was badly damaged and set on fire.

2.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S/Ms for A/S Training. Your memorandum on possible increase in number of S/Ms for A/S training at Home dated 28th March, Scheme E is preferred.

2. Request you will implement, the first S/M being allocated to Londonderry.
(D.O.D.H., 020045A to F.O.(S).)

To increase number of S/Ms available for A/S training at home and to train S/Ms in anti A/S tactics all new construction S/Ms and S/Ms ex refitting irrespective of nationality will carry out 14 days A/S training on completion of work-up in Clyde area.

(2) The A/S training period will be followed by work-up patrol.

(3) Capt. (S) 3 is to inform F.O.(S) and Admty. by signal 7 days before S/Ms become available. Admty. is requested to decide allocation.

(F.O.(S), 021111A to Capts. (S) Home.)

Organisation of Escort Carriers. M.A.C. Ships, and Light Fleet Carriers. Your 291837 March. There are two requirements.
(a) For Flag Officer to administer working-up of Carriers and training of Squadrons ashore.
(b) For Flag Officer to command Carrier Squadron in Operations at Sea.

2. As these duties have been found to be beyond the capacity of one Flag Officer and Staff, consider they should be separated. Arrangement proposed in paragraph 4 of your signal would add

another link to the chain of Command and unnecessary Administrative complications.

3. To implement paragraph 1, propose there should be a Flag Officer accommodated ashore for training of Squadrons ashore and embarked in new or re-commissioned Carriers. This Flag Officer to be responsible for working-up of Carriers from ship point of view as well as aircraft.

4. On completion of working-up, Carriers to be turned over to their respective Cs. in C. for Operations and Administration.

5. Flag Officer in Charge of training to administer Carriers and Squadrons while under training as in paragraph 2. He will require Technical Staff to deal with both aircraft and Carrier matters as well as Air Training Staff.

6. This Flag Officer would take over administration of American built Carriers as soon as completed.

7. Main Fleets when necessary to have a Flag Officer to operate and administer the Carrier Squadrons under the direction of their respective Cs. in C., in exactly the same way as an Admiral Commanding a Cruiser Squadron.

(C. in C. H.F., 021106A to Admty.)

S/M Routes "Gold" and "Rose". Your 1241A/31. This matter is under consideration and a reply will be made shortly.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021525A to F.O.(S).)

/UNICORN ...

2.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

UNICORN. In order that UNICORN should be efficient at end of her working-up period which is now starting request -
(1) Early decision as to her operational employment.
(2) Any change of squadron or appointment of permanent squadrons be made now.
(V.A.A.H.F., 021542A to Admty.)

Movements.

CUMBERLAND. Intend to steer N.W. from B until ice is located. My P.C.S. 067° 18' N. 014° 56' W., 302°, 17 knots.
(CUMBERLAND, 020334A to C. in C. H.F.)

COURBET. My 301137A. Vessel sailed. COURTIER S.O., SOUTHERN CHIEF, SIR GERAINT.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 020513A.)

S/M My 011728, para. (D) amend to read -
Movements. Vicinity Hartland Point speed 6½ knots for Holy Loch. (ULTIMATUM).
(F.O.(S), 020812A.)

Following is a paraphrase of Comsublant 012258.
A. on 4th April HAKE will depart from New London for Rosneath.
B. HADDO schedules to leaves two days later.
C. Both submarines will follow identical routes to pass through "Chop" at 1800Z/14th and 16th respectively.
D. "Chop" is 51.25 N. 26° W.
E. Advance 264 miles daily when proceeding on surface.
F. Advances 115 miles daily when diving by day.
G. C.Os will be instructed F.O.(S), Memo F.S.A.5.
I. Request F.O.(S) direct Comsubron 50 to furnish Consublant the onward route for these submarines from "Chop" to vicinity of Barra Head with the necessary information concerning bombing restrictions.
(Comnaveu, 020834 to F.O.(S).)
My 311221A. Sailed UPSTART and ULA with VIRGINIA.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 021003A to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Intend SATYR to proceed Londonderry on completion exercises with E.G. Monday 5th in Campbeltown area. Request PHILANTE detail escort for passage. Admty. 012300 refers.
(Capt. (S) 3, 021103A to F.O.(S).)
My 011338A. Sailed H.28.
(Capt. (S) 7, 021216A.)
(1) SERAPH is required to leave Blyth to arrive Holy Loch not later p.m./10th.
(2) SERAPH is to carry out training mentioned in Admty. 221950 March.
(3) SIMOON is to be sailed for Mediterranean when ready.
(F.O.(S), 021326.)

/Positions ...

2.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Positions of submarines at 030800A and movements for following 24 hours.
 Movements. (A) SHAD in Zones K.507 and K.508 leaving patrol after dark 3rd keeping south of 44° N. to pass through 43° 59' N. 08° 58' W. at 060600.
 (Contd.) (B) HERRING in Zone K.505.
 (C) SPORTSMAN 49° 30' N. 12° 04' W., dived by day through 49° 30' N. 12° 26' W. and 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W., thence to southward. Daily advance 115 miles.
 (D) TRESPASSER 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W., dived by day through 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W., thence to southward. Daily advance 120 miles.
 (E) ULTIMATUM escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 53° 20' N. 05° 15' W. to Holy Loch, speed 6½ knots.
 (F) H.28 escorted by KIHNA 53° 14' N. 05° 10' W., speed 8 knots for Plymouth. E.T.A. 050700.
 (G) TUNA and STUBBORN escorted by TADOUSSAC vicinity Stronsay, due Lerwick 031730.
 (H) SEVERN and BARB escorted by RHODODENDRON vicinity St. Magnus Bay, Shetlands due 000° Muckle Flugga 5 miles at 031100, thence submarines unescorted probably on the surface through
 (1) SEVERN 62° 01' N. 00° 38' W. and 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E.
 (2) BARB 62° 00' N. 01° 27' W. and 69° 01' N. 07° 48' E.
 (J) TEMPLAR in Zone K.148.
 (K) SEA NYMPH in Zone K.150.
 (L) TRUCULENT in Zone K.151.
 (F.O(S), 021534A.)

B.5 Group. Your 311210. B.5 Group are to be routed to sweep through 057° 36' N. 022° 10' W. where Tank Landing Craft with 4 men on board was reported by aircraft at 311315 and are to proceed thence by Great Circle to St. Johns Newfoundland. SHIKARI is to search and aircraft will co-operate.
 (C. in C. W.A., 021112A to N.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
 Sailed B.5 Group in accordance with my 1210A/31 and C. in C. W.A. 021112.
 (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 021630A.)

Landing Sailed Flight 'A' of landing craft consisting of
 Craft for L.C.(T) (4) 556, 557, 572, 586, 615, 553, 570, 583, 850,
 Gibraltar. 603, 537, 560, 561, 616, 619, 620, 621, 622, 633.
 L.C.(F) 7, 9. Tugs SCHELDE and EMPIRE MINNOW escorted by HALCYON and SALAMANDER for Gibraltar, routed as in Admty. 1935/30.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 021911A.)

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Search for Enemy Main Unit. Hvalfjord arrivals INTREPID at 012055A, C.S.10 in BELFAST at 020030A, GLASGOW at 020113A. (A.C.I.C., 020153A.)
Scapa arrival 0625 BRECON. (A.C.O.S., 020710A.)
Patrol 021231A. Expect to be within 20 miles of Reykjavik at this time. (INGLEFIELD, 021340A to Adnty.)
Scapa arrivals BERMUDA, ATHABASKAN. (A.C.O.S., 021405.)

N.W. Norway S/M Patrols. Capt. (S) 3 1147/30. From 000° Muckle Flugga 5 miles S/M proceed as follows: BARB by route "Grey" to patrol Zone K.193. SEVERN by route "Pink" to patrol Zone K.192. (Capt. (S) 9, 020931A to SEVERN, BARB.)

Request you sail submarines at 032130A as follows: TUNA by route "Grey" to patrol Zone K.191. P.238 by route "Pink" to patrol Zone K.190. (Capt. (S) 9, 021045A to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)
Request you sail BLACKFISH for patrol in Zone K.194 when ready about 5th April. (F.O.(S), 021438A to Comsubron 50.)

Coastal Patrols. 1. Weather permitting intend M.G.Bs 54 (S.O.) and 55 to patrol tonight on 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/3rd.
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 021036A.)
5. M.L.572 and 464 to patrol 50° 12' N. between 0° 55' W. and 1° 35' W. from 0100 to 0500.
6. Chasseur 14 at. St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ, ALBRIGHTON at Yarmouth.
7. 2 M.G.B., 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route between 0° 10' W. and 0° 45' E., to be on patrol by dark and return when convoy has left Portsmouth Command.
8. M.G.Bs 54 and 55 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021235A and 021503A.)
1. M.G.B.324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start 10 miles.
2. Object to intercept and destroy E-Boats attacking convoy.
3. Leave Dartmouth 1930 for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 030630.
6. Codeword "Occasion". (C. in C. Plymouth, 021409A.)
M.G.Bs 330, 324 on patrol 10 miles S.W. Start. Returning Dartmouth 0630A/3rd.
M.G.Bs 55, 54 on patrol 15 miles south of St. Albans. (C. in C. Plymouth, 021643A.)
My 021036A. Cancelled owing to weather. Craft remaining in harbour at short notice. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 021734A.)

/M.G.Bs ...

2.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal M.G.Bs 41 and 40 at 'V' Buoy. E.T.D. Dover
Patrols. 1915. E.T.R. 030645.
(Contd.) M.T.Bs 24, 38, and 235 at No. 4 Buoy from 2015
to 2330.
M.Ls 139 and 143 patrolling at Bullock Bank from
2030.
(V.A. Dover, 021745A.)

Biscay (1) SHAD leaves patrol as necessary after dark
Area. 3rd April keeping south of 044° to pass through
Search for position W 043° 59', 008° 59' at 0600/6th.
Enemy M/Vs. X. 043° 59', 011° 20'. Y. 044° 20', 012° 26'
at 0800/7th, thence via route "Red" to R/V in
position Z 000° Round Island 7 miles at 0800/
11.

(2) HERRING leaves patrol so as to pass through position L
043° 20', 012° 01' at 0200/7th. M. 044° 20', 012° 54', thence
by route "Green", thence through N. 050° 10', 007° 01' to R/V
at Z at 0800/11.

(3) Capt. (S) 3 is to arrange onward escort to Clyde.

(4) TRESPASSER on route "Brown" 120 miles a day and SPORTSMAN
on route "Green" 115 miles a day cross 043° N. southbound at
0230/7.

(5) All times are Zone minus 2.

(F.O.(S), 021109A to S/MS.)

Your 1631A/1st. Destroyers detached at 0800 in 046° 22',
014° 50', to cover M.K.S.10 and M.K.F.11. My P.C.S. 045° 15',
014° 50', 180°, 17. Weather 4380 3714.

(CHARBYDIS, 021203 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

CHARYBDIS is to discontinue patrol as necessary to pass
through position 180° Bishop Rock 10 at 040400B and thence
through 180° Lizard Head 3. A.M. Q.Z.S. 347 and 390 to
Plymouth.

2. CHARYBDIS to keep south of SPORTSMAN estimated in 049° 30'
N. 012° 05' W. at 030800A, dived by day through 049° 30' N.
012° 26' W. and thence S.W., and TRESPASSER in 049° 50' N.
012° 30' W., 030800A, dived by day on course S.W. Fighter
protection arranged. Codeword "Talbot".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 021901A to CHARYBDIS.)

Unknown My 280927. LYGREFIORD returned Lerwick 0850/2nd.
Operation. Patrol successfully completed.
(A.C.O.S., 021255A.)

Denmark My 301801 para. 1. Proceed to carry out patrol
Straits "White".
Patrol. (2) Object to intercept eastbound blockade
runners.
(3) At your discretion pass inshore or outside
Q.Z.X.794 when proceeding to patrol.
(C. in C. H.F., 021306A to CUMBERLAND.)

2.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Western
Channel.

From 2100A to dawn April 3rd Swordfish aircraft will fly Patrol X as in my 081411 March and from 030001A April Patrol XA.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021335A and 021557A to Escorts W.P.317.)

R/C of
Altenfiord.

Air R/C of Altenfiord attempted today and last two days but failed owing to weather conditions.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 021950A to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Iceland.

Ju.88 sighted over Vattarnes at 0945 flying low course West. Cloud 10/10, 1000 feet, visibility 3 miles.
(A.C.I.C., 021943A.)

Mining.Thames
Estuary.

One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 0230/2nd in 036° B.6 Buoy 9.5 cables. Details.
(Capt. M/S. Sheerness, 021050A.)

Lyme Bay.

Request you will sail available ships of 4th M.S.F. tomorrow to carry out exploratory search of new convoy route from position (A) 50° 27'30" N. 02° 29'00" W. to (B) 180° Start Point 4' on completion proceeding to Dartmouth and sweeping the following day the reciprocal route to Portland.
2. Codeword "Warrant".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021145A to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIMALAYA,
PORTLAND,
OSORNO,
BURGENLAND,
WESERLAND,
PIETRO
ORSEOLO.

HIMALAYA and probably two other ships left French Biscay ports during night 28th/29th March.
Ships which are probably on passage to the Far East are likely to proceed independently at speeds between 11 and 15 knots. The unidentified ships may be PORTLAND and OSORNO.

2. Survivors from KOTA NOPAN sunk on 10th March in 7° S. 21° W. state that BURGENLAND, an Italian ship probably PIETRO ORSEOLO, and

WESERLAND (ex ERMLAND) sailed from Singapore within a week of KOTA NOPAN.

Comment: One of these ships may have been the vessel which was sighted inward bound off Spanish Coast on 31st March.
(D.D.I.C., 021138A.)

/HERMOD ...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.HERMOD,
LIEGE,
MARIANNE
TOFT.A.M. 2201A/31. No C/F activity, which might have resulted in the sinking of the ships named, took place in the Nore Command on 25th February.
(C. in C. Nore, 021420A to Admty.)U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.By D/F at 012212Z, U-Boat estimated to be in approx. 47° 30' N. 22° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 020005A to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
D/F at 012257Z indicates U-Boat in approx. 46° 00' N. 13° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C., 020040A to Escorts M.K.S.10.)

Inconclusive bearings at 020037Z indicate a U-Boat in your vicinity which may have reported you.

(D.D.I.C., 020617A to Escorts R.S.3X.)

Indefinite D/F bearings at 021115Z indicate U-Boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 021306A to M.K.S.10.)

Have obtained A.S.V. contact in 46° 55' N. 09° 24' W., 8 knots.

(A/C Y1BE, 022200 to 19 Group.)

Following from Jan Mayen. S/M sighted on surface. Cruised outside South Lagun since 0840 to 1020 outside fire range.

(A.C.I.C., 022242B to Admty.)

Technical.Escort
Aircraft
Carriers.Your 012356A. I do consider the risk is justifiable.
(V.A.(A), 020951A to C. in C. H.F., (R) Admty. (for 1st S.L.), Personal.)Casualties and Defects.

ST. CROIX.

Your 011830Z. Pass through the following positions and proceed up buoyed channel to Hvalfjord for fuel. BLENHEIM will effect necessary repairs.

(A.C.I.C., 020017A to ST. CROIX.)

Hvalfjord arrivals ST. CROIX and ST. LAURENT at 1820A/2.

(A.C.I.C., 021824A.)

Search for
L.C.T.(C. in C. W.A., 021112.)
See Movements.

ST. ORAN.

Trawler THOMAS DEVLIN damaged. ST. ORAN at Ayr yesterday. Consider THOMAS DEVLIN at fault.
(N.O.I.C. Ardrossan, 021117 to Admty.)

/KING ...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- KING
GEORGE V. Your 1439A/31. Following programme for KING GEORGE V at Rosyth is proposed. 1330/17 enter lock and thence to No. 1 Dock. 24th April undock. 0830/27 approx. unbasin, but if weather is unsuitable unbasing at about noon 30th. Request confirmation that latter date is acceptable.
(A.S. Rosyth, 021210 to C. in C. H.F.)
- IMPULSIVE. Request you sail IMPULSIVE to Greenock to arrive a.m./3 for inspection at the Tail of the Bank by P.E.R.O. Glasgow.
(C. in C. W.A., 021240A to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- RAPID. My 241508A March and 011617A April. Proceed passing Switha at 0700A tomorrow to Tyne via Swept Channels for boiler cleaning and minor repairs at Jarrow.
(R.A.D.H.F., 021455A to RAPID.)
- DEVONSHIRE,
GAMBIA. Your 261357 March. On arrival in U.K. about mid-May and third week in June respectively DEVONSHIRE can be taken in hand for modernisation at Chatham and GAMBIA at Birkenhead.
(D.O.D.F., 021755A to C. in C. E.F.)
- ROLF JARL. M/V ROLF JARL now at Akureyri was damaged by heavy weather and has stern-post cracked, rudder unshipped, and propellor damaged. She will require towage to U.K. for repairs. Request a tug may be sent.
(A.C.I.C., 021946A to Adnty.)
- VASCAMA. Tug GOLIATH sailed 1955A/2 to assist VASCAMA reported in 090° 23 Buoy 1½ miles with engine defect.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 022003A.)
- NEWCASTLE. NEWCASTLE has about 5 thousand gallons poor quality American lubricating oil on board which must be exchanged for British lubricating oil. To avoid all possibilities of new oil being contaminated by old consider it very desirable that whole lubricating system of main machinery be degreased. Ship can be sent Clyde about 7th April and is required for service by 14th April at the latest. Request information whether arrangements for work can be made.
(C. in C. H.F., 022047 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

2.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.176. My P.C.S. at midnight $056^{\circ} 06' N.$ $007^{\circ} 14' W.$, 306° , 7. Estimate at 020800A will be in 56.39 08.36.
(HIGHLANDER, 020003A to ABELIA.)
- M.K.F.11. Convoy M.K.F.11 is due U.K. a.m./5th April comprising the following troopships:-
(A) To Liverpool:- EMPIRE PRIDE, JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, ORMONDE. (B) To Clyde:- NEA HELLAS, ORION, CUBA, BANFORA.
2. D.S.T.O. Glasgow should call forward NEA HELLAS, ORION and CUBA as soon as berths become available.
3. As far as is known here no personnel or cargo are on board the above ships with the exception of the following personnel on:- ORION 602, NEA HELLAS 328, CUBA 200, EMPIRE PRIDE 810.
(D.S.T., 020131A.)
Your 011959A. VANOC and VERITY detach to Plymouth from position M. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to issue onward route. Remainder of escort continue with convoy. It is not possible to provide relief escorts.
(C. in C. W.A., 020935A to VANOC.)
My 011631A. You should now consider M.K.F.11 and M.K.S.10 your principal care.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021143A to CHARYBDIS.)
Your 020935. As no relief escorts are available suggest as alternative M.K.F.11 alter after dark in $047^{\circ} N.$ to 180° Fastnet Rock 10 and proceed through Q.Z.L.18. VANOC, VERITY to proceed Milford Haven. Position $44.12 N.$ $15.54 W.$, 004° , $13.7.$
(VANOC, 021201A to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 021201. Continue on present route.
(C. in C. W.A., 021601A to VANOC.)
From position M. $49^{\circ} 18' N.$ $15^{\circ} 42' W.$ to $50^{\circ} 10' N.$ $12^{\circ} 50' W.$, $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ $08^{\circ} 01' W.$, 000° Round Island, 10, 270° Longships 4, 180° Runnelstone 3, 180° Lizard 3, and by Q.Z.S. 278 to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021611A to VANOC, VERITY.)
- MAURETANIA. MAURETANIA is due Liverpool p.m./5th April with 5579 following personnel on board. Details. She is required to be ready to sail again about 20th April.
(D.S.T., 020132A.)
- T.A. 39A. Sailed MARIPOSA in accordance with my 1656A/31. S.O.A. $17\frac{3}{4}$ knots. "Chop" date 4th April. E.T.A. New York 2100Z/9.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 020208Z.)
- P.W.318. Sailing of P.W.318 postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 021000A.)

War Diary.

2.4.1943.

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

- E.G.4 It is intended that 4th Escort Group be sailed to support H.X.231 and O.N.176. Request I may be informed when it is anticipated these ships will be ready for sea.
(C. in C. W.A., 021156Z to N.O.I.C. Iceland).
Hvalfiord arrival 4th Escort Group at 1839/2nd.
(A.C.I.C., 021941A to C. in C. W.A.)
- West Coast coasters. To save delays of East Bound coastal vessels at Loch Ewe it is proposed that
(a) All coasters from West coast ports should be given through routes to Methil and instructions to report to the Examination vessel off Loch Ewe.
(b) If no suitable convoy is sailing within the next 24 hours they should be ordered to proceed independently.
2. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 021251A to A.C.O.S., C. in C. Rosyth).
- S.L. 126 C. in C. W.A. 011728A. Photograph confirms abandoned damaged ship reported in 046° 15' N. 015° 38' W. at 1015/1 to be NAGARA.
(2) OCEAN VICEROY is coming in safely.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 021322A to ACANTHUS).
DEXTEROUS has NAGARA in tow stern first, screened by ACANTHUS.
P.C.S. 1300A 046° 02' 015° 23', 036° 4 knots. ACANTHUS reports crew previously rescued. Number 1 hold? flooded, 8° list, forward well-deck awash starboard side, towing easily.
My P.C.S. 1500A, 046° 30', 015° 10' 018° 15 knots, until 030001A then 12 knots. Weather 9180 3523, sea slight.
(BROADWAY, 021525A to C. in C. W.A.)
OCEAN VICEROY proceeding Belfast Lough, has defective steering gear resulting from enemy action.
(2) N.O.I.C. Campbeltown is requested to sail BUSTLER to R/V OCEAN VICEROY in position 350° Inistrahull 5 miles at 0600A/3rd April to assist in steering.
(3) BUSTLER is to be instructed to report at 0800A if OCEAN VICEROY is not met.
(4) N.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to provide harbour tugs at entrance Belfast Lough and sail BUSTLER to Campbeltown without delay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 021636A and 022235A).
- J.W.54. In view of German concentration in North Norwegian bases North Russian convoys have been suspended pending further developments.
J.W.54 will be at a minimum of 14 days notice.
(A.C.N.S. H., 021705A).
- P.S.3 P.S.3 and S.P.3 cancelled.
S.P.3. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021715A).
- O.S.Convoys. 1. Vessels for North Africa will in future sail in O.S. convoys, joining at the usual assembly ports.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys

- O.S. Convoys. 2. Close liaison should be maintained with Sea Transport Officers who are informed by D.S.T. (contd). which ships are to be included. (D.T.D., 021746A to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Rosyth, C. in C. Nore).
- Atlantic Convoys. Steps are being taken to eliminate ships of under 8 knots from the trans-Atlantic trade. Ships under 8 knots. 2. It should be impressed upon Commodores that the primary object is to reduce straggling caused by insufficient power. Reduction of time on passage is of secondary importance and should not be attempted at the risk of straggling by 8 knot ships. (D.T.D. 021835A to F.O.I.Cs).
- W.S.29, Convoy W.S.29 will leave U.K. 15th April in company with K.M.F.13 parting company as directed to proceed to Freetown and South Africa. K.M.F.13. 2. Compositions of convoy as follows:
From Avonmouth HIGHLAND MONARCH, HIGHLAND PRINCESS. From Cardiff STRAAT MALAKKA.
From Mersey AORANGI, ATHLONE CASTLE, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, TROILUS SILVER WALNUT, CITY OF EDINBURGH, PARDO, EMPIRE KAMAL.
From Clyde. ORION, NIGERSTROOM, CLAN LAMONT.
3. Bristol Channel section should be sailed direct to R/V off Oversay.
 4. Speed of slowest ships TROILUS and EMPIRE KAMAL 14 knots, NIGERSTROOM and SILVER WALNUT 14½ knots.
 5. Admiralty will promulgate route.
 6. A/S escort from U.K. to Gibraltar splitting point will be:-
 - (a) 42nd Group consisting of WESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, CORLESTON, NESS, EXE.
 - (b) Joining C. in C. South Atlantic. LEWES.
 - (c) Joining F.O.C. W. Af. BULLDOG.
 - (d) Joining C. in C. Med. ANTHONY, LAUDERDALE.
 7. Duties of S.O. of Escort from U.K. to GISP will be undertaken by S.O. of 42nd Group in WESTON.
 8. Ocean escort from Clyde will be NEWCASTLE.
 9. Before arriving at GISP, S.O. of escort is to detach LEWES, BULLDOG as convenient to fuel at Casablanca and rejoin W.S.29. Subject to their endurance permitting, ANTHONY and LAUDERDALE are to be retained with W.S.29 until at least one of LEWES and BULLDOG has rejoined when ANTHONY and LAUDERDALE are to proceed as required for Gibraltar.
 10. On convoys parting company the 42nd Group will proceed with K.M.F.13 to the Mediterranean. From GISP to Freetown escort for W.S.29 will be supplied by (a) 3 destroyers from F.O.C.W.Af. Command. (b) LEWES (c) BULLDOG.
 13. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail the 3 destroyers referred to in para. 10 (a) as necessary to R/V with combined convoys and to arrange the necessary fuelling facilities at Casablanca. (D.O.D. H., 021850A).

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.29. 1. K.M.F.13 will leave U.K. 15th April in
 K.M.F.13. company with W.S. 29 parting company as directed.
 (contd). 2. Ships will sail from the following ports:-
 From Mersey. ORMONDE, STAFFORDSHIRE, DUCHESS OF
 YORK, FRANCONIA, J.V. OLDENBARNVELT, INDRAPOERA
 destinations Algiers.
 From Clyde. CUBA destination Algiers.
 BOISSEVAIN destination Oran. NIEUW HOLLAND destination Oran.
 LETITIA destination Gibraltar.
 3. Speed of slowest ship LETITIA 14 knots.
 (D.O.D. H., 021855A).

O.N.S.3 F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ARCHER
 ARCHER. escorted by OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE as necessary
 to R/V with O.N.S.3 in 270° Oversay 6 miles at
 1230A/6th. ARCHER is to accompany convoy for
 48 hours subsequently returning to Belfast.
 819 and 892 squadrons are to be flown off to Ballykelly prior
 to arrival.
 (2) Whilst in company with convoy aircraft are to be exercised
 in accordance with my 271502 3rd and 311308 3rd neither to
 all addressees. ARCHER is to ensure that S.O. of escort
 is fully informed of his intentions.
 (3) A.O.C. 15 Group C.C. pass to O.C., R.A.F., Station
 Ballykelly.
 (C. in C. W.A., 021920A to F.Os. I.C. Greenock, Belfast, S.O.
 40th E.G., ARCHER, OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE repeated Cdre. 2nd I/C
 N.A.S., Admty. A.O.C. 15th Group. C.C. V.A(A) H.F., N.O.I.C.
 Londonderry, F.O.N.A.S.)

Value of The following summary of torpedo attacks on N.D.
 A.N.D. ships to end of March is to be shown in
 Gear. confidence to Masters of ships so fitted.
 2. Of the nine ships attacked with nets streamed,
 three were undamaged and three were damaged but
 saved.
 3. Included in para. 2 above:-
 A. Two torpedoes exploded in nets.
 B. Three were stopped by nets without detonating.
 C. Two struck forward of the nets.
 D. Two penetrated the nets, one of which was experimental.
 (D.T.D., 021937A).

2.4.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Smoke
Defence.

Following is text of telegram OZ 938, (T.O.O. 1310Z/2nd April) addressed to:- (long list) by Air Min. War Office and Admty. (Begins). Ref. OZ.60 (T.O.O. 2225Z/5th Jan). (Naval T.O.O. 1032/6th Jan) Following from Chiefs of Staff. Procedure set out in signal under reference has been brought into force with effect from 1st April, 1943. (Admty. 022215A/April to Various).

North Atlantic.

T.O.3
G.U.F.7.

MONMOUTH of Casablanca Section T.O.3 ready 7th April. ESSO ROCHESTER cannot be unloaded prior to 15th April. Plan for inclusion in G.U.F.7 F.O.I.C. inform when Gib. Section ready. C. in C. Med., pass to Comnavnaw. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 020910Z to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc).

O.S.45

Propose to include CROCODILE* O.S.45. Request. R/V. (S.N.O. Casablanca, 020947Z to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Escort Convoy O.S.45) *As received, may be ABERDARE, verification being obtained.

Your 020947 concur. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to indicate R/V. (D.T.D., 022022A to S.N.O. Casablanca (R) F.O.I.C. Gib).

Convoy
S.R.3.

S.R.3 arrived. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 021022A to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) Commorseafron, Admty. Connaw, C. in C. Med). Arrival CADMUS, CONVULVULUS, ARTIC RANGER, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, with Convoy S.R.3. (F.O. Gibraltar, 021330A to F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. Med).

Situation
Reports.

Situation 021958A. UGANDA 022° 28' 029° 38' Speed 25 knots (?proceeding to) 030° (?01) 031° 01' thence to patrol between 030° and 035° N. and 030° and 035° W. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021030A).

Situation 022002A. F.S/M ARETHUSE F.M.L. S/M PERLE, F.S/M LA SULTANE escorted by 1 U.S. destroyer and P.C.473 033° 53' 007° 51' through 35.50 06.33 thence Gibraltar 10. (2) O.T.3 C.T.G.61.1. 35.28 06.37 to Gibraltar 12½. (3) PENTSTEMON 345° Cape Spartel 4 miles direct St. Vincent

/thence...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation thence patrol off Lagos 12.
 Reports. (4) GOATHLAND 1 destroyer 1 corvette 35.55 06.27
 (contd). to Gibraltar 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 (5) U.S. Destroyer TRIPPE 1 merchant ship sailing
 Safi 021700A coastwise to Casablanca arriving
 after daylight 3rd.
 (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021116A as amended 021532A).
 Situation 021958A. MATTOLE convoy C.T.G.62.1 35.33
 32.26 284 10. G.U.S.5, A.C.T.F.67, 29.10 35.25 287 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 U.G.S.6 A.C.T.G.60.1. 27.01 41.11 090° 9.
 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 021202A).

French N.A. Lisbon, 021305A. See Mediterranean.
 Evacuation.

Movements, ESSO ROCHESTER, MONMOUTH (?left) 2nd April.
 Casablanca. C. in C. Med., pass to C. in C. Allied Force.
 Connav pass to A.N.P.B.
 (?Cdr. M.S.F.F., 021445Z to C.A.F.A.C. (R)
 Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
 C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.T.G.61.1. Connav,
 C. in C. Allied Force, A.N.P.B.)

R.S.3 X. Preliminary D/F bearings at 1220Z on 12700 k/cs
 U/B. indicate U-boat in your vicinity.
 (D.D.I.C., 021546A to Escorts of R.S.3 X (R)
 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafron, F.O.C.W.A.
 Cominch).

BORDSEE 64 sailed 2nd April.
 (German). (Bilbao, 021555 to Admty. (R) M.E.W., B.N.A.
 Madrid, S.O.(I) Gibraltar).
 W.R. Note Passed F.O.(S). H.Q.C.C., C. in C.
 Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

DOUGLAS, Arrival.
 HERO. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 021648A to Admty. etc).

O.S.45 D/F bearings at 021543Z on 11068 k/cs indicate U-
 U/B. boat in your vicinity.
 (D.D.I.C., 021735A to Escorts O.S.45, (R)
 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A., C. in C.
 Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)
 Further D/F bearings at 021641Z on 11068 k/cs indicate
 U-boat probably reporting you.
 (D.D.I.C., 021831A to O.S.45 etc).
 O.S.45 attacked 41.02 N. 15.40 W.
 (BLACK SWAN, 022120Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Slow convoy Your 011912A April. Regret not possible to
 X.K.4 supply relief escorts for slow convoys suggested
 in para. 1 (b).
 (C. in C. W.A., 021808A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
 Admty. C. in C. Med).

/ARGONAUT...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

ARGONAUT

E.T.A. Tuesday 062000Z for 403 tons oil fuel.
2. ARGONAUT has no rudder and will require assistance in berthing.
(F.O.C. Gib. 021817Z to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada.
(R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon).

Movements,
Casablanca.

Departed Casablanca U.S.S. SIMPSON and P.C.473 with French Submarines LA PERLE, ARETHUSE, SULTANE. Arrived (Fr). LA BOUDEUSE, SENTINELLE, FRUCTIDOR, DUMONT DURVILLE, Departed Safi U.S.S. TRIPPE.
(C.M.S.F.F., 021900Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., Cominch, F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals BOREAS from Casablanca departures M.Ls. 449, 460, motor gunboats 643, 644, 645, 646, M.T.B., (?) 641 for Algiers. VETCH L.C.I. (L)s 170, 104, 184, 116, 105, 110, 182, 108, 113, 106, 111, 119, 186, 240, 256, 103, 248, 254, 101, 109, 251 for Algiers. PENTSTEMON escort duties Lisbon. (F.O. Gibraltar, 022005 to Admty. C. in C. Med).

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

UGANDA,
blockade
runner
patrol.

1. Proceed at 25 knots for position 030° N. 031° W. 2. Then patrol at suitable speed in area bounded by 030° N. and 035° N. 030° W. and 035° W. 3. At prudent limit of endurance proceed 020045 to Gibraltar reporting P.S. made good and E.T.A. 4. My 1150Z/1 April refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 020045 to UGANDA (R) GEORGES LEYGUES, CILICIA, Comar, Dakar, Admty, F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Com. 4th Fleet, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, CARNARVON CASTLE, C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 020045 April estimate UGANDA will cross 030° N. at about 031500Z, will have fuel to remain in patrol area for about 30 hours.

(F.O.C.W.A. 021102Z to Admty, (R) F.O.C. Gib. UGANDA.)

NEW
NORTHLAND.

Your 201847. E.T.A. of NEW NORTHLAND is about 16th April. LAFONIA has been sunk en route from London to Clyde.
(D.S.T. 020130A to D.S.T.O. W.A.) Reply: 052119Z.

S.A.A.F.
Sqdn. for
Takoradi.

Ref. F.O.C. West Africa's 300343 the only suggestion we can make for moving the R.S.A.A.F. Squadron direct to Takoradi is that 250 embark in DEMPO which could proceed from Capetown to Takoradi and then continue to Freetown and U.K. Balance might be embarked in ELIZABETHVILLE which could proceed to Lagos via Takoradi. (2) Above proposals are subject to F.O.C. W.As. concurrence. (3) Request your views.
(D.S.T. 020204A to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. S.A. D.S.T.O. W.A.)

Durban
U.K.
Convoy.

Your 1256/27. Admty 1919/31 refers regarding restriction of number of ships in this convoy to 3. 2. To take maximum advantage of this convoy BRITANNIC ex W.S.28 should be substituted for DEMPO. 3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to instruct BRITANNIC accordingly. 4. Request report in due course of intended contents of ARUNDEL CASTLE, STRATHEDEN, and BRITANNIC, and whether any accommodation will be available from West Africa. 5. DEMPO should return to U.K. independently.
(D.S.T. 020207A to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.A., P.S.T.O. Middle East, D.S.T.O.W.Af., D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. India.)

Convoy
D.C.M.

Sailing telegram.
(2) 02 (706)00Z. (3) 8 knots. (5) Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay XO. (6) ARCTIC EXPLORER, VIVIANA, INDIAN STAR.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 020754Z to Admty. etc.)

/C.D.12...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- C.D.12. Sailing telegram.
1. C.D.12. 2. 020730Z April. 4. $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
5. Coastal, reference position X.93 Saldanha Bay
1-8. 6. FRITILLARY, A.S.ODBERG.
15. S W/T call sign C.D.D.1-9. Code word "Janitor"
B.B.J.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 020806Z to Admty, C. in C. S.A.
C. in C. E.F. S.O. (I) Colombo. N.O.I.C. Durban,
Connav, N.L.O.Port Elizabeth. N.L.O. East London.)
- T.S.34. A.M. 191605A Feb. Sailed in T.S.34 011600Z April
SS. EMPIRE SEDGE, SS. EMPIRE NESS.
(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 020901Z to Admty, R.A.W.A.
N.C.S.O. Freetown.)
- GLOIRE. Request French Cruiser GLOIRE be sailed as
necessary to commence patrol ordered a.m. 6th
April.
(F.O.C.W.A. 021014Z to Comar, Dakar, (R) Com. 4th
Fleet, CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, Admty.)
- ULSTER
MONARCH. Departure 1403Z/30 March ULSTER MONARCH to join
W.S.28.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 021033Z to Admty, C. in C.S.A.)
- Axis // A.M. 1903A/31st March.
Blockade Survivors from KOTA NOPAN state that BURGENLAND,
Runners. WESERLAND, (ex ERMLAND) and an Italian ship
probably PIETRO ORSEOLO sailed from Singapore
within a week of KOTA NOPAN. Comment. One of these
ships may have been the vessel which was sighted
inward bound off Spanish coast on 31st March. 2. Above is being
promulgated by 'A' Message.
(D.D.I.C. 021137A to F.O.C. W.A., C. in C. Home Fleet, C. in C.
Plymouth.)
- CARNARVON
CASTLE. Amend previous orders. Carry out patrol assigned
to French cruiser GLOIRE in my 311324Z until
1200Z/6th April. Then comply with para.7 of my
011150Z.
(F.O.C.W.A. 021145Z to CARNARVON CASTLE (R) Comar,
Dakar, CILICIA, Com. 4th Fleet, Admty.)
- Dispositions. UGANDA $022^{\circ} 11' 029^{\circ} 59' 353^{\circ} 25$. KUMAON,
SNOWDROP, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, KATHIAWAR with
R.S.3.X, $024^{\circ} 48' 016^{\circ} 38'$ to $024^{\circ} 01' 017^{\circ} 10'$
thence $190^{\circ} 7\frac{1}{2}$. French sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE,
BIRDLIP, THYME, with D.70 $020^{\circ} 08' 017^{\circ} 18'$ to $021^{\circ} 00' 017^{\circ} 27'$
thence $020^{\circ} 7\frac{1}{2}$. BARWIND, INKPEN, escorting off Bathurst $288^{\circ} 7\frac{1}{2}$.

/ORFASY...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. ORFASY escorting off Dakar to R/V with BURDOCK
(Contd.) in 014° 01' 018° 06' thence 288° 7½.
French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE escorting off
Bathurst to Dakar 6. ROCHESTER, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA,
MIGNONETTE, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER, HYDRANGEA
with S.L.127 011° 30' 019° 04' to 012° 01' 020° 00' thence 342° 7.
SCARBOROUGH about 011° 15' 018° 42' to join S.L.127 14.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA 008° 31' 013° 46' to 008° 31' 014° 59' thence
296° 16. CARNARVON CASTLE 008° 40' 014° 06' 280° 15½. French
GEORGES LEYGUES 018° 32' 031° 48' to 020° 01' 034° 01' thence
to North 18. CILICIA 008° 40' 027° 39' 325° 14. (F.O.C.W.A.021201Z)
Position at 2000Z/2nd April RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS 023° 15'
S. 012° 30' E. to Pointe Noire 20. CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN CHIEF,
WELLARD 028° 40' S. 016° E. with N.C.9 to Saldanha Bay 10.
NORTHERN DUKE, GENISTA 032° 40' S. 015° 15' E. to Capetown.
BIRMINGHAM 033° 10' S. 013° 10' E. to 030° 30' S. 007° 45' E.
to 015° 30' S. 000° 30' E. at 19. FRITILLARY, ODBERG 034° 40'
S. 019° 20' E. with C.D.12 coastal to Durban 8. COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, ST. ZENO with C.A.17 to disperse at 039° 15'
S. 021° 30' E. then return Capetown QUAIL 034° 20' S. 025° 40' E.
with D.C.17A to Capetown 14. KIRRIEMOOR 033° 30' S. 028° 15' E.
to E. London 8. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA with D.C.17
026° 25' S. 030° 10' E. coastal to Capetown 9. SONDRRA 027° 50' S.
032° 50' E. with L.M.D.3 to Durban 8. HILDASAY 025° 30' S. 033°
30' E. with D.N.29.A. coastal to Beira 8. HERTFORDSHIRE,
LADY ROSEMARY, JASMINE 026° 00' S. 038° 50' E. with D.N.29 to 025°
S. 041° East 8. CHITRAL, RAIDER expected time of sailing Durban
1230Z/2nd April to (?Diego Suarez) 14.
(C. in C. S.A. 021335B.)
ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, FANDANGO 2 M.L. with S.T. 61 008° 16' 013°
42' to 007° 38' 014° 30' thence 125° 9½. M.L.271 and 305 escorting
about 005° 42' 010° 24' to South East, 6. M.L.265 unfixed South
East of Freetown. M.L.285 escorting Cape Palmas to Freetown.
M.L. 290 escorting about 007° 30' 014° 10' to Freetown 6½.
KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BULOLO, QUADRANT, REDOUBT,
ULSTER MONARCH, KEREN, LARGS with W.S.28 000° 40' 101° 13.
CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT, DUNKERY, DUNCTON with T.S.34
003° 55' 004° 56' to 003° 30' 007° 40' thence 303° 7½. CROCUS
escortng (F) 005° 35' 001° 18' E. to Lagos 10. SARABANDE
escortng 005° 35' S. 010° 02' E. 176° 5½. DESPATCH 005° 57' 023°
32' to 003° 26' 028° 07' thence 181° 20.
(F.O.C.W.A. 021335)

CITY OF
BARODA.

Have you any news of CITY OF BARODA due Walvis Bay
25th March from Trinidad?
(D.T.D. 021202A to C. in C.S.A.)

FERNMOOR.

My 241238 Feb.* concerned retention of FERNMOOR.
Ship has suggested she should be fitted with A.N.D.
net. This involves ship being sent to Capetown
(etc.) (2) If approved planning can be done before
equipment arrived. (3) Fitting recommended if
equipment is not required for more important
commitments.
(C. in C.S.A. 021225B to Admty.) * Re use of
FERNMOOR as controlled mine base ship.

/CHITRAL...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CHITRAL, Sailed CHITRAL to Diego Suarez routed through
RAIDER. (A) 24° 01' S. 41° 01' E. (B) 16° 01' S. 42° 30' E.
(C) 11° 45' S. 48° 08' E. S. of A. 14.5 knots,
E.T.A. 0700Z/7th April. 2. Local escort RAIDER
to 21° S. then returning to Durban. 3. CHITRAL shifts W/T
organisation to Group (QC) at 0415Z/6th April.
(Cdre. Durban 021303Z to Admty, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.
(D and K) N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

BIRMINGHAM. Capetown departure 0445Z/2nd April. BIRMINGHAM
for Freetown routed. A. 033° 10' S. 013° 10' E.
B. 030° 30' 007° 45' C. 015° 30' 000° 30'.
D. (7005°) 00' 007° 00' W. thence Freetown S. of A.
19 knots E.T.A. Freetown p.m. 9th April. Shift to W/T
organization for area P at 1100Z/6th April. Requirements.
(C. in C. S.A. 021412B to Admty, F.O.C. W.A. Comsolantfor.)

DOMINION D. of S.Ts. 010420A. As there are over 200
MONARCH. American Navy and Mercantile Marine personnel at
Durban waiting passage to U.S.A. it is preferred
that DOMINION MONARCH should proceed in
accordance with previous orders to Durban and
not call at Capetown.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 021417B to P.S.T.O. India (R) D. of S.T.
D.S.T.O. Durban C. in C. E.F.)

S.L.127. Ref. your 291902/April/42. Numbers. All
passengers males unless otherwise stated.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 021422Z.)

Floating Necessary repairs being carried out and dock
Dock, expected ready for sea April 5th.
Montevideo. (N.A. Montevideo 021520Z to Admty, (R) C. in C.S.A.)

QUEENBOROUGH. Simonstown arrival April 2.
(C. in C.S.A. 021628B to Admty, etc.)

S.L.127. Departure p.m./2nd SS. TOVELIL to R/V with convoy
S.L.127.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 021715Z to Admty. etc.)

ADABELLE Overdue shipping ADABELLE LYKES (U.S.) Durban 10th
LYKES. March for Montevideo 27th not arrived.
(Asst. S.O. (I) Recife 021717Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival 1st, Departure 2nd U.S.A. P.C.492 570.
Para. R.O. Para 021809 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Arrival 2nd April PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON M.L.277
Takoradi. M.L. 265.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 021902Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

Movements, U.S. Submarine Chaser P.C. 574 left for Gbedello
Pernambuco. 1st April returned today 2nd. Departure U.S.
Destroyer BARRY U.S. Transport POLLUX.
(R.O. Pernambuco 022015Z to Admty.)

CITY OF Following has been read from Simonstown 3333
BARODA 26.56 S. 15.21 E. B.L.4.X.I. torpedoed.
torpedoed. Ship reported torpedoed at 021900Z in 026° 56' S.
015° 21' E, believed part of convoy N.C.9. which
was in 027° 56' S. 015° 21' E. at same time
proceeding in thick fog visibility 1 cable. Wind
deflection 51. Detaching to investigate. NORTHERN CHIEF has
asdic defective, WELLARD remaining in company.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 022149Z to C. in C. S.A.)
My 022149Z. Visibility still 1 cable. CAPE WARWICK
reporting negative results is ordered to remain in area until
daylight and search for survivors. Convoy proceeding.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 022333Z to C. in C. S.A.)

Dakar, Your 1448/12. Reference by B.N.L.O. to
development. requirements of joint Chiefs of Staff not
understood. If Combined Chiefs of Staff intended,
it is pointed out that Dakar is in British
strategic area and decision regarding its use
rests with us. 2. There is at present no requirement for Dakar
which necessitates enlargement of harbour. Dakar will not
replace Freetown as main convoy port. 3. Chief British Economic
Representative is being informed that it is not intended to ship
cement referred to in my 042259A.
(Head of M.II 022101A to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Enemy Units. My 2348. P.C. and S. of one enemy medium vessel
2 destroyers are 38.08 N. 12.00 E. 115° 10.
(A/C CYP/T via Alexandria 020110A.)
- Convoy O.T.3. N.O.I.C. Casablanca 012131 (not received in Admty.)
On arrival of local escort detach Casablanca
section and proceed to Gibraltar omitting
position "Tare."
(C. in C.Med. 020230A to C.T.G. 611(R) F.O.Gib.
C.M.S.F.F. N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)
- MADRAS. Departure
(Cdre. Aden 020557 to Admty.)
- PALADIN. Arrival.
(V.A.Malta 020635 to Admty. etc.)
- T.E.20. Add to my 0942/31*and my 011227 EMPIRE DACE for
Bone.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 020848A to F.O.I.S.)
* (repeated in 050918A q.v.)
T.E.20 sail as in my 1112/30th, less four
- L.S.Ts. ST. CLEARS now for Philippeville.
(Cmdt. N.O.B. Oran 021810A to C. in C.Med.)
- Movements,
Beirut. 1st April departures, CUMBRAE, IERAX, JOHN
WILLIAMSON, M.Ls. 1135, 1124, 1226, R.55.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 020915C to Admty.)
- Movements
Alexandria. Arrival 1st April WOLBOROUGH, HURSLEY, PAUL
COUNDOURIOTIS, departure 1st April DELPHINIUM.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 020916C to Admty. C. in C.
Levant.)
- KHEDIVE
ISMAIL. S.S.T.O. Durban's 301537 not to D. of S.T.
KHEDIVE ISMAIL on completion Suez is being
sailed to Durban unless instructions received
to contrary from D. of S.T. My 180857 (re
vessels from C.M. 40) refers. D. of S.T.
requested to advise earliest possible decision.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 010924C to P.S.T.O.India (R) Admty.
etc.)
- E.T.17. Intend to sail. (List.) Request destinations.
(Cdre. Algiers 021031A to A.I.G. 259.)

/JURA...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

JURA
(torpedoed
7/1.) Your 1903/31. Ship was H.M. Trawler JURA sunk
1127/7 January 1943. My 335/NDCXF/663/7 of 12th
Feb. 1943 to Admiralty only refers.
(C. in C.Med. 021204A to Cominch, (R) Admty.)

Escorts Ref. 336K. (2318A/30). Delete in para. A. the
Organisations. words "Accounts carried in CORMORANT" and in para.
B. the words "Accounts carried in HANNIBAL."
2. Accounts of all ships mentioned are to continue
for the present to be kept in CORMORANT and
HANNIBAL as was the practice prior to 336K being made.
3. An adjustment of accounts and staff may be necessary at a later
date but due notice will be given.
(C. in C.Med. 021214A to Med. Stn. 341K (R) Admty.)
(Former amended.)

Convoy A.P.27 List Bahrein a.m. 10th April, Rooka p.m. 10th
April.
(N.C.S.O. Aden T.H.I. 021245 to Admty. etc.)

French Evacuation. Your 1805/1st (N.T. in W.D.) Portuguese Govern-
ment have now approved in principle evacuation of
French refugees but no decision yet reached
over port of embarkation.

Even when embarkation port fixed, complicated
arrangements required for transporting 1200 refugees will take
time.

Suggest all concerned should agree to 17th April as target date
for actual embarkation of French refugees. Further signal
will be made when date arranged.

(N.A.Lisbon 021305A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib.
B.N.A.Madrid.)

Reply N.A.Madrid 061243A.
Your 021305.

Concur that target date for embarkation be 17th April.

(C. in C.Med. 021907A to B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) Admty. F.O.C.Gib.
B.N.A.Madrid.)

B.N.A.Lisbon 021305 only to Admiralty asks that SIDI BRAHIM
should be sailed so as to arrive at Casablanca before 6th April
to embark French Troops for Oran, returning afterwards to
Gibraltar by 14th. Request you will comply.
(C. in C.Med. 021920 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Admty. B.N.A.Madrid,
B.N.A.Lisbon, Comnob Oran, Commorseafron.)

M.T.Bs. Unlikely that any "D" Type M.T.Bs. additional
to 32nd and 33rd Flotilla can be sent to you
before about November this year.
2. Vosper 70 foot M.T.Bs. of a type slightly
superior to those of the 7th Flotilla could be made available
as and when shipping facilities permit.
3. Request you indicate requirements of 70 foot M.T.B. if any.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 021321A to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant,
C.C.F. Med.)

/UNSHAKEN...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNSHAKEN, UNBENDING. UNSHAKEN (P.54) leaving Malta 021000 routed through 035° 15' N. 012° 00' E. to patrol between 035° N. and 035° 45' N. entering (P.37) UNBENDING's area at 050001.
2.(R) (P.37) UNBENDING is to leave patrol passing 036° 02' 012° 00' at 050001 returning to Malta by reverse of outward route to arrive searched channel at 060830.
(Capt. S.10 021321A to UNBENDING (R) C. in C.M.F., C. in C. Levant, Capt. 1st S.F., Capt. 8th S.F., 10th S.F.)

UNITED, UNSHAKEN. Arrived UNITED. Sailed UNSHAKEN.
(V.A.Malta 021323 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, (R) S.1., S.8.)

P.R.U. / April 2nd. 1045 Taranto 2 battleships (3?) cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 021326A to C. in C.Med. etc.)
P.R.U. April 2nd Visuals. 1615 Taranto 2 battleships, 3 cruisers.
(V.A.Malta 021756A to C. in C.Med. etc.)
Your 020510, (Originated by War Reg.) Following is V.A.M's 011602 (received indecpherable) (Begins) Addressed C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, etc. P.R.U. 1st April visuals. 1415 Taranto, two battleships, three cruisers. 1535, Castellamare, one cruiser, 1444, Messina obscured.
(Algiers C.C.O. 021945 to Admty.)

Enemy Units, UNBROKEN. Aircraft sighting at 1125, 1 merchant ship and 1 escort vessel 000°. Cape Colonne 1 mile, course south, 5 knots.
(Capt. S.10 021427A to P.42 (UNBROKEN).)

TRIBUNE, DOLFIJN. (P.47.) 1. TRIBUNE keep a good lookout for E-Boat.
2. P.47 Operate at your discretion in zone A. and B.
(Capt. S.8 021502A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

Escorts Organisation. Your 302318/March. Trawler groups consist of Admiralty design A/S M/S Trawlers. Auxiliary A/S groups consist of Auxiliary A/S Vessels. Both are allocated by Admiralty only.
2. Your para. A. Confirm TANGO, FOXTROT, PIRQUETTE, GAVOTTE to form 29th Trawler Group.
3. Your para. B. MAN-O-WAR, KING SOL, STELLA CARINA, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA are to form the 3rd Auxiliary A/S Group.
(D.A.S.W. 021511A to C. in C.Med.)

Movements, Bone. EMPIRE TERN arrived escorted by FLUELLEN. STAR returned to Bone due to weather and will be sailed to Philippeville escorted by FLUELLEN when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.S. 021516A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) F.O.C.Gib. C. in C.Med. Connav, Admty.)

/UNSHAKEN...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNSHAKEN.

If PAKENHAM and PETARD do not return by 1700 intend proceeding in execution of previous orders. Capt. S.10 pass to all addressees. (P.54 UNSHAKEN 021530A to Capt. D. or S.O.12th D.F. (R) Capt. S.10 PAKENHAM, PETARD.)

Transfer of H.D.M.Ls. to French.

Can reply now be given to my 091136/March since it is desired to transfer this one now for training purposes?

2. A.M. 140019/Feb. French report they will be able to man one Flotilla of eight boats by end of May. Request approval make offer on these lines

subject to satisfactory progress in training. In view of future commitments it is not intended to propose any further transfers for the present.

(C. in C.Med. 021546A to Admty.)

THUNDERBOLT.

Capt. S.8's 1604/28th, propose THUNDERBOLT be paid off on 28th March, the date she should have returned from patrol.

(C. in C.Med. 021557 to Admty.)
Approved (Admty. 100007B April.)

M.K.F.11A

Your 011912. Proposal A. approved if Admiralty concur.

(C. in C.Med. 021717A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Admty.
C. in C.W.A.)

MERCHANT PRINCE.

Vessel holed in No. 2 hold, engine-room flooded but believed controllable. Vessel beached and possibility of salvage and repair being investigated.

(M.W.T.R. Algiers 021805 to M.O.W.T.London, Mast 652.)

S/Ms A/C co-operation.

A/C Co-operating in area occupied by TORBAY P.47 (DOLFIJN) and P.43 (UNBROKEN) from 2130 until 0200 tonight.

(Capt. S.10 021911A to Subs. on patrol. (R) Capt. S.8.)

Enemy A/C Ruse.

The enemy is employing the ruse of approaching convoys at night with navigation lights burning. 2. Friendly aircraft are warned not to approach within 5 miles of a convoy at night.

3. Unidentified aircraft detected within 5 miles of a convoy at night should be treated as hostile, whether burning navigation lights or not, and engaged if it is considered the convoy has been spotted.

(C. in C.Med. 021921A to Med. Station 342K (R) H.Q.N.W.Africa Coastal Air Force, H.Q.Med. Air Command.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Oran. Arrivals L.S.T. 362, H.M.T. MULLET, H.M.T. WHITING, H.M.T. BENITO.
Departures EMPIRE FRED.
(Comnob Oran 021955A to Admty. F.O.C.N.A. C. in C.Med.)

SIBYL. Algiers departure Submarine P.217 (SIBYL.)
(Cdre. Algiers 022003A to Admty. etc.)

Italian Repatriations. Ref. Troops 65163 M.O.11 of 29th March to Middle East East Africa and Gibraltar. (Repatriation of Italian civilians for East Africa in four Italian liners.) Request confirmation that no assistance in watering these ships will be required from water carriers under my control.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 022056C to D.S.T.)

Movements Benghazi. Sailed SOUTHERN ISLE, KLO Tug C.307.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 022111C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers Arrivals L.C.I. (L) 97, 210, 242, 244, 175 PRINCESS BEATRIX, BADSWORTH, EGGESFORD, M.Ls. 258, 468, departures M.L. 283, L.C.I.(L) 175.
(Cdre. Algiers 022116A to Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

Cairo Air Report. For Arnold, Spaatz Bissell, Andrews and Commanding General Nasaf. From Brereton.
1. 17 B.25 aircraft of 12th Group departed March 31st to attack landing grounds at Sfax.
Explosions observed among aircraft, fires started. A/A intense, accurate, 15 aircraft holed up of which 2 heavily damaged and force-landed in sea, 3rd aircraft forced landed near Zarzis.
(Mideast Cairo 022138A to Algiers, Etousa.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 590 April 2nd C.S.R.
A. Air Part 1 Offensive. Night 1/2. Low cloud and poor visibility hampered offensive operations.
1 special Wellington sighted 2248 hrs. 1 M/V 6000 in convoy off Marittimo course southwest (see part 3) and continued to shadow while 6 torpedo Wellingtons, 2 torpedo Beauforts and 1 special equipment Wellington were despatched locate and attack. Shadowing Wellington saw convoy change course to East and convoy escaped by returning probably to Trapani. No further sighting was made. 2 Mosquitoes made

/intruder...

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Malta Air
Report.
(Contd.)

intruder patrols over Sicily, 1 of them is missing and the other patrolling Marsala Area saw no activity. Day 2nd April during 8 Spitfire bomber sorties over Southern Sicily hits were scored on railway line at Licata Cassibili Power Station and on railway sidings at Rossolini and in target area at Marzemimi factory.

Part 2, Enemy Air Activity. Day 2nd April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 12 Beaufighters provided escort to shipping southbound from Malta. (A.H.Q. Malta 022144Z.)

Movements,
Libya.

Arrived NUBIAN, KELVIN Skud 5.
Sailed NUBIAN, KELVIN, QUEEN OLGA G.S. BEAUFORT, ROMNEY, COMMANDANT DOMINE, M.L. 121, M.L. 135, L.C. tank 111, 113, 115, and 158.
(N.O.I.C. Libya 022222A to Admty.)

Movements
Tobruk.

Sailed REDWOOD and GENERAL BIRDWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 022224C to Admty.)

ABDIEL,
UNRIVALLED,
UNBENDING,
UNSHAKING.

ABDIEL will be operating along usual submarine route night of 3rd/4th. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) is to keep 5 miles to northward of route until south of 036° 20'.

2. Waiting destroyers will be operating to south of Pantellaria P.37 (UNBENDING) and P.54 (UNSHAKEN) are to keep west of 12° E. and S. of 036° 35' N. until daylight April 4th.

3. Surface forces are aware S/M disposition and will observe Sanctuary rules.
(Capt. S.10 022346A to P.45 (UNRIVALLED) P.37 (UNBENDING), P.54 (UNSHAKEN).)

65A

MOST SECRET

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

022016/April

IN

Date 3.4.43

Recd. 1517Z

From Algiers

Addressed	Usfor Mideast Britman Washington Armindia Delhi P.A.I.C. Landforces Melbourne Dechiefs Pretoria Dechiefs Capetown Force Nairobi Defender Wellington (For Puttick)
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*Tunisia -
Situation Report.*

H.M. Ambassador Madrid) Passed by
(Pass to U.S. Ambassador Madrid)) Foreign Office
Britmilat Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak))

Resident Minister Achimota) Passed by
) Colonial Office

IMPORTANT

Ref. No. 1175 2nd April 1943 U.S. 272.

LINREP No. 34.

Summary of Operations 29 to 31 March.

EIGHTH ARMY.

1. At 1100 hours on March 29th New Zealand Force entered Gabes. Our forward troops contacted enemy rear guard position in the areas Metouia and Oudref by evening; on the following day our forces occupied these two towns. Our patrols advanced and, on the general line from Djebel Zemlet El Beida, 18 miles north west of Gabes, to the coast, came into contact with enemy prepared defensive positions. On 31 March the concentration of our forces continued.

SOUTH EAST ALGERIAN FORCE.

2. Douz and Kobili occupied by camel troops

TWO CORPS/....

TWO CORPS.

3. In our forward positions little change occurred throughout the period. In the area south east of Gafsa along the Gafsa Gabes Road our forces attacked but there was stubborn enemy resistance and the forward movements of our armoured forces was hampered by minefields. In the Fondoul Sector there was no change.

FIRST ARMY.

4. In the French Sector in the area west of Pichon, and in the region of Ousseltia our patrols increased their activity. Our forces occupied El Ala 6 miles west of Pichon. The attack which was begun during the night 27/28 March in Northern Tunisia progressed satisfactorily. On March 30th our troops occupied Sedjenane in spite of stubborn fighting and bad weather. French irregular troops on the Northern flank carried out valuable operations and during the attack captured a large number of prisoners. In many places where the enemy resistance was stubborn, hand-to-hand fighting occurred. Our forces progressed in the hills east and north east of Sedjenane on March 31st. and it appears that the enemy is retiring to positions in the area of Jefna.

NAVAL.

5. On the evening of March 27th, about 6 miles south west of Cap Sergat, there was carried out a demonstration and feint landing, including bombardment by two destroyers. (LAFORRY and BLYSKAWICA)

LINREP 34 PART TWO AND LAST Ø

On the nights 29/30 and 30/31 Destroyers operated in the Gulf of Hammamet without incident. Motor Torpedo boats operated off Sfax during the night of 29/30 March. About 70 miles west of Algiers 2 of our merchant vessels in convoy were torpedoed by U-boat and subsequently sank. Returning from a patrol off the north coast of Sicily one of our Submarine reports that 2 enemy tankers, 1 of 10,000 tons and one of 3,000 tons, after being hit by torpedoes were both probably sunk.

AIR.

6. Weather prevented all bombing operations by the Strategic Air Force on March 29th and 30th. Aerodromes

in/.....

-3-

in Sardinia and shipping in Cagliari Harbour were attacked throughout 31st March. On aerodromes large fires were started. On 31st March successful shipping swoops were also carried out and direct hits were made on several enemy merchant vessels. Our Tactical Air Forces operated in close co-operation with our land forces over the whole front. Enemy transport and troops were bombed both by day and night and enemy aerodromes were successfully attacked. In one stretch of road south of Sfax, 50 fires were observed during the night of March 30/31. A Hudson of the Coast Air Force on March 29th made a very promising attack on a U-boat.

POLITICAL

7. General Bousiat has been appointed Chief of his Mission to de Gaulle in London by General Giraud. That the major negotiations will take place in Algiers with General Catroux however, is expected. In an atmosphere of practical understanding definite progress is being made. Temple, as Prefect of Algiers and several other Sous-Prefects have been removed by Mr. Peyrouton. Muscatelli one of our friends replaces him. As a further step towards efficient Democratic Administration this move may be considered.

022016

Ø Received under Reference No. 1171.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
A.C.N.S.(A)
A.C.N.S.(W)
A.C.N.S.(H)
U.W.R.
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D.N.I.(4)
D.of P.(Q)
D.of P.(2)
D.A./S.W.
D.T.D.(3)
D.T.D.(M)

Received in War Registry 1825/4

Circulation:-
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Sec.
1st S.L.
C.6. Tels. War Office
A.M.C.S.(C)
Mr. Strang Foreign Office
Mr. Radcliffe. Min. of Inf.

Hd. of M.
C.N.I.
D.P.D.
C.C.L.S.
Admiral Usborne
Admiral Blako
Admiral Mack (4)
W.D.
I.P.(2)

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements
Bombay.

Departure 0130Z INVESTIGATOR with 4 I.W.T. craft.
0035Z BARODA ((corrupt group) N.D.) with
GENERAL VAN DER HEYDEN.
2. Both escorts keeping continuous watch on
500 K/cs. and V.D. periods.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 020301Z to Admty., F.O.C.R.I.N.
etc.)

India,
Security.

Ref. telegram No. 1656 dated 30th March from
Governor General to S. of S. for India. (Not
received in W.R.) I had ventured to hope that
you could spare Janson for 2 months for this
duty with Clairmonde to organise system of
security lectures and train Indian lecturers. Something on
lines of Tottenham Committee needed at ports which suffer from
exactly same hardships as ports in U.K. Wilson would be most
acceptable to instill cypher security doctrine. Question is
rather urgent and we are sadly behind the times.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 020320Z to Admty., for D.N.I. (R) R.I.N.L.O.)
Will it be possible to spare an experience security
officer. (A) to inspect Indian ports and Naval Establishments
and advise on security. (B) To inaugurate system of security lectures.
2. Re paramount need of placing operational security on this
coast on a proper basis. 3. I should also like to send a
selected R.N. Officer to London to be given a thorough grounding
in security work. Could this be arranged?
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 020322Z to Admty.)

JOHN W.
MACKAY.

Request instructions for JOHN W. MACKAY on
completion repair to Bushire Muscat Cable. My
181013 March refers.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 020551Z to Admty., C. in C.
E.F. P.S.T.O. (Bombay.)

O.W.3.

Colombo portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 020631Z to Admty.)

TRUSTY.

Proposed onward programme for (TRUSTY?) after
movements given in my 0923/2 to C. in C.E.F.
and F.O.Ceylon only.

Arrive.	Place.	Leave.
14th April.	Diego Suarez	15th April.
23rd April	Durban	26th April.
30th April	Simonstown	5th May
19th May	Freetown	22nd May
6th June	U.K.port as ordered.	

(Capt. S.4 020955Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.
S.A. F.O.Ceylon, Admty. F.O.S.)

/Use...

War Diary.2.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Use of
Smoke. Your 2322/25 March. Ref. Admiralty Letter M/TSD 1389/42 of 10th Dec. para. 6, my opinion is as follows.
A. Yes, as standard measurements. B. Yes, all carriers. It should prove very valuable for defence of an important convoy. C. Sufficient for six A/C. D. The time required does not necessitate a decision on this point until a situation develops or is likely to develop which will require use of smoke. E. Desirable that all T.B.R. air crews should be trained and that additional training be given selected crews for special operations.
(C. in C.E.F. 021034Z 160923Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

Troop
Movements. ASCANIUS and VARSOVA now required to on carry Authority of personnel brought from India. Space therefore required for 1000 I.O.R s. for Mideast originally allocated to these ships. Propose to embark these in EL MADINA. Request concurrence. (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 021101Z to P.S.T.O.India (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. M.E.)
Concur with your 021011Z (021101Z intended.) (P.S.T.O.I. 021425Z to D.S.T.O.P.G.(R) D.S.T. P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Passengers - I concur with paragraph two of C. in C.S.A. numbers. 1132/24 March and have already issued instructions that the relaxations quoted in paragraph three of my 1447/20 March are not repetition not applicable to vessels proceeding unescorted into S.A.Station from or through E.I.Station.

2. To avoid unacceptable delay in turn round of shipping from Middle East and India and in view of limited number of ocean escorts at my disposal consider number of unescorted ships entering S.A.Station from E.I.Station can not be materially reduced. Under new ruling this may create bottleneck as regards troops returning from Middle East and India in particular.

3. Intend however to maintain new ruling until future troops movements requirements indicate the need from relaxation.

4. A.M. 1638/25 refers.

(C. in C.E.F. 021152Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 2nd April. 0230Z H.M.S. WORCESTERSHIRE, 0230Z H.M.S. SCOUT 0232Z H.M.S. GAWLER, 0730Z H.M.S. ADAMANT 0734Z H.M.S. TAMWORTH, 1222Z H.M.S. OKAPI.
Departures 1130Z GAWLER 1132Z TULIP.
(F.O.Ceylon 021217Z to Admty.)

U/B. No. 8 disposition U-Boats German 1 by D/F near 027° S. 043° E. 27th March.
(C. in C.E.F. 021234Z to Eastern Fleet (238Y) (R) Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

C.J.1 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Convoy sailing telegram 1. C.J.1 $\frac{1}{2}$. 2.1231
G.M.T. 2nd April 4. Knots 9.5 to position.
T. thence 10.5 knots 5. T. 010° 29' N. 080°
06' E. U. 007° 39' N. 081° 58' E. V. 005° 56' N.
080° 59' E. 6. KONKAN.
(N.C.S.O. Madras 021236Z 021241Z to Admty.)

India Air
Report.

B. Offensive R/C. 4 Mohawks attacked river
shipping Chindwin.
(A.H.Q. India 021345Z to Air Min.)

Eastern
Fleet
Cruisers.

Your 261148 March, para. 1. Sailing of DAUNTLESS
in mid May approved. Ship can be taken in hand
in U.K.
B. Your para. 2. It is anticipated that EMERALD
will join your flag in mid June and DANAE in
early August.
(D.O.D.(F) 021701A to C. in C.E.F.)

War Diary.

2.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

S/M Estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 020131Z, 021524Z, 021525Z,
2nd April. 021559Z, 021600Z, 021601Z.)
U.S.S/M
Notice.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 1st 1943. Arrivals
VERVAIN, FAME, EGLANTINE, ROSE, LORD MIDDLETON,
ex O.N.S.1, MILLTOWN, BUXTON, CHICOUTIMI, QUESNEL,
ex L.X.231 departures MODOC to Argentia NIAGARA,
FENNEL, MONCTON, SARNIA, STRATFORD to O.N.174 NANAIMO escorting
FOUNDATION, FRANKLIN to assist BARON BELHAVEN.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 020330Z to Admty.)
Arrival April 2nd U.S.S. PUMPER.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 021125Q to Connav, Admty.)
Arrival April 2nd U.S.S. Y.M.S.33.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 021130Q to Admty.)
Arrival UNGAVA VEGREVILLE ex J.H.45.
(C. Halifax, 022245Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Connav.
C.T.F.24)

Convoy S/M sighted 0645 Z 058° 40' 038° 03'.
O.N.175. Attacked by SPENCER and DIANTHUS who are still
U/B hunting.
Attacked. (C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3, 020745Z 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.)

S.C.124. Transmission at 010301 (?possibly) and 0211
U/B. 61 Groups Enigma are from U-Boats in your vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. 020825Z to S.E.S.C. 124, C.O.A.C.
C.C.N.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. U S. Fleet, Opnav,
S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Armed Yachts, My 0847/31st and my 1627/1st left a.m. 2nd.
S.C.649, 497, (R.O. Barranguilla, 021123R to Admty)
530.

Convoy. (1) Louisburg Argentia convoy 7, sailing telegram
part 1. (2) Louisburg 021000Z April.
(3) Argentia 031700Z. (4) 11 knots.
(5) (Route) (6) WESTMOUNT.
(N.C.S.O. Cape Breton, Sydney. 021237Z to C.T.F.24 (R)
Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., F.O.N.F., U.S.C.N.O.
Port Director Argentia, N.C.S.O. Montreal, N.C.S.O.
St. Johns, N.F.)

C.M.O.E.T.U. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. 012205 (N.T. in W.D.).
24.1.3. Request you provide escort from S.C.124 or E.G.4.
(C.T.24, 021301Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.M.O.E.T.U.
24.1.3. Cominch C & R A.C.I.C. C.T.G.24.6. C.T.U.
24.12.2. Admty. F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C.O.A.C.
Escort Control Londonderry Task Group 4.7.)

War Diary.2.4.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- U.G.S.7. Departure U.G.S.7 delayed approx. 24 hours due to adverse weather conditions. C.T.F.69 please confirm.
(Port Director New York, 021330Z to Cominch C. & R. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Admty, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet etc.)
- BAYNTUN,
BAZELY. Your 012012.
U.S. Authorities have been informed that BAYNTUN is in quarantine. (2) Arrangements will be made for BAYNTUN and BAZELY to call at Bermuda in accordance with your para. 2 (B)
(B.A.D. 021401Z to S.B.N.O. W. At. (R) Admty.)
- Cinclant 311523, BAYTUN and BAZELY depart base M for Yorkton, Virginia, about 031600Z through positions. C Lat 32.50 long 64.48, D Lat 34.50 long 69.49, E Lat 36.14 long 73.23 thence XM and destination. S. of A. 15. E.T.A. XM 051030Z.
Request pilots, guarding NSS F and area frequencies in range, Q.J.C.133, by hand to BAYNTUN and BAZELY.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 022155Z to Com 5 (R) Cominch, C. in C. Lant, C.E.S.F., S.B.N.O. W.At. B.A.D. Admty.)
- Trawler Allocations. Your 011515 (signal proposals for allocation of 6 large R.N. trawlers). (A) Halifax three for escort of convoys. (B) Sydney force for QS-NQ convoys.
(C. in C. N.W.A. 021438A to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A.)
- CELANDINE,
NASTURTIUM. Your 011736, request CELANDINE remain in U.K. for refit. (2) If NASTURTIUM does not arrive in time to sail with H.G.235 C. in C. C.N.W.A. is to arrange a suitable relief for one round trip.
(N.S.H.Q. 021439Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A., F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A., Cdre. Londonderry, C.T.G. 24.7, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)
- U.S.A.T. Arrival 2nd (U.S.A.T.) EL LIBERTADOR under Dutch flag.
(B.R.O. Georgetown, 021500Q to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 1st April U.S. Army Transport BRIGADIER GENERAL HARRY F. RETHERS U.S.
(B.R.O. Aruba, 021512QR to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- O.N.177. C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.14 in CHURCHILL (H/F D/F) plus BRANDON, AMHERST, COLLINGWOOD, CELANDINE, CALGARY, RESTIGOUCHE (H/F D/F) MANSFIELD, SAINT ALBANS, designated ocean escorts for O.N.177.
(C.T.G.24.7, 021533 to C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Belfast, N.O.I.C. Liverpool F.O.I.C. Greenock, N.O.I.C. Aultbea, N.O.I.C. Mersey, Cdre. C.N.F. C.T.24. C.T.G.24.6, N.O.I.C. Oban)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- H.X.231. Amended "Chop" 031200Z. Information has been sent to C.O.A.C. and Comtask 24. (Connav, 021549Z to T.U.24.1.5 (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., Comtask 24.)
- G.A.T.52. Convoy G.A.T.52 arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 021631Q to Admty)
- BARON
BELHAVEN. No contact with BARON BELHAVEN. Have searched area 60 miles North to 40 miles West of 049° 13' North and 043° 50' West. Am continuing search to Eastward and Southward. My position 021500Z April was 049° 45' North 044° 19' West. (LETHBRIDGE, 021735Z to F.O. N.F. (R) C.T.F.24. NANAIMO, 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.)
- O.N.174. O.N.174, P.C. and S. at 021400Z 044° 20' N. 049° 40' W. 237° 9½. F.S. ROSELYS to St.Pierre. AZALEA, NARCISSUS, F.S. RENONCULE to Argentia. REGINA, BADDECK, PRESCOTT to Halifax. GARLAND Ind. to Argentia. Request diver for starboard propeller shaft examination. E.T.A. 031200Z. Weather Report. (GARLAND, 021800Z to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)
- TRACKER,
FENCER.
Supply of
Aircraft. My 1641/30. Since a full load of Fleet Air Arm Aircraft cannot be ready before last week in April and FENCER will not be ready in time to embark army aircraft and sail in U.G.F. 8 intend to load TRACKER with 58 U.S. Army aircraft and sail her in U.G.F.8. FENCER should arrive Norfolk about 25th April. Intend to load her with Fleet Air Arm aircraft and sail her as soon as possible in H.X. convoy to U.K. (B.A.D.021811 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- "Chop" and
Escort
Reliefs. Reference A.C.C.1, Annex A, para 5. (c) (d) and (e) (1) It is considered desirable to "Chop" as soon as change over between mid-ocean and western local escorts has been effected. (2) Recent experience has demonstrated that it is not practicable to forecast arrival at "Chop" position far in advance and amendments during voyage are frequent. (3) Therefore proposed that Senior Officer of escort in company with convoy shall signal 12 hours in advance the anticipated time and position of handing over to relief escort. This signal. (a) to be addressed to C. in C. W.A. and Comtask 24. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. when command changes) repeated Admty, Cominch C. and R. and N.S.H.Q. (b) to be encyphered in the form convoy designation, "Chop", anticipated time, latitude and longitude, time of origin. (4) Controlling Authorities will conform with "Chop" indicated in para. 3 (b) (5) During the period between receipt of signal in para. 3. and report by S.O. relief escort

that / ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies."Chop" and
Escort
Reliefs.
(Contd.)

that he has taken over the controlling authority shall address signals concerning the convoy to both escort group. (6) Request your remarks. (D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(U.T) 021816A to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A. Comtask 24, C. in C. N.W. Atlantic.)

MONTGOMERY,
O.N.175.
S.C.124.

My P.C. and S. 021900Z 057° 29' N. 039° 27' W. 329° 12 to join O.N.175. Fuel 7 days at 12 knots. P.C. and S. S.C.124 021400Z 057° 20' N. 038° 33' W. 054° 7.
(MONTGOMERY, 021900Z 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., C.M.O.E. T.U.24.1.3, C.M.O.E. T.U.24.1.13.)

Convoy
Arrival
Signals.

Comply with Admiralty's 311735A passed to you. (N.S.H.Q. 021920Z to N.C.S.O. Halifax (R) Admty.)

B.Y.M.S.

A.L. M/M/S 0669/42 dated 23rd Oct. 1942, to B.A.D. only. (2) B.Y.M.S. allotted to 158th M.S.F. should be re-allocated to form part of 156th M.S.F. for Levant. Request Admiralty and C. in C. Levant be informed of full composition of 156th M.S.F. when decided. (3) 158th M.S.F. and 164th M.S.F. are no longer allocated to South Africa. Priority now after 171st M.S.F. (4) Can approx. sailing dates of 156th M.S.F. be given to enable route to be decided? (5) C. in C. S.A. is requested to inform Director of S.A.N.F. (D.M.S. 022026A to B.A.D., (R) C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

AZALEA,
NARCISSUS,
RENONCULE.

E.T.A. Argentia 031600Z NARCISSUS, RENONCULE in company.
(AZALEA, 022101Z to (Corrupt Group) (R) ESCAPADE, Maintenance Commander Argentia)

UZBEKISTAN.

U.S.S.R. UZBEKISTAN en route Astoria to Seattle grounded 48° 43' N. 125° 03' W. at 0125 T. Crew safe no further details H.M.C. ship assisting. (C.O.P.C. 022110 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Connav, C.W.S.F., C.N.A.F.L.)

S/M Attack
and sighting
Summary.

All times Z. A. SPENCER and DIANTHUS attack Submarine 58.40 N. 38.03 W. 020645.
C. Surface craft attack sound contact 00.06 S. 43.59 W. 020840. PBY RADAR contact and wake 11. 49 N. 63.30 W. 011545. D. C.G 55002 sights Submarine 40.59 N. 71.50 W. 020410. Plane sights submarine 43.27 N. 56.42 W. 011905. U.S.S. MENTOR attacks submarine 40.03 N. 73.33 W. 012359.
(Cominch, 022121 to Admty for O.I.C.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

U.G.S.7.

MIRABEAU B LAMAR 34. W BREWSTER 92.
G.S. WALDEN 93. HORACE BINNEY 83. REVERDY
JOHNSON 95. Returned to port. Amend both
parts my sailing telegram.
(Port Director, New York, 022132Z to Connav,
(R) Cinclant, C.E.S.F., C.N. W.A.F.S.F. Admty.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. Med.
Comtask 69, N.O.B. Bermuda)

SALISBURY.

SALISBURY can be accepted at Navy Yard Boston.
Job number S. 286. Ship should arrive about
7th April. Request E.T.A.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 022140Z to N.S.H.Q., Comtask
24, C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., Admty. S.B.N.O.
W.At. SALISBURY)

Movements.

A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA (U.S.) arrived Port of
Spain March 31.
(N.S.H.Q. 022223Z to Bank Block London.)

SULOIDE
(Brazilian
Damaged)

SULOIDE hit wreck of W.E. HUTTON (U.S.) March 22,
34° 30' N. 76° 54' W. Being salvaged.
(N.S.H.Q. 022335Z to Admty)

Australia and New Zealand.

CHEVREUIL.

F.N.F.L. from Consul Noumea. F.S. CHEVREUIL
arrived Noumea a.m. 2nd April. N.B. Wellington
pass to all addresses.
(N.C.S.O. Thursday Island, 020015Z to N.B.
Melbourne, N.O. Melbourne, Admty.)

Movements.

Departure Noumea 20000Z/31 March U.S.S. ARIDED
(A.K) for Auckland E.T.A. 5th April. Arrival
Norfolk Island 1851Z/1 U.S.S. SKYLARK escorting
H.T. WAHINE and departed at 0010Z/2 independently
for Auckland E.T.A. 4th April. Departure Wellington 0703Z/1
U.S.S. TAGANAK for Lyttleton E.T.A. 0900Z/2.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 020424Z to Admty.)
Arrival Sydney (N.S.W.) 1st April U.S. MIZAR.
(A.C.N.B. 020747 to Admty.)
Arrival Melbourne 1st QUIBERON. Departures Milne Bay
31st WARREGO for Townsville KAPUNDA for Port Moresby 1st
GLENELG for Townsville Port Moresby 1st WAGGA for Milne Bay

Townsville / ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Townsville 1st VENDETTA for Port Moresby
(Contd.) Brisbane 1st U.S.S. SELFRIDGE for Palm Island
area BUNGAREE for Sydney 1st SHEPPARTON for
Brisbane Fremantle 1st D.S. VAN GALEN for Mel-
bourne.
(A.C.N.B. 021458Z to Admty.)

Arrival 1st April Brisbane U.S. T. CREMER. H.T. TAROONA
departs Fall River 1st April due Townsville 3rd.
H.T. DUNTROON R.A.A.F. Store ship WANAKA departs Townsville
1st due Port Moresby 3rd.
Hospital ship WANGANELLA departs Melbourne 1st due Sydney
N.S.W. 3rd.
U.S.T. VAN DER LIJN departs Port Moresby 1st due Townsville 5th.
Hospital ship CENTAUR departed Brisbane 1st due Townsville 4th.
(N.B. Melbourne, 021503Z to Admty, Connav)

Digest Afternoon R/C. Fortress reported 3 medium and
Serial 3 large merchant vessels totalling approx.
No. 436 45,000 tons, 3 light cruisers, 4 probable
April 1st. destroyers in Silver Sound (ten miles Southwest
Kavieng). Photos confirm 5 or 6 merchant vessels
1 possible tanker, 1 cruiser, 1 destroyer
remainder unidentified. Air strike despatched.

(4) Photos Wewak forenoon reveal 2 vessels 600 tons each in
harbour plus 40 barges. Photos of shipping off Faer Island
reveal 2 merchant vessels of one to three thousand tons each,
and 4 small tanker type vessels. (9) One B.25 scored near
miss on shipping Kaimana Bay noon 30th, refer Digest 433 para. 8.
Two Zeros intercepted and 1 destroyed, other probably.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A. 020815Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

(D.D.I.C. 021401A, 021416A)

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Support
groups.

- / 1. The suspension of the North Russian convoys has released a number of Fleet destroyers. These have been formed into groups and are being used in support in the North Atlantic.

Escort
carriers.

- / 2. It is hoped that one escort carrier will be ready for service about 18th April and one about 28th April. At first it is intended to operate each carrier as a support force with its own screen, but this can only be done as long as H.F. destroyers remain available. The final decision on the operation of these escort carriers will not be made until more experience has been gained.

Home Commands.

3. 11 out of 12 escorted Venturas attacked shipping in Brest harbour today. 50 aircraft of Bomber Command report attacking St. Nazaire last night and 40 Lorient. Only one aircraft is missing, from the raid on St. Nazaire.

4. Bomber Command aircraft laid 138 mines last night off St. Nazaire, Bayonne, La Pallice and Le Verdon.

North Atlantic.

5. A U-boat was attacked by Hudson aircraft at 1350A in 27.30 N. 14.55 W.

Mediterranean.

Enemy
cruiser
attacked.

6. At 1501A, S/M UNBROKEN (P.42) attacked one presumed REGOLO class cruiser in 37.48 N. 15.38 E. (20 miles S.W. of Cape Spartivento). One heavy explosion was heard, but the result is unknown.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

7. In addition to damage ashore, photographic R/C of Naples today showed a 470 ft. merchant ship destroyed by explosion at Vittorio Emmanuele Quay and two 200/350 ft. merchant vessels damaged.

8. S/M SAFARI about 1300 sank a minesweeping trawler and a schooner off the East Coast of Sardinia by gunfire.

East Indies.

9. SS. STEEL ENGINEER, American, reported at 1619 that she had evaded a submarine attack in 21.02 N. 69.31 E. (West of Mauritius).

America & West Indies.

10. GULFSTATE, U.S. tanker, 6882 tons, was torpedoed and sunk at 0715 in 24.32 N. 80.15 W.

Australia & New Zealand.

Air attack
on ships at
Kavieng:
two cruisers
sunk.

11. Enemy Warships at Kavieng (New Britain) were attacked before dawn by 4 Fortresses which scored 1 hit on a large warship and 1 probable hit on a destroyer. 2 other probable destroyers were bombed with unobserved results. A fifth Fortress hit the same large warship (possibly a heavy cruiser) with 3 500 lb. bombs. The vessel burst into flames and 10 minutes later exploded violently. A sixth Fortress scored 4 hits with 500 lb. bombs on a probable light cruiser and the vessel was seen to sink within 5 minutes. A seventh Fortress put 2 bombs into a destroyer but did not observe the result. Simultaneous attacks on airfields near Kavieng neutralised the enemy air force. There was no interception, and all the Allied aircraft returned.

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Task Force 22. Constitution of T.F.22 is as follows:-
SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA, RANGER, AUGUSTA,
TUSCALOOSA and 8 destroyers.
On April 2nd this force will proceed to
Argentia E.T.A. 1530Q/5
(D.O.D.(H), 031101A to C. in C. H.F.)

UNICORN. V.A.(A) H.F.'s 021542 para. 1.
When ready for service UNICORN will come under
the orders of C. in C. H.F. for service as an
operational carrier.
Remaining paras. are being dealt with separately.
(D.O.D.(H) 031353A)

Comdr. (D) Argentia. AAC 1 para.5 (B) 2 & 5 (E) 1. Request the
position of the Commander (D) Argentia when
N.S.H.Q. assumes operational control west of
Westomc may be made clear. It is presumed
that the Commander (D) will become a British
operational authority in an American base fulfilling the
requirements of C. in C. C.N.W.A. and for this duty he will
require the assistance of one Staff Officer operations who I
suggest should be an R.N. Officer. It is also for considera-
tion that with the increase in importance of the duties of the
Commander (D) Argentia this Officer should be raised to the
status of Acting Captain (D).
(C. in C. W.A. 031658A to Admty)

Movements.

UGANDA, A.M.291021 and A.M.011620.
NEWFOUNDLAND. The following movements are intended: (A) UGANDA
after fuelling at Gibraltar about 8/4 to join
Plymouth Command. (B) NEWFOUNDLAND on relief
in Bay area by UGANDA to join Mediterranean
Command. (2) Request you will arrange the transfer of these
ships in such a way that - (a) Convoys in the Bay area are
covered. (b) NEWFOUNDLAND joins Med. Command with as little
delay as is practicable.
(D.O.D.(H), 030010A to C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

S/M Scapa arrivals 0935.
Movements. P.57, P.238, TUNA, and TADOUSSAC proceeding
Lerwick.
(A.C.O.S. 031001, 1121A, 1222A)
My 021534 para. (G) add these submarines leave
Lerwick 21.30/3rd probably on surface to north eastward.
(F.O.(S), 031107A to Admty.)
Intend sail BLACKFISH (U.S.S.) escorted by F.S. LA CAPRIC-
IEUSE from Garroch Head at 1500B/5th April via Minches and West
of Orkneys and Shetlands to 359° Muckle Flugga 5 miles
E.T.A. 070500B. (2) Thence BLACKFISH (U.S.S.) as ordered by

Captain / ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

Captain (S) 9. F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE to Scapa proceeding east of Orkneys and Shetlands for escort duty with SERAPH and UNTAMED to Clyde as ordered by A.C.O.S. E.T.A. Scapa 1700B/7th April. (3) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange fighter co-operation. Help message on 385 K/cs. S. of A. 14 knots. (4) Communications. (5) F.O.S. pass to Comnavu by hand. (Comsubron, 031510A to A.I.G.219 (R) Comnavu, BLACKFISH) Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/4th and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) TRUCULENT (P.315) in zone K.151.
 (b) SEA NYMPH (P.223) in zone K.150.
 (c) TEMPLAR (P.316) in zone K.148.
 (d) SEVERN 66° 18' N. 03° 58' E. probably on surface speed 14 knots through 69° 01' N. 07° 48' E. to patrol in zone K.192.
 (e) U.S.S. BARB 66° 17' N. 04° 32' E. probably on surface speed 14 knots through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E. to patrol in zone K.193.
 (f) TUNA 61° 50' N. 01° 15' W. probably on surface speed 10 knots through 62° 00' N. 01° 27' W. and 69° 02' N. 07° 49' E.
 (g) STUBBORN (P.238) 61° 40' N 00° 35' W. probably on surface speed 9 knots through 62° 01' N. 00° 38' W. and 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E.
 (h) USURPER (P.56) escorted by TADOUSSAC leaves Scapa 1600/4th through Minches expected time of arrival Clyde 1200/6th.
 (j) ULTIMATUM (P.34) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE arriving Clyde from Southward.
 (k) H.28 escorted by KIHNA vicinity Hartland Point due Plymouth 0700/5th.
 (l) TAKU, URSULA and SICKLE (P.224) escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE leave Needles 1200/4th expected time of arrival Portland 1630/4th SICKLE and TAKU carry out attacks on each other in areas B and C between 1500 and 1800/4th and enter Portland Harbour 1830/4th. All above submarines and escort leave Portland so as to arrive 333° Eddystone 4 miles at 1700/5th.
 (m) TRESPASSER (P.312) 48° 04' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day due 43° 01' N. 13° 22' W. at 0230B/7th.
 (n) SPORTSMAN (P.229) 47° 51' N. 12° 54' W dived by day due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 0230B/7th.
 (o) U.S.S. HERRING in zone K.505.
 (p) U.S.S. SHAD in zone K.507 proceeding dived by day so as to pass through position 43° 59' N. 08° 59' W. at 0600/6th. (F.O.(S), 031818A)
 TUNA and P.238 sailed from Lerwick 2215A/3, unescorted and on the surface at C.O. discretion.
 TUNA by route grey to zone K.191 P.238 by route pink to zone K.190.
 (S.O.S/M's Lerwick, 032245A to S/Ms operating N. of 51° N. (R) A.C.O.S.)

BITER.

Intend to sail BITER 051230B. April to arrive Rothesay 051900B. BITER's 301421 March not to Admiralty refer. (F.O.I.C.N.I., 031005A)

Landing
Craft for
Gibraltar.

My 021911A April. Communication. For BN read Gibraltar broadcast. (C. in C. Plymouth, 031025A to as former)

TYRIAN / ...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (Contd.)

- TYRIAN. After satisfactory completion of acceptance trials Thursday 8th sail TYRIAN to Scapa to join Home Fleet.
(D.O.D.(H), 031518A to N.O.I.C. Tyne)
- MILNE, Your 011631. MILNE and MATCHLESS, P.C.S.
MATCHLESS. at 1500A 050° 07' N. 014° 15' W. 090° 18 knots.
Route through 050° 07' N. 010° 00' W. and 180° Bishop Rock 10.
MILNE E.T.A. Milford Haven, 1500B/4th March*.
MATCHLESS E.T.A. Plymouth 1400B/4th March*. 90702853
(Capt.(D) 3, 031605A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. R.A.(D) H.F. HALCYON, CHARYBDIS.)
* As received presumably April.
Your 031605A to avoid HALCYON and Flight "A" landing craft proceed to pass through 049° 50' N. 009° 00' W. thence 180° Bishop Rock 10.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 032219A to Capt. (D) 3rd. (R) HALCYON, CHARYBDIS, MATCHLESS.)
- CELANDINE. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 021439Z request you will sail CELANDINE to Liverpool for refit when ready.
(C. in C. W.A. 031617A to C.T.G.24.7.)
- CHARYBDIS. E.T.A. 040900B/April.
Request Group 1 lights 0300B to 0400B and Gate 1000B.
(CHARYBDIS, 031820 to C. in C. Plymouth)
- LIMBOURNE, My 021544 (Hush M/S). Sailed LIMBOURNE,
MELBREAK. MELBREAK.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 032033A to Admty, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, S.O. Force 'J')
Note - De-hushed by War Registry.
- S/M Capt.(S) 5 030921A and Capt. (S) 7 011338A
Escorts. both not to all addressees. Provided KIHNA arrives Plymouth a.m. 5th April she will be sailed to relieve KINGSTON TURQUOISE as escort to P.224 (SICKLE) to position (Y) and URSULA to Clyde. (2) KINGSTON TURQUOISE will be sailed as escort to H.28 to Portsmouth. (3) If KIHNA is not available F.S. AMBROISE PARE will meet and escort TAKU and URSULA into Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031901A)
- ARCHER. Intend sailing ARCHER escorted by OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE passing Clyde Boom 060515B April to comply with C. in C. W.A.021920A April, codeword 'Profit'.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 031904A)

Information / ...

War Diary.3.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (Contd.)Information
for
ACANTHUS.

Approx. position of S/MS at 2000A/3rd April.
Following positions are N and W. TRESPASSER
49.25 13.05 to 49.10 13.22 thence southbound
advance 120 miles in 24 hours.
SPORTSMAN 49.20 12.40 to 49.10 12.54 thence
southbound advancing 115 miles in 24 hours.
(C. in C. W.A. 032158A to ACANTHUS (R) F.O.(S)

INGLEFIELD, My 031556A. Sailed at 032130A.
FURY, ECLIPSE. (A.C.I.C. 032234A)

Operations.Operation
"Pussyfoot".

(1) Intend sailing M.T.B. 344 at 1945 today
Saturday 3rd April. (2) Speed on passage 25
knots expected time of return Portland approx.
0630/4th. (3) Constant wireless watch on 2300
K/cs NYKO for 4th April (date following day of
operation) will be used. (4) Codeword "Artful". (5) C. in C.
Portsmouth is requested to arrange air protection and bombing
restrictions, also fighter escort if M.T.B. 344 has not returned
by first light 4th.
(N.O.I.C. Portland, 031105A to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) C. in C.
Portsmouth, Admty, S.O. Force "J" C.C.O.)
My 031105A April "Artful" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Portland, 032000A to as former)

Coastal
Patrols.

Patrols 3/4 April.
(3) 1 S.G.B, 3 M.G.B. patrolling Southward from
Newhaven returning via E.A.5 Buoy. Constant
W/T watch 1700 K/cs. Pages from L.O.X.O.D. for
3rd and 4th April and A.V.S.B. only. Collective
call sign 5 D.Q.P. (4) 9th M.S.F. operating Southward from
Portsmouth. Constant W/T watch on 1700 K/cs Senior Officer
C.N. in addition. (5) M.L. 309, 464 patrolling Southward of
E.A.5 Buoy. Constant W/T watch on 2450 K/cs. (6) Chasseur 15
at St. Helens, ALBRIGHTON, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
Constant W/T Watch on 2450 K/cs.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031318A to N.O.I.C. Newhaven etc.)
Patrol tonight 3rd April. (1) M.G.B's 324 and 330 are to
patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from position 210° start 10 miles.
(2) Object. To intercept and destroy E-Boats approaching convoy
route. (3) Execution. Leave Dartmouth 1930A for patrol leave
patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0730B. (4) Information. Own.
W.P. 318 S.O. escort GLAISDALE E.T.A. start 0600B. LIMBOURNE
and MELBREAK leave Plymouth 2030A for southward. Eastern cross
over patrol flying south of convoy route. Enemy E-Boats at
Cherbourg. (5) Collective Call Sign 3 S.C.R. constant watch
2300 K/cs. (6) Code word "Arena")
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031419A)
M.G.B's 324, 330 on patrol 10 miles S.W. Start.
M.G.B. 318 sails Falmouth 1800A to southward returning 0930B
April 4th.
M.T.B. 344 sails Portland 1945 Southbound returning 0630B/4th.
LIMBOURNE, MELBREAK, sail Plymouth 2030A to southward.
M.G.B's 312, 317, M.L's 181, 183, 184, 159, sail Plymouth

1730A / ...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols (Contd.) 1730A to southward returning a.m./4.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031729A to A.I.G.31, Cdr. A/P Plymouth, 10 Group)
Leave Harwich as soon as ready to take up patrol 8.
(C. in C. Nore, 032051A to WHITSHED etc.)
Proceed Yarmouth Roads tomorrow Sunday and carry out patrol night 4/5 as ordered by C. in C. Nore Assume duty as emergency destroyer from 0900/4th April.
(Capt. (D) 16, 032141A to MONTROSE etc.)

Operation V.P.X. Carry out V.P.X. (1) Patrol X for X-ray passing through 062° 24' N. 003° 00' E. (2) 627.
(3) 0700B/4 or 1st suitable day thereafter. Sailing signal will be made. (4) 1 (one)
(5) No. (6) No. (7) 0730B 045°. Out Skerries 120 miles.
(A.C.O.S. 031615 to N.O.I.C. Lerwick etc.)

Experience of operating A.C.V's B.A.D. 312141 March.
In view of short time available request you will collate necessary information and signal direct to Cominch repeated to Admiralty.
(D.O.D.(H) 031639A to C. in C. W.A.(R)ATTACKER)

Biscay Patrol. Intend sailing NEWFOUNDLAND, PIORUN and ORKAN at 1415B/4 routed through (A) 050° 10' N. 005° 55' W. (B) 050° 10' N. 012° 01' W. thence vicinity convoy K.M.S.12 to remain within 60 miles convoy till convoy passes latitude 042° N. ORKAN and PIORUN to return Plymouth when fuel shortage necessitates. Codeword "Porter". Unless otherwise ordered, to cover a Northbound convoy NEWFOUNDLAND to proceed Gibraltar F.O.C.N.A. is requested to signal onward route to NEWFOUNDLAND. Codeword "Porter".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031744A to Admty. etc.)

Allied Air Operations.

Air Sweeps. C. in C. H.F.021306*. Following diverging sweeps will be carried out today Saturday.
(A) 4 Hudsons from Skagi to the West and North West as far as Ice Edge from 1410 until 2035.
(B) 4 Catalinas from Reykjanes light to the South West from 0710 until 1700.
(A.C.I.C., 030002A to CUMBERLAND, (R) C. in C. H.F. Admty, C.S.10)
*Re patrol "White" to intercept eastbound blockade runners.
My 030002* Para. (A) and (B) were not flown owing to weather conditions.
(A.C.I.C.031558A to C. in C. H.F. (R) Admty.)
*Re sweeps to be carried out (A) 4 Hudsons from Skagi (B) 4 Catalinas from Reykjanes Light.
My 030002A. Owing to other commitments these sweeps cannot be flown tomorrow Sunday.
(A.C.I.C.032303A to CUMBERLAND (R) C. in C. H.F. Admty. F.O.10th C.S.)

3.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations. (Contd.)

R.A.F. Stores. Admiralty's 182119 (?March) and my 191235 March in view of recall of Wing Comdr. McKern and all Parties from Grasnaya presume it is realized that British supervision of R.A.F. stores on the spot cannot now be exercised. Only R.A.F. personnel in Kola Inlet are at Murmansk and are primarily concerned with unloading Russian air equipment. (?2) As these stores are in Russian hands 10 miles away on the opposite side of inlet any attempt by me to safeguard them would be impracticable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 030957A to Admty (R) (?S.B.N.O. Archangel)

Bomber Command Report. Day 2nd April. 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols. There were no sightings. Night 2nd/3rd April. 55 A/C took off to attack St. Nazaire, 47 A/C to attack Lorient and 33 A/C to lay mines. St. Nazaire. 50 A/C claim to have attacked.

Weather over target was most favourable with no cloud and good visibility, smoke screen prevented accurate observation of result. 1 Lancaster is missing.

Lorient. 40 A/C claim to have attacked. There was no cloud in the target area, and visibility was good with slight ground haze.

Minelaying, 29 A/C laid mines in their allotted area. 1 Lancaster is missing. (For details see summary of operations No. 584). (H.Q.B.C. 031330A)

Patrol X. My 081411A* March Swordfish aircraft will fly patrol X from 032100A April until dawn 4th April Communications W.P. 318 (codeword "Review") and aircraft. (C. in C. Plymouth, 031435A to LIMBOURNE etc.) * re patrols of Swordfish and Sunderland aircraft flying.

A/C. B9UJ. Am returning to base. Engine trouble Bowmore. WCKU course 022. (A/C B9UJ, 031821A to No. 15 Group)

S.O.S. Position 57.00 N. 11.15 W. bearing 107 course 125. S.O.S. (A/C. B9UJ. 031828A to 15 Group C.C. No. 15 Group H.Q.)

Patrols for H.X. 231 S.C. 124. AC. 970. 3rd April Gander Opd. 14 2nd April. H.O.W. 120 to carry out A/S sweep from 50 miles astern 30 miles either side track of H.X. 231 tomorrow. Estimated dawn position NJXA 54.15 A/C to land at Reykjavik same sweep to be done on S.C. 124 if time permits. Homing procedure

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Operations.Patrols for
H.X.231,
S.C.124.
(Contd.)"B" to be carried out on 385 K/cs for both
C/Vs W/T guard call signs BMW and BRM respectively.
A/C to carry out procedure "Patrick".
(H.Q. R.A.F. Iceland, 032050A to GANDER
Controller H.Q.C.C. 15 Group A.L.O. Admiralty)Enemy Air Operations.

Eastbourne.

C.A.F.O. 587/40. N.O.I.C. Newhaven reports:
At 031148 approx. 12 F.W.190's approached
Eastbourne from the South where they dropped
7 H.E. bombs causing damage to Naval property
and some Naval casualties one fatal 3 injured
T.O.O.031800/4/43. Ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 032029/4)Mining.Operation
K.L. by
9th M.S.F.Request SOUTHERN CHAIN from 032030A to 040400A.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031108A to C.C.O. (R) Admty.
M/S.9).
Carry out operation K.L. tonight 3rd/4th April.
Zone minus one time is to be kept by all forces
until return to harbour, and used in all signals
during the operation. (2) Escort. M.L's 194 (S.O) 189, 190,
187, 124, 182. Covering Force. S.G.B.6 (S.O), M.G.B.616, 615,
316. Call signs for Forces.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031222A/April to M.S.9, S.G.B.6, M.L.194,
(R) Admty. etc.) See amendment 031614A.
W.D. Note. Ships of 9th M.S.F. engaged: SIDMOUTH, TENBY,
BLACKPOOL, BLYTH, BRIDPORT, EASTBOURNE, SARGASSO.
Your 031222A/April*M.G.B.608 will sail Vice M.G.B.615 now
defective.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven, 03161A to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) Admty,
C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C.Portland)*Re operation K.L.

Humber.

One ground mine believed self detonated 1215
in 056° Humber L.V. 6 cables.
(F.O.Humber, 031515)Exploratory
Search of
4th M.S.F.
on new
convoy route.Your 021145A/4/43. Run to westward completed
Negative result.
(ROSS, 031814A to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty.
F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, Capt.
M.S. Plymouth, P.M.S.O.Portland.)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Channel. E 22 Q 3 units operating north west of Etretat on varying courses plotted from 0227 till 0447 probably ?is patrol. E 23 Q 3 units plotted from north of Fecamp at 0228 entering Le Hayre at 0451 speed 13 knots (possibly an extension of track E 17 D). (C. in C. Portsmouth, 030855A)

Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in Dover Strait from 020900 to 030900.

Track E 15 D. Three small operating between Calais and Wissant from 1725 to 2010 then returned to Calais. Probably minesweeping.

Track E 16 D. Ten or twelve small operating between Calais and Blanc Nez at 12 knots joined E 15 D. Probably minesweeping.

Track E 17 D. Three small from Boulogne at 1805 Southbound at 10 knots, faded 21 miles south of Boulogne at 2120.

Track E 18 D. Four medium from four miles N.E. of Gravelines at 1915 westbound at 9 knots turned about off Cap Blanc Nez at 2200 entered Calais at 2315. Probably minesweeping.

Track E 19 D. Six small from Boulogne at 1945 Northbound at 7 knots turned at Cap Blanc Nez entered Boulogne at 0020. Probably minesweeping.

Track E 23 D. Three small from four miles west of Dunkirk at 2050 westbound at 6 knots turned off Calais at 2345 faded 3 miles north of Gravelines at 0100. Probably minesweeping.

Track E 26 D. Twelve small from Calais at 2220 westbound at 9 knots faded off Ambleteuse at 0200.

Track E 30 D. Eight small operating off Sangatte from 0600 to 0705 when they entered Calais. Probably minesweeping. Identified by aircraft of 961 Sqn. as sixteen E/R boats. (V.A. Dover, 031002A)

PIETRO AGM 573A of 2nd April.
ORSEOLO. Photographic reconnaissance of the Gironde on 2nd April shows PIETRO ORSEOLO to have arrived. (D.D.I.C. 031131A)

U-Boats.

U/B. Have obtained ASV contact in 48.25 N. 10.31 W. (A/C 210 Sqn. via Plymouth, 032240A to 19 Group H.Q.)

Navigational.

Portland Bill- As from 050001/April all shipping sailing by Start Point - day between Portland Bill and Start Point should Routeing. be routed from position (A) 50.27.30 N. 02.29.00 W. to position (B) 180°. Start Point 4 miles. (2) Westbound ships for Dartmouth and Eastbound from Dartmouth will leave and join in position 50.12.36 N. 03.26.00 W. All other shipping for and from Dartmouth will join and leave in 180° Start Point 4 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 031045A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C.'s Greenock, Northern Ireland, Liverpool, Portland, Falmouth, Milford Haven, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry, Dartmouth, Appledore. 4th M.S.F. N.C.S.O. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Cdr. A/P Plymouth, Capt. (D) Plymouth, 15th D.F. Plymouth Escort Trawlers. 10 and 19 Groups.)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

- RAPID. My 021455A/April* sailed E.T.A. 031800A.
(R.A.(D), 030655A to F.O.I.C. Tyne) *RAPID.
- OCEAN
VICEROY. Your 021636A. Have failed to locate vessel.
Am still in position indicated.
(BUSTLER, 030825B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
OCEAN VICEROY does not require assistance until
arrival Blackhead 1600 today request local tug
be despatched.
(BUSTLER, 031210A to N.O.I.C. Belfast)
- VASCAMA. H.M.T. VASCAMA in tow of H.M. R/T GOLIATH arrived
with engine defect, further signal will be made.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 031007A)
- SS. NOLISE-
MENT. Refloated, is now lying at anchor Ramsey Bay.
H.M. Tug SEINE and Salvage vessel standing by.
Hope to sail for Liverpool a.m. tomorrow.
Further signal will be made.
(N.O.I.C.I. of Man., 031025A to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
- W.P.FRYE
Survivors. Sighted Tank Landing Craft in 057° 52' N. 019° 22'
W. at 031150A have embarked 7 Survivors of
WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE and left T.L.C. in sinking
condition. My course 110° 17 knots. Weather
report 2562 0456.
(SHIKARI, 031330A to C. in C. W.A.)
Proceed to Londonderry. Report in accordance A.C.1 42 para. 4
(A) and (B)
(C. in C. W.A. 031556A to SHIKARI)
SHIKARI 031330A* My P.C.S. 056° 04' N. 010° 50' W. 260°
13 knots. 3870 2754.
(HAVELOCK, 031745Z to C. in C. W.A.)* 7 Survivors of WILLIAM
PIERCE FRYE embarked.
My 1330A and your 1556A. A.C.I. (Atlantic Convoy
Instructions) 42 Para. 4(A) survivors state one boat and 2 rafts
may have got away but were not seen to do so. Survivors swam
to T.L.C. Para. 4 (B) (corrupt group) picked up including
Chief Officer, 57 missing. Ship torpedoed in very approx.
position 056° 00' N. 025° 00' W. at dusk on Monday 29th March.
(SHIKARI, 031857A to C. in C. W.A.)
- ST.CROIX. My 031111* ST.CROIX sailed at 031627. Estimate
that O.N.J.176 will overtake and pass to Eastward
of you during the night.
(A.C.I.C. 031707A to Ships escorting O.N. S.J.2
Repeated C. in C. W.A. Connav, C.T.F.24. Admty.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.
24.7 H.Q.C.C. F.O.I.C. Londonderry, ST.CROIX,
Ships escorting O.N.S.2.) * Re sailing of
H.M.C.S. ST.LAURENT and ST.CROIX.

ST.CROIX / ...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.ST. CROIX
(contd).

ST. CROIX returning to Hvalfiord as temporary repairs to steering compartment have proved unsatisfactory.
(A.C.I.C., 032109A).
My 032109A arrived.
(A.C.I.C., 032232A).
Re ST. CROIX returning to Hvalfiord.

MANSFIELD.

My 0016/31st. Temporary repairs to MANSFIELD after Augmenter Condenser completed. Shell is badly corroded and requires renewal as soon as possible. General condition of hull and machinery indicates desirability of very early refits.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 031744A).

Shipping & Convoys.

W.S.29

Proposed embarkation programme.
(D.S.T. 030341A).

4th E.G.

Request you will sail 4th Escort Group without delay for position 058° 30' 033° 50' making 13½ knots. INGLEFIELD to follow as soon as ready.

(C. in C. W.A., 031017Z to A.C.I.C. (R) Escort Group 4, Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

Your 031017* and 031143+. Intend to sail INGLEFIELD, FURY, ECLIPSE about 2000 today Saturday as soon as INGLEFIELD is undocked.

(A.C.I.C., 031556A to C. in C. W.A.)

*re sailing of 4th Escort Group.

+Correction to 031017 sailing H.M.S. ICARUS and 4th Escort Group.

O.N.S.J.2

Your 02(716)44Z intend to sail convoy escorted by JONQUIL and COREOPSIS at 030700Z. ST. LAURENT and ST. CROIX will be sailed at 031300Z to overtake. Upon relief JONQUIL and COREOPSIS

will proceed to Londonderry in accordance with your 301645Z March.

(A.C.I.C., 030156A to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Escorts of O.N.S.2)

My 030156A (not to escort of O.N.S.2) H.M.C.S. ST. LAURENT sailed at 030945Z to overtake. ST. CROIX sails later.
(A.C.I.C., 031111A).

Information
for S/MS

List G.6 Swansea 031800A April through C. 049° 00' 012° 40'. D. 047° 00' 013° 10' E. 044° 00' 012° 40'. F. 040° 00' 011° 30' Speed 11 knots
E.T.A. Huelva p.m./8th.
(F.O.(S) 030909A to Subs. operating South of 51° N. (R) C. in C. Plymouth).

/W.S.29...

War Diary.3.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys (Contd.)

- W.S.29. Request you will pass A.M.021850*April by hand to
K.M.F.13. NEWCASTLE on her arrival Clyde.
(D.O.D.(H), 031150A to F.O.I.C. Greenock) * M.S.
Distribution.
- Zig-zagging. Survivors evidence shows that a destroyer
recently torpedoed in the Battle of the Atlantic
when in company with a convoy was steaming on
the same course and at the same speed (6 knots)
as the convoy for two hours prior to being torpedoed.
(2) The dangers of such a procedure are obvious and it is
emphasised that escorts should zig zag at a higher speed whenever
weather conditions permit.
(A.C.N.S.(UT),031211A, to Admty General Message Home and Abroad
585A)
- WHIMBREL. WHIMBREL is required to sail with 38th Group
O.S.46. escorting O.S.46 on 15th April. N.O.I.C.
Liverpool is requested to sail her to Londonderry
on completion boiler cleaning and repairs.
(C. in C. W.A.031222A)
- O.N.S.2. Cancel my 021030. As BURWELL is defective and
unable to sail, request you will sail KENOGAMI
to overtake O.N.S.2.
(C. in C. W.A.031214Z to C.T.G.24.7.)
- Group 1. Group 1 will be required to sail as a support
group about April 14th.
(C. in C. W.A.031227A)
- Convoy Following is a repetition of my 022130 (N.T. in
H.X.230. W.R.) Begins:
Preliminary report on Convoy H.X.232 (? H.X.230
intended) escorted by B.1 Group HURRICANE (S.O)
(WATCHMAN, KALE, DAHLIA, ROCKINGHAM, MEADOW-
SWEET, MONKSHOOD, WALLFLOWER.) Convoy was not actually
attacked but numerous H/F D/F bearings indicated that 7 to 10
U-Boats were in contact between March 27 and March 30.
(2) During night of 27/28 HURRICANE sweeping astern sighted and
attacked 3 U-Boats 1 of these not being detected by R.D.F. weat-
her conditions at the time being rough. In 2 attacks U-Boat
dived apparently 100 yards ahead of HURRICANE and both attacks
appeared promising pattern of 10 being dropped in each case.
In 3rd hunt 1 depth charge attack two Hedgehog attacks and
Mark 10 attack were delivered. Result doubtful. (3) Aircraft
co-operation was excellent but only 2 U-Boats were sighted by
them possibly due to bad weather but it is noted A.S.V. was
being used. (4) Support Group E.G.3 arrived 0800 on March
29th rather too late to be of maximum value. Exercise of
command (cont.) ? contact and control during daylight hours
was not entirely satisfactory and best use of support group was
not always achieved. Matter will be explained by S.O.B.1
at Liverpool. Ends.
(Cdre. Londonderry. 031239A)

War Diary.3.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

O.S.45
 attacked.
 GOGRA,
 KATHA
 Torpedoed.
 (U. 124 mark,
 see A/S.W. list)

My 022120Z AC 1 Section 1. Article 39 L 5
 (a) 022109 April, 041° 02' N. 015° 39' W.
 (b) No evidence of more than one. Surface
 attack. (c) Starboard bow. (d) (i) No.111
 GOGRA, (ii) No.113 KATHA. Number of survivors
 not yet available. (e) Nil. (f) F.S. LA
 MALOUINE, rejoining with rescue ship.
 (g) Promising attacks by both BLACK SWAN and
 STONECROP large patch of diesel oil came up. Both lost contact
 after first attack and failed to regain contact. In view of
 very small size of escort ordered both to rejoin convoy shortly
 after losing contact. F.S. LA MALOUINE carried out Observant
 round wreck and then screened rescue ship DANBY. Depth charges
 short BLACK SWAN 14, STONECROP 10. (h) Weather report 4672
 2582.
 (E.G.37, 031245A to C. in C. W.A.)

F.N.85.
 EMPIRE
 JACK,
 COVERLEY.

Request you will order COVERLEY: (1) to provide
 special protection in the anchorage to 5281
 after arrival of F.N.85. (2) To provide
 special protection to 5281* in E.N.13 to Ru
 Stoer. (3) To escort 5281 from Ru Stoer by
 standard route to position 104°. Ushinish(Sic) 4.2
 at 10 knots. Thence COVERLEY proceeds independ-
 ently to Tobermory and 5281 to Clyde, onward escort being provid-
 ed by F.O.I.C. Greenock if considered necessary.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 031249 to N.O.I.C.Methil)
 * EMPIRE JACK.

SS. QUEEN
 ELIZABETH.

A.T.40 Clyde arrival SS. QUEEN ELIZABETH codeword
 "Donkey".
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 031416A to D.S.T.O. Greenock
 031535A).

Convoy
 T.A.40.

A.M.1914/30 Convoy T.A. 40. Route from R/V
 1000Z/7 270°. Oversay 6' thence through positions
 G. 55° N. 16° W. H. 49° N. 22° W. J. 42° N.
 27° W. K. 42° N. 41° W. L. 41° N. 59° W.
 M. 40° N. 70° W. thence to New York.
 (D.O.D.(H), 031435A To C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C.
 Greenock (R) Connav etc.)

UC/CU.
 Convoys.

Pass to N.C.S.O's A.M. 032226A February, Para.1
 for 9 to 10 knots read 14 to 15 knots.
 (D.T.D. 031520A to C. in C. W.A.(R) C. in C.
 Rosyth, C. in C. Nore.)

C.U.1.

Following is a summary of ATTACKER's preliminary
 report of C.U.1. Begins.
 Nine Swordfish aircraft were available. Inten-
 tion was to provide limited protection on all

days / ...

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.C.U.1
(Contd.)

days and to conserve aircraft for maximum effort on their most dangerous days of passage. During daylight aircraft were kept on deck at readiness to investigate H/F D/F bearings. Night air operations were not carried out due to danger of exhaust flames giving away position. Normally A/S search of an area 50 miles ahead and 30 miles on each beam and astern was carried out at dawn and dusk. On days considered more dangerous searches were supplemented, close search at dawn and dusk and two searched to 50 miles depth between limiting lines of approach in forenoon and afternoon. All flying operations were carried out inside the screen. Ship stationed herself either between leading ships of escort or convoy depending on wind. Swordfish with full tanks and 3 - 250 lb. depth charges were operated with minimum wind speed of 27 knots. With 22 knots wind speed, aircraft carried 120 gallons and one depth charge. Maximum vertical movement of stern experienced was 16 feet. 74 landings were carried out and three aircraft damaged. Ends. A further report will be sent if necessary after C.O. ATTACKER has been interviewed. It must be remembered that C.U.1 was a 14 knot convoy and that winds during first part of voyage would be favourable. Also no U-Boats were encountered. To facilitate manoeuvring of escort carrier, it is considered preferable for the Commodore's column to contain only the Commodore's ship and Escort Oiler, thus leaving space for the carrier. To have a lane between columns increases the difficulties of merchant vessels in convoy particularly in Station keeping.

(C. in C. W.A. 031705Z to Cominch (R) Admty)

Convoy
~~S.U.1~~ U.C.1
Attacked by
U-Boats
on 23rd
February.

Preliminary report on convoy U.C.1.
(1) Escorted by 42nd escort group H.M. Ships WESTON (S.O) FOLKESTONE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, NESS, EXE, U.S.N. Ships MADISON, LANSDALE, H.P. JONES, C.F. HUGHES General. (2) Co-operation between H.M. Ships and U.S.N. ships was very successful, communications being excellent. (3) By night escorts were stationed on the close screen to give complete R.D.F. protection. After attack one escort was stationed 10010 yards ahead on extended screen. By day escorts were stationed on close and extended screens. (4) Position 'S', for Senior Officer was found to be the best position by night, but by day, due to vis. communication difficulties, position 'S' (sic) was preferred. (5) The fast ships particularly destroyers were most valuable in putting down U-Boats in touch and it is considered they saved the convoy from heavy losses. (6) HF/DF proved its great value during period U-Boats were in touch and numerous contacts and attacks were made because of it.
1st Attack. (7) Two signals from Admiralty timed 0425A/23 and 1425A/22 informed convoy that U-Boats were in vicinity. First indication that U-Boat was in touch was when ATHEL PRINCESS straggler ten miles astern was torpedoed at 0645/23 February. This ship had been a persistent straggler.

2nd / ...

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy
U.C.G.~~H~~.1.
Attacked by
U-Boats
on 23rd
February.
(Contd.)

2nd attack. (8) U-Boats remained in touch on twenty third and two sightings were made both of which were put down by fast ships. At twenty forty west in position B made an attack on U-Boat followed at thirty minutes late by LANDSDALE in position D attacking a second. At 2121 four ships in convoy were torpedoed, two of which sank, the other two continuing with the convoy. "Raspberry" was ordered and FOLKESTONE in position P obtained asdic contact and attacked with ten charge pattern, contact was not regained. The evidence points to the fact that U-Boats were operating in company and although two were attacked in quick succession another got through the gap that was left in the screen. It is considered that the U-Boat that delivered the actual attack came through the screen submerged, surfaced and fired her torpedoes and then dived under convoy. This is borne out in that although the area was covered by R.D.F. no contact was obtained until shortly before the torpedoing and then only for a few seconds when, contact was obtained just ahead of convoy. (9) During the 24th and 25th February approximately twenty contacts and attacks were made but without any evidence of destruction. These were mostly on the beam end quarters of convoy. It is considered that the attacks carried out at night and the use of extended screen by day prevented the U-Boats from working up into an ahead position and delivering a day attack submerged.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 052005A to C. in C. W.A.)

M.K.F.11.

VENOMOUS to Escort Clyde Portion. Belfast portion to be detached unescorted as necessary. CYGNET, WOODPECKER, WREN to proceed Liverpool with neutral portion.
(C. in C. W.A. 052120A)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Movements. Arrival GOATHLAND, NASTURTIUM, O.R.P. KRAKOWIAK.
(F.O. Gib., 030010A to Admty.)

U/B. Am over submarine in 27.42 N. 14.04 W.
(A/C of 125 Sqdn. Duty 'W', 030811A.)
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on course 035° speed 8 knots.
(A/C 280 Sqdn. Duty 'W', 030815B.)

Situation Situation at 1958A/3rd.
Reports. S/M O.R.P. SOKOL 39.27, 10.32, 155°, diving by day 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ /2 knots.

(2) STELLA CARINA sails 1930/3 to Tagus 10.
(3) (Corrupt group) R/V 2 merchant ships 235°
Fort Bugio Light 5 miles at 20(?01)/3rd (? and) escorting coastwise to Huelva, 8.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 031024A.)
My 031024A. Add new para. (iv). ARGONAUT sails 040630A through 36.08 08.59 thence 276°, 16.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 031314A.)
Situation at 032000A.
Submarine UPROAR 40.10 11.10, 158° diving by day 6/2 knots.
2. Submarine O.R.P. SOKOL 39.27 10.(?32), (? 155°), diving by day 7(? $\frac{1}{2}$)/2 knots.
3. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 42.18 11.18 358°, 14.
4. Swedish relief ship AKKA, YARRAWONGA 35.05 19.03, 266°, 12.
5. Swedish relief ship FENRIS, BARDALAND 35.10 17.48, 266°, 12.
6. O.S.45 BLACK SWAN 37.22, 13.30 148°, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. (See amendment 1733A).

(F.O. Gibraltar, 031015A.)
My 031015A, para. (6). Amend P.C. and S. to read:
A. 038° 30', 014° 22', 148°, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 031733A.)
Situation at 032002A.
Swedish relief ship AKKA, YARRAWONGA 35.05 19.03, 266°, 12.
(2) Swedish relief ships FENRIS, BARDALAND 35.10, 17.48, 266°, 12
(3) UGANDA patrolling between 030° and 035° N. and 030° and 035° W.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 031040A.)
Situation 031959A.
2. G.U.S.5A, C.T.F.67, 30.10 39.10, 287, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.
3. (? U).G.S.6A, C.T.G.60.1, 28.27, 37.39, 55, 9.
4. MATTOLE convoy C.T.G.62.1, 36.29 37.10 through 37.01 39.57 thence 273, 10.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 031102A.)

MIRROR. Intend to sail ^RMIRROR escorted by LORD NUFFIELD 050700A to repair Lisbon - Gibraltar No.1 cable in 36° 17' N. 07° 25' W.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031108A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Axis
Shipping.

Arrival 3rd: 1, 65, 55. Depart 2nd, MARIA CARMEN. Depart 3rd, 2, 18.
Repeated S.O.(I) Gibraltar.
(Consul Bilbao, 031125, 031147 to Admty.)
2 - COURDANNES. 18 - TIM. 55 - SCHARLACHBERGER.
65 - SPERBER.
W.D. Note:- Passed to C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S), C. in C. W.A.)

SOKOL,
UPROAR,
UPRIGHT.

(? Leave) patrol off Lisbon at 032000 with (? 2) merchant ships coastwise to Huelva thence Gibraltar speed 9 knots. (Corrupt group) due St. Vincent 042000 thence Lisbon.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031232A to O.R.P. SOKOL, UPROAR, UPRIGHT.)

M.K.F.11A.

Your 011912.
Concur with sailing of fast convoy escorted by DOUGLAS, KRAKOWIAK, GOATHLAND, and NASTURTIUM.
Cancel A.M. 011733.
(D.O.D.(H), 031252A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.W.A., NASTURTIUM, Cominch.)

U/B
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 27.18 N. 14.41 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C SPS/U via Gibraltar Radio, 031310.)
Am over enemy S/M in 27.30 N. 14.55 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 3PS/U via Gibraltar W/T, 031350A.)

O.T. 3.

Gibraltar section arrive (4 ships).
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031400 to Connv.)
Arrival U.S. Destroyers DUPONT, ELLIS and DICKERSON with Convoy O.T.3.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 031443A to Admty., C. in C. Med., (R) Cinclant, Cominch, C.A.F.A.C., Commorseafron.)

Enemy
Convoy,
N. Coast
of Spain.

Considerable enemy convoy reported passing Pasajes steaming West at 1030 G.M.T. today escorted by a cruiser, 3 destroyers and aircraft. Most of convoy flying a Spanish flag.
(V.C. San Sebastian, 031545 to S.O.(I) Gib., (R) Admty. and by bag to B.N.A. Madrid.)
Further details, see 041150.

/Navigation ...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Navigation, Following received from Niton Radio.
Monro (Translation by O.I.C.)
Island From CABO MAYOA to all ships. N.O.I.C.
Light. Santander reports that Monro Island Light is
damaged and there will be delay in showing
usual characteristics.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031600A to Admty.)

ARGONAUT, Intend to sail ARGONAUT at 040630A for Ponta
HERO. Delgada escorted by HERO. Routed through
(A) 36.08 08.59. (B) 37.10 20.01. S. of A. 16
knots.

2. ARGONAUT on completion of fuelling proceeds
to Bermuda routed through (C) 35.50 40.01. (D) 33.01 60.01.
3. HERO on completion of fuelling proceeds to Plymouth with all
convenient despatch through (Q) 37.55 24.05. (R) 45.01 14.01.
Thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031717A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, (R)
Cominch, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Lant, C. in C. W.A., C. in C.
Portsmouth, HERO, ARGONAUT, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

TRESPASSER, After crossing 43.01 N. at 070130 pass through
SPORTSMAN. Following positions at time stated.
P.312 (TRESPASSER), (P) 36.51 09.13 at 101200.
(Q) 36.37 07.24 at 110430. (R) 35.53 06.15 at
111100. (S) 35.49 06.06½ at 111150.
P.229 (SPORTSMAN), (P) at 110340. (Q) 120220. (R) 120930.
(S) 121020 thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87.
All times Zone minus 1. Positions N. and W.
(2) S. of A. dived by day P.312 (TRESPASSER) 120 miles.
P.229 (SPORTSMAN) 98 miles per 24 hours, after passing 07.24 W.
proceeding on surface at your discretion, P.312 11 knots.
P.229 10 knots. Do not cross 06.40 W., P.312 before 110630
and P.229 before 120630.*
(3) Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged until
110430 for P.312 (TRESPASSER) and 120220 for P.229 (SPORTSMAN)
thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side your
route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern of your estimated
position. Report if you are unable to keep your bombing
restrictions.
(4) Read H S and G S routine after 070130.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031719A to P.312 (TRESPASSER), P.229 (SPORTSMAN)
(R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., F.O.(S), Capt. (S) 5,
Capt. (S) 8.)
* Amended by 071207A, q.v.
T.C.A.O. 26 for SPORTSMAN.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031720 to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., (R)
Admty., F.O.(S), S.N.O.C.A. pass to Port Lyautey.)

UNRULY. Intend sailing UNRULY p.m./5th work up patrol in
Gulf of Lions.
(2) Communication Gib. broadcast west of Greenwich
meridian and Algiers broadcast east Greenwich

/shift ...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

UNRULY, shift to read M S routines.
(Contd.) (3) Routed (S) 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 051930.
(T) 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 062100 and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
(U) 135° Cape Palos 5 at 071330.
(4) Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational control at 062100. S. of A. 8.2 knots 110 miles per day. Time Zone minus 1.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031723A.)

ULTOR. Intend to sail ULTOR p.m./5th working up patrol in Gulf of Lions.
(2) Communication Gibraltar broadcast west of Greenwich meridian and Algiers broadcast East Greenwich, shift to read M S routine.
(3) Routed (P) 180° Cape Calaburras 15 at 052130.
(Q) 180° Cape de (? Gata) 15 at 070001 and unless otherwise ordered by (S) 8.
(R) 135° Cape Palos 15 at 072359.
(4) (S) 8 is requested assume operational control at 070001 S. of A. 7½ knots, 103 miles per day. Time Zone minus 1.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 031726 to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran, ULTOR (P.53), UNRULY (P.49), N.O.I.C. Malta, 8th S/M F., S.O. Force H, P.314.)

U/B My 1901A/1st. Almost certain survivors were survivors landed at Altea by fishing boat. Appear to be 9 ratings including two wounded. Several bodies landed in Spain. washed up including two officers.
Submarine had received damage previously from aircraft and was proceeding close inshore on surface when she sank without warning.
Preliminary interrogation of survivors by Spanish make it appear probable that bulkhead suddenly gave way. Number and type unknown but complement stated to be under 40.
Note Verbale has been held up pending further information.
(N.A. Madrid, 031852A to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gib.)

Movements, April 3rd U.S.S. TRIPPE arrived from Safi.
Casablanca. P.C.482 SERAS departed to R/V with C/V D.70
2 S.Cs left Agadir for Casablanca.
(Commorseafron, 032000 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cominch, F.O.C. Gib., Admty.)

Movements, Arrivals CIRCE from M/S operations. U.S. Ships
Gibraltar. SIMPSON, P.C.473 with French Submarines ARETHUSA,
LA SULTANE, PERLE from Casablanca. Departures
QUEEN EMMA, WISHART for Arzeu, STELLA CARINA
escort duties Lisbon.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 032147A to Admty., C. in C. Med., Cominch.)

/Air ...

3.4.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air Report.

(G) Sightings and attacks.

Hudson W/233 Agadir on sweep A.W. at 040815 in position (? 27° 42' N. 14° 04' W.) sighted a U-Boat on surface course 035, 8 knots not attacked.

(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 032155Z.)

Op. Summ. No. 153 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 3rd April.

(G) Sightings and attacks.

Hudson L/233 (Agadir) on A/S sweep West at 1310A/3 in position 27.18 N. 14.41 W. sighted U-Boat course 080° no further details.

Hudson U/233 (Agadir) on A/S sweep West at 1350A/3 in position 27.30 N. 14.55 W. sighted and attacked U-Boat course 270°

10. No further details.

(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 032255Z.)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

NEW NORTHLAND, NEW NORTHLAND and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE sailed from LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. U.K. 26 March in convoy O.S.45. 2. NEW NORTHLAND has no personnel on board. She will be employed on West African coastal service. 3. In addition to personnel detailed in my 2029/29 March following are on board LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. (numbers). 4. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE after disembarkation at Freetown should proceed to Durban independently. Personnel within limits of A.M. 1140/16 may be embarked. (D.S.T. 030339A to D.S.T.O. W.A., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C.S.A.)

W.S.28. (1) QUADRANT and REDOUBT will arrive Pointe Noire to refuel at 1400Z/4th April. (2) Convoy W.S. 28 arrived position G at 1200Z/5th April. My 291654Z refers. (F.O.C.W.A. 030940Z, 031655Z to B.N.L.O. W.A., Escorts W.S.28 C. in C. S.A., QUADRANT, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, Admty., RELENTLESS.)

Convoy. Sailing in convoy MEDIE 2 and FINISTERRE escorted by ORFASY M.L. 1065 and 1066 at 022330Z to comply with R.A.W.Afs. 020229. EMPIRE SUCCESS did not sail. 2. M.Ls part company first rendezvous and proceed. (Comar, Dakar, 030847Z to R.A.W.A., Admty., ROCHESTER, N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

D.N.30. (1) Sailing telegram.
(2) 03(?)08)00Z.
(4) 8 knots.
(5) (a) 033° S. 036° E.
(6) FREESIA, NORWICH CITY, LADY ELSA. Codeword "Princess". (N.C.S.O. Durban 030908Z to Admty, C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. Durban.)

UGANDA. My 302119. Shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 031200Z. (F.O.C.W.A. 030955Z to UGANDA (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar Admty, C. in C. Med.)

U-Boat. Transit aircraft reports sighting S/M in 01° 30' N. 06° 25' W. at 021342Z. Reliability cannot be assessed. (F.O.C.W.A. 031053Z to Admty.)

CILICIA. At your discretion you may extend North-most limit of your patrol to 020° N. You are to return to existing patrol area by dawn 6th April. (R.A.W.A. 031141 to CILICIA (R) Admty, Comar, Dakar.)

/KIRRIEMOOR...

War Diary.

3.4.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

KIRRIEMOOR. Arrived 031046Z.
(N.L.O. East London 031246Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z April 3rd. RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS
015° 20' S. 010° 55' E. to Pointe Noire knots 20.
BIRMINGHAM 028° 30' S. 006° 45' E. to 015° 30'
S. 000° 30' E. 19. NORTHERN CHIEF, WELLARD with
N.C.9. 031° 25' S. (2094°) 35' E. to Capetown 10. CAPE WARWICK
detached from N.C.9. QUAIL with D.C.17A off Cape Point to
Capetown. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, ST. ZENO 036° 15' S.
019° 15' E. to Capetown 10. FRITILLARY ODBERG with C.D.12 034°
20' S. 023° 10' E. coastal to Durban 8. ST. LOMAN off Port
Elizabeth to join Escort C.D.12 041200B April. ARCTIC EXPLORER,
INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA with D.C.17 033° 30' S. 027° 20' E. coastal
to Capetown 9. FREESIA, LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY with D.N.30
030° 50' S. 032° (25'?) E. to 033° S. 036° E. 9. CHITRAL, RAIDER,
025° 40' S. 037° 50' E. to 024° S. 041° E. to 016° S. 042° 30'
E. 14½. JASMINE, LADY ROSEMARY, HERTFORDSHIRE, 025° 25' S. 040°
E. to Durban 10. HILDESAY with D.N. 29A 023° 05' S. 035° 50' E.
Coastal to Beira 8.

(C. in C. S.A. 031247B.)

COMMANDANT DELAGE, ASPIRANT, LE BRUN, THYME with D.70 023°
01' 016° 37' to 023° 44' 016° 20' thence 034° 7½. KUMAON,
SNOWDROP, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, KATHIAWAR, BIRDLIP, with R.S.3.X.
021° 50' 017° 33' to 020° 45' 017° 49' thence 180° 7½. ROCHESTER,
FLEETWOOD, SCARBOROUGH, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, HYDRANGEA, COLTSFOOT,
BALSAM, BUTSER with S.L. 127 013° 21' 020° 29' at 7½. BURDOCK,
INKPEN, ORFASY, escorting 014° 27' 019° 33' to R/V with S.L.127
QUEEN OF BERMUDA 010° 45' 019° 43' 296° 16. French Cruiser
GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about position 025° 01' 034° 30' 18.
CILICIA on patrol about position 015° 00' 031° 00' 14. CARNARVON
CASTLE about 009° 49' 020° 12' 280° 15½ depart Buenos Aires 032000Z

(F.O.C.W.A. 031516Z.)

Situation at 032010.

ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN 2 M.Ls with S.T.61 005° 55' 012° 06' 125° 10.
FANDANGO escorting 006° 06' 012° 01' to Marshall 10. M.L.271
M.L.305 escorting about 004° 23' 008° 20' to Sassandra 6. M.L.285
escortng Cape Palmas area to Freetown 6½. CORINTHIA, BELLWORT,
PETUNIA, DUNKERY, with T.S.34 003° 30' 007° 40' 303° 7½. KENYA,
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, REDOUBT, escorting W.S.28 001° 24' S.
003° 11' E. to 001° 31' S. 003° 43' E. thence 116° 12½. QUADRANT,
REDOUBT, part company to arrive Pointe Noire 1400/4th. SARABANDE
007° 47' S. 10° 14' E. 176° 5½. BUTTERMERE M.M.S.107, 106, 105,
103, and 102, 002° 04' 023° 43' 055° 8½.

(F.O.C.W.A. 031556Z.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. Request all possible steps to expedite voyage to
Suez of EMPIRE MIGHT ex W.S.28 delayed by fire
damage and leaving Dakar shortly.

(D.T.D. 031257A to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

(R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. W.A.)

Request you will sail BURDOCK, INKPEN, ORFASY, M.Ls 302 and
(2287) for Freetown escorting EMPIRE MIGHT from Dakar, NEW COLOMBIA
from Bathurst and other southbound shipping ready.

(F.O.C.W.A. 031717Z to Comar, Dakar, (R) Admty, N.O.I.C.
Bathurst.)

/Movements...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements, Recife. Arrival 1st April Brazilian Submarine Chaser C.S.1. Departure 2nd U.S. Submarine Chaser P.C. 493. (R.O. Recife 031335Z to Admty.)

ADABELLE LYKES. Cancel my 021717 (overdue shipping, ADABELLE LYKES (U.S.)) vessel arrived Buenos Aires 2nd April. (A. S.O. (I) Recife. 031409Z to Admty. etc.)

A.F.D.24. Your 021355. Dock is not to leave until further directions are received. (C. in C. S.A. 031434B to CHESHIRE (R) Admty, N.A. Montevideo.)

SOUND FISHER. M.O.W.T. is arranging for SS. SOUND FISHER to lift a gun mounting from Pointe Noire for New York. (2) In view of considerable value of ship and cargo request you will route her to Bahia for B.T. convoy and provide escort for as long as possible. To facilitate provision of escort some delay in sailing can, if necessary, be accepted. (D.T.D. 031515A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Connav, B.A.D.)

Overdue Shipping. Your 021717. ADABELLE LYKES expected Montevideo 2nd April only. (C. in C. S.A. 031534B to S.O. (I) Recife (R) Admty. etc.)

Freetown Deepwater Quay. Tn/71068 cypher 3 April 113032. (1) Latest position Deepwater Quay as follows. Americans prepared continue work for one month with their own plant to allow Royal Navy to bring out naval personnel and plant to complete work. American work continuing slowly and if R.N. cannot promise to take over in one month probable Americans will stop work as they have already done so once. (2) Deep water quay has always been a naval responsibility and Americans are only helping R.N. owing to latter's other commitments. From a military point of view it has never been either desirable or necessary. If it is now to become an Army responsibility plant and personnel will be required from U.K. Cable instructions. (G.O.C. in C.W.A. 031535ZA to W.O.)

CARNARVON CASTLE. Departure 021640Z CARNARVON CASTLE on Ocean Patrol. (S.O.I. Freetown 031557Z to Admty.)

SALVIKING. Your 011645. SALVIKING arrived Walvis Bay 24th March N.C.S.O. Walvis Vesca No.239 refers. (C. in C. S.A. 031616B to Admty.)

/BUTTERMERE...

War Diary.

3.4.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.BUTTERMERE,
blockade
runners.

No Allied Merchant Ships are routed near you. Axis ship may be running the blockade. Make immediate report of any Merchant Ships sighted before arriving longitude 020° W. (F.O.C.W.A. 031710Z to BUTTERMERE.)

NORTHERN
CHIEF.

Your 031635B/April (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. position 04.13 01 B, S. of A. 12 knots. Please pass to CAPE WARWICK. (NORTHERN CHIEF 031750Z to C. in C.S.A.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA sailed 2nd April. Passenger details in my code 031808. (D.S.T.O. W.A. 031811Z to Admty. for D. of S.T. Trade Division, F.O.C.W.A.)

QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

Departure 021810Z. (S.O. (I) Freetown 031917Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals 311145Z March BYM 3,5,6,7 and 8, 020916Z April

WASTWATER.

(S.O. (I) Freetown 032118Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Departure 1720Z 2nd April. ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, M.Ls 278, 279 with S.T.61, FANDANGO for Monrovia. (S.O. (I) Freetown 032043Z to Admty. etc.)

HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN.

Proposed to use HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN due Durban about 12 April for movement from Falkland Islands to U.K. of 270 Military personnel.

2. Subject to concurrence of C. in C. S.A.

P.S.T.O. Capetown is requested to instruct ship to proceed accordingly. 3. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN should continue from Falkland Islands to Montevideo to load for U.K. If opportunity offers within a reasonable period after arrival of HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN in Plate, numbers in excess of 250 should be transferred at Montevideo.

(D.S.T. 032313A to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. S.A. D.S.T.O. Durban, N.A. Montevideo, F.O.I.C. Falkland Islands. C. in C. E.F.)

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

NEWFOUNDLAND To join Med. Command.
(Admty. 030010A) See Home Commands.

Repatriations. Ref. W.O. signal 64887 of 28 March to C. in C. Middle East only. As TALMA will not be available for the first flight of the exchange sailing about 11 April, can you nominate a substitute troopship to maintain that date? This ship will be in addition to TAIREA and TALAMBA.

2. If not available by 11 April, what is earliest date of sailing, for which troopship can be allocated?

3. It is hoped that SONTAY will be available for the later flight.

(D.S.T., 030144A to P.S.T.O. Middle East, (R) C. in C. Levant, G.H.Q. Middle East). Reply, 041031C.

Raids on Middle East Air Communique 3/4/43.
Messina. Announced from H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. today, heavy bombers attacked Messina during night of April 1/2nd. Bomb bursts were seen near the ferry terminus. At dawn on April 2nd a second attack on Messina was carried out from 50 feet. Direct hits were scored on the ferry terminus and on a ferry boat. Heavy damage was inflicted also upon the ferry terminus and one ferry boat at San Giovanni. A Ju.52 was shot down over Straits of Messina. From these and other operations all our aircraft returned safely. (Mideast. T.H.I. 0832Z/3).

T.E. 20 Arrived WEST NILUS, CROMARTY FIRTH, L.S.T.362. (Com.N.O.B. Oran, 030901A, to C. in C. Med., as amended 040928A).
T.E. 20. Algiers Section arrived plus JACINTH, ST. CLEARS, ZENA (total 13 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 031759A to N.Os. I.C. etc).

WOLBOROUGH. Departure 2nd April.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 030905C to Admty. etc).

Troopships C. in C. E.F.'s 190934Z P.S.T.O.I's 240605Z my
ex C.M.40. 290950. Following is proposed allocation
returning vessels C.M.40 ex Suez about 16th April.
DEVONSHIRE, CAP TOURANE, KHEDIVE ISMAIL,
EMPIRE WOODLARK, PULASKI.
3. Will escort be available for D.E?
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 030913C to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R)
C. in C. E.F., D.S.T. etc). Reply: D.S.T.060333B

E.T.17 Amending 310959/March.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 030934A to S.O.I.S.)
E.T.17. Intend sailing the following (list of 6)
Possibly six more ship. Further signal will
be sent.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 031100A to C. in C. Med).

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- ABDIEL My 022346. Operation postponed.
(Capt. S.10., 030940A to P.37. P.45, P.54).
- Bi-weekly Night 1/2 April.
Opsum No. 4 Liberators bombed ferry terminus Messina bombs
13 Part 3. bursting south west of terminus. Damage
unobserved. 2 Liberators unable to reach Messina.
1 bombed Catania aerodrome damage unobserved.
2nd returned with bombs. 32 x 1000 lb. H.E. on
Messina at 0140Z hours.
April 2. At dawn 2 B.24s attacking from building height bombed
ferry termini at Messina and San Giovanni respectively.
1 ferry boat believed destroyed at each target. 2 violent
explosions seen. B.24s met large formation Ju.52s and Me. 111
escorted by fighters over Straits and shot down 1 Ju.52 damaging
1 Ju.88. 8 x 1000 lb. H.E. fused 45 second tail delay on
each target at 0428Z hours.
(H. Q., R.A.F., M.E., 030948Z).
- AETOS. 2nd April departure.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 031000C to Admty).
- T.E.20 Algiers section sailed as in my 31/1559 less
EMPIRE MARIOTT.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 031010A to F.Os. I.C. etc).
- NUBIAN, Arrived.
KELVIN. (V.A. Malta, 031019 to Admty. etc).
- M.T.B.267 (A) M.T.B.313 and 267 left Benghazi 011600A for
lost. Malta.
(B) At 020500A M.T.B. 267 broke her back.
Starboard side split and came away from the chine,
bottom also coming away. Keel appeared to have
broken under centre engine.
(C) Engine Room and lazarette flooded in quarter of an hour.
(D) Speed at time 10 knots into short head sea. Wind force 4.
(E) M.T.B.313 took off her crew and C.Bs.
(F) M.T.B.313 completed sinking of M.T.B.267 by gunfire and
depth charges at 1000A.
(G) M.T.B.313 arrived Malta at 022230A April.
(H) C. in C. Med., pass to Capt. Hubbart.
(Capt. Coastal Force, Mediterranean, 031057 to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Cyrenaica,
C.C.F. Eastern Med).
- ILE DE My 290950 P.S.T.O. Capetown's 311741 (N.T. of
FRANCE. either in W.R.) Provided ILE DE FRANCE proceeds
Suez it is intended to embark (numbers) for S.A.
and U.K.
2. This will leave 2000 German P.O.W. for S.A. in
transit to U.S.A. and escort to be distributed between 6 returning
vessels W.S.27, who can then proceed unescorted.

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILE DE FRANCE (contd). 3. If ILE DE FRANCE does not proceed Suez will escort be available for two of W.S.27 vessels to clear service personnel?
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 031153C to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., etc) Reply: D.S.T., 070250B.

WEST POINT. Arrival 3rd.
(N.C.S.O. Massawa, 031207Z to Admty).

UNSEEN Arrived.
(P.51). (V.A. Malta, 031308A to Admty.etc).

OSIRIS Your 290730 March (N.T. in W.R.) OSIRIS should be ready to leave Beirut 19th April having embarked stores ammunition and torpedoes and completed trials and working up practices. Unless you particularly desire otherwise intend in order to raise her efficiency as (?soon) as possible that she should carry out short shakedown patrol in Southern Aegean returning to Beirut 27th April and sailing for Kilindini after necessary rest period.
(C. in C. Levant, 031337C to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.l. S.4. F.O.S.) Reply: Admty. 052250B.

TAURUS, My 1304/31st. P.339 (TAURUS) onward route
TORBAY. through 038° 51' 011° 20' 039° 30' 011° 59' to patrol in area between 039° 30' and 040° 10' and 012° and 014°
2. TORBAY leaves patrol p.m./4th through 038° 43' 011° 29' pass 038° 25' 010° 14' at 2001/5th April thence course 270° 140 miles a day.
(Capt. S.8., 031426A to P.339 (TAURUS), TORBAY, (R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S)10).

Firing on Aircraft. While nothing alters the rule that unidentified aircraft flying towards or over ships and convoys at sea should be fired at and all aircrews are warned accordingly, there have recently been incidents in which Hurricanes have been fired at in area beyond the range of enemy single engined aircraft. These are unlikely in present conditions to operate along the North Africa coast West of Cape Bougaroni.
2. To avoid these errors a high standard of aircraft recognition is necessary in ships, this can only be achieved by careful training and constant study.
(C. in C. Med., 031435A to Med. Station 346 K. (R) H.Q., Med. Air. Command, H.Q.N.W.Africa Coastal Air Force).

Military Convoys. Allocation, in reference to possibility of Mediterranean being opened for passage of convoys in August.
(W.O. 031600A to C. in C. India, 031750A to C. in C. Middle East) See Lion and Tiger Copies.

/Movements....

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, 3rd April. Port Said.
Port Said. Arrivals PANTHER, F.F. M.L. 1164, F.F. M.L. 1143
IERAX, CUMBRAE, WOLBOROUGH.
Departures EASTON, WOLBOROUGH, IERAX, CUMBRAE,
mine recovery M.L. No. 8, tug HENRIETTA MOLLER.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 031714C to Admty. etc).

Movements, Vesca No. 103. Arrivals 3rd April SOFALA
Alexandria. NEURALIA, KAROA, EGRA, MARIT MAERSK (Greek)
Departures 3rd April MICHALIOS (Greek)
BRITISH SOVERIEGN, RISTA Port Said 4th.
(N.C.S.O. Alexandria, 031723C to Bank Block
London (R) Connav).

SAHIB. Your escort will be trawler TANGO (3) Arrival
at Algiers a.m./4th. 1 M.T.B. at 0800 from
East, 2 M.T.Bs. at 0530 from West, and a
convoy of landing craft from West at 0530 (3)
1 motor launch and 1 trawler leaves eastbound at
0400.
(Capt. S.8., 031734A, to SAHIB).

VETCH "Lark" E.T.A. 040900/April.
(VETCH, 031735A to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C.
Algiers).

M.L. 361 Departure 3rd April.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 031749C to Admty.etc)

Situation M.T.B.267 on passage from Benghazi to Malta broke
report No.18. her back in rough weather a.m./2nd April and was
M.T.Bs. lost. sunk by M.T.B.313 after taking off crew.
Believed no casualties. M.T.B.63 who left
Benghazi 31st March in company with M.T.B.64
for Malta is considerably overdue. M.T.B.64
returned to Benghazi a.m./3rd April badly damaged after
collision with M.T.B.63 at about 010500 April. Latter last
seen broken down at 011400 April in 33.35 N. 17.00 E.
(C. in C. Levant, 031805C to Admty).
W.D. Note - 63 found, see 041001C.

Malta Air A.I.564. April 3rd C.S.R.
Report. (A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 2/3 April.
Bad weather and poor visibility curtailed all
offensive operations. No shipping target was
found.

Day 3rd April. No offensive sweeps possible owing to unsuitable
weather over Sicily.
Part 2 enemy air activity. Day 3rd April. (0712 or 0710?)
hours 4 enemy fighters approached Malta at great height. 4
Spitfires were despatched to intercept but raiders turned back
before nearing coast. 1050 hours 10 enemy fighters approached
at height and were intercepted north of island by 4 Spitfires
mark V, but enemy maintained height advantage and then turned
back.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 031810Z, 031831Z).

/Cairo...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Cairo Air Report. For Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell, Andrews and Cdg. Gen. N.A.S.A.F. From Brereton.
2. 5 Liberator aircraft 178th Sqdn. R.A.F. bombed Messina Ferry Terminal. 1 aircraft same unit bombed Catania. 2 B.24 aircraft 376th Group on special mission. 1 bombed San Giovanni Terminal, and 1 bombed Messina Ferry Terminal.
3. Mission considered successful.
(Cairo, No T.O.O. (Recd. 1815Z/3) to Etousa).

Situation Report 2. H.M.T. NEURALIA and two other troopships have arrived Alexandria from Malta with one brigade.
3. Red Sea. British SS. DUNDRUM CASTLE on passage Aden to Suez caught fire and blew up at 2230/4th April (as received ? 3rd intended) in position 14.37 N. 42.23 E. All crew saved.
(C. in C. Levant, 031835C to Admty).
(W.R. Note: Part II only received, repetition of Part I has been requested).

Escorts, Organisation. My 302318 Para. (B) (4). For 12th Trawler Group read 3rd Auxiliary A/S group.
(C. in C. Med., 031944A to Med. Station, K.347, (R) Admty.) Former amended.

AETOS Departure 3rd. April G.S. AETOS.
(N.O.I.C. Haifa, 031947C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

TRIBUNE In 038° 17' N., 007° 47' E. S. of A. 130 miles a day with engine defects. Will be 3 hours late unless routed further south. 2 ships torpedoed, nothing further. Weather report.
(TRIBUNE, 031958A to Capt. (S) 8 (R) Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M F. C. in C. Med).
Your 031958. Well done.
(2) Proceed through 038° 17' 005° 55' at 040500 thence R/V with escorts to Algiers in 036° 58' 003° 20' at 050645.
(3) Bombing restrictions adjusted accordingly.
(Capt. S.8., 032154A to TRIBUNE (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, S.8).

Movements, Algiers. Arrived BUDE, EMPIRE FRED, M.G.Bs. 644, 643, 645, 646, M.T.B.651, M.L.s 444, 449, 460.
Departures CARLISLE, ZETLAND, WILTON, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, HENGIST, PRINSES BEATRIX, BADSWORTH, WHEATLAND.
(Cdre. Algiers, 032006A to Admty. etc).

Movements, Philippeville. Arrivals WHEATLAND, BADSWORTH, PRINSES BEATRIX, departure L.C.I. 246 L.C.T.164.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 032047A to Admty).

/UNBROKEN...

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

UNBROKEN, At 1501A attacked one presumed REGOLO Class
attack on cruiser in 037° 48' N., 015° 38' E. course 347°
enemy cruiser. one heavy explosion but result unknown.
(P.42 (UNBROKEN) 032101A to Capt. S.10 (R)
C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).

Movements, Arrived M.T.B. 64, M.L. 357 sailed M.L. 354,
Benghazi. M.L. 358.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 032141C to Admty).

Movements, Arrived M.L. 135, AMBER.
Libya. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 032157 A to Admty).

Port / 323537. Your 65690 (M.I.14) 31st March
Conditions, (1450A/31).
Sousse, (1) Gabes harbour sufficient depth water 2 craft
Sfax, Gabes. except at bar during low tide. Not sufficient
water in harbour for L.C.T.s. but arrangements
in hand for discharge at shelving beach adjacent.
Good road clearance. Railway bridge over Wadi
destroyed also railway water. Nil locos and 4 wagons only. No
railway workshops or machinery available.
2. Limitations of port do not permit use Ocean Shipping Gabes
(3) Cekhira Jetty 900 feet by 60 feet. Badly silted except
100 feet end of jetty presumed good for L.C.T. Possibly 2
craft discharge elsewhere along jetty.
(4) Sfax and Sousse. No information other than standard.
Probability Sfax narrow entrance will be blocked. Our estimate
normal capacity each port upwards 1500 tons day but no estimate
capacity available for us pending knowledge effectiveness
demolitions.
(C. in C. M.E., 032200C to W.O. (R) A.F.H.Q. Algiers).

Movements, Arrived SOUTHERN ISLE, REDWOOD, GENERAL BIRDWOOD.
Mersa Matruh. (N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh 032325C to Admty).

Conduct of the S.P.C.31/43 giving new chapter on conduct of
Fleet. screens in S.P.0220 is held by certain ships on
the Med. Station on direct supply from the
Admty. but is not to be brought into force until
generally distributed and ordered by C. in C.
Med. F.
(C. in C. Med., 032333A to Med. Stn. 34 8 K.
(R) Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Lion
105A
Med.

MOST SECRET

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 A G E.

(No. 031600A & C.C. India)
031750A/April. 007.

Date 3.4.43.

To: C. in C. Middle East
Repeated Milstaf Washington

CIPHER.

From: War Office.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

*Shipping allocations for
Military Convoys.*

66725. Cipher Q(M)9a/273

1. Allocation of shipping for May loading ex U.K. and North America still under discussion owing to possibility of Mediterranean being opened for passage of convoys in August. Use of shorter route would enable us to dispatch ships in July to make arrival in August i.e. at same time as ships dispatched in May round the Cape. Owing to general shipping position and particular shortage of tonnage available in May it is essential to obtain maximum benefit from opening of Mediterranean but against this must be set danger of having at last moment to route ships round Cape thereby unexpectedly delaying their arrival for about 6 weeks. We shall therefore load some ships in May to sail via Cape and make up balance of August arrivals by dispatching remainder in July to proceed we hope via Mediterranean. Total number of ships to be allocated and split between May and July not yet finally decided.
2. For your April loading programme (July arrivals) as given in your 18645 of 3th March and 20628 of 12th March we have allotted your standard allocation of 21 ships (14 from N. America 7 from U.K.) and in addition have obtained a further 14 ships (11 from N. America and 3 from U.K.) on account of special commitments in connection with maintenance of future operations. Thus your total allocation for April loading is 35 ships but of these 8 will not sail until early May.
3. We have not received from you firm estimate of your requirements after April loadings to enable you to compete with future maintenance commitments and we have therefore been working on assumption that extra 14 ships would be required for August arrivals making 35 in all. We are also working on similar assumption for September arrivals.
4. Request you now submit as early as possible your requirements for May loadings for dispatch by Cape route. Your requirements should be confined to items which MUST be delivered in August either because they are required for operational reasons or because your stocks are so low that you could not stand possible delay of 6 weeks in their arrival which would occur if Mediterranean is not open in August. Balance of your requirements for August arrivals can then be left over for shipment in July through Mediterranean accepting risk of possible delay. You should follow up your movements telegram giving bulk tonnages with usual detailed instructions to supply branches as to how tonnages are to be filled as early as possible to enable provision action and movement planning to start at once in anticipation of final decision.

5.....

5. Request you indicate separately in your civil quota (a) sponsored civil cargo and (b) ordinary civil cargo.

6. Request also you indicate minimum requirement of ships plates and repairing materials which are now available ex N. America and which are not at present provided for in either Services or civil programmes. Consult D.S.R. on this subject.

7. You should allow for about 1,000 tons mail G1098 and miscellaneous small items ex U.K.

8. Requirements of Admiralty and Air Ministry and their split between May and July loadings are under discussion here and will be notified to you later.

031750A

Copies circulated by War Office to:-

1st Lord	S. of S., C.I.G.S., V.C.I.C.S., D.C.I.G.S.,
1st S.L. (2)	A.C.I.G.S., Q.M.GM D.M.O., D.S.D., D.R.A.C.,
D.F.S.L.	D.L.M., D.G.A.R., D.M.E., D.W.S., D.C.S.,
4th S.L.	D.S.T., D. Mov. D.W.V., D.INF., D.R.E., D.Tn.
V.C.N.S.	D.F.W., D.R.A. D. Sigs, V.Q.M.G., D.D.M.O.(C),
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.D.S.D., D.D.R.A.C., D.D.A.R., D.D.M.E.,
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	D.D.W.S. (A) (B) (C) (D) (AFV) D.D.C.S. (A)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D.D.S.T. (S) (P.L) D.D.Mov. (S), D.D.V. D.D.W.
U.W.R.	D.D. INF. D.D.Tn. D.E. in C. D.D.F.W.
D.C.D. (H) (2)	D.D.R.A. (O) (W) D.D. Sigs. S.D.2., C.O.M.,
D.C.D. (F) (2)	M.O.1,5, Q. (Ops) L.M.2 (c) Q(M)3a,7,9a (20
D.C. (2)	copies) Admiralty C.N.S. Air Ministry C.A.S.
D.D.I.C. (2)	War Cabinet Offices (Major Norman)
D.N.I. (4)	Ministry of W.T. D. of S.T. C.O.S.
D. of P. (2)	Committee Brigadier Hollis.
D. of P. (0)	
D.T.D. (3)	
D.T.D. (M)	
Hd. of M.	
Admiral Blake	
W.D.	
I.P. (2)	
Admiral Mack (4)	

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Departure "KARACHI" escorting 3 ships Bombay.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 030411A to Admty.)
Departure VERBENA 3rd a.m.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 031046Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrival 3rd April 1000Z BENGAL, departure 0930Z
SCOUT.
(N.O.I.C. Colombo, 031417Z to Admty.)
Arrived Bahrein 030500Z.
(TRINITY 031101Z to Commander 7th Fleet. Serforce 7th
Fleet, C.T.F. 71.)
DURBAN arrived.
(F.O.I/C E.Africa, 031331Z to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.
K.B.M. (i) K.B.M. (ii) 030451Z (iv) 10 knots
? K.B.I. (v) (s) 023° 17' 067° (09') (t) 020° 32'
(070°) 01' (vi) KARACHI.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi, 030456Z, 030458Z to Admty.)

Troop Transport VARELE sailed 2nd April. Requirements.
movements. (D.S.T.O.P.G., 030618Z to S.S.T.O. Suez.)
B.P. 75 RAJULA sailed from Bombay 3rd April.
Requirements. E.T.A. A.M.9th April.
(P.S.T.O.I., 030655Z to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf. (R)
D.S.T.)

Movements 1. CERES left Aden 30th March escorting convoy M.C.6
summary due Kilindini 5th April.
No. 52, 2. CAPETOWN and MARGUERITE left Aden 3rd April
April 3rd. escorting convoy A.B.6 to Bombay.
3. ALAUNIA left Bandar Abbas 2nd April due Bombay
5th April.
4. RANPURA leaves Bombay 6th April escorting convoy
B.A. 41 to Aden.
5. DURBAN leaves Kilindini 4th April to relieve FROBISHER on
5th April as escort of convoy W.S.27 to Aden. FROBISHER then
to Kilindini.
6. MAURITIUS leaves Durban 4th April for Kilindini.
7. TRUSTY leaves Colombo 5th April due Diego Suarez 14th April.
Following Y messages are cancelled, 82/8 Y. of 19th March 232 Y of
24th March.
(C. in C.E.F., 030834Z to E.F., Admty., etc.)

B.P.75 Sailing telegram. (ii) 030830Z April. (iii)
Expected time crossing 062° 2230Z/5.
(iii)(a) E.T.A. West of Quoins 0730Z/7.
(iv) 11½ knots. (Route) (vi) SUTLEJ.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 030841Z, 030943Z to Admty.)

E.F.9. Ref. A.M.160918 July 1942.
(A) E.F.9 (B) 19th Jan. 1943. (C) IPSWICH
(D) 001° 10' N. 049° 11' E. (E) H(798?)H
(F) Nil.
(C. in C.E.F. 030841Z to Admty.)

/Troop...

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Troop Transport. Transports **SANTHIA**, **JALAVIHAR**, **JALAGANGA** sailed 3rd April E.T.A. a.m. 5th April. **SANTHIA** embarked for Bombay military and stores. Requirements. **JALAVIHAR** military for Suez and stores. **JALAGANGA** shipped for Suez Military Stores Requirements.
(S.T.O. Karachi 030901Z to P.S.T.O. India (R) D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. E.A., S.S.T.O. Suez, S.S.T.O. Haifa, S.S.T.O. Beirut, S.S.T.O. Port Sudan, N.O.I.C. Bombay.)

B.M.47. Colombo portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 031021Z to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O.I. / The following arrangements have been made for reinforcement of M.N.B.D.O.I:
(a) Reinforcements to complete to operational strength will be despatched from U.K. in time to arrive at Salaya by the beginning of August, 1943.
(b) First line reinforcements will be despatched so as to arrive at the required destination by the beginning of October, 1943.
2. Request you will press for higher priority in the construction of the camp at Salaya in order that M.N.B.D.O.I. may concentrate there as soon as possible.
3. We do not agree to concentration in Egypt as suggested by C. in C. Levant's 1800/12th March.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 031546A to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi, Overt, Armindia, C. in C. M.E.)

Military Convoys. Allocation, in reference to possibility of Med. being opened for passage of convoys in August.
(W.O., 031600A to C. in C. India, 031750A to C. in C. Middle East.) See Lion and Tiger copies.

STEEL ENGINEER, U/B. Following has been read from De KDCX STEEL ENGINEER 21° 02'N 69° 31' E. STEEL ENGINEER evading sub attack.
(Colombo W/T 031619 to Admty.)

COMMANDANT DUBOC. F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC sailed for Reunion Is.
(N.O.I.C. Mauritius 031830Z to S.O. (I) Kilindini, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, Admty, F.O. Ceylon, S.O. (I) Bombay, C. in C. E.F., S.O. (I) Aden.)

Air Report, India. F. enemy activity 2nd April (1050-1100 hours) 18 Army 99 medium bombers 10/12000 feet escort 6 Army 01 fighters attacked Maungdaw town jetty and shipping Naaf River. Damage and casualties very slight. Preliminary claims by AA 3 E/A damaged.
(Air H.Q. India 031905Z to Air Min.)

Trooping Requirements. Ref. P.S.T.O. M.E. 180857/3. Request you will give your views having regard to the requirements

/detailed...

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Trooping
Requirements.
(Contd.)

detailed in my 011930A.
2. It is possible that P.S.T.O. M.E. may
require to retain one of these ships in the
Eastern Mediterranean. My 030144A, refers.
(D. of S.T. 032359A to P.S.T.O. India, (R)
P.S.T.O. M.E. P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Floating Dicks - Allocation. Further to my 010025. A further discussion took place yesterday at which it became clear that one of the things on the minds of the U.S. here is that the Bombay Dock has been under construction a long time compared with the sectional dock for which we are asking assignment and that if we put really strong pressure on completing this dock it could be ready and in place working before the second of the sectional docks now being built in U.S.A.
2. There seems no doubt that the first U.S. sectional dock should go to the S.W. Pacific and from our conversation yesterday it appeared that the main desire of the U.S. Navy Department was to defer decision about the second and third docks until the war situation is clarified. Particularly as they estimate that neither of these two docks could be in position and remotely operating much before late 1943 or early 1944.
3. It now appears possible that we may be able to come to some conclusion satisfactory to both parties, and we are following up these renewed conversations.
4. Request in the meantime all information about the possibilities or otherwise of accelerating the Bombay Dock. (B.A.D. 030035Z to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 4th April U.S.A.T. EL LIBERTADOR Dutch flag Trinidad 5th. (B.R.O. Georgetown 030300Q to Admty.) Norfolk Vir. arrived 1st TRACKER. (N.S.H.Q. 030345Z to Admty.)
Departure 3rd April U.S. A.M.C.72 for St. Lucia. (Harbour Master Barbados 030630Q to Admty.)
Minesweeping Flotillas Number 153 B.Y.M.S. 9, 26 and 27 departure 1730 G.M.T. 3rd April E.T.A. Trinidad 8th April. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 031642 to Admty.)
San Francisco 30th BENUAMUNICE WHEELER (U.S.A.T.) Noumea. (N.S.H.Q. 031741Z to Admty. N.Z.N.B. (R) Comsowespac. A.C.N.B.)

U.S. S/M Notice. S/M Estimate 3rd April. (Cominch 030840, 031511Z, 031512Z, 031550Z, 031551Z, 031552Z.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 3rd.	UGANDA	31° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	F.S. GEORGES } LEYGUES }	21° N. 35° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CILICIA	13° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	ANDES	39° N. 45° W.	270°	19
	MILFORD with } Floating Dock }	02° N. 48° W.	134°	5
	T.A. 38A	43° N. 53° W.	261°	19½
	DESPATCH	01½° N. 28° W.	183°	20
	(D.O.D. (F) 031252A to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

/KING...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

KING HAAKON VII. Your 272037 Jan. Request information when it is anticipated KING HAAKON VII will arrive in Canada. It is proposed to employ her in Gulf of St. Lawrence.
(N.S.H.Q. 031350Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.W.A.)

DASHER Regret to inform you that DASHER sunk 5 miles lost, south of Cumbræ Island on 27th March after an precautions. explosion. 36 officers including the Captain and 113 ratings were picked up; ship sank in about 3 minutes. This loss is not being made public at present.

2. As result of preliminary investigation in regard to this loss it has been proved the cause of the disaster was due to internal explosion probably Petrol.

3. Certain alterations in petrol stowage arrangements have been recommended.

4. The following precautions are to be taken: (as V.A.(A) H.F. 011301A.)

(D.O.D.(H)* 031354A to B.A.D. (R) B.A.R.M. Comnav.)

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

LETHBRIDGE. P.C. and S. 031400Z. 048° 16' 046° 01' 212° 14 altering in 047° 10' N. to (?099° or 126° or 264°) following 2 groups are uncyphered. Weather report.
(LETHBRIDGE 031401Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.F. 24. Connav, Admty. etc.)

Convoy G.Z.27 Arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 031417R to Admty.)

Task Force 60 Your 291500/March delayed indecypherable. (Re request route and speed of Task Force 60) These were given in N.O.Bs. 270101/March. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 031429Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. S.O.I. Jamaica.)

Overdue Shipping. NICO LAOU MARIA (Greek) due Los Angeles March 26th from Townsville has not arrived.
(N.S.H.Q. 031456Z to Admty. Connav.)

HADDO, Paraphrase of Comsublant 030827 which has been HAKE. passed to Cominch, Vice-Opnav, HADDO and HAKE. A. N.A.A. submarine schedule F. will be guarded by HAKE and HADDO until 26° W. ("Chop"). B. After passing "Chop" guard 4740 k/cs shifting to read Whitehall 51.5 k/cs submarine broadcasts or Rugby 16 k/cs, if in commission as in Table 3 Section 3 A.F.O. S.2/43. E. Any S/M traffic encoded in O.Tables of interest to either vessel should be passed by Comsubron 50.
(Comnav 031456 to F.O.(S) (R) Admty.)

/BAYNTUN...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.BAYNTUN,
BAZELY.

Alter route my 302240 March to:- A. 34.59 69.50
B. 32.27 64.31 thence Bermuda. Rejoin route at
position (L) thence destination Londonderry.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 031520Z to C.E.S.F. (R)
C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, C.S.R.U.S.N.D.(Hampton
Roads), M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11., S.B.N.O.W.At.
Bermuda, Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

Bermuda departures. BAYNTUN and BAZELY for York Town in
accordance with N.O.B. Bermuda's 022155 being passed to
N.S.H.Q.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 031942Z/4 to Admty. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I.
Jamaica.)

"Chop" and
Escort Re-
liefs.

Concur para. 1 and 2 your 021826A (021816A
intended). Believe a better solution for para
3 and 4 that will cover both east and westbound
convoys would be to consider "Chop" as the
junction time as designated by sailing
Authority that sails relieving escorts. This
will eliminate the necessity for convoy escort to break W/T
also it is recognized that convoy escort has no knowledge of
sailing problems confronting his relief. It is obvious that
signals concerning convoys be addressed to both local and
Ocean Escorts near junction ("Chop") time.
(Cominch C. and R. 031524Z to Admty. (R) C.T.F. 24., C. in
C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.W.A. N.S.H.Q.)

L.S.Ts. to
sail in
S.C.Convoys.

Your 021236 Admty. decided that in view of
experience of L.S.T. 301, future L.S.T. should
be sailed in S.C. convoys and not H.X.convoys.
(B.A.D. 031533Z/4 to C. in C.C.N.S.W.A. (R)
N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. Admty.)

BERRY.

BERRY departed Boston April 3rd at 1230Q en
route New York via Cape Cod Canal and Long
Island Sound. Speed 15. Guard 4410 k/cs, 2716
k/cs (corrupt group) 3000 k/cs at scene of
action and 18 k/cs "Fox" Schedule. Anchors
night of April 3rd Buzzards Bay.
(C.T.G., 02.1 031533Z to C.E.S.F. (R) C. in C.
Lant, Cominch, Admty. Com. 3rd N.D.New York,
N.O.B. Newport, B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.O.B.Bermuda)

Movements.

San Francisco 30th BENUAMUNICE WHEELER (U.S.A.T.)
Noumea.
(N.S.H.Q. 031741Z to Admty.)
Norfolk departed 031622Z TRACKER for New York.
(N.S.H.Q. 032245Z to Admty.)

/G.U.S.5...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

G.U.S.5. This is repetition Port Director New York 021610 Convoy G.U.S.5 arrived New York 2200Z April 1st. (Connav, 031649Z (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. Med., Commorseafron).

Situation Section East. U.S.S. MOHAWK MANOH 053° 06' 050°
Report. 13' 330° 8.
FOUNDATION FRANKLYN towing BARON BELHAVEN escorted by NANAIMO vicinity 046° (702' or 17' or 42') 048° 37' 288° 6.

S.C.125 W.C.E.T.U. 24.18.5 044° 25' 051° 46' 079° 7.5.
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4 departed St. Johns N.F. p.m./3rd to join S.C.125 in 045° 24' 046° 59' 342° 041800Z.
W.S.C.125 KINGCUP 046° 56' 051° 02' 118° 8 to join S.C.125 in 045° 24' 046° 59'.

J.H.45 A. ST. KENAN, AYRSHIRE, PAYNTER 046° 28' 055° 02' 212° 7 alter to 275° in 044° 12' N.
REGINA, BADDECK, PRESCOTT vicinity (7055°) 47' 057° 52' (7216° or 265°) (12?) alter to 315° in 060° 01' W.
U.S.S. DUANE 044° 50' 054° 55' 182° 16 alter to 245° in 044° 02' N.
U.S.S. FAUNCE 044° 13' 056° 05' 270° 8 en route Halifax.
U.S.S. MANASQUAN 046° 18' 054° 40' 193° 7 alter to 266° in 043° 45' N.
U.S.S. ANTTIREUS KENDRICH 046° 13' 054° 33' 017° 16.5 en route Argentina.
O.N.174 W.C.E.T.U. 24.18.3. 043° 10' 055° 22' 259° 9.5 alter to 247° in 059° 18' W.
ATLANTIS (Hospital ship) 040° 46' 052° 55' 266° 14.
LETHBRIDGE 047° 53' 047° 19' en route St. Johns as ice withdraws.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 031615 to Admty).
My 031615Z. Add T.A.38 A 4302P/12 260° to route instructions 15.60.20 West. thence to Sambro Light Vessel. S. of A. 19.5.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 031715Z to Admty).

B.X.40 Arrived B.X.40 between 030133Z and 031204Z. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 031622Z to Connav (R) Admty. etc).

Shipping Connav Serials 28, 29, 30, 31, 1 and 2.
Casualties. UZBEKSTAN Russian aground April 2 off Flattery Rocks. LAMUT RUBBLEN sent S O S April 2 44° 45' N. 127° 45' W. KRASNY OKTYABR RUBBLEN stranded on Thin Point April 1 en route Chester Bay to Seattle. KINGSLEY British aground April 2 23° 17' N. 81° 02' W. WILLIAM P. FRYE U.S. torpedoed March 30 56° 57' N. 26° 15' W. MASAYA U.S. sunk March 27 05° 53' S. 148° 33' E. TOPILA U.S. aground April 1 N.W. Coast of U.S. (Cominch C. and R. 031723Z, Cdr. U.S. Naval Forces in Europe).

/J.H.45...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- J.H.45. Arrived J.H.45 less TALARALITE did not sail POLARLANT did not sail NORTHTON to Louisburg ELIZABETH MASSEY.
(Halifax 031744Z to Admty.)
- H.X.231 U-Boats. U-Boats by poor D/F 052° 30' N. 040° 00' W. or to the eastward may have reported you at 1515Z and 1520Z. Enigma 40 groups.
(N.S.H.Q. 031749Z to Ships escorting H.X. Convoy 231, C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.C.N.F., (R) Ships escorting O.N. Convoy 175, Admty, Opanv, S.B.N.O. W.A.)
- Solops 12. 5 Japanese destroyers and 1 merchant ship were sighted S.W. of Kolombangara Island during night on March 31st/April 1st. B.24s. attacked from a low level. Result unobserved owing to smoke screen. April 1st 41 allied fighters intercepted 30 to 40 zero over Russell Islands, 16 enemy planes destroyed for the loss of 6, of which 2 pilots were rescued.
(B.A.D. 031751Z to Admty, C. in C. E.F., F.L.O. Delhi, Convent R.I.C. Colombo, Capt. on Staff, Kilindini.)
- British Support Groups. BOGUE. Ref. A.C.C. 2 Appendix A, para. 13. (e). Future movements of the 2 British Support Groups based U.K. are very much influenced by availability of BOGUE and her support group. 2. Request information when BOGUE's group will be available to C. in C. Western Approaches so that he can make up a programme for the support groups.
(V.C.N.S. 031820A to Cominch (R) Comtask 24, C. in C. W.A. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)
- NIEUW AMSTERDAM. N.Z.N.B. 01/1045. U.S. Army wish NIEUW AMSTERDAM to disembark troops at Auckland whence onward transport to New Caledonia can be arranged if required. Ship could then proceed to Wellington for New Zealand troops for Middle East.
2. Unlikely that there will be space for 3,000 since U.S. have already provided space for 2,000 and are unable to reduce this number for Middle East any further in this ship. 3. Agreed B.A.S.
(B.A.D. 031909Z to D. of S.T., N.Z.N.B., (R) A.C.N.B.)
- C.U.1. Request time and date of arrival C.U.-1. Y.V.
(Cominch C. and R. 031928Z to Admty.)

/Submarine...

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

S/M attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. GULF STATE torpedoed sunk 24° 32' N. 80° 15' W. 030715. LYSEFJORD torpedoed and sunk area 23° 08' N. 83.12 p.m./01. P.B.Y. attacked sub course 050° 20' 10" N. 61° 57' W. 021410. Para. (C) U.S.S. BARRY attacks sound contact 09° 52' S. 35° 25' W. 021925. Submarine sighted 63° 50' N. 26° W. 310400. Para. (D) U.S.S. FIDELITY attacked submarine area 43° 22' N. 70° 24' W. 021815. Surface vessel chased by 2 submarines on surface 00° 06' S. 43° 40' W. 021745.
(Cominch 031945Z to Admty.)

H.J.43. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, N.F. 031951Z to Admty.)

SALISBURY. Your 022140. Sailing SALISBURY 041400. Additional escort X.B.42 E.T.A. Boston 6th April. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 031957Z to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At.)

Aircraft, working up. Note that W.U.P. issued by F.O.N.A.S. is based on a 16 week working-up period to bring newly formed Squadrons to operational standard in U.K.
2. Observing that weather at Quonset Point results in approx. same number of flying days per annum as in U.K. is it your intention that squadrons should now work-up in U.S.A. for 4 months instead of 3 as heretofore. 3. An early reply would ensure that current negotiations with U.S.N. as a result of your 052034/March are on correct basis of accommodation required.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 032206Z to Admty. (R) F.O.N.A.S.)

M.M.S. N.S.H.Q. 151425 August 1942 not Cominch and C.E.S.F. anticipate M.M.S.99, 100, 101, 104, 108 will be ready to proceed in company 10th April to New York for onward routeing in accordance with Admiralty's 071825 April 1942. Further signal will be made. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 032029Z to N.M.C. J.S. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. K.I.J.N. Cominch C.E.S.F. B.A.D. N.O.I.C. Shelburne, F.O.I.C. W.A.)

French African Naval Forces and Bases re-equipment. 1. In memorandum to Combined Chiefs of Staff on supply and re-equipment of French African Naval Forces and bases. Admiral King points out that through various decisions had been taken by Combined Chiefs of Staff, Admiralty and Navy Department, no overall agreement has been reached on this matter. 2. He recommends the following policy:- (a) With exception of a limited number of small craft for harbour use and minesweeping, no ships will be assigned at present to French by either the U.S. or U.K.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

French
African
Naval Forces
and Bases
re-equipment
(Contd.)

(b) Upon recommendation of C. in C. Allied Forces approved by C.C.S. equipment now in French African ports, and operated by British or U.S. personnel, will be turned over to qualified French personnel so that French may eventually take over defence of their own territory. (c) The U.S. and U.K. will each, in its home yards, repair such French ships as directed by C.C.S. replacing where necessary minor calibre and A.A. guns with those of its own manufacture. (d) The U.S. and U.K. will each supply all dockyard repair and consumable supplies for the ports under its control. (e) The U.S. and U.K. will each supply aircraft to French Naval Forces operating in areas under control of U.S. and U.K. respectively. (f) The U.S. and U.K. will each provide such defences as necessary for the ports under its control (g) The U.S. will supply the following to the French Navy. Ammunition, except for such guns as may be supplied by the British uniforms as may be necessary. (h) The U.K. will supply following to French Navy. Asdics for all French ships regardless of where they overhaul, close range armament, depth charges, and radio equipment for convoy escorts rearming in Africa or the U.K. (i) With specific reference to Dakar, U.S. will provide an initial supply, equivalent to that required for three months, of dockyard repair and consumable supplies, U.K. will provide remaining necessary dockyard repair and consumable supplies. (j) With reference to above policy, after French ships have been placed in operation, U.S. and U.K. will each supply necessary common items of armament, ammunition fuel and supplies to French ships that have been assigned to operate in the sphere of responsibility of U.S. and U.K. respectively. 3. May we have your approval or comments on these proposals?

(J.S.M. Washington 032115Z to War Cabinet Offices, London).
As amended (J.S.M. Washington 072007Z to War Cabinet Offices, London.) Proposed amendments (J.S.M. Washington 092201Z to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

S.C.125.

In order to permit mid Ocean escort and St.Johns, N.F. Section to join adjust speed so as to arrive R/V not before 041800Z. Reference F.O.N.F. 022328Z (N.T. in W.R.)
(C.T.24. 032305Z to C.W.L.E.T.U.24.18.5. (R)
Cominch (C. & R.) Admty, F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C. C.T.U. 24.1.

FORT WILLIAM.

Expected time of arrival 041130Z Boiler hours.
In company PORT HOPE. Boiler hours.
(FORT WILLIAM 032220Z to C.O.A.C. (R) D. Halifax.)

Escort
Carriers,
Destroyers.

✓ The suspension of the North Russian convoys has released a number of Fleet destroyers. These have been formed into groups and are being used in support in the North Atlantic. (2) B.A.Ds. 2055 of March 20th to Admiralty only. (N.T. in W.D.) It is hoped that one escort carrier will be ready for service about 18th April and one about 28th April.
(3) At first it is intended to operate each carrier as a support force with its own screen. This however can only be done as long

/as...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Escort
Carriers,
Destroyers.

as the H.F. destroyers remain available.
(4) The final decision on the operation of
these escort carriers will not be made until more
experience has been gained.
(V.C.N.S. 032335A to B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa,
C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.3.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington 2350Z/2 U.S. LOUISVILLE for Havannah Harbour E.T.A. 0500Z/6. S. of A. 17.5 knots to position (W) 28° S. 171° E. at 0100Z/5 thence 24 knots. Arrival Auckland 0730Z/2 U.S.S. ROAMER.
(D.N.I. Wellington 030018Z to Admty.)

U.S. N.T. MOUNT VERNON depart Port Phillip 2nd, S. of A. 20 knots through A 039° 30' S. 150° 00' E. B. 040° 20' S. 170° 00' E. E.T.A. Wellington 0500Z/5th. Chop 1100Z/3rd.
(A.C.N.B. 030733Z to Admty.)

Arrival 2nd April Townsville R FAAASE MAERSK. Brisbane U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT. Fall River U.S.A. Transport MAETSUYCKER. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA. Departed Darwin 2nd due Thursday 5th thence Townsville.
(A.C.N.B. 031216Z to Admty.)

Arrivals Port Moresby 2nd KAPUNDA. Milne Bay 2nd ARUNTA, WAGGA Thursday Is. 2nd ECHUCA. Townsville 1st BOWEN. Brisbane 2nd U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Departures Darwin 1st LATROBE for Thursday Is. Sydney N.S.W. 1st U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON for Dunk Island Area. Sharks Bay 2nd U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS for Fremantle.
(A.C.N.B. 031322Z to Admty.)

Arrival Auckland U.S.S. SKYLARK and H.T. WAHINE.
(D.N.I. Wellington 031745Z to Admty.)

Departure Auckland U.S.S. CELAND. E.T.A. Noumea 0600Z/7.
(D.N.I. Wellington 031837A to Admty.)

Departure Auckland U.S.S. SAN DIEGO to R/V with U.S.S. LOUISVILLE thence Espiritu Santo E.T.A. 061900Z.
(D.N.I. Wellington 032024Z to Admty.)

Departure DUNEDIN U.S.S. FANPING U.S.S. DUNNOP E.T.A. Noumea daylight 8th April.
(D.N.I. Wellington 032226 to Admty.)

Digest 7 Liberators 3 Fortresses attacked shipping Kavieng Serial No.437 area after sundown 1st. 7 ships located dispersed April 2nd. along coast south east Steffen Strait and minimum 4 more outside Balgai Bay. Probable hits on 2 medium merchantmen and third ship straddled, believed damaged but darkness prevented accurate assessment of results. Simultaneously another Fortress bombed Kavieng runway. (3) Small ship seen at entrance Harbour Garove Island (Witu Islands) evening 1st. (4) R/C Rabaul morning 2nd reported approx. 55 ships in harbour, plus 6 unidentified vessels 20 miles north headed south. (6) 4 small merchant vessels in Wewak harbour morning 2nd and another entering harbour. (8) 6 barges sighted 1st April carrying troops from Small island to mainland 10 miles East of Nubo. This area attacked next morning by 3 Bostons. (9) Photos show shipping at Kaimana 30th refer Digest 434 para. 8 same units as off Faer Island 31st. Refer Digest 435 para. 4 and 436 para. 7.
(G.H.W. S.W.P.A. 030700Z.)

Convoy Sydney Section sailed 3rd April comprising three C.O.85. ships TALUNE for Hobart THOMAS KEARNS and JUAN DE FUCA for Aden.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 030737Z to Admty.)

Solops 12. (B.A.D. 031751Z to Admty.)
See America and West Indies.

War Diary.

3.4.1943.
Saturday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 031349A, 031351A.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. Double summer time came into force at 0200 today.

U/Bs off
Jan Mayen.

2. U-Boats have been sighted recently off Jan Mayen.
TUNA, on passage to patrol on the meridian 15° E. off the Lofotens, has been diverted at the request of C. in C. H.F. to establish anti U-Boat patrol south-east of Jan Mayen Island. This will temporarily reduce the anti-breakout patrol to 3 S/MS until BLACKFISH arrives on patrol p.m./9th.

Enemy Ships
in Biscay
ports.

3. HIMALAYA, sighted off Cape Ortegal on 30th March, was seen by photographic reconnaissance to have returned to La Pallice by 2nd April. PORTLAND and OSORNO and a third ship, probably SS. ALSTERFEUER had left Bordeaux by 4th April and 4 NARVIK class destroyers were seen in Bordeaux on that date.

R/C of
Alten
Fiord.

4. S.B.N.O. North Russia reports that Russian aircraft do not appear to make a determined effort to carry out reconnaissance of Alten Fiord, and he suggests that aircraft from U.K. should carry out the reconnaissance, fuelling at Kola Inlet. Even if, unsuccessful, this might shame the Russians into making a greater effort.

5. Aircraft today carried out some successful attacks against enemy shipping off the coast of Norway.
Six R-Boats with sweep streamed and a small Flak-ship were attacked by 7 Typhoons who claim the Flak-ship and one R-Boat set on fire and probably destroyed, and one R-Boat damaged. 23 Venturas bombed Wilton's Shipbuilding Yard at Rotterdam today.

6. Sunk Head Fort claims to have destroyed two enemy aircraft last night. It is suspected that the aircraft were minelaying.

7. N.O.I.C. Murmansk reports that air raids were made on ships anchored in Michukhop area last night. DOVER HILL and one ship (apparently BRITISH GOVERNOR) were damaged.

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. The Admiralty today instructed N.A. Montevideo that the floating dock, which he reported on April 2nd as probably ready for sea on the 5th after repairs, is not to sail pending further orders.

U/Bs in
Dakar Area.

9. The trend of D/F bearings and sightings suggest a southward movement of U-Boats passing through the Dakar area. F.O.C.W.A. suggests to Comar Dakar, that the cruiser GLOIRE be ordered to proceed through 10° N. 20° W. to her patrol area, and that the cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES should return through 20° N. 20° W. en route to Dakar, both ships to proceed at high speed when east of 20° W.

CITY OF
BARODA.

10. NORTHERN CHIEF, A/S trawler, after a long and wide search, reports no trace of CITY OF BARODA, torpedoed in convoy N.C.9 on 2nd April.
(Reported aground with her back broken, 6th April)

Mediterranean.

S/M
operations.

11. UNBROKEN attacked a large southbound escorted tanker in 38.15 N. 16.30 E. at 1433A, and estimates 1 hit. UNRIVALLED reports having torpedoed 2 merchant ships (3000 and 6000 tons) at anchor at Palermo, and to have sunk a 300 ton vessel. She has only 3 torpedoes left. KATSONIS at 2030 today fired 3 torpedoes into Githion harbour (36.46 N. 22.36 E.) and sank an Italian patrol vessel.

Suez Canal
blocked.

12. The Suez Canal was blocked from 4 to 6th April by the sinking today of the eastern pontoon of Koubri Military Bridge, about 6 miles north of Suez.

Minesweepers.

13. Admiralty concur with C. in C. Eastern Fleet that the number of LL minesweepers originally allocated to the Persian Gulf can now be reduced, and in view of the additional commitments in

/Eastern

4.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Minesweepers. Eastern Mediterranean it is necessary to transfer
(Contd.) some to the Levant Station. The vessels re-allocated are specified in a message today.

Air Attacks
on Naples.

14. Six U.S. Lightnings carrying bombs, escorted by 8 U.S. Lightnings dropped over 1½ tons of bombs on a beached freighter near Cape Zebib, 10 miles east of Bizerta.

18 U.S. Mitchells escorted by 25 U.S. Lightnings attacked a convoy in the Sicilian Channel and set two merchant ships on fire.

91 out of 106 U.S. Fortresses which were despatched today attacked the airfield, harbour and railway centre at Naples. About 25 aircraft were hit on the ground; over 101 tons of bombs were dropped on the harbour; one tanker was hit and several near misses are reported on a 500 ft. merchantman. Another vessel was set on fire, and two small merchant vessels were hit, one of which exploded. Damage was caused in the railway centre and dock area.

9 out of 25 B.24s bombed Naples at dusk today; damage was not observed.

15 Spitfires, 11 carrying bombs, attacked the harbour at Syracuse today.

East Indies.

15. Seven U.S. Liberators attacked oil installations at Thilawa (10 miles S.E. of Rangoon) today. One large fire was caused.

America and West Indies.

Convoy
H.X.231
attacked.
2 ships sunk.

16. It is probable that Convoy H.X.231 has been reported by U-Boats. At 1616B C. in C. W.A. ordered Escort Group 4 to increase speed if weather allows, and steer to intercept H.X.231 as early as possible.

/VIDETTE ...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Convoy
H.X.231
attacked.
2 ships
sunk.
(Contd.)

VIDETTE, escorting Convoy H.X.231, attacked a U-Boat at 1750Z in 56.06 N. 36.31 W. *310 miles SE of Cornwall*
M.V. SHILLONG was torpedoed at 2208 in 58.28 N. 34.35 W. and sank in half a minute. ZAMALEK, rescue ship of Convoy O.N.177, picked up survivors on 12th April.
At 2303 WAROOGA was torpedoed but continued with the convoy for 2 days before sinking.

Australia and New Zealand.

17. U.S. destroyer O'BANNON today attacked a submarine on the surface 50 miles N.N.W. of Russell Islands. It is believed that the submarine was seriously damaged or destroyed.

18. Eight Fortresses attacked shipping at Kavieng before dawn. A direct hit was made on a large destroyer, or light cruiser, another destroyer was near missed, and one or two cargo vessels were probably hit or near missed.

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

TARANA. My 040545. TARANA to be routed through 050° 20' N. 008° 01' W. thence 000° Round Island 10.

(C. in C.Plymouth 040955B to TARANA.)

If you cannot arrive at Falmouth before dark 4th April, remain to westward of 05° 50' W. till daylight.

(C. in C.Plymouth 041314B to TARANA.)

MIDDLETON, R.A.D.H.F. is requested to sail MIDDLETON for
ECHO. Hvalfjord p.m. 5th with mails and passengers and to relieve ECHO in HOWE('s) screen.

2. C.S.10 is requested to sail ECHO for Scapa p.m. 5th.

(C. in C.H.F. 041049B.)

Proceed passing Switha at 1300 tomorrow in accordance with C. in C.H.F. 041049B to Hvalfjord routed through 058° 50' N. 007° 01' W. thence through Reykjanes Passage.

(R.A.D.H.F. 041235B to MIDDLETON.)

Having completed with fuel and embarked mail and passengers as in my 041618 proceed to Scapa via A.M. Q.Z.S. (?407, 410, 453, or 674) and west of Minefield.

(C.S.10 042210B to ECHO.)

COURBET. Request destination of COURBET.
(SAMSONIA 040745B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
My 020513A. Vessels returned.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 041125B.)

S/M Intend sailing P.219 and P.58 escorted by
Movements. Rescue M.L. 548 at 070900B to 23 Buoy where escort will be taken over by vessel detailed by A.C.O.S. for onward passage vicinity Scapa, where escort will be taken over by vessel detailed by Capt. S.3rd Sub. Flot. for onward passage Holy Loch. E.T.A. 23 Buoy 072000B.

(Capt. S.6 041130.)

Sailed SICKLE.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 041323B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Sailed TAKU, URSULA, and SICKLE.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 041327B.)

You are to anchor in Mounts Bay for the night 4th, and leave again for Plymouth at 0500B/5th.

(C. in C.Plymouth 041451B to KIHNA, H.28.)

1. Intend from Portland at 0800 tomorrow TAKU, URSULA, and SICKLE escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE, for position (D.D.) 333° Eadystone 4 miles to comply with Capt. S. 5 0935A/31. 2. E.T.A. 1700/5.

(N.O.I.C. Portland 041630B.)

/Cancel...

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Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

Cancel my 031901A. To avoid submarine being at sea between The Lizard and Start Point in darkness during present E-Boat weather PEARL will R/V with KINGSTON TURQUOISE, TAKU, SICKLE, and URSULA in 333° Eddystone 4 miles at 1700/5th and escort SICKLE to 180° Bishop 7. KINGSTON TURQUOISE with URSULA and TAKU enter Plymouth, thence at 0800B/6th KIHNA and URSULA proceed to Holy Loch and KINGSTON TURQUOISE with H.28 proceed to Portsmouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 041703B.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/5 and movements for following 24 hours.

- A. SEVERN approaching zone K. 192 from Southwestward.
- B. BARB approaching zone K.193 from Southwestward.
- C. TRUCULENT in zone K.151.
- D. SEA NYMPH in zone K.150.
- E. TEMPLAR in zone K.148.
- F. TUNA 65° 27' N. 00° 20' W. probably on surface, speed 10 knots to Northwestward.
- G. STUBBORN 64° 59' N. 03° 08' E. probably on surface, speed 9 knots, through 69° 00' N. 08° 52' E.
- H. USURPER escorted by TADOUSSAC 58° 06' N. 05° 56' W. through Minches, due Holy Loch 1200/6.
- J. BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves vicinity Garroch Head 1500/15 through Minches and West of Orkneys and Shetlands E.T.A. 359° Muckle Flugga 5 miles 0500/7.
- K. H.28 escorted by KIHNA arriving Plymouth from westward.
- L. TAKU, URSULA and SICKLE escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE leave Portland to arrive 333° Eddystone 4 miles at 1700/5, thence TAKU and KINGSTON TURQUOISE to Plymouth, SICKLE and URSULA escorted by KIHNA E.T.A. 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles at 0230/6. Thence URSULA and KIHNA to Clyde. SICKLE unescorted dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 00' W.
- M. TRESPASSER 46° 20' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day, due 43° 00' N. 13° 22' W. at 0230/7th.
- N. SPORTSMAN 46° 05' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 0230/7.
- O. HERRING in zone K.505 leaving dived by day to pass through 43° 20' N. 12° 01' W. at 0200/7.
- P. SHAD approx. 43° 50' N. 07° 15' W. dived by day to pass through 43° 59' N. 08° 59' W. at 0600/6, thence through 43° 59' N. 11° 20' W.
- Q. My 031818A para. F. Cancel last position and add 64° 30' N. 01° 38' E. thence to patrol to S.E. of Jan Mayen Island.
(F.O.S. 041736B.)
P.56 escorted by TADOUSSAC sailed Scapa p.m. 4th for Clyde.
(C. in C.W.A. 041745B to FOLKESTONE, VERDUN.)
My 041736 para. K. Amend to read due Plymouth about 1200/5 from Mounts Bay.
My 031818 para. K. After Hartland Point amend to read to Mounts Bay speed 8 knots.(F.O.S. 041832B.)

CHARYBDIS.

Arrived CHARYBDIS.
(C. in C.Plymouth 041151B.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
SundayHOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation My 031105A. ARTFUL returned at 0407. "C".
"Pussyfoot". (F.O.I.C. Portland 040450B.)

N.W.Norway Submarines are to leave patrol as follows
S/M Patrol. 1. TRUCULENT at 2100B/6 through 069° 01' 009°
59' thence by route "Black," to Lerwick.
2. SEA NYMPH at 2100B/6 through 068° 22' 010°
01' thence by route "Orange" to Lerwick.
3. TEMPLAR is moving to patrol zone K.162 and K.163 p.m. 6th
and is leaving again at 2100B/8 for Lerwick by route "Orange."
(Capt. S.9 041045B to S/MS.)

My 041516. TUNA now on passage to patrol on 015° E.
has been diverted at the request of C. in C.H.F. to establish
anti U-Boat patrol S.E. of Jan Mayen Island.
This will temporarily reduce the anti-breakout patrol to three
S/MS until BLACKFISH arrives on patrol p.m. 9th.
(F.O.S. 041518B to Admty.)

Denmark Intend CUMBERLAND should be relieved on "White"
Straits when necessary. 2. Report your proposals.
Patrol. (C. in C.H.F. 041053B to C.S. 10.)
Your 041053B. Intend to sail in BELFAST to
relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol "White" on arrival
of MIDDLETON at Hvalfjord. Consider destroyer
should also be on patrol "White" when there are three at
Hvalfjord.
(C.S.10 041404B to C. in C.H.F.)

Coastal 3 M.G.Bs. 1 M.T.B. from Newhaven to carry out
Patrols. covering patrol 10 miles South of Convoy-route be-
tween 0° 45' E. and 0° 10' W. To be at Eastern
end of patrol by 0200 and keep southward of
convoy leaving patrol 0700.
3. M.L. 309, 572 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.
4. Chasseur 15 at St. Helens. ALBRIGHTON, M.L. 182, 124,
KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
5. 2 M.Ls. patrolling between St. Catherines Point, 50° 20' N.
1° 31' W. and Kimmeridge Bay.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 041313B and 041545B.)
M.Ls. 104, 107, 108, 213, 210, 128, 573 supported by:-
M.G.Bs. 110, 113, 117 carrying out operation N.L. 86,
route via "U" and "V" Buoys each way. E.T.D. 2030 E.T.R.
0630/5.
M.T.Bs. 38, 219, 221 at number four Buoy from 2130 to 0200/5.
M.T.Bs. 235, 24, 240 patrolling at Berck Buoy route via number
ten Buoy each way. E.T.D. 2000 E.T.R. 0630/5.
M.A.S.Bs. 23 and 29 at Bullock Bank E.T.D. 2045. E.T.R. 0630/5.
M.Ls. 140 and 141 patrolling at Bullock Bank from 2130 until
daylight.
(V.A.Dover 041759A.)

/TUNA...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

TUNA Patrol. 1. U-Boats have been sighted recently from Jan Mayen and my air patrol and are probably disposed on line approximately 150° from the Island to intercept possible North Russian convoy.
2. Leave route "Grey" in lat. 064° 30' and proceed to establish anti-U-Boat patrol between 069° N. 004° W. and Jan Mayen.
3. Keep clear of ice and do not approach the island in low visibility.
4. In view of short hours of darkness you should spend maximum time diving and vary your hours of charging. 100% look out is essential all night. U-Boats can certainly intercept your R.D.F. transmission up to about 20 miles though they cannot necessarily determine source or direction of transmission. (F.O.S. 041516B to TUNA.)

Biscay Patrol. My 031744A. NEWFOUNDLAND, ORKAN, PIORUN sailed. Mail for NEWFOUNDLAND to Algiers. (C. in C.Plymouth 041705B.)

Allied Air Activity.

St. Nazaire Damage. 4/April damage assessment 60 a sortie D/348 St. Nazaire 3rd April, 1943. Only part of port and N.E.outskirts covered on photographs. Fresh damage seen to Dam at N.W. end of entrance lock also possible points of damage to constructional work at Eastern Entrance. 1 Floating Dock damaged in Bassin De Penhouet. Some damage to two workshops of S.N.C.A.O. Aircraft Factory and to Turbine Workshops and few sheds in shipyards. S.O.C. workshops and ironworks of the West also damaged. Mean time of photography 1420 hours. (R.A.F. Medmenham 040523B.)

M/V Attacked. Have attacked 3,000-tons enemy merchant vessel with torpedoes and estimate one hit. Position 63.03 N. 7.11 E. (A/C 77 Sqdn. Duty N. 041038A/4 to 18 Group.)

Bomber Command Operations. On day 3rd April, 11 A/C attacked shipping in the harbour at Brest. Fighters of 10 Group provided the cover. Bursts were seen on the right bank of Port Militaire, either on Naval Barracks or a large building opposite Pont de la Manuiserie and other results were seen on western end of Port Flottant near the mouth of the river. (H.Q.B.C. 041215B.)

Exercise "Guard". In the event of a break out of German major naval units in the north it is not probable that a torpedo attack squadron will be required to move to Iceland for operations. In order to ensure that this move can be carried out with the utmost despatch and to test the facilities in Iceland No. 144 Squadron is to fly to Iceland on 9th or 10th April. On arrival they will carry out an A.L.T. against one of H.M.ships under arrangements

/to...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

- Exercise "Guard." (Contd.) to be made by C. in C.H.F. Aircraft are to return on completion of exercise. (H.Q.C.C. 041224B to A.O.C.18 Group.)
- Patrol X.A. Swordfish aircraft will fly patrol X.A. tonight as in my 081411A March from 042200B April until dawn 5th April. (C. in C.Plymouth 041544B to Escorts P.W.318.)
- One M/V sunk. One merchant vessel one knot 120° 57° 55' N. 06° 30' E. Result of attack sank. (A/C 3WQ Duty U. 041715B to 18 Group.)
- R/C of Altenfjord. R/C Altenfjord started today but turned back at 30° E. owing to weather.
2. Weather in Kola Inlet was perfect. Urgency of R/C has been stressed repeatedly. Aircraft have taken off almost daily but do not appear make determined effort to get there.
3. Suggest consideration be given to carrying out this R/C from U.K. aircraft fuelling Kola Inlet. Even if unseccessful this might shame Russians into greater effort. (S.B.N.O.North Russia 041751B to Admty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Thames Estuary. There was some enemy air activity in the Northern part of the Thames Estuary between 2030 and 2100 on night April 3rd. QUEEN EAGLE near B.6A. buoy at 2038 heavily engaged a low-flying plane which passed overhead, and at about 2050 the hydroplane operator reported a noise similar to a mine falling, but not exploding. Mines may have been laid between B.6 and B.8 buoys but there is no positive evidence of this. (S.O. T.L.D.F. 041256B.)

- Murmansk bombed. DOVER HILL hit. Raids on ships anchored in Michukhop area 032230C/April and 040030C/April. No damage or casualties. During raid on same area 041045C/April DOVER HILL hit in cross-bunker by bomb which did not explode. Russian bomb disposal has been superintending search for it in coal. No casualties. British ship reports damage by near misses. (N.O.I.C.Murmansk 041635B.)

/A/C...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. - Contd.

A/C believed shot down. Have engaged enemy aircraft in vicinity of 54 B. Believed shot down.
(MALLARD 042207B to C. in C.Nore.)

Mining.

Eddystone Area. Possible minelaying in Q.Z.S. 390 by E-Boats on 4th April.
(C. in C.Plymouth 040957B.) See Shipping.

Trials with Outfit Q.H. Intend SCOTT shall carry out preliminary trials with outfit Q.H. in area between Orkneys, Shetlands, and Faeroe Island between 6th and 12th of April. Request northern chain be manned and locked for continuous operation during this period.
(R.A.M. 041016B to Admty.)

Yarmouth. A. At 030835 one mine exploded by Sweeper in 340° S.E. Scroby Buoy 1 - 5 miles. Details.
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth 041821B.)

Lyme Bay. Your 021145A and F.O.I.Cs. 021617A. Operation completed. Negative result.
(ROSS 041933A.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIMALAYA. HIMALAYA sighted off Cape Ortegal on 30th March was seen by photographic R/C to have returned to La Pallice by 2nd April.
(D.D.I.C. 041037B.)

Havre. April 4th 140 Squadron P.R. Sortie R.A. 146 dated April 4th shows Le Havre. Only eastern half of port covered.
Since March 28th departure one M-Class minesweeper 6 Trawler-type auxiliaries, only change in Naval shipping in parts covered. Only significant change merchant shipping departure from previous berths of M/V 400 M.49 and M/V 300/350.
(Medmenham 041620B.)

Brest. Photographs taken at 1415/3rd show Port Militaire and part of Port de Commerce only seen. Little change in shipping in Port Militaire. SP.A.1. End and tanker T.39 present as on 17th March. Two probable "M" class minesweepers in Port de Commerce
(Medmenham 041955B.)

/PORTLAND...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

PORTLAND. A.G.M. 573A of 2nd April para. 1. Photographic R/C of Bordeaux 4th April shows SS. PORTLAND has left the port since 20th March.
(D.D.I.C. 042340B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat attacked. Am in contact and attacking S/M in 070° 10 miles from COPINSAY.
(TADOUSSAC 041410B to Scapa W/T.)
If no contact S/M abandon hunt at 1930B and return to harbour.
(C. in C.H.F. 041844B to TROUBRIDGE.)

Since my 041526B a number of transmissions on Series 8 indicate that convoy H.X.231 or possibly O.N. 175 is being shadowed by one or possibly two U-Boats.
(D.D.I.C. 042117B to Escorts.)
Am over enemy S/M in 47° 44' N. 08° 06' W.
(A/C DN9M 042102B to 19 Group.)
At 041600Z two subs were sighted in 65.10 N. 23 W. by transport plane. This from N.O.B. Iceland.
(Washington D.C. 042226 to Admty.)
Jan Mayen reported at 1750 submerged S/M under way (?along) North Coast. Poor visibility.
(A.C.I.C. 042347B.)

Casualties & Defects.

NOLISEMENT. My 031025A. Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man 041010B.)

ST. CROIX. ST. CROIX sailed at 1456B.
(A.C.I.C. 041531B.)

BIDEFORD. Cancel my 011609A. Delayed owing to steering-gear defects.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 041547B.)

M.G.Bs. 53, 54, 55, 56. Admiralty's 051748/March and my 181609A/March. In view of further defects it is intended to withdraw M.G.Bs. 53, 54, 55, and 56 from operational service as from today.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 041810A.)

EMINENT. My 041350 and 041414B. Owing to defect in EMINENT's steering intend to sail EMINENT in tow of BUSTLER for Greenock at 050800B to arrive off Gourrock Pier at 1200 tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 041915B.)

/M.T.B....

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

M.T.B. 32. Arrival M.T.B. 32 with engine defect.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 042043B.)

M.T.B. 72. Arrival M.T.B. 72. Engine defects.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 042151B.)

Shipping & Convoys.

P.W. Convoy. Intend proceeding MELBREAK in company to relieve ALBRIGHTON as escort to P.W. convoy. Intend to part company from this convoy at daylight 6th April and return Plymouth.
(ATHABASKAN 040726B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

W.P. 318 E-Boat activity took place between Eddystone and Falmouth from 0003A/4 to 0400B/4. Possible minelaying in Q.Z.S. 390 between 220° Eddystone 4 and 250° Eddystone 16. Convoy W.P. 318 diverted to Falmouth subsequently resumed voyage at 0530B/4. No casualties or damage to escorts or convoy.
(C. in C. Plymouth 040957B to Admty.)

Convoy H.X. 230. N.O.I.C. Londonderry 031239/4, is being passed to you for information. Reference para. four investigations show difficulty arose over communications which should be overcome by additional call signs now being allocated. Consider employment Support Group for first time was satisfactory and largely contributed to safe arrival of convoy. No amendments are considered necessary to existing instructions pending further experience.
(C. in C.W.A. 041045B to Admty.)

S.C. 124. In view of proximity of Convoy Route to Iceland request you will inform me if you have escort available for 2 Merchant Ships for Iceland.
2. If affirmative request you will arrange to escort these ships from position R.B.
(C. in C.W.A. 041047Z to A.C.I.C.)

Your 1047/4. Affirmative. SYMBOL is only escort available and is being directed to meet S.C. 124 after I.C.O.M.P. with O.N. 176.
(?C.T.G. 24.6 041345Z to C. in C.W.A.)
3 ships of O.N.S.J. 176 turned to C.T.U. 24.1.18 at (?060° 43' N. 020° 00' W. at 041850Z. SYMBOL proceeding to join S.C. 124. BIBB to Reykjavik, E.T.A. 051200Z.
(BIBB 041920Z.)

/MONGABARRA...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- MONGABARRA, FORMOSA, CAMELIA, BARDALAND, FENRIS, AKKA, YARRAWONGA. Following were positions 032200. Greek relief Westbound. MONGABARRA, FORMOSA and CAMELIA 33° 54' N. 51° 57' W. BARDALAND and FENRIS 35° 07' N. 19° 00' W. AKKA and YARRAWONGA 34° 55' N. 20° 39' W. (N.A.Stockholm 041146 to Admty.)
- M.K.S.10. C. in C.W.A's 031334. Sailed A/S trawlers BERN and LEEDS UNITED to R/V. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 041159A to Escorts.)
- Escort Oilers. As support groups may require to fuel from escort oilers C. in C.Western Approaches is to be informed immediately if an escort oiler straggles or subsequently rejoins. (C. in C.W.A. 041245.)
- E.G.4. ICARUS. Request you sail ICARUS as early as possible to overtake 4th Escort Group. A/S repairs are postponed until refit. Your 040939B refers. (C. in C.W.A. 041302B to A.C.I.C.) Probable that H.X. 231 has been reported. Increase speed if weather allows and steer to intercept as early as possible. Report P.C. and S. (C. in C.W.A. 041616B to E.G.4.) C. in C.W.A. 041301B. Hvalfjord departure ICARUS to join 4th E.G. (A.C.I.C. 041647B.)
- T.A.39. T.A.39. My 031434. Cancel R/V given. Ship is to be sailed on the afternoon tide 5th April and pass through 55.22 N. 11.00 W. at 0500Z/6, thence to A. (D.O.D.H. 041318B to C. in C.W.A.)
- S.L. 126. NAGARA sunk. NAGARA sunk in 047° 52' N. 014° 03' W. My course and speed 041° 11 knots. DEXTEROUS in company. (ACANTHUS 041355Z.) Proceed Liverpool, detaching DEXTEROUS off Skerries for Campbeltown. Your 041355 refers. (C. in C.W.A. 042116B to ACANTHUS.)
- W.A.Escort Forces. I congratulate the Officers and men of the Western Approaches Escort Force and of the U.S.A. and R.C.N. Groups and Ships working with us on the splendid work they have so successfully

/carried...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

W.A. Escort Forces. (Contd.) carried out in guarding and maintaining our all important sea communications during this, the most violent and tempestuous winter experienced for many years. I appreciate the short layovers that prolonged voyages due to weather and diversions, have imposed on you and realize to the full your endurance and devotion which enabled essential dates to be kept under every kind of hardship and difficulty with such unfailing cheerfulness. With the Spring come some very welcome reinforcements and besides there is reason to hope the Convoy programme may settle down and allow reasonable periods in harbour. With better weather and longer layovers we must concentrate on working up individual Ship and Group efficiency to a standard that will make a kill of every U-Boat located. With the extra escorts and aircraft together with improved training facilities it will only be necessary for each ship to reach the 100% killing standard for the situation in the Atlantic to turn radically in our favour. Nothing will dishearten the Hun more than to realize that the Battle of the Atlantic has been lost and with it his last hope of defeating Britain.
(C. in C.W.A. 041643B.)

TAMARA, 1. Greek Government have chartered two additional
WIRIL. Swedish ships TAMARA and WIRIL from Baltic for Greek relief. H.M.G. have agreed to give safe conduct to these vessels.
2. Vessels will leave Gothenburg on 9th April and will follow Gothenburg Traffic route to position 36° 40' N. 35° 00' W. During passage up Norwegian coast they will have a German escort and will proceed in company. Thereafter TAMARA will proceed ahead as fast as her greater speed permits.
3. From 36° 40' N. 35° 00' W. TAMARA will proceed through following positions:- to St. John N.B. Assume Cominch has no objections to this route unless signal to contrary is received by return.
4. From 36° 40' N. 35° 00' W. WIRIL will proceed direct to Gibraltar and from Gibraltar to Piraeus by standard route for Greek relief ships.
5. Particulars of vessels.
7. Vessels should not be molested while following above routes.
(Head of M.I. 041742B.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. After disembarkation of invalids storing and bunkering and embarkation of 336 Italian sick and wounded Prisoners of War and Protected Personnel, hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND should be sailed on 9th April to Lisbon. After Italian personnel have been landed British Prisoners of War are to be embarked for repatriation to U.K.
(D.S.T. 041839B to D.S.T.O. Avonmouth.)

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N.175.
FOREST.

C.T.U. 24.1.3's 012205Z.
MANCHESTER PROGRESS arrived Reykjavik. Master reports that she was unable to tow FOREST who has lost her rudder. Last seen in approx. 062° 29' N. 030° 59' W. No tug is available in Iceland.
(A.C.I.C. 041855B to C. in C.W.A.)

WILLIAM
PIERCE FRYE.

Master of GEORGIS P. (Greek) reports begins: At 2045 G.M.T./29th March Intercepted S.O.S. from WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE torpedoed in 56.57 N. 24.20 W. Ends.
Master stated that this was not reported before as signal was very loud and obviously close he therefore assumed the Commodore had received it.
(NC.S.O. Methil 041919B.)

Mid-Atlantic
"Chop" line.

1. Mid-Atlantic "Chop" line is amended as follows From Greenland coast along meridian 47° W. to latitude 29° N. thence through 00° 35' N. 26° W. thence along meridian 26° W. to the South Pole.
2. East to West "Chop" lines are extended to meet the above line. 3. These changes are brought into force forthwith.
(D.T.D. 041940B.)

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

VANOC,
VERITY,
M.K.F.11A.

On arrival in U.K. p.m. 4th from escorting M.K.F.11, VANOC and VERITY, who are due to refit mid April at Southampton and Portsmouth respectively, will not have time usefully to return to Gibraltar (A.M.131224/March and VANOC 011959 April refer). (2) Intend they should reinforce escort of M.K.F.11A proceeding on conclusion to refitting ports. (3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange with C. in C. Plymouth accordingly. (D.O.D.(F), 040001A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Southampton, A.S. Portsmouth, C. in C. Med.)

ARGONAUT,
HERO.

My 031717 ships (?Sailed) "Q" messages carried. (V.A. Gibraltar, 040645 to Admty, C. in C. Plymouth, (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Portsmouth, S.B.N.O. W.At).

DZIK.

Intend sailing DZIK p.m. 6th April for working up patrol in Gulf of Lions. (2) Communications Gib. Broadcast west of Greenwich Meridian and Algiers Broadcast east of Greenwich, shifting to read M.S. routine. (3) Routed (S) 180° Cape Calaburras 15 at 2130 April 6th. (T) 180° Cape Deglanc 15 at 0001 April 8th. and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 8th. (U) 135° Cape Palos 15 at 2359 April 8th. (4) Capt. (S) 8th is requested to assume operational control at 0001 April 8th, S. of A. 7½ knots. 103 miles per day. Time zone minus 1. (V.A. Gibraltar, 041007 to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8th, (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. Force H, Connob, Oran, 8th S.F., ULTOR, DZIK, UNRULY, TACTICIAN)

G.C.4.

Intend sailing for Casablanca EMPIRE GOLD (T) SIDI BRAHIM. Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O. (F.O. Gibraltar 041039 to Commorseafron. (R) C. in C. Med. Connav, Admty.) G.C. 4 sailed as in my 041039A. (F.O. Gibraltar, 041620A to Commorseafron. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav.)

Situation
Reports.

Situation 2002A/4th.
S/M SOKOL 37.51 09.40 through 36.51 09.13 at 0430/5th thence 099° diving by day 2 surfacing by night 7½.
(2) S/M UPROAR 38.51 10.21 through 37.31 09.34 at 2000/5th surfacing by night 6 submerging by day 2.
(3) STELLA CARINA 37.38 09.13 to patrol off Tagus 10.
(4) PENTSTEMON 3 merchant ships off Huelva through 270° Chipiona Light 3 and 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar (?8).
(5) ARGONAUT, HERO 36.10 09.37 277° 16.
(6) HAARLEM 2 merchant ships sail 1915A/4th through 35.56 06.20 to Huelva where one merchantship parts company thence coastwise to Tagus 9.

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Situation (7) C.G. 23 F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE depart
Reports Casablanca 0600A/5th through 34.19 06.59 thence
(Contd.) 018° 6.
(9) G.C.4 U.S. Dest. SIMPSON one P.C. sailed
1600A/4th through 35.45 06.30 to Casablanca 7.
(10) LORD NUFFIELD, MIRROR sail (?07) 00 5th
to repair cable in position 36 (?17) 07.25.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 041131A)
Situation 041959A.
(2) O.S.45 BLACK SWAN (E) 35.59 12.22 148° 8.
(4) D.70 French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE 25.28 15.04 through
26.01 14.39 thence 030° 7½.
(5) Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 46.03 14.01 180° 14.
(6) P.C.482 left Casablanca p.m. 3rd to R/V D.70 in 27.23 13.48 at
1100A/5th and relieve French ship ASPIRANT BRUN which proceeds
Port Etienne on relief.
(7) Tug CROCODILE One P.C.33.58 08.13 to R/V O.S.45 in 34.19
11.03 at 1200A/5th thence P.C. returns Casablanca.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 041156A)
Situation 2004A/4th.
U.G.(?S) 6A. C.T.F. 60, 30.28 34.15 055° 9.
(3) T.A. 39A unescorted, 46.08 25.40 through 43.01 33.01
thence 270° 17.
(4) UGANDA on patrol between parallels 30° N. and 35° N meridians
30° W. and 35° W leaving patrol approx. 2200A/4th towards
35.05 20.01 20.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 041301A)
Situation 1957A/4th, Area Y.
Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA 034° 46' 024° 56' 12.
(2) Swedish relief ships BARDALAND and FENRIS 034° 50' 023° 41'
266° 12.
(V.A. Gibraltar, 041203A to Med. Stn.)

Enemy My 031545. Report now received that at Pasajes
Convoy. indicated Convoy, later stopped, altered and
N.W. Coast proceeded East towards France.
of Spain. At 1600 G.M.T. 4 small ships of about 215? tons
passed Pasajes N.W. in territorial waters.
About 4 miles out 2 destroyers lay stationary
till Convoy arrived off West Guetaria and then
returned Eastward.
(Vice Consul, San Sebastian, 041150 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar (R) Admty. B.N.A.Madrid)

UGANDA. On leaving patrol proceed to given position
(A) 35.05 N. 20.01 W. (B) 35.20 N. 10.01 W. and
Q.K.A.87. (2) Paravanes are to be streamed
as convenient before crossing 007° W.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 041258A to UGANDA (R) C. in C.
Plymouth, Admty. C.M.S.F.)
Position at 2100Z/4th April 033° 52' N. 029° 17' W. Speed
making good 18 knots E.T.A.1600Z/7th April.
(UGANDA, 042120Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med.,
F.O.C. W.AF., Admty.)

French / ...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

French
Refugees
through
Portugal.

Sir S. Hoare No.640. I understand C. in C. Med. and N.A. Lisbon are proposing to Portuguese authorities that party of (1400 or 400?) French refugees should leave Portugal on April 17th subject to approval of Portuguese and choice of suitable Port.
(Need for urgency etc.)
(Madrid, 041800 to F.O.(R) Lisbon)

U.S.S.
RESOLUTE.

Arrival.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 041824A to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af.
(R) Cominch, Commorseafon, C. in C. Med.
Commanaw)

JAUNTY.

Sailed 1315 Tug JAUNTY to Oran routed through
A.36.04 N. 05.31 W. B.36.10 N. 03.00 W.
C.36.06 N. 00.53 W. D.35.50.40 N. 00.37.20 W.
E.35.46 N. 00.36.20 W. F.35.44.30 N. 00.36.18 W.
G.35.43.36 (34.43.36) 00.36.36. thence of H.
Harbour entrance. S. of A.11 knots.
codeword "Kraal"
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 041836A to Admty. C. in C. Med.
Com N.O.B. Oran.)

CROCODILE.

My 032350 (Sailing CROCODILE). Sailed.
(S.N.O.(?)Casablanca Area, 042020 to F.O.C.
Gibraltar (R) F.O.C. West Africa, Admty.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Cape Blanco area SNOWDROP, THYME, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE. Bathurst Cape Verde Is. area ROCHESTER, SCARBOROUGH, FLEETWOOD, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, ULSTER with S.L. 127, BURDOCK, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM. Bathurst BRIDGEWATER. Freetown area QUEEN OF BERMUDA, CARNARVON CASTLE, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA. Mid ocean patrol CILICIA. St. Pauls Rocks Freetown area BUTTERMERE. Cape Palmas area PETUNIA, CORINTHIAN, BELLWORT. Pointe Noire area KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH with W.S.28 QUADRANT, REDOUBT. Belem St. Pauls Rocks area ALCANTARA, AMARANTHUS, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK. Freetown WASTWATER, Lagos CROCUS. (F.O.C.W.A. 040003Z to Admty. etc.)

Situation 042002Z CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA, 2 M.Ls. with S.T.61 004° 18' 009° 46' to 002° 55' 007° 49' thence 077° 9. KENYA, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH escorting W.S.28 003° 40' S. 007° 59' E. to 005° 00' S. 011° 00' E. thence 180° 12¼. QUADRANT REDOUBT off Pointe Noire to rejoin W.S.28. RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, 007° 40' S. 011° 35' E. Pointe Noire 20. SARABANDE escorting about 010° 01' S. 010° 24' E. 176° 5½. BUTTERMERE M.M.S.107, 106, 105, 103, and 102 004° 01' 021° 01' (?to) Freetown 8½. CORINTHIAN, BELLWORT, PETUNIA, DUNKERY with T.S.34 about 005° 02' 010° 05' 303° 7½. FANDANGO off Monrovia. M.L. 209 M.L. 272 Marshall. M.L. 285 escorting about 005° 01' 009° 30' to Freetown 6 M.L. 271 M.L. 305 off Sassandra. M.L. 261 M.L. 263 off Accra. (F.O.C.W.A. 041041Z.)

Situation at 042001.

French Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE, French Ship ASPIRANT BRUN, THYME, with D.70 024° 02' 016° 08' 034° 7. KUMAON, SNOWDROP, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, KATHIAWAR, BIRDLIP, with R.S.3.K, 017° 13' 017° 48' 180° 8½. ROCHESTER, FLEETWOOD, SCARBOROUGH, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, HYDRANGEA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM, BUTSER with S.L.127 016° 06' 021° 24' 342° 7. CILICIA on patrol about 18.00 31.00.14. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 11.00 28.00.15½. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 23.01 34.01.18. QUEEN OF BERMUDA 13.35 25.35 to 16.30 32.01 thence 358° 16. BURDOCK, ORFASY, INKPEN searching 14.36 19.27 to Dakar 8. French Cruiser GLOIRE sails from Dakar to South West at 050630. (F.O.C.W.A. 041213Z.)

Position at 2000Z 4th April.

SARABANDE 11 South 10.30 E. to Walvis Bay 5 knots. BIRMINGHAM 21.33 03.20 to 15.30 00.30.19. NORTHERN CHIEF 27.36 15.14 standing by damaged M/V. CAPE WARWICK 31.50 17.30 to Capetown 10. ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA with D.C.17 34.25 33.45 coastal to Capetown 9. FRITILLARY, ST. LOMAN with C.D.12 33.55 26.55 coastal to Durban 8. FREESIA, LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY 32.35 35.20 to 33.00 36.00.9 then return to Durban. JASMINE 27.00 36.15 to Durban 14. LADY ROSEMARY, HERTFORDSHIRE, 26.10 38.10 to Durban 9. CHITRAL, RAIDER 21.45 41.30 to 16.00 42.30 RAIDER returning to Durban from 21 South. MAURITIUS, EREBUS, NAPIER, ROTHERHAM on passage Durban to Kilindini. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES 32.50 17.25 escorting tug to vicinity NORTHERN CHIEF 12. QUAIL patrol south of Cape Point. (C. in C.S.A. 041230B.)

/BRIDGEWATER...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

BRIDGEWATER. Your 011703Z. General dimensions of BRIDGEWATER are (details). A Docking Plan for sister ship SANDWICH was forwarded to Freetown for C. in C. S.A. with A.L.D. 012664/41 dated 5/9/41. Request this Docking Plan be forwarded to Comar, Dakar by quickest possible route.
(D.N.C. (Section 25.) 040439B to F.O.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

GOIAZLOIDE. Brazilian Ship GOIAZLOIDE which took refuge at Maranham West reports being attacked by S/M at 1402/GMT/2nd April 20 miles East of Da Silva Reef. Ship claims to have hit S/M with machine gun fire.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 040607Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. S.O. (I) Freetown.)

MAURITIUS. MAURITIUS flying flag of C. in C. E.F. sailed from Durban. E.T.A. Kilindini 1715C/7th April.
(Com. i/c Durban 040645Z to Admty.)
Sailed MAURITIUS to Kilindini through (A) 24° 00' S. 41° 00' E (B) 15° 30' S. 42° 15' E. (C) 11° 00' S. 42° 15' E. S. of A. 23½ knots. E.T.A. 1415Z/7th April. (2) Shifts W/T organization to Group V at 1000Z/6 April.
(Com. i/c Durban 040751Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrival 011334Z April QUEEN OF BERMUDA.
(S.O.I. Freetown 040859Z to Admty, C. in C. S.A. Cdre. i/c Durban C. in C. E.F.)
Capetown arrival April 4 QUAIL.
(C. in C. S.A. 041231B to Admty.)

CITY OF BARODA. British Ship CITY OF BARODA reported torpedoed at 021900Z April 70 miles S. of Luderitz. Vessel is still afloat and efforts are being made to take her to Luderitz. 260 survivors are being landed Capetown tomorrow. (2) A.M. 021202A refers.
(C. in C. S.A. 041026B to Admty, N.Z.N.B. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban. N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)
Your 041146B. (N.T. War Reg.) Long and wide search by NORTHERN CHIEF and (corrupt passage) sea condition reveals no trace of derelict or lifeboat. Derelict presumed sunk. My position 1900B 027° 18' S. 015° 12' E. 2. Intend remaining in area over night thence returning Capetown searching to South and East on passage.
(NORTHERN CHIEF, 041709Z to C. in C. S.A.)

CANADA, French hospital ship. Your 311558. Will send Base Constructor Officer in addition to Staff Medical Officer.
2. Shall I arrange direct with Dakar now?
(F.O.C.W.Af. 041044Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

Floating Dock, Montevideo. Your 021520. Dock should not sail pending further instruction.
(D.O.D. (F) 041057E to N.A. Montevideo (R) C. in C. S.A.)

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

- THYME. Com. Morocco Sea Frontier 031337(N.T. in W.R.) THYME not, H.M.S. (corrupt group) is British escort of convoy D.70. Request THYME be ordered to transfer to convoy O.S.45. (F.O.C.W.Af. 041148Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Com. Morocco S.F. Com. Dakar.)
- Weekly state. S.A. Station 3rd April. Cape Area NORTHERN CHIEF, BRAHMAN, ST. ZENO, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, F.S., QUAIL Durban to Capetown ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, VIVIANA. Capetown to Durban. (? FRITILLARY) Durban area. LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY, LADY ROSEMARY, HERTFORDSHIRE, HILDASAY, FREESIA, JASMIN. Luderitz area. CAPE WARWICK. Capetown to Pointe Noire RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS. Capetown to Durban? BIRMINGHAM. Durban to Diego Suarez CHITRAL, RAIDER, WALVIS BAY, NORTHERN ISLES Saldanha Bay SPINDRIFT, MANCHESTER CITY. Capetown FIRMMOOR, COVENTRY CITY, SPHENE, CHALLENGER, NORTHERN DUKE, NORTHERN DAWN, STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY, ROCKROSE, GENISTA M.L.830 Simonstown harbour defence M.L. 1150 M.L.381 H.M.S. P.552 P.614 NORMAN, QUEENBOROUGH, QUILLIAM, BLACKMOOR. Port Elisabeth ST. LOMAN (corrupt group) (A.S.I.S.) KHETI (A.S.I.S.) CECILE MAPLESON. East London KIRRIEMOOR, SATSA, STORMWRACK. Durban ETHIOPIAN, PRUDENT, LE TIGER, MEAD, SONDRRA (Group missing) WARSPITE, MAURITIUS, SUSSEX, QUALITY, NIGELLA, CATTERICK, FOXHOUND, NAPIER, ROTHERHAM.
- (C. in C. S.A. 041243B to C. in C. E.F., R.A.W.Af., Dep. C. in C. E.F., S.B.N.O. W.At., F.L.O. Delhi.)
- CELTIC STAR S.S. CELTIC STAR torpedoed at 292250Z March in (torpedoed 004° 08' N. 017° 33' W. 2 torpedoes first forward 29 March.) of engine room starboard side, second aft of engine room. Submarine identified as Italian, large, with 2 guns. One of crew A/B (M.N) G. Pattinson taken prisoner. (S.O. (I) Freetown 041141Z to Admty.)
- MOANDA F.O.C. West Africa's 291643Z March. (repetition (torpedoed of BURDOCK's 290701) 9 survivors from unknown 28 March.) Belgian ship possibly MOANDA reported by B.N.A. Lisbon picked up by Portugal F.O.C.A. in 024° 39 N. 017° 37' W. (S.O. (I) Freetown 041142Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Gib. Commorseafron, B.N.A. Lisbon.)
- PIERRE LOTI. PIERRE LOTI is aground on Banco Laval, Coriaco Bay, 26 miles from Libreville. Ship's draught in light condition 15 feet 5 inches forward 19 feet 6 inches aft. Depth of water on reef at high tide 14 feet forward 17½ feet aft ridge across engine room 15 feet starboard side 15½ feet port side. Necessary to lift ship at least 2 feet to clear reef. Necessary to blast with T.N.T. forward aft and amidships. Tank tops sound except engine room and stokehold starboard side. Ship lying on reef with 8° list to starboard heading S. 43° E. (F.O.C.W.Af. 041257Z to Admty.)

/Ship...

4.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.PIERRE
LOTI.
(Contd.)

Ship pounds very heavily at high water springs even when flooded. Considered that two months would be required to float her immobilising two tugs one ship to attend for provisions and water two divers and necessary pumps, air compressor and diving gear. All these requirements having regard to other commitments are in short supply. Labour difficulty also acute. It is therefore not considered that salvage operations should be undertaken by Royal Navy. (F.O.C.W.Af. 041259 to Admty.)

U-Boats,
GLOIRE,
GEORGES
LEYGUES.

Trend of D/F bearings and sightings suggest southward movement of U-Boats possible passing through Dakar area. Suggest French Cruiser GLOIRE be ordered to proceed through 010° N. 020° W. thence patrol area and French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES to return through 020° N. 020° W. thence Dakar. Both ships to proceed at high speed when E. of 20 W. Request GEORGES LEYGUES be instructed to report position on leaving patrol area. (F.O.C.W.A. 041303Z to Comar, Dakar (R) GLOIRE, GEORGES LEYGUES, Admty.)

BIRDLIP.

Cancel my 040915Z (N.T. in W.D.) P.C. and S. 018° 22' N. 017° 49' W. (?180°) 10 at 042000Z to (?Freetown) R.S.3.X. (BIRDLIP 042018Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

DERWENT. Your 281428 March. DERWENT, request information concerning extent of damage to structure and main items of machinery castings and important fittings requiring replacement be signalled as soon as available.
(D. of D. Bath, 040506B to C. in C. Levant.)

UNRIVALLED. Arrive R/V 0915.
2 merchant ships at anchor, Palermo 3000 and 6000 tons and 1 300 ton (claimed) torpedoed. 3 torpedoes remain.
(P.45 (UNRIVALLED), 040625A to Capt. (S) 10.)

T.E. 20. Arrived CAUDEBEC, ADJUTANT, SWITZERLAND. EMPIRE DACE and SERULA unable to contact convoy and are returning to harbour, intend to sail both ships by shuttle service at first opportunity.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 040922A to Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, A.I.G. 259, etc.)
T.E.20. My 030901, delete ZAN. For L.S.T.361 read L.S.T. 362.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 040928A to C. in C. Med.) Former amended.
T.E.20. My 031759A. SIMON DUHAMEL (French) not arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 041001A to F.Os. I.C., etc.)
T.E.20. Arrived CEVENNES for Bone. Five ships now await Convoy to Bone.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 041209A, 041309A to F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Oran.)
T.E.20. NATHANUEL MACON, WILLIAM MCKINLEY, MEROPE, TORFINJARL, KROMAN arrived.
(BRILLIANT, 041427A to All British Ships and Authorities concerned in Operation "Torch".)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 3rd April DELPHINIUM, JERVIS, JAVELIN, ALDENHAM, ISIS, ROCKWOOD.
Departures 3rd April PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.
(S.O.(I) Levant, 040922C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Convoy A.B. 6. Sailing telegram.
2. 0900Z/4 April.
3. E.T.A. Sunk Rock 0400Z/11 April.
4. 10½ knots. 5. (Route).
6. CAPE TOWN, MARGUERITE.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 040922Z to Admty., etc.)
(1) A.B.6. (10) 13 NEVASA, 11 TALMA, 13½ LANCASHIRE.
(12) Bombay.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 040929Z to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 3rd April arrival HEDGEHOG, ARMADILLO.
Beirut. Departure LYCOS, M.Ls 385, 384.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 040935C to Admty., (R) C. in
C. Levant.)

Watchkeepers, Your 201809A March. Watchkeepers in Shore
Shore Estab- Establishments in Levant are already in three
lishments. watches with exception of certain sentries who
are being retained in four watches for
consideration of degree of alertness necessary.
(C. in C. Levant, 040937C to Admty.)

E.T. 17. My 010928A. Amendments to list. 2 additions.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 040951A to F.O.I.S.,
N.O.I.C. Bougie, Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Oran,
etc.)
Intend sailing E.T.17 at 050830A. Your 011207A E.T.A.
R/V 051630A and Bougie R/V 060430A. E.T.A. Algiers 062030A.
(F.O.I.S., 041029A to C. in C. Med., WHITE BEAR, S.O.
Force H, Capt. (S) 8th, F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French
North Africa, etc.)
E.T.17 Philippeville section sailed less ANNE BROADSTREET.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 042304A to F.O.I.S., N.Os. I.C.
Bougie, Algiers, Oran, A.I.G.259.)

M.T.B. 63. Ref. my situation report No. 18 (031805C).
M.T.B.63 found and is being towed to Benghazi.
(C. in C. Levant, 041001C to Admty.)

ABDIEL My 022346, operation will take place tonight.
operation. P.37 (UNBENDING) is to leave patrol as ordered
in my 021321. Surface forces have been informed
of route.
(Capt. (S) 10, 041004 to P.37 (UNBENDING),
P.34 (ULTIMATUM))

Repatriations. Your 030144A, para. 1. Only troop ships in
area are those employed between Alexandria and
Tripoli and none of these can be released for
April 11th. (Details).

4. Request instructions.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 041031C to Admty. for D. of S.T., (R) C. in C.
Levant, G.H.Q.M.E.)
Reply: D.S.T., 060317B.

Situation M.T.B.266 and 315 on sweep from Bone carried out
Report unseen attack on convoy of three M/V heavily
No. 761. escorted South of Cani Rocks at 312345. M.T.B.
266 fired torpedoes at one target which sank.

/M.T.B.315 ...

4.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation Report No. 761. (Contd.)

M.T.B.315 proceeded through survivors to fire at her target which received two hits and is estimated also sunk. Escorts then engaged each other. M.T.B.266 sustained damage from heavy sea on return journey.

(2) Cape Serrat evacuated by enemy 2nd April and occupied by Naval and small Commands (?Commando) Party 3rd April.

(3) UNISON reports attacked 2000 M/V probably tanker at 231409 in position 37.57 N. 16.10 E. One torpedoed hit, vessel believed sunk.

(4) UNSEEN reports in position 37.52 N. 11.27 E. at 241011 estimated one torpedo hit on 3500 ton M/V in northbound convoy.

(5) UNBROKEN attacked one presumed REGOLO class cruiser in position 37.48 N. 15.38 E. at 031501. One heavy explosion but results unknown.

(C. in C. Med., 041102 to Admty.)

UNBROKEN, UNRUFFLED. Your 032101 acknowledged, well done. P.46 (UNRUFFLED) entering an area bound by 037° 20' 036° 40' and on the east by 016° E. on night 5th/6th.

(Capt. (S) 10, 041122B to P.42 (UNBROKEN).)

TROOPER. Intend to sail TROOPER 1830/5th for patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea routed through 038° 32' 005° 05' at 1400/6th 038° 32' 010° 11' at 0330/8th.

(Capt. (S) 8, 041200A to C. in C. Med., (R) Capt. (S) ? S.F., 8th S.F., Cdre. Algiers.)

P. 47 (DOLFIJN), P.217 (SIBYL). P.47 will be required to patrol west of Marittimo on night 5th/6th leaving a.m./6th for Algiers.

2. SIBYL (P.217) after passing 038° 36' 010° 02' at 1800/5th proceed to patrol North of Marittimo.

3. Further details follow tomorrow (see 051224A).

(Capt. (S) 8, 041216A to 8th S.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

M.K.S. 11. S.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.11 at 092000 April.

(2) Speed of ships 8 knots, of advance 7½ knots.

(3) Bougie (? 121), 96, 36, 99, 51 letters J to M to Algiers thence through 100, 39, 93, 8, 37 letter N. to (? group omitted) stragglers route as convoy.

(4) From 37 through Q.K.A. then standard ocean route letters T to X stragglers route letters A to F.

(5) Sections join and detach with local escort as follows

Philippeville in 037° 14' N. 007° 00' E. at 100300 April, Bougie in 99 at 101500 April, Algiers (? E.T.A.) 110500 April anchor in Bay sailing again at 111200 April. Oran in 036° 00' N. 000° 42' W. at 121400 April. Gibraltar in 37 at 132000 April.

/(6) ...

War Diary.

4.4.1943.

Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.K.S. 11. (6) First 2 letters of W/T call sign T Y.
 (Contd.) Incon 317.
 (7) Mediterranean escort to be detailed later.
 Ocean escort EGRET, CLARE, COWSLIP, TEST,
 WEDGEPORT, FISHGUARD, TEVIOT, FORT YORK,
 PARRSBORO.
 (8) Fighter priority 2, codeword "Cockatoo".
 (9) All times A.
 (C. in C. Med., 041227A to F.Os. I.C., etc.)

TORBAY. My 031426 not to Cdre. Algiers. Onward routing
 through 038° 25' 004° 12' at 2102/7th thence
 R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 12'. You
 may meet P.217 (SIBYL) p.m./5th.
 (Capt. (S) 8, 041242A to TORBAY, (R) C. in C.
 Med., Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F.)
 My 041242. R/V at 080615.
 (Capt. (S) 8, 041444A to TORBAY, (R) C. in C. Med.,
 Cdre. Algiers, SNOWFLAKE.)

M.K. Convoy Route. M.K. Convoys. My 1249/8/12. Route for M.K.F.
 convoys, delete position 37.40 N. 13.30 W.
 (D.O.D.(H), 041300A to C. in C. Med., (R)
 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.)

Movements, Aden. Departure 0602Z RAINSTORM, 0851Z CAPETOWN,
 1039Z MARGUERITE.
 (Cdre. Aden, 041328Z to Adnty., etc.)

Air Control, Gibraltar - Casablanca. Personal from 1st S.L.
 Please let me know in due course what arrangement
 has been come to regarding co-ordination of air
 effort in Gibraltar - Casablanca area.
 (1st S.L., 041336B to C. in C. Med.)

G.U.S. 6. Request ocean route for convoy G.U.S.6 sailing
 Oran 10th April.
 (C. in C. Med., 041417A to Adnty., (R) F.O.C.
 Gibraltar, Com.N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafront.)

KATSONIS. All times Zone minus 3. Leave your area to
 pass through following positions:
 (A) 035° 16' 026° 37' at 070130. (B) 033° 44'
 031° 31' at 090600. (C) 033° 44' 033° 31' at
 091800. To arrive Beirut searched channel at 100600. Proceed
 on surface during daylight 9th April.
 Your speed is estimated at 110 miles per 24 hours diving by day
 and 200 miles per 24 hours when surfaced during daylight.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 041456C to G.S. KATSONIS, (R) C.C.F. Eastern Med.,
 S.O. D. M.F., PARTHIAN, C. in C. Levant.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.12th A.F.
Report.

For: Eaker. For: Brereton. From: Spaatz.
Coast Force carried out usual convoy patrols
also R/C over Sicilian Straits. A submerged
submarine was depth bombed near Oran. No claims.
(12th A.F. Constantine, 041505Z to Etousa.)

Minesweepers
for Levant.

Allocation.
(Admty., 041554B.)
See East Indies.

MAUNGANUI.

041400Z (N.T. in W.D.) Hospital ship MAUNGANUI
Suez 9th April, knots 14, days 13, F.O. Nil.
Coastal H/F.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 041619Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F.,
S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, (R) Connav, C.
in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.S., M. of W.T. M.E.)

Air raid
Tripoli,
German A/C
dropped
circling
torpedoes.

Following is repetition of K.321 (Begins).
Med. Station from C. in C. Med.
M.S.G.O.14, para. 6. During recent air raid on
Tripoli Ju.88s dropped 10 circling torpedoes
as well as bombs. One torpedo was successfully
destroyed by rifle fire from a merchant ship.
Organisation in M.S.G.O.14 for Marksmen and
Aldis Lamps high up in ships is to be over-
hauled and extended to ships inside harbours as
well as those in open anchorages. K.319 and 320 were Basegram's
T.O.O. 1100A/22. (Ends).
(C. in C. Med., 041620A to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C.
Levant.)

Movements,
Famagusta.

Arrived and left 4th April M.L.384 and 385.
Departure 4th April R.N.N. NOBLE NORA.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 041703C to Admty., etc.)

TRIBUNE.

Your escort will be Trawler CAVA.
(2) Fast transport escorted by 2 destroyers
arrives Algiers from East at 050900.
(3) One merchant ship escorted by 2 M.L. leaves
Algiers eastbound at 050400.
(Capt. (S) 8, 041744A to TRIBUNE.)

Cairo Air
Report.

For: Arnold, Spaatz, Bissell, Andrews and C.G.
N.A.S.Af. Signed: Brereton.
1. 6 Liberators of 178 Sqdn. R.A.F. departed on
night of 1st/2nd April to bomb Messina. 1 failed
to find target, 1 bombed alternate Crotone
Airdrome, 4 reached Messina. Bursts observed in

/target ...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Cairo Air Report. (Contd.) target area. 1 aircraft slightly damaged by A/A.

2. During daylight April 2nd, 2 B.24D aircraft 376 Group departed Malta for surprise low level attacks on ferry terminals Messina and San Giovanni. Aircraft attacking Messina salvoes 8 bombs 1,000 pounds each from building height. Believed to have destroyed ferry terminus and 1 ferry boat. Same type of attack with same results at San Giovanni. Light inaccurate A/A encountered both targets, no damage.

3. 27 B.24 aircraft departed for dusk attack Naples Harbour. Complete overcast. 9 aircraft bombed target area on E.T.A. Unobserved results. 7 aircraft returned bombs, 1 aircraft jettisoned, 1 aircraft bombed Augusta, 1 aircraft bombed Mount Alice, 2 aircraft bombed Crotone, 2 aircraft bombed pin-point Southern Italy. None observed results.

4. 24 B.24 aircraft 376 Group departed bomb Palermo. 10/10th cloud over target, 15 aircraft returned bombed, others jettisoned 3 aircraft unreported believed landed Malta. (Cairo, 041920Z to Etousa.)

UNBROKEN, attack on tanker. At 1433A attacked large southbound escorted tanker in 038° 15' N. 016° 30' E., estimated one hit. Expect me by reverse of outward route arriving R/V 0800A/8th April. (P.42 (UNBROKEN), 041921A to Capt. (S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, S/Ms on Patrol.)

Indications are that ship in my 041921 is either stopped, in tow, or beached north of Cape Spartivento. (P.42 (UNBROKEN), 041931A to Capt. (S) 10.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed ABDIEL, PALADIN and KELVIN. (V.A. Malta, 041922 to Admty., C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.) Arrival S/M UNRIVALLED (P.45). Arrived S/M UNRUFFLED (P.46). (V.A. Malta, 041924 to Admty., C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.574, 4th April. C.S.R. Malta. Part 1 Offensive. Night 3rd/4th April. 7 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily 2 patrolling Trapani area but no suitable target was found. No shipping target was found. Day 4th April. 3 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily found no enemy aircraft. 11 Spitfire bombers with 4 fighter Spitfires providing cover made successful attack on Syracuse Harbour scoring direct hits on railway buildings and among seaplanes moored off shore. Part 2 Enemy air Activity. Day 4th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 041950Z.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals M.T.B. 635, L.C.I.(L)s 170, 104, 184,
Algiers. 116, 105, 110, 182, 108, 113, 106, 111, 119,
186, 240, 256, 103, 248, 254, 101, 109, 251.
Departures QUANNET, M.L.494, EMPIRE FRED,
FOXTROT, TANGO, BUDE, EGGESFORD, VETCH.
(Cdre. Algiers, 042041A to Admty., etc.)

QUEEN EMMA. Arrived. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 042055 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Bone arrival and departed CARLISLE, BICESTER,
Bone. ZETLAND, WILTON, LIDDESDALE, CLACTON, POLRUAN,
BADSWORTH, WHEATLAND, GAVOTTE, REIGHTON WYKE,
VISENDA, PRINSES BEATRIX, HENGIST.
(S.O.I.S., 042128A to C. in C. Med., Admty.,
V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Arrived KLO, M.L.351, M.L.354, M.L.358. Sailed
Benghazi. HAILSTORM.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 042258C to Admty., C. in C.
Levant.)

Enemy Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one
Units. enemy medium vessel and one destroyer 38.50 N.
16.45 E., 040°, 9.
Request instructions.
(A/C GJT/B via Malta W/T, 042305B.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Landing
Craft
State. Your request for check and repeat. Following
is repetition of my 011123Z (Begins). Landing
craft state first April. Type of craft
effective unserviceable or under repair L.C.A.
308 L.G.M. (I) 12 5 L.C.P.(L)9 6 L.C.P. (R) 3
16 G.C.S.(M) 6 1. (Ends.)
(D.C.O. India, 040003Z to Admty., for C.C.O.(R)
C. in C. E.F.)

Harbour
defence. Agree to proposal in para. 2 of A.M. 251820 March
(N.T. in W.D.) Work to modify gate is in hand
and expected complete about 12th April.
(2) BARCLOSE will be ready to sail for
Mediterranean about 13th April, E.T.A. Suez about
3rd May.
(C. in C.E.F. 040537Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Levant, C. in C. Med., F.O. E.A.)

P.B.33. Arrival PUNJAB, RAJAPUTANA with P.B.33.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 040559Z to Admty. etc.)

P.B.34 P.B. 34 24 C. Sailing telegram.
(A) 040600Z. (E) 023° N. (?062°) E.
F. 8 knots.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 040640Z to Admty., C. in C.E.F.
F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. S.A., Cominch C. and R.)

ASCANIUS Transport ASCANIUS sailed today requirements Aden.
(D.S.T.O. P.G., 040719Z to S.S.T.O. Suez, (R)
D.S.T.O. Aden, P.S.T.O. M.E., P.S.T.O. India,
D. of S.T.)

Convoy
P.B.33. Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 040755Z to Admty.)

Movements. Left DURBAN arrived SARKA.
(F.O.I.C. E.Africa 040832 to Admty.)

Oiling at
Sea,
equipment. Request that approved alteration A.M. 311354
March may be effected in ARNDALE during her
present refit at Durban.
(C. in C. E.F. 040854Z to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C.
Durban (R) C.S. Durban, Admty.)

JOHN W.
MACKAY
(Cable
Ship). Now completing restoration Bushire Muscat cable.
Please direct vessel immediately future movements.
Also advise reference disposal of scrap cable.
(Master of JOHN W. MACKAY 040900Z to Admty. (R)
S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal No.50.
 (a) Battleships WARSPITE at Durban RESOLUTION,
 REVENGE at Kilindini. (c) 8" cruisers. DEVONSHIRE
 leaves Kilindini 6th April escorting convoy to
 Durban thence (?U.K.). SUSSEX to Durban. (d) 7.5" and 6" cruisers.
 BIRMINGHAM to U.K. KENYA on passage to Freetown to Cape. GAMBIA,
 HAWKINS at Kilindini. CAPETOWN escorting North Indian Ocean.
 CERES, CARADOC, DURBAN, FROBISHER escorting off East Coast of
 Africa. MAURITIUS on passage Durban to Kilindini. DAUNTLESS
 in Persian Gulf. (e) Available units training off Kilindini.
 (C. in C. E.F. 040917Z.)

TRUSTY. Concur in programme quoted in your 020955Z April.
 (C. in C. E.F. 040924Z to Capt. (S) 4th Sub.
 Flotilla (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon,
 F.O.3.)

India Your 020320Z and 020322Z. Janson appointed
 Security. Staff C. in C. Med. in connection with security
 of operations of high priority and therefore Not
 available. Regret Wilson can Not be spared.
 Officer referred to in para. 3 of your 020322Z
 will be welcome. Further signal will be made.
 (D.N.I. 041441B to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

LL . Your 1337/26 March.
 Minesweepers, Concur in principle that the number of LL
 allocation. Minesweepers originally allocated to the Persian
 Gulf can now be reduced. 2. In view of the
 additional commitments to the Eastern Mediterranean
 however, it is necessary to transfer some of these
 LL Minesweepers, originally allocated to the Persian Gulf, to
 the Levant station. 3. With reference to para 2 above, the
 following re-allocations are made:-
 (a) To Levant Station NEBULA, NIMBUS, PACKICE, SANDSTORM,
 SHOOTING STAR, SQUALL, SARKA, SATSA, STORMWRACK, RAINSTORM,
 M.M.S. 310 and 311. (b) To Eastern Fleet in accordance with paras
 2 and 3 of your 1337/26 March. HONG LAM, AIK LAM, HINNOY, JELOY,
 MAALOY, TROMOY, M.M.S. 100, 101, 107, 108, 145, 146, 196 to 201
 (inclusive.) 4. Authorities concerned are requested to sail
 ships accordingly on completion.
 (A.C.N.S. (F) 041554B to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon,
 C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. P.G. C. in C. S.A. Cdre. R.I.N.)

WEST POINT. Route for U.S.S. WEST POINT as follows through
 A. 012° 30' N. 046° 00' E. B. 012° 27' N. 051° 30' E.
 C. 030° 00' S. 093° 58' E. D. 035° 00' S. 110° 00' E.
 Thence as directed by A.C.N.B. to Melbourne.
 N.O.I.C. Aden 040903Z refers.
 (C. in C. E.F. 042016Z to N.O.I.C. Aden (R)
 N.C.S.O. Massawa A.C.N.B.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- ?BADDECK, PRESCOTT. E.T.A. Halifax 041300Z. (?BADDECK) PRESCOTT in company.
(REGINA, 040120Z to C.O. Atlantic Coast (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- O.N.S.1 Following has been broadcast B.A.M. S.Z.A. to all ships. O.N.S.1. Ships for Halifax only to proceed there independently. Not to proceed there independently. Not to arrive Chebucto Head before 041500Z.
(C.O.A.C., 040220Z to C.W.L.E. T.U. 24.18.8).
- H.X.232, Ocean Escort. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 in ESCAPADE plus GARLAND F.S. ROSELYS, NARCISSUS, AZALEA, RENONCULE designated ocean escort for H.X.232. ESCAPADE GARLAND fitted H/F D/F.
(C.T.F.24, 040325Z to Connav (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., C.C.N.F., C.T.F.24., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C., C.M.O.E.T.U., 24.1.17, C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6).
- HAKE, HADDO. This is Comsublant's 040205. Comsublant's 012258 cancelled. All dates April times Z. HAKE will depart Point Judith 0012/7 - passes through consecutive positions at times dates indicated:-
A. 39.35 N. 70.43 W. 0930/7. B. 38.53 N. 62.33 W. 0759/9.
C. 40.33 N. 51.36 W. 0800/11. D. 43.30 N. 45 W. 0801/14.
E. (Chop) 50.23 N. 40.01 W. 0800/18. from departure to A. 12 knots on surface diving at will. A. to C. runs submerged at 2 knots during daylight 7th, thereafter advancing 264 miles daily on surface diving at discretion. From C. to E. S. of A. 115 miles daily submerged by day surface in darkness. Same routeing will be followed by HADDO 48 hours later, operation orders will provide compliance Admiralty 030223Z C.O's will be instructed C.B.03092. Onward routeing from Chop requested if practicable. Q.Z. messages supplied.
(Comnav, 040559 to Admty (has been passed to F.O.(S)). See Comnav, 060031 to Admty).
This is a paraphrase of Comsublant 041629.
A. Ref. Comsublant 040205.
B. Cominch has directed that chop position (E) and time be changed to latitude 46.58 N. longitude 40.01 W. 0208Z/April 17.
C. Ref. Comnav 040559.
(Comnav, 041938 to Admty F.O.S.) Note: 0205/4 is contained in 0559/4.
This is a paraphrase of Comsublant 041417.
A. Refer Comsublant 030827.
B. Change longitude of Chop to 40° W.
C. Substitute S.P. 176 (94 to 99) inclusive for 355 which is not held.
D. Refer Comnav, 031456.
(Comnav, 041937 to Admty F.O.(S)).

/U.S...

4.4.1943.
Sunday

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Floating (V.C.N.S. 041120B to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy.
 Docks
 Allocation.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	UGANDA	33° N. 33° W.	Patrol	Blank
1800 G.M.T.	F.S. GEORGES	23° N. 36° W.	Patrol	Blank
4th.	LEYGUES			
	CILICIA	13° N. 32° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARNARVON	10° N. 27° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	QUEEN OF	13½° N. 25° W.	296°	16
	BERMUDA			
	SS. ANDES	36½° N. 54° W.	238°	19
			altering to 284° at approx. 2100/4.	
	MILFORD with) Floating Dock	00½° N. 46½° W.	087°	5
	DESPATCH	05½° S. 30° W.	241°	20
	T.A. 39 A	45½° N. 26½° W.	240°	17¾
	T.A. 38 A.	42° N. 63° W.	260°	19
	(D.O.D. (F) 041140Z to Opnav (R) Comnav).			

Movements Arrived and left U.S. transport STATE OF MARYLAND
 4th April San Juan 5th.
 (Treasurer Dominica 041200 to Admty).
 Departure SUDBURY, SHAWINIGAN, KAMLOOPS to
 escort O.N. 174.
 (Cdre. I/C Halifax, 041409Z to Admty).
 Following just received San Diego departures March 12. U.S.S.
 MOUNT VERNON Noumea 25th March, U.S.S. WHARTON Samoa and
 Noumea 24th March. March 17th U.S.S. MERCURY, Espiritu Santo
 4th April. U.S.S. PATUXENT Noumea 3rd April.
 (N.S.H.Q., 041817Z to Admty).

S.H. 77 Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 041326Z to Admty).

H. J. 44 Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 041400Z.
 3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 080500Z. 4. 7.5 knots.
 5. (M) 44.32 N. 62.21 W. (N) 44.49 61.01
 E.T.A. 050600Z. (O) 43.45 57.14. (P) 44.51 54.59.
 (Q) 46.20 52.19 (R) 47.31 52.15.
 Louisburg H/V and detaching position N.
 6. VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM.
 (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 041345Z, 041349Z to Admty).

U.C/C.U. Request information whether dry-cargo ships of
 Convoys, suitable speed are acceptable for inclusion in
 Dry Cargo U.C/C.U. convoys.
 Ships. 2. If so what is minimum speed required and num-
 ber that can be accepted.
 (D.T.D., 041451Z to Connv (R) C. in C. W.A.)

/S/M...

Lion A.W.1
150A.
151A.

MOST SECRET

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

OUT

041120B/April.

Date: 4.4.43.

TO: B.A.D.

Naval Cypher XD Plug

FROM: Admiralty.

U.S. Floating Docks - Allocation.

Your 010025Z.

2. Docking projects approved and tentative, were unreservedly communicated to Captain Greer Duncan U.S.N., when he was making a survey of our requirements on behalf of Navy Department.
3. At that time, November 1942, we had not intimation that our requisition for a Sectional Dock had been accepted, nor of its probable date of delivery. This was communicated later in LORSA 6219 of 11th December. The tentative suggestion that the Sectional Dock, if and when provided, might go to Malta and later to Singapore was included in a comprehensive departmental review of our docking facilities in the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean, prepared Mid November 1942, in the light of events in the Mediterranean and with regard to the fact that its date of delivery was an unknown factor. The suggestion was never accepted by the Board, as it was held that the strategic requirement for the dock remained the Indian Ocean and LORSA 6219 indicated a prospect of the dock being available during 1943. Moreover, it has since been established that no berth is or can be made available for such a dock at Malta.
4. The tentative departmental suggestion made five months ago, quoted by U.S. has thus been unfortunately divorced from its context and from subsequent developments.
5. Apart from the tentative departmental suggestion of temporary use at Malta based on the situation in November, the dock has always been intended for the

Indian.....

MOST SECRET

150B

-2-

Indian Ocean and this has been indicated in all SALOR messages. It is to be regretted that a frank communication of a tentative proposal that was not adopted and has since proved to be impracticable should be used as an argument for depriving us of a dock which remains a vital requirement in the Indian Ocean.

6. At present we have only the Durban Graving Dock for capital ships. The Capetown Dock will not complete until 1945. The Floating Dock building in India for Kilindini will not be available before mid 1944. We hope to build second similar dock in India, but this cannot at the earliest be ready before second half of 1945. Moreover, difficulty in shipment of the large quantity of steel required in view of other urgent requirements for shipping to India may render the project impracticable. This second Indian dock was intended to cover the possibility of loss or damage to one of our docks existing or building - which would be a vital loss - and to meet a requirement for Singapore anticipated as arising by the time it completed.

7. Meanwhile reliance had been placed on the Sectional Dock being available by the end of 1943. It was intended to berth it at Bombay, if berthing difficulties can be overcome, or if not, at another base in the Indian Ocean where it is a vital requirement for the maintenance and repair of the major forces we shall have to employ in the Indian Ocean for the war against Japan.

8. The requirement cannot be met from any other source and without a guarantee that the Sectional Dock will be supplied, we are faced with the fact that our docking facilities for capital ships will be hopelessly inadequate for the Eastern Fleet.

9. Although it was never intended that this dock should go to Malta, it is not inappropriate to point out that Malta is only 1,100 miles further from Singapore than Durban, and has the best repair facilities within reach of Singapore. It must, therefore, be regarded as an essential part of the repair facilities of the Indian Ocean once the Mediterranean area is cleared up.

10.....

150e
MOST SECRET

-3-

10. The position is being discussed with Captain Greer Duncan, U.S.N. with a view to getting him to send a message to Washington to correct the wrong impression given by the telegram quoted in your 010025Z.

041120B

for D. of D. (643)

Approved by V.C.N.S

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L
Contr.
Vice Contr.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
Sec.
Nay. Sec.
P.A.S. (S)
A.S. (C)
U.W.R.
D.N.I. (4)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
Hd. of M. (2)
D. of P. (2)
I.P. (2)
D. of D. 57. OBI (D. 08526/43)
Ad. Blake. (4)
W.D.
Dep. Contr.)
D. of D) Bath by courier.
Hd. of S.W.R.)

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - contd.

S/M (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 041516Z, 041517Z,
estimate 041552Z, 041553Z, 041554Z).
April 4th.
U.S. S/M
Notice.

Situation Section East J.H. (?47) THREE RIVERS 046° 32'
Reports. 053° 03' 229° 8.
J.H. 46 A. MAL(?P)EQUE, WASAGA departs St. Johns
N.F. 2000Z course 196° altering to 229° in 046°
37' N. J.H. 45 A AYRSHIRE, PAYNTER 044° 16'

057° (?112°) 275° 7.
Section East ST. KENAN, SS. TALARALITE 044° 22' 059° 20' 275°
9.5 altering to 265° in 062° 25' W.
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5 vicinity 045° 30' 047° 20' to St. Johns
N.F. 12 knots.
S.C.22, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2. 048° 20' 046° 20' (?345°) 11.5.
Section East B. BELHAVEN, WEDGE, FRANKLIN, NANAIMO St. Johns
N.F. approaches inbound.
CHELSEA vicinity 046° 30' 049° (?30') to join S.C. 125.
U.S.S. EARTHASQUAN 043° 45' 055° 41' 266° (?7).
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 041620Z to Admty).

My 041620Z add U.S. Task Force 22 consisting of 13 ships
43.59 N. 57.58 W. to 45.00 55.00 thence to Argentina.
S. of A. 12 knots. T.A. 38 A, 42.42 58.12 275° alter to 285°
in 42.44 58.29 and to 327° in 43.36 62.47 speed of advance 20
knots.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 041522Z to Admty).
Section South west H.X. 232 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6 042° 00'
064° 14' 056° 9 altering to (?181° or 148°) in 061° 36' (?West).
H. H.X. 232 ST. CLAIR, MULGRAVE vicinity 044° 07' 062° 43'
to join H.X. 232 in 043° 16' 060° 46' speed 10.
O.N. 174 Task Unit 24.18.9 042° 28'. 059° 22' 248° 9.
Halifax portion O.N. 174 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.3 vicinity 042°
58' 059° 11' en route for Halifax 9 knots.
H.F. 46 PORT HOPE, TRANSCONA 044° 19' 063° (?30') (?240°)
(?7).5 altering to 231° in 064° (?02') W. and 268° in 065° 26' W.
and (?323°) in 066° 08' W.
H.J. 44 VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM 044° 31' 062° 30' 074° 7.5
altering to 110° in 061° 01' W.
X.(?B) 42 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4. 043° 58' 064° 06' 231° 7, altering
to 268° (?in) 065° 27' W.
H.X. 41 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1 departing position 042° 31' 070° 28'
at 2300Z course 086° speed 7.5.
U.S. ships (?INGRAM) RAPIDAN 043° 07' 066° (?17') 265° 9.5.
altering to 237° in 068° 49' W. U.S.S. DUANE 041° 39'
(?068°) 48'. 245° 16.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 041650Z to Admty).

SALISBURY. Request you will reply direct to B.A.M.R's
022140. (SALISBURY expected Boston. Should arrive
about 7th April. Request E.T.A.)
B.A.M.R. is requested in future to address such
signals direct to C. in C. C.N. W.A.,
(N.S.H.Q., 041547Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) B.A.M.R.,
S.B.N.O.W.At. SALISBURY, C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F.)

/Shipping...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Shipping construction, follow on programme. L.O.R.S.A. 8340. Navy Dept. now considering follow on programmes in most classes of ships and there are indications that the construction of certain classes may be reduced to a minimum or eliminated altogether see C.C.S.137/7 para 18.

(2) Impossible to say what our outstanding requirements will be for the following on programmes now under consideration since it is entirely dependent on the future rate of assignments of which we can get no indication.

(3) We consider it necessary to reaffirm our outstanding requirements at this stage in order that they should not be overlooked.

(4) The British outstanding requirements, having taken into consideration all decision of the M.A.C. (Navy) up to first April 1943, appear to be as follows:-

(5) A.C.V.20. Demand frigate 288, A.M.220 ft. 20, P.C.180 Ft. 135, Y.M.S. 119, A.R.S.6 (Two steel and four wood) Steel bat and A.T.R.10, Y.N.20, A.P.C.20, P.T.32. Aircraft rescue boat 42. H.D.M.L. 72 ft. 30 (British only).

(6) Request early confirmation of these figures and an indication of the desired monthly rate of delivery in each class.

(B.A.D.,041651Z 051731Z to Admty).

F.H.46 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 041736Z to Admty).

H.F.46 Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 041800Z.
3. E.T.A. St. John N.B. 061008Z. Cape Cod 070500Z. 4. 7.5 knots.
5. K. 44.05 N. 64.02 W. L. 43.16 N. 65.26 W. M. 43.14 N. 66.08 W. N. 43.48 N. 66.46 W. O. 44.23 N. 66.36 W. Ships for Cape Cod detach pos. (N) and proceed P.43.54 N. 68.06 W. Q. 43.12 N. 70.00 W. R. 42.21 N. 70.13 W. S. 42.14 N. 70.14 W. T. 42.10 N. 70.19 W. U. 41.50 N. 70.20 W. thence to Cape Cod Canal.
6. PORT HOPE, TRANSCONA.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 041745Z, 041749Z to Admty).

U.G.L.2 (1) Sailing telegram part 1.
(2) 2000Z April 5th point Z seaward end of swept channel.
(3) Position K at 2130Z April 6th. S. of A. 8 knots. (5) K. 36.48 N. 73.22 W. L. 34.58 N. 69.02 W. M. 32.53 N. 64.44 W. (6) Task Group 68.1 U.S.S. NELSON, U.S. Destroyer MADDOX, U.S.S. GLENNON, U.S.S. BUTLER, U.S.S. SEER, U.S.S. SENTINEL, U.S.S. HERNDON, P.C.543 P.C.546, P.C.562.
(8) Stragglers route same as ocean route positions given in item 5.
(Port Director New York 041746Z as amended 052058 to Connnav, (R) Admty. etc) See 061450Z.

/U/B...

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4.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U/B attacked. My 041705Z (N.T. in W.D.) (?VIDETTE) is attacking U-boat (?detected) by H/F D/F and sighted astern in $056^{\circ} 06' 036^{\circ} 31'$.
(S.O. B.7 041750Z, 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., H.M.S. ICARUS, A.C.I.C., Ships escorting O.N. 175, 4th Escort Group).
- U/B Hialeah submarine sighted Lat. 205° in Long. 84.40 W. at 1851 G.C.T./04.
(Cominch Group 13, No T.O.O. Recd. 0427 G.M.T. 5th to B.A.M.S.2 B). *(sic).
- O.N.167 O.N.167. NORLEG water in oil instructed proceed St. Johns direct. 3 stragglers BRAND, HOLLEWOOD, EMPIRE METEOR 1900Z. P.C. and S. (X) $53^{\circ} 12' N$.
 $40^{\circ} 45' W$. $187^{\circ} 8$. At 2255Z course 147° at 0555 175° at 0650 208° weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3 041910Z 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.)
- J.H.46. J.H.46 my 041201 (N.T. in W.D.) Tug DAISY sheltering at Bay Bulls.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 041924Z to Admty. (R) N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.C.S.O. Montreal, C.T.24, Connav, THREE RIVERS).
- S.C.125 KINGCUP. Owing to small margin of speed PACIFIC unable to overtake S.C.125 and returning to St. Johns N.F. KINGCUP proceeding and expects to overtake S.C.125 about 050300Z weather report.
(KINGCUP 041930Z C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. etc).
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times (Z) (C) Blimp H.C.5 made contact $23^{\circ} 50' N$, $81^{\circ} 12' W$. 032300.
(D) Fishing Vessel sights Conning Tower $40^{\circ} 08' N$. $73^{\circ} 39' W$. 031525. Panair Pilot sights object and swirl course $120 11^{\circ} 38' N$, $79^{\circ} 25' W$. 032027. Sub. reported area $22^{\circ} 59' S$. $42^{\circ} 48' W$. 31st March.
(Cominch, 042030Z to Admty).
- L.C.I.(L)s Departing Bermuda in accordance with Cominch 1947/27 March. About 052100 April for Gibraltar.
L.C.I.(L)s 114, 117, 185, 187, 249, 150, 252, 253, 263, 266, 269, 273, 275, 296, 297, 298, 299, 314, 317, (Route) Speed 10 knots E.T.A. 19 1000Z April.

/L.C.I.(L)...

War Diary.4.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

L.C.I.(L)s. L.C.I.(L) 269 (call sign CZRY) and L.C.I.(L)
(contd). 296, 297, 298, 299, 114.
Admiralty pass to N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Med.,
V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 042135 as amended N.O.B.
Bermuda 051838Z to Connav, Info. Cinclant,
N.S.H.Q., Admty. C.in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar,
Comorseafon, F.O.C.W.Af. S.B.N.O.W.At.
Comtaskforce 69.)

ESCAPADE, ESCAPADE and GARLAND E.T.A. St. Johns N.F.
GARLAND. 050930Z.
3. NARCISSUS and AZALEA will report their own
E.T.A.
(C.T.U. 24.1.17, 042353Z to F.O.N.F. (R)
Comtask 24, C. in C. C.N.W.A.)

Australia & Zealand.

ATREUS Departure Wellington ATREUS E.T.A. Melbourne
2359Z/8 April route direct via Baoks Strait
S. of A. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 040022Z to Admty. (R)
Comsopac).

Movements Arrivals Port Moresby 2nd VENDETTA, 3rd WARRAMUNGA
Townsville 3rd GLENELG, Brisbane 3rd WARRNAMBOOL
Rockhampton SHEPPARTON, Sydney 3rd KAIMBLA,
Freemantle 3rd NEPAL.

Departures Darwin 2nd INVERELL for Thursday Island. Sydney
2nd SHEPPARTON 3rd DELORAINÉ for Brisbane, Brisbane 3rd
Rockhampton for Sydney.
(A.C.N.B., 040218Z to Admty).
Arrival Auckland U.S.S. CYGNUS.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 040555Z to Admty).
Arrival 3rd April Port Moresby H.T. DUNTROON, R.A.A.F.
store ship WANAKA. Townsville H.T. TAROONA Hospital ship
CENTAUR. Sydney (N.S.W.) Hospital ship WANGANELLA. U.S.
transport BOTH departed Townsville 2nd due Brisbane 5th.
U.S. transport VAN HEUTZ departed Sydney (N.S.W. 3rd due
Townsville 8th.
(A.C.N.B., 041006Z to Admty).
Departure Auckland U.S. SKYLARK escorting H.T. WAHINE to
Norfolk Island E.T.A. 1800Z/7th?
(D.N.I. Wellington, 042101Z to Admty).

/Digest...

4.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Digest serial No. 438 April 3rd. Kavieng, Air Raid by Fortress A/C on Japanese Units. Shipping at Kavieng attacked before dawn 3rd 4 Fortresses bombed from 3,000 to 8,000 feet scoring 1 hit 1 large warship and 1 probable hit on destroyer. Two other probable destroyers bombed with unobserved results. Fifth Fortress hit same large warship described as possibly heavy cruiser with three 500 pound five second delay bombs from 125 feet. Vessel burst into flames and 10 minutes later exploded violently. Considered destroyed. Sixth Fortress with same type bombs from 130 feet scored 4 hits on probable light cruiser. Vessel seen to sink within 5 minutes. Seventh Fortress with similar bomb load put 2 effective bombs into side of destroyer but further results unobserved. Eighth Fortress bombed Kavieng runway. The following is a correction of my 040846 (N.T. in W.D. 7040801 intended). My 040849Z part 2. Total 11 ships sighted in area comprising 1 possible heavy cruiser, 2 possible light cruisers, 3 destroyers, 1 submarine, 1 Cargo vessel, 3 unidentified types. (2) Afternoon R/C Liberator sighted single medium cargo vessel 40 miles South of Kavieng course 135° Scored possible direct hit with bomb stick. Later saw 3 probable destroyers 1 cargo ship 45 miles North West of Rabaul course 240° South ? (3) Morning search Liberator bombed bridge and village open Bay East of Ubili. Later bombed vessel of 500 tons beached Finschhafen Peninsula possible same vessel as sighted previous day. My 040849Z. (7) Six Hudsons bombed and Strafed airfield area vicinity Kaukenau from low level forenoon hitting barges huts and motor trucks. One Hudson lost. (8) Two Beaufighters carried out early straffing of barges and Langgoer strip in Kai Islands. (9) Saumlaki Township bombed at dawn by three B.25s and after noon by Liberator returning from Ambon where five ships including three large seen in Bay. (G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 030849Z). Note: This is Part I of 040849. Not yet received. Note: The First part of this message has already been circulated under T.O.O. 040801 (This was circulated but not retained). The correct T.O.O. is 040849 and the message is now complete.

ALSEY, Your 121718 and A.C.N.B. 290801. ALSEY should
 ATREUS. sail to Melbourne with ATREUS.
 (D.T.M., 041425B to N.Z.N.B., (R) A.C.N.B.,
 ATREUS, ALSEY).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
 (D.D.I.C., 041549B).

5.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

1. Commencing with Convoys O.N.S.2, O.N.176, S.C.126 and H.X.232 "Chop" will be at the same time and date as Westomp and will be promulgated by the sailing authority that sails the relieving escorts.

Home Commands.

Weather

2. Portsmouth was closed on account of fog from 0723B to 1306B today.
INGLEFIELD at 1035B reported that Escort Group 4, less ICARUS, was hove to in 61°12' N. 27.28 W. FURY has lost her dome. The group cannot join H.X.231 before dark.
H.M.C.S.KENOGAMI at 1630Z reported her wheel house, bridge and boats smashed by the sea. Her compass is damaged and she estimated her position as 58.08 N. 18.30 W. She is returning to Londonderry at 12 knots.
HIGHLANDER, S.O. of escort of Convoy O.N.176, is unable to operate her asdic dome on account of damage.

Dover batteries shell enemy convoy.

0019-0213
3. In the early hours of this morning/the coastal batteries near Dover fired 77 rounds of 15 inch and 15 rounds of 9.2 inch at one large and possibly one medium escorted vessel leaving Boulogne eastbound. The main target remained stopped for some time and finally proceeding at 4 knots to Calais, possibly in tow. Enemy coastal batteries replied and caused some civilian damage in the Dover and Folkestone areas, but no casualties.
M.G.B's sank an enemy trawler off Dunkirk early this morning and took some prisoners, M.G.B.110 suffered considerable hull damage.

Heavy Air attack on Kiel.

4. 507 out of 577 aircraft which set out dropped 1400 tons of bombs on Kiel last night in 10/10ths cloud up to 10,000ft, 12 aircraft are missing. 12 Venturas of Bomber Command attacked a tanker in Dry Dock No.2 at Brest today. Bombs were seen to burst around Dry Docks 2 and 3 alongside the tanker; and hits were also reported on the Arsenal and Naval Barracks.
83 heavy bombers of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked Ostend today.
At 1544 a Sunderland aircraft attacked a U-Boat whilst submerging in 49.56 N. 23.30 W. A large patch of oil appeared on the surface and objects resembling bodies or clothing were seen in the explosion area.
An aircraft from Iceland escorting H.X.23, at 1152B sighted a U-Boat surfacing in 58.20 N. 31.52 W. and attacked from 50 ft. when the U-Boat

was/ ...

5.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation
"Enclose".

was fully surfaced. The spray of the first depth charge was seen to cover the conning tower in which 4 men were seen when the U-boat surfaced. From dusk today until dusk 12 April (q.v.) an A/S air patrol was carried out in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay. (See North Atlantic).

5. Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary is suspected last night. N.O.I.C. Murmansk reports raids this morning and and this afternoon on ships anchored in the Michikov area. No damage or casualties were caused
North Atlantic.

Air
Offensive
against U/Bs
in Biscay area
(Operation
"Enclose").

6. Whilst U-boats are still unable to read our cm. A.S.V. a heavy and as far as possible continuous air attack is being staged out against them as they cross the Bay of Biscay. It will be extremely difficult to provide sufficient aircraft. The U.S. have transferred two Liberator squadrons from the Bay patrol to Casablanca, thus in the opinion of the Admiralty, making this area over insured. It is consequently intended to withdraw No. 210 Catalina Squadron for use in the Bay where its Leigh Lights are urgently required.

U/B
attacked.

7. An aircraft attacked a U-boat in 27.48 N. 14° or 0° 58' W. at 1010A and estimates one hit; a Hudson W/233 attacked a U-boat in 27.40 N. 15.20 W. at 1658A today, and straddled the enemy on the surface at an angle of 30°. The U-boat submerged slowly after the attack leaving an oil patch 400 x 50 yds. and a bright green patch in the water.

Mines off
Casablanca.

8. Enemy acoustic and magnetic mines were exploded by sweepers off Casablanca this morning. Others were exploded on 6th April.

South Atlantic.

9. It is reported that a Brazilian aircraft today attacked a submarine in 11.25 S. 35.27 W; some wreckage and 3 life preservers appeared.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

10. S.O. Force H in NELSON with RODNEY, FORMIDABLE and 10 destroyers arrived at Oran today from Gibraltar.

11. A convoy of 10 storeships, two troopships, and a tanker for Tripoli (L), 2 storeships, a troopship, and a tanker for Malta sailed from Alexandria today.

12. M.T.Bs. from Bone carried out a sweep to Bizerta Roads last night. No targets were found.

13. KATSONIS at 1000 today sank by torpedo and gunfire a small north bound Spanish merchant ship close inshore west of Thermis.

14. ABDIEL laid mines in the Sicilian Channel last night, covered by destroyers for Force K. The operation was completed unseen.

Destroyer
blown up.

15. 16 B.25s escorted by 26 P.38s bombed a convoy 15 miles N.E. of Cape Bon. Direct hits and several near misses were made on all 3 large merchant ships in the convoy, and also one destroyer was blown up and 2 barges hit.

4 Liberators bombed Palermo harbour last night and 21 at dusk today.

5 Halifaxes and 31 Wellingtons bombed Sfax last night.

11 out of 25 B.24s which took off attacked Naples last night. Hits were seen on oil storage facilities and on Vigliena Mole

15 Wellingtons bombed Trapani docks and shipping last night.

16. Ten aircraft from Malta laid mines in the approaches to Trapani harbour last night.

East Indies.

17.

K.B.1

The first Karachi to Bombay Convoy K.B.1 arrived at Bombay today.

/Addu...

5.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies - Contd.

Addu Atoll.

18. The number of mines which have broken adrift from the controlled minefield at Addu Atoll is such that the minefield no longer affords adequate measure of protection. F.O. Ceylon asks for instructions as to relaying or abolition of controlled mining at Addu.

America & West Indies.

U/B attack
on H.X. 231,
3 more ships
sunk.

19. At 0950Z the U.S. tanker SUNOIL, a straggler from H.X. 231, was attacked in 56.38 N. 36.51 W. VIDETTE was detached to assist her. SUNOIL reported again at 1543 that she was being attacked and followed in 58.16 N. 34.14 W. She was sunk.

At 1330Z Dutch BLITAR who had broken away to the eastward earlier reported that she was being attacked in 56.46 N. 30.45 W. It was later reported that she was torpedoed about 2355Z in approx. 57.45 N. 27.30 W. and sank within half an hour.

In a further attack on the convoy in 58.08 N. 32.50 W. at 1415Z by one U-boat the escort oiler BRITISH ARDOUR was torpedoed and sunk. Escort Group 4 (Supporting Group) was hove to this afternoon in 61.12 N. 27.28 W. and could not join H.X. 231 today.

20. U.S. JOHN SEVIER was torpedoed at 1155 today in 20.49 N. 74.00 W. (240 miles east of San Salvador, Bahamas).

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Biscay S/M
Routes
"Gold" and
"Rose".

Your 1241A/31 after consultation with S.O. Group 19 the following routes, which it is considered should cause less interference with aircraft anti U-boat operation than those proposed, are suggested.

(2) Suggested route (A) "Gold" from 49.46 N. 06.00 W. 180° to 44.00 N. 06.00 W, thence 270° to 44.00 N. 10.00 W, thence 180° to 43.00 N.
 (B) "Rose" from 49.46 N. 06.30 W. 180° to 44.20 N. 06.30 W, thence 270° to 44.20 N. 10.28 W, thence 180° to 43.00 N.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 051149B to F.O.S.)

VANOC,
VERITY.Request information as to whether it is intended to pay off VANOC and VERITY and convert them into long leggers.
(VANOC 051155B to Admty).Movements.S/M
Movements.My 041630B postponed in view of C. in C. Plymouth's 050603.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 050625 B to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 041736 para. (L) amend as follows:

PEARL R/V in 333° Eddystone 4 miles at 051700 with KINGSTON TURQUOISE, TAKU, SICKLE and URSULA and escort SICKLE to 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles. KINGSTON TURQUOISE with URSULA and TAKU enter Plymouth.

(F.O.S., 050821B to Admty).

Cancel my 050821 and para. (L) of my 041736. This movement now postponed.

(F.O.S., 050847).

Request you sail TAKU, SICKLE and URSULA escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE astern of M.S. 4 as far as Dart Point by direct route to arrive Plymouth by 2100 Tuesday.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 051109B to N.O.I.C. Portland).

My 041630B. Sails 1145. Proceeding astern of 4th M/S F. across Lyme Bay. E.T.A. position DD 2030/5.

(N.O.I.C. Portland, 051145B).

Intend to sail SATYR with escort detailed by PHILANTE from Campbeltown area at 2359B/5 for Londonderry, E.T.A. 0700B/6.

(Capt. S.3., 051147B).

Sailed BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Comsubron 50's 031510.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 051536).

My 051145B. Recalled Portland owing to fog.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051552).

Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/6 and movements for following 24 hours. All times Zone B.

(A) BARB in Zone K.193.

(B) SEVERN in Zone K.192.

(C) TRUCULENT in Zone K.151 leaving patrol at 2100/6 probably on the surface through 69° 01' N. 09° 59' E. and 62° 02' N. 00° 11' E.

(D) SEA NYMPH in Zone K.150 leaving patrol at 2100/6 probably on the surface through 68° 22' N., 10° 01' E. and 62° 00' N. 01° 00' E.

/(E)...

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Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- S/M
Movements.
- (E) TEMPLAR in Zone K.148 moving p.m./6th to patrol in Zones K.162 and K.163.
- (F) TUNA from south eastward vicinity 69° N. 04° W. to patrol between this position and Jan Mayen Island.
- (G) STUBBORN 68° 12' N., 07° 33' E. probably on surface speed 9 knots through 69° 00' N., 08° 52' E. to patrol Zone K.190.
- (H) BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE 56° 52' N., 07° 06' W. proceeding West of Orkneys and Shetlands due 359° Muckle Flugga 5 miles at 0500/7, thence unescorted speed about 14 knots through 62° 01' N., 01° 27' W, thence to north eastward.
- (J) USURPER escorted by TADOUSSAC vicinity Ailsa Craig for Holy Loch.
- (K) TRESPASSER 44° 22' N., 13° 22' W. dived by day, due 43° 00' N., 13° 22' W. at 0230/7.
- (L) SPORTSMAN 44° 10' N., 12° 54' W. dived by day, due 43° 01' N. 12° 54' W. at 0230/7.
- (M) SHAD 44° 00' N., 09° 30' W. dived by day, through 43° 59' N., 11° 20' W. and 44° 20' N., 12° 26' W. at 0800/7, thence to northward.
- (N) HERRING 43° 33' N., 09° 50' W. dived by day through 43° 20' N., 12° 01' W. at 0200/7, thence through 44° 20' N., 12° 54' W. thence to northward.
(F.O.S., 051616B).
Intend to sail H.28 escorted by KIHNA to Portland at 060800. They will proceed along Q.Z. message S.392.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051727B).
My 051552B.
- Intend sailing at 0700/6th in company and being swept by Fourth Flotilla mine sweeping as far as 180° Start Point 4 miles thence proceed position DD to comply with Capt. (S) 5th 0935A/31.
 - Routed in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth 031045A April.
(N.O.I.C. Portland, 051810B).
My 051616. Add para. O. TAKU, URSULA and SICKLE escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE leave Portland 0700B/6 E.T.A. 333° Eddystone 4 miles 1800B/6. Thence TAKU and KINGSTON TURQUOISE to Plymouth, SICKLE and URSULA escorted by KIHNA to 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles. Thence URSULA and KIHNA to Clyde, SICKLE dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 00' W. Add para. (P) SATYR escorted leaves Campbeltown 2359B/5 for Londonderry, E.T.A. 0700B/6.
(F.O.S., 052134B).
My 051616 para. (O). For KIHNA read PEARL. Add para.
 - (Q) H.28 escorted by KIHNA leaves Plymouth 0800/6 for Portland, 8 knots.
(F.O.S., 052341B).

ARCHER My 031904A and 031906A. Sailing delayed 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 051724B).

INDOMITABLE. Arrived INDOMITABLE.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast, 051905B).

/KING...

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

KING HAAKON VII. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's O31350. On completion of repairs at Belfast about 15th April it is requested that KING HAAKON VII be sailed for Halifax.
(D.A/S.W. 0519518B to C. in C. W.A.)

FURIOUS Intend sail FURIOUS at 0700B/6 to R/V with PATHFINDER, PENN, and BRISSENDEN at Clyde light vessel at 1000B/6, thence proceeding in company to Scapa. E.T.A. Hoxa Gate 0800B/7th. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 052128B and 060853).

Operations.

E-boats off Portland. Suspect E-boat Group A. 249° Portland Bill 16 Course 325°, Group B. 253° Portland Bill 11 course 325° Group C. 257° Portland Bill 5 course 020°. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 leaving Dartmouth to intercept.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 050029B to Escorts P.W. Convoy).
Portland defences opened fire on enemy plots on bearing 232° between 12,000 and 18,000 yds. between 0032 and 0040/5th. Blacknore - 9.2" fired 6 rounds. Southwell A/A battery - 3.7" fired 58 rounds.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 050231B to Admty).

Denmark Strait Patrol. Your 041404B. Concur expect that 3rd Destroyer will be required to screen HOWE in accordance with my 051053B.
(C. in C. H.F., 051213B to C.S.10).

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 269 (S.O.) and M.L. 233 to patrol tonight on 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/6.
3. Object: Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051224B).
1. S.G.B.6, M.T.B.243, 242 to carry out sweep of Enemy Coastal route between Cap Barfleur and Cap D'Antifer tonight 5/6 April.
2. Sail from Newhaven to pass E.A.5 Buoy at 2100 thence through Passage 3.
3. Return by Passage 3 or Passage 2 to be within 20 miles of own Coast by daylight. E.A.5 Patrol Area to be avoided during dark Hours.
4. Codeword "Advent".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051445B).
2. S.G.B.6, M.T.B. 243, 242 patrolling to the southward from Portsmouth.
3. M.L. 572, 464 patrolling southward of E.A.5 Buoy.
4. Chasseur 41 at St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
5. M.Ls. 233, 269 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 2° 25' W, and 1° 45' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051451B).
My 051224B. "Device" sailed at 2100.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 052150B).

/Engagements...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

Engagements
in Dover
Straits.
1 Flakship
and 1
R-boat
probably
destroyed.
1 R-boat
damaged.
1 Enemy
Trawler sunk.
M. G. B. 110
and 113
damaged.

Brief narrative of events in the Dover Command during night 4/5th April;
1. At 1855 eight small vessels were detected by R.D.F. operating between Wissant and Sangatte. Seven Typhoons of 609 Squadron under Swingate ground control were diverted to attack and identified the target as six R-boats with sweeps streamed and one small Flak ship. Aircraft claim one Flak ship and one R-boat set on fire and probably destroyed and one R-boat damaged.
2. At 2330, R.D.F. detected one large vessel and possibly one medium, with six close escorts and a screen of smaller vessels to seaward leaving Boulogne eastbound at 13 knots. Our coastal batteries engaged between 0019 and 0213, firing 71 rounds of 15 - inch and 15 rounds of 9.2-inch. The main target and some escorts reduced speed at 0030, remained

practically stationary and finally proceeded eastward at four knots, (possibly in tow), arriving off Calais at 0240 and entering at 0530.

Jim Crow, aircraft reports at 0720/5 that the 4/5000 ton vessel (M.51) which entered Boulogne from the westward 14th March has departed and a similar vessel is berthed in the approach channel at Calais, P.R.U. Calais has been requested.

3. Enemy coastal batteries replied with about 35 rounds which fell in the Dover and Folkestone areas causing some damage to house property, but no casualties or damage to Naval property have been reported.

4. M.T.Bs. which were on patrol at No.4 buoy were unable to intercept off Blanc Nez owing to a confused plot which made it difficult to identify the enemy so they were despatched to Dunkirk channel, but were recalled at 0257 when it became apparent from the plot that the enemy intended to enter Calais. Enemy coastal batteries fired two accurate salvos at the M.T.Bs. during their return, but no damage was sustained.

5. At 0230, M.G.Bs. 110, 117, and 113, who were covering M.Ls. during operation N.L. 86 (which was abandoned owing to extreme visibility) engaged 4 enemy trawlers three miles N.E. of Dunkirk and, after setting one trawler on fire, boarded and took her in tow. The trawler was diesel-engined and it was hoped to re-start her engines. This unfortunately proved impossible, tow was abandoned, and trawler finally sunk by depth-charges. About seven of the enemy were killed and thirteen taken prisoner, five of whom were seriously injured.

Casualties sustained by M.G.Bs. two ratings seriously wounded in 110 and one rating seriously wounded in 113. M.G.B.110 suffered considerable hull damage, 113 slight damage, and 117 only superficial damage.

6. At 0340, one Albacore of 841 Squadron, under Swingate ground control, patrolling between Berck buoy and Le Treport, was diverted to attack three small vessels plotted by R.D.F. 11 miles Northwest of Le Treport proceeding South-Westerly at 10 knots. At 0418, in good visibility, aircraft identified the target as one medium size and two smaller vessels and

/attacked...

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagements in Dover Straits. 1 Flakship and 1 R-boat probably destroyed. 1 R-boat damaged. 1 Enemy Trawler sunk. M.G.B. 110 and 113 damaged. (contd).

attacked with 6 x 250 lbs. bombs from 1500 feet. Large flash was observed and sparks and flames were still visible 3 minutes after the attack. Plot remained stationary for some 40 minutes, finally fading one mile west of the scene of the attack. Whirlwinds of 137 Squadron were flown off at first light to attack the damaged vessel but were unable to locate her. (V.A. Dover, 051252B and 051935B).

Operation "Regulation".

"Regulation". 4 NARVIK class destroyers were seen at Bordeaux on 4th April. PORTLAND at and OSORNO had left, PIETRO ORSEOLO had arrived. HIMALAYA was seen at La Pallice April 4th. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051459B to C. in C. W.A., UGANDA, MATCHLESS, METEOR, CHARYBDIS, NEWFOUNDLAND, PIORUN, ORKAN).

Exercises.

A.L.T. Exercise HOWE.

A.C.I.C. pass H.Q.C.C. 041224B to C.S.10 and HOWE. HOWE and Screen are to sail to act as target for A.L.T. which will take place p.m. on day of transfer of 144 Squadron. (2) Suggest attack takes in an area S.E. of Reykjanes passage.

(3) It would increase the value of the exercise if R/C of HOWE and homing of 144 Squadron were carried out by Iceland air. (C. in C. H.F., 051053B to C.S.10 HOWE).

Allied Air Activity.

Biscay Area.

A.M. 0330A/10 March. P.R. on 2nd April shows a blockade-runner has arrived in Bordeaux presumably with a valuable cargo from the Far East.

2. This increases the importance of the targets in this area and the need for action before the cargo can be unloaded and dispersed. (A.C.N.S. H., 050021B to H.Q.C.C.)

Bomber Command operations.

On day 4th April 23 A/C bombed Rotterdam and straddled a sperrbrecher; and on night 4/5th 507 A/C bombed Kiel. (H.Q.B.C., 051330B).

Western Channel.

From 052200B till dawn 6th Aircraft will fly patrols X and X.A. as in my 081411A/March. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051521B).

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

2 Enemy A/C destroyed. Following from Sunk Head Fort. Claim 2 planes destroyed in engagement with enemy A/C tonight. At 2142 one Ju.88 flew past Fort 40 ft. above sea level range 200 yards. 9 rounds fired Bofors S.A.S. port engine hit and fire started. Plane seen to crash in sea bearing 250° range under 4,000 yards. Flash and loud under sea explosion seen and felt from this position at 2240. Second plane engaged at 2200 S.L.C. control bearing 180° height 1000 ft. Range 5,000 yards increasing at 9,000 yards echo seemed to explode and disappear completely. Type 273 set which was following same echo confirmed disappearance of echo at this bearing and range flash seen and explosion heard on board.
(C. in C. Nore, 050142B to Admty).

Mining.

Lyme Bay. Cancel my 050544. Proceed to carry out a searching sweep of route as in my 021145.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051022B to ROSS).
Pass Gate at 1200/5 and proceed Dartmouth sweeping convoy route.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051025B to SALTASH).
Intend sailing ROSS, ELGIN, SUTTON, LYDD and PANGBOURNE at 0700 tomorrow to Sweep Route as in your 021145A. Ships will sweep in "G" formation to Port on Western Run and H formation double Oropesa on Eastern Run on 7th April codeword "Carrant".
(ROSS, 051753B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Sweep through Q. Z. X. 771. Your 1752/23rd March and S.O.(M) 9's 041042. It is not intended to repeat this operation until next dark period when a modified plan will be employed. Request instructions for 9th M.S.F.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051509B to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

ALSTERUFER A.M. 042340B. A ship which is probably SS. ALSTERUFER has also left Bordeaux between 20th March and 4th April.
(D.D.I.C., 051203B).

OSORNO A.M. 042340B and A.M. 051203B. Further examination of photographs shows that SS. OSORNO has also left Bordeaux between 20th March, and 4th April.
(D.D.I.C., 051818B).

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-boats reported. From: Niton Radio. Intercept 2304 G.M.T.
From E.B.B. torpedo sighted 3 miles N. of Castro Urdiales.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 050104 to Admty).
Am over enemy S/M in 48.24 N. 10.10 W.
(A/C 051001 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 48° 24' N., 10° 10' W. Periscope only sighted.
(A/C 051028B to 19 Group).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051055B to Ships).
Am over enemy S/M in 58° 49' N., 32° 47' W.
(A/C MY3C 051345B to Artunshofde).
Am over enemy S/M in 57.52 N. 33.48 W. Periscope only sighted.
(A/C 051433 to Sandgerdi).
Am over enemy S/M on surface in 58° 20' N. 31° 52' W.
(A/C MY3C 051553B to Artunshofdi).
Am over enemy submarine in 49.56 N. 23.30 W.
(A/C OK3H 051618B to 15 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in (?latitude) 31° 52' W.
(A/C OM5N 051630B to Artunshofdi).

Ships attacked. Following from Tyree Radio class 3 285° distress
SUNOIL. SUNOIL. (Port Patrick Radio, 050958Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock)
SSSS Class First 279° WR 45.
(A.C.O.S., 051016Z to Admty).
Following from Port Patrick Radio. Received
1020 G.M.T. de Tyree Radio. At 1018 SSSS de WR 45 position
280 miles 200 ? degrees from position 2.
(Greenock, 051020 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Attack by enemy submarine 272° 1st class bearing.
(Gallon Head Radio, T.O.R. 051553 to Lyness).

Navigational.

Portsmouth. Port of Portsmouth closed due to fog.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 050723B).
Port of Portsmouth open.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 051306B).

Casualties & Defects.

FOREST What is your P.C.S.
(Convoy (C. in C. W.A., 050018Z to FOREST).
O.N.175). Position 065° 155 Reykjavik, drifting 090° 2
knots noon G.M.T.
(FOREST 051207B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 052115 and my 051630Z. Estimated 2000Z
P.C.S. 057° 47' N., 017° 28' W. 124° 11.
(KENOGAMI, 052005Z to C. in C. W.A.)
SS. FOREST reported her position 063° 11' N., 026° 55' W.
at 1201Z/5. Detach ADHERENT escorted by GRENADIER to tow her
to Reykjavik.
(C. in C. W.A., 052034Z to ITCHEN).

/My...

War Diary.

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Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

FOREST
(Convoy
O.N.175).
(contd).
My 052034 is cancelled. A.C.I.C. is requested to confirm with reference to his 051657 that WISTARIA and Tug SKAGLARE proceeding to assist FOREST in view of his 041455.
(C. in C. W.A., 052245Z to ITCHEN).

NOLISEMENT
NOLISEMENT with Tug SEINE sailed from Ramsey Bay for Liverpool, 0025.
(N.O.I.C. Isle of Man, 050035B).

ALGOMA
E.T.A. Lough Foyle 051600A. 271 out of action H.P. and L.P. top and bottom end bearing requires adjusting.
(ALGOMA, 051150A).

LEITH
Cancel my 041229B as amended by my 041635B. Sailing delayed owing to further defects.
(F.O. Humber 051301B).

MANSFIELD
My 21/1030Z/3rd. Owing to evaporator defects MANSFIELD will be unable to sail with O.N. 177. Estimated date of completion April 15th.
(C. in C. W.A., 051359Z to C.T.F.24).

HAFFARI
Fishing Vessel HAFFARI. On passage Iceland - Aberdeen, 70 ton fish. Aground Otterswick Bay Sanday 0515 today.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 051425B).

SALTASH
My 051231B. SALTASH returned Plymouth with defects.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051513B).

ROLF JARL
A.C.I.C's 021946A. Assume you will take necessary action.
(Capt. Rescue Tugs, 051840B to C. in C. W.A.)

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- P.W.D.319. 9 ships and 5 escorts delayed in Falmouth due to fog. Continue with convoy.
(C. in C.Plymouth 050535B to Escorts P.W.318.)
- M.K.S.10. Detach ALGOMA, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH to Londonderry and proceed Liverpool.
(C. in C.W.A. 051009B to SHIPPIGAN.)
- H.X.231. E.G.4 less ICARUS 1200 (corrupt group) in 061° 12' N. 027° 28' W. hove to on westerly course 2 knots. FURY has lost dome. As I cannot join H.X. 231 before dark today intend to keep ahead in their vicinity. Weather 44 77 98 59.
(INGLEFIELD 051035B to C. in C.W.A.)
- "Chop". Commencing with O.N.S.2, O.N. 176, S.C.126 and H.X. 232 "Chop" will be at the same time and date as Westomp and will be promulgated by the sailing authority that sails the relieving escorts.
2. Operating authority will include western local and mid-ocean escort groups in signals made near time of Westomp.
(C. in C.W.A. 051050Z.)
- U.C.2. Your 011456A. Escort will be available.
(C. in C.W.A. 051059B to Admty.)
- D.F.4. Intend sailing LEINSTER passing Clyde boom 1700B/6th to R/V with escort in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1600B/7, then as ordered by A.C.O.S.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 051108B.)
Your 051108. CHIDDINGFOLD will be sailed to R/V with LEINSTER in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1600/7.
Onward route through 060° 20' 004° 40' and 061° 52' 005° 42' thence to Servaag.
3. Speed to be adjusted so as to make landfall at Faeroes at first light 8th.
(A.C.O.S. 051822 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- Eastbound Coastal Vessels. Your 021251A/4. Concur subject to passage of Pentland Firth being made in daylight.
(A.C.O.S. 051141A/4 to Admty.)
- T.A.39. Sailed EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 051146Z.)

/MAURETANIA...

War Diary.

5.4.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- MAURETANIA. Reply to A.M. 011732 which reads destination changed to Liverpool. Acknowledge and repeat E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel.
(D.O.D.H. 051149B to MAURETANIA.)
Following from MAURETANIA. Your 051029Z E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel 060900Z.
(Burnham Radio 051335Z to Admty.)
- C.E.166. My 041830B. C.E.166 postponed 24 hours due to fog.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 051220B.)
- P.S.5. P.S.5 and S.P.5 cancelled.
S.P.5. (C. in C.Portsmouth 051230B.)
- A.T.40. A.T.40 arrived Clyde 1416A/3rd.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 051236A to B.A.D.)
- Rescue ships. C. in C.Western Approaches 1906A/31. The following 13 trawlers have been detailed.
NORTHERN GIFT, NORTHERN PRIDE, NORTHERN FOAM, NORTHERN GEM, NORTHERN REWARD, NORTHERN SKY, NORTHERN SPRAY, NORTHERN SUN, NORTHERN WAVE, LADY MADELEINE, VIZALMA, DANEMAN, and ST. ELSTAN.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to notify conference times of O.N.S. convoys.
3. Trawlers detailed for O.N.S. 4 LADY MADELEINE and VIZALMA.
(F.O.I.C.N.I. 051330B to C. in C.W.A.)
- T.A.40. Intend sailing QUEEN ELIZABETH passing Clyde Boom 0500Z/7 to pass through 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1000Z/7, thence in accordance with Admiralty 031435A April. S.O.A. 26 knots.
"Chop" date 10th April. E.T.A. New York 0200Z/12.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 051404Z.)
- S.C.124. Hvalfjord departure BURNHAM at 1405B to rejoin.
(A.C.I.C. 051441B.)
- O.N.176. Unable to operate Asdic dome Raft and oscillator badly damaged. Have a spare oscillator on board. Request arrangements be made for docking and repairs.
(HIGHLANDER 051601Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- U.R.69. KORDECKI ROLFSBORG, Tug SAUCY arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Iceland 051615B.)

/O.N.S.2...

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Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N.S. 2. Have detailed VILLE DE QUEBEC, SHEDIAC, CAMROSE
O.N.S.J.2. to fuel Hvalfjord and rejoin. Tanker's gear
damaged on Saturday, repairs not guaranteed.
O.N.S.J.2 joined. ST. LAURENT, ST. CROIX in
company. O.N.S.2 151600Z P.C. and S. 061° 45'
N. 022° 35' W. 280° 1.

(ITCHEN 051615Z to C. in C.W.A.)

KENOGAMI heard calling G.B.X.Z. on R/T and W/T at 051136Z. No
message broadcast, no further signals heard. Communication
not established.

(ITCHEN 051629Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Wheel House, Bridge, boats smashed by sea. Compass
damaged estimated P.C. and S. 058° 08' N. 018° 30' W. 124° 12
knots. Am returning.

(KENOGAMI 051630Z to C.T.G. 24.7.)

U.C.1. Commodore Londonderry's 032005 is being passed
to you for information. Para. 7 will be
investigated on receipt of written report.
(C. in C.W.A. 051838B to Admty.)

Atlantic Convoys. It is requested that it may be stressed at
Convoy conferences in New York and Halifax that
1. Support Groups are now in service in mid-
Atlantic and are normally available to assist
threatened convoys.
2. That the water in the vicinity of a shadowed convoy is
highly dangerous and any ships deliberately breaking away from
a convoy are more than likely to be sunk and that normally
escorts cannot be spared to proceed to their assistance.
3. That if a ship straggles and cannot rejoin at Commodore's
R/V she must proceed (when East of 45° W.) by Stragglers route.
4. That if a Straggler receives a broadcast that her convoy
is shadowed and stragglers are ordered to proceed direct to
stragglers route then if she cannot rejoin before dark she is
immediately to obey this signal.
(C. in C.W.A. 051907B and 060956B to Admty.)

Rescue Tug Escort Trawlers. My 281916/3 para. 4A. To implement this policy,
9 rescue tugs and 9 escort trawlers are required.
The scheme cannot at present be fully carried out
due to lack of Escort Trawlers. Of the 6
Soldier-Class trawlers allocated to my command it
is not anticipated that FUSILIER or COLDSTREAMER
will be available till early or mid May. SAPPER will not be
available till 3rd week in April. Three more are required to
bring the total up to 9.
2. SAMSONIA, GROWLER are allocated as escort tugs to O.N.180
and O.N. 182 respectively. DESTINY and EMINENT cannot at
present be sailed due to lack of escort trawlers.
3. None of the Ocean going Trawlers in my command is available
as rescue tug escorts except the Soldier-Class vide my 281907/3
para. 5.

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Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Rescue Tug
Escort
Trawlers.
(Contd.)

4. Request very early steps be taken to increase the provision of suitable trawlers for rescue tug escort duties to 9 and that the number of tugs available be increased accordingly.
(C. in C.W.A. 051939B to Admty.)

AMPETCO.

My 311857. AMPETCO is now ready at Hvalfjord but to economize escorts do not intend to sail her until about 9th April unless she is urgently required at Seidisfjord.
(A.C.I.C. 052238B to C. in C.H.F.)

War Diary.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Movements, Arrivals WISHART from Andreu. Departures
Gibraltar. F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, LOYAL,
BROCKLESBY, FARNDALE, ATHERSTONE, HAYDON,
PUCKERIDGE, HOLCOMBE, CALPE, ILEX, VELOX for
Mers El Kebir. U.S.S. SIMPSON P.C.473 with
convoy G.C.4. M/Ls 175, 173 for local escort east.
HAARLEM for local escort west.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 050022 to Admty., etc.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in position XKEL 4802, 27.48 N.
attacked. ? 0° 58' W. or 14° 58' W. course 092°
(A/C OMI/L (via Gibraltar), 050940)
S/M has dived in position XKEL 4700, 27.47 N.
? 1° W. or 15° W.
(A/C OMI/L via Gibraltar, 051000A)
Following read from A/C Callsign DMI/L (?OMI/L). Have
attacked submerged enemy submarine with depth charges and
estimate 1 hit.
(Gibraltar, 051010A to Admty.)

Mines At 0930A/4 to two mines exploded by sweepers
Casablanca. position 33° 38' 30" N. 07° 36' 00" W. no damage.
Mines extremely large acoustic type possibly laid
by fishing vessels. Sweeping discloses no
further mines but continues in Channel and
adjacent area. Harbour is open for shipping. C. in C. Med.
pass to Comnavnav.
(C.M.S.F.F., 050940 to Comnavnav (R) C. in C. Med.
F.O.C. Gibraltar. Admty., Cominch.)
My 0940/5, third mine exploded by sweepers 33° 38' 15" N. 07°
33' 45" W. All three mines inside minefield. Harbour remains
open for shipping. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav.
(S.N.O.C.A., 051105 to Comnavnav (R) C. in C. Med. (W) F.O.C.
Gib., Admty., Cominch, C.T.F.63, C.N.OY, Cdre. G.U.S. 6.)

Reported My 031545 and my 041150. Further investigation
Enemy among fishermen shows that first convoy consisted
Convoy of 4 ships only but was surrounded by trawlers and
N.W.Coast several coasters bound to and from Pasajes gives
of Spain. appearances of number. Cruiser observed is now
identified as Spanish CANARIAS and Destroyers as
German.*
(Vice Consul, San Sebastian, 151020 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar, (R) Admty., B.N.A. Madrid.)* Not correct,
see Admty. 061710B.

Dispositions. Situation 2002A/5th. S/M SOKOL 036° 44' 008° 21'
through 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0240/6th 035° 53'
006° 15' at 0940/6th and 035° 49' 006° 06' 30" at
1030/6th thence Gibraltar 7½/2, (?proceeding) on
on the surface from 0240/6th. (W.D.Note - Amended by 060125A q.v.)

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- Dispositions. (Contd.)
2. S/M P.31 (UPROAR) 037° 31' 009° 34' through 036° 51' 009° 13' at 0400/6th and 036° 37' 007° 24' at 0410/7th 6/2.
 3. STELLA CARINA to R/V one merchant ship off Tagus (Tego) at 2000Z and escort coastwise to Oporto thence returning Tagus (Tego) 9.
 4. O.S.45 BLACK SWAN 033° (missing group) 010° 16' through 032° 57' 061° 59' thence 205° 8. FANTOME part company as convenient for Gibraltar.
 5. LORD RUFFIELD, MIRROR repairing cable vicinity 036° 17' 007° 25'.
 6. C.G.23 French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, 1 P.C.1 S.C. 034° 29' 006° 55' through 035° 46' 006° 24' to Gibraltar 6.
 7. HAARLEM 1 merchant ship off St. Vincent coastwise to Tagus 9.
 8. M.K.F.11A, GOATHLAND sailed 1500A/5th through 036° 20' 010° 01' thence 295° 12½.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051037A.)
Situation 1959A/5th.
- ARGONAUT. HERO 036° 54' 017° 30' 277° 16. (see amendment 051849B.)
2. O.S.45, BLACK SWAN 033° 18' 010° 16' through 032° 57' (?016°) 59' thence 205° 8. FANTOME part company as convenient for Gibraltar.
 3. Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE 040° 35' 014° 01' through 040° 01' 014° 01' thence 142° 14.
 4. D.70, Fr. Slp. M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE 026° 20' 014° 26' through 028° 13' 013° 13' thence 059° 7.
 5. Portuguese naval tanker SAMBRAZ leaving Lisbon 6th for Aruba 12.
 6. UGANDA 034° 52' 021° 23' through 035° 05' 020° 01' thence 089° 18.
 7. HALCYON, SALAMANDER two tugs small craft convoy 045° 01' 014° 01' through 042° 30' 013° 59' thence 152° 10.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051121A.)
Amend para. 1. my 051121 to read (E) 36.52 16.10 through 37.10 20.01 thence 275° 12.8.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051849B.)
Situation 2001A/5th.
- Swedish relief ships AKKA, YARRAWONGA, 034° 27' 030° 42' 266° 12.
2. Swedish relief ships BARDALAND, FENRIS, 034° 30' 029° 28' 266° 12.
 3. U.G.S. 6A, C.T.F. 60, 032° 28' 030° 52' through 033° 01' 030° 02' thence 086° 9.
 4. T.A.39A (unescorted) 043° 01' 033° 47' 270° 17.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051209A.)
- (59) KAULDI. Spanish 59 arrived Castro, German 61 arrived
(61) BALDUR. Bilbao.
(Consul Bilbao 051109C to Admty. etc.)
- ARGONAUT. Arriving 23 hours later than in my 021005 (N.T.in W.D.) position 036° 46' 014° 51'. Weather report. (ARGONAUT 051351Z to N.O.I.C. Bermuda, (R) F.O.Gib.) See also 051837A.

/U/B...

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U/B Contact, 4/4. A.C.1 Section 1, Article 29 para. 2.
A. 036° 06' N. 012° 26' W. 041620.
B. Asdic contact. Para. 3.
A. 036° 06' N. 012° 26' W. B. MYOSOTIS. MALLOW
C. Lost contact. D. MYOSOTIS 27. E. 6380 1972.
(Escort Group 37 051556A to V.A.Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)

Axis ship-
ping Bilbao. Arrival 3rd HENK, BALTIC, SRES, RECEJA, PAX-
CHRISTI, MARIBEL, LOUVETOT, GLYCINE, JEUNE
DENISE.
Arrival 4th THRIANTHA, JEAN MAURICE, BALDUR,
CABO SAC (?SACRATIF), COURDANNES, CASTILLO
ANDRADE, POETA AROLAS.
Arrival 5th ULIA. Departure 3rd 1, CASTILLO DAROCA.
Departure 4th, LOUVETOT, BALTIC, HENK, SRES, CABO MENOR,
CASTILLO MONFORTE, MONTE CONTES, VILLA (?REAL DE) ALAVA.
(Consul Bilbao 051615 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

M.K.F.11A Sailed GOATHLAND, DOUGLAS, NASTURTIUM, O.R.P.
KRAKOWIAK escorting M.K.F.11A.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051655A to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.
C. in C.Med. N.S.H.Q.)

1. M.K.F.11A. Sailing telegram. (4 ships)
2. 1700/5th. 4. 12 knots. 5. Standard Q.R.S.T.U.V.
6. DOUGLAS, GOATHLAND, NASTURTIUM. KRAKOWIAK.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051753A, 051755A to Admty.)

U/B attacked. Enemy sub. previously reported was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge course 230 knots
8 position 27.40 N. 15.20 W.
(A/C OML/W via Liverpool 051658A to Gibraltar.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 2 hits.
(A/C OML/W via Gib. 1710A/5 to Gibraltar.)
W.D.Note:- Possibly the same U/B blown up by own crew after
damage. Survivors landed South Grand Canary 6th. (See
071140 from Les Palines.)

G.U.S.6. Intend to sail JOSEPH STANTON, EDWARD PREBLE,
CLAN MACBRAYNE, WEARPOOL, JOHN DAVENPORT,
WINFIELD SCOTT, ALCOA PILOT, F.J.LUCKENBACH,
WANDERER, MARYMAR, ESSO BAYWAY (T). Request
pendant numbers.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051753A to Comnob Oran,
Commorseafron (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. N.S.H.Q.
Connav.) Amended by 061137 q.v.

ARGONAUT,
HERO. My 021817A April. ARGONAUT escorted by HERO
will now arrive 070800Z.
2. HERO will require approx. 200 tons oil fuel.
(F.O.Gibraltar 051837A to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada,
(R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon.)

/S.L.127...

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North Atlantic - Contd.

S.L.127. Is it your intention to sail any merchant ships to join S.L. 127?
 (D.T.D. 051905B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af.)
 Reply 061935A.

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrival PENTSTEMON with 3 M/Vs from Lisbon. Departures cable ship MIRROR escorted by LORD NUFFIELD repairs Lisbon/Gibraltar cable No. 1 French LA SETOISE, French Submarines ARETHUSE, PERLE, LA SULTANE for Oran. LADY HOGARTH escort duties, HORNILLO, UMRULY and ULTOR for patrol. WHADDON, LOOKOUT, LAMERTON escorting convoy T.E. 20 A and U.S.Tug RESOLUTE.
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 052019 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

SOKOL, UPROAR. Your 0103/4A will reach position P. at 052200A. Request extension of bombing restrictions.
 (SOKOL 052030A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.S. P.31 (UPROAR).)

French Refugees through Portugal. C.3758/9, 1941. Ref. F.O. letter to Admty. No. C.3404/9/41 of 30th March. Ambassador's telegram No. 518 and Madrid telegram No. 640.
 Since the Portuguese Govt. agreed in principle to passage of refugees through Portugal we have made constant efforts to persuade them that embarkation from a south coast port is impracticable.
 2. I called today on Political Director and urged strongly that Portuguese Govt. should now consent to Lisbon (or, as a less preferable alternative, to Setubal) as embarkation port and to agree to April 17th as date for departure of party from Portugal. He undertook to bring matter to immediate attention of Dr. Sala.

(Lisbon 052050, to Foreign Office, Algiers, (R) Madrid.)
 Your 052030A acknowledged. Proceed on surface at best speed adjusted reach Gibraltar before dark 6th April. Should this not be possible do not cross Meridian 006° 40' W. before 0630 7th April but thereafter increase speed 10 knots. Keep good lookout P.31 (UPROAR) who may be in your vicinity. Bombing restrictions adjusted. Enemy S/M vicinity Cape Trafalgar.

(F.O.Gibraltar 052251A to SOKOL O.R.P. (R) P.31 (UPROAR) F.O.(S).)
 Cancel my 051000 (N.T. in W.D.). My 041224, amend time in para. 2 to read 2145 to 2330.
 (V.A.Gibraltar 052334 to SOKOL, UPROAR.)

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A/C attacks on U-Boats. My 011541 April. Amplification of attacks in chronological order. 1. U-Boat dived 50 seconds before four depth charges dropped 80' astern of visible swirl. Estimate no damage. 2. French Hudson dropped three depth charges close to shadow of U-Boat visible under water. Station Commander unable grade reliability owing to language difficulty. 3. Hudson attacked at right angles to U-Boat whose conning tower disappeared as four depth charges dropped 30' ahead. Oil and bubbles observed immediately afterwards and one hour and forty minutes later large swirl and uplift of yellowish green colour. Estimate some damage. 4. Two men observed in conning tower as Hudson attacked U-Boat which was diving but still visible then four depth charges were dropped the last one being dead ahead over submerged U-Boat. Large air bubbles observed but nothing further. Estimate some damage. 5. Depth charges failed to release. 6. Hudson attacked U-Boat at right angles conning tower being still visible as four depth charges dropped and observed to explode just being shadow of conning tower visible under water. Periscope sighted one minute after attack for short time and patches of yellowish tinge still visible 25 minutes after attack. Estimate some damage. (F.O.C.W.A. 050324Z to Admty.)

GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE. (Corrupt group) (? route) F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES comply with F.O.C. W.Af's 041303. F.S. GLOIRE sailed 050650Z routed as suggested speed 22 knots to 20° W. thence 19 knots. (S.O. 2nd French Sqn. 050856Z to F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES, F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty.)

GOIAZLOIDE. U/B 2/4 Your 041410. (040607 intended). Ship was approached by S/M which surfaced several times during a period of hours in attempt to open fire. She did not succeed and was forced down each time by fire from the vessel.. Master considers S/M had no torpedoes. (R.O. Maranhao 050908Z to B.N.S.O. Rio (R) Admty.)

Movements, Pointe Noire. Pointe Noire arrival p.m. 4th QUADRANT and REDOUBT, departure 050607Z. Arrivals and departures a.m. 5th RACEHORSE and RELENTLESS. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 051015A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A.)

Dispositions. Situation at 052001Z. CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT, DUNKERY, with T.S. 34, 006° 38' (012°?) 34' to Freetown 8. M.L. 209 and 272 off Marshall. FANDANGO off (Monrovia?). M.L. 285 escorting 005° (56')? 011° 21' 302°. 6. ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, 2 M.Ls with S.T. (34?) 003° 13' 006° 40' (?East) 9. KENYA, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS escorting W.S. 28 ?000° ?53' S. 011° 01' East 180° 12½. M.L. 271 and 305 escorting off Sassandra to

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Dispositions. Takoradi. BUTTERMERE M.M.S. 102, 105, 106 and 107
(Contd.) 005° 44' 018° 05' to Freetown 8½. DUNCTON off
Accra. PORTSDOWN escorting off Kotonu to Lagos 7.
(F.O.C.W.A. 051030Z.)

Situation at 052002.

KUMAON, SNOWDROP, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, KATHIAWAR, 013° 49' 017° 47'
to 011° 59' 017° 48' thence 159° 8½. F.S.41 FRANCE 4 about 022°
40' 017° 40' searching for survivors. ROCHESTER, FLEETWOOD,
SCARBOROUGH, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, HYDRANGEA, COLTSFOOT, BALSAM,
BUTSER with S.L. 127 018° 18' 022° 08' to 020° 01' 022° 40'
thence to 046° 6¼. BURDOCK, ORFASY, BIRDLIP, INKPEN 2 M.Ls.
escorting off Dakar to Bathurst and South 7. French Cruiser
GEORGES LEYGUES about 022° 20' 031° 01' 103° 19. QUEEN OF
BERMUDA 016° 15' 031° 28' to 016° 29' 032° 01' thence to 358° 16.
GARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 011° 00' 028° 01' 15½. CILICIA
on patrol about 018° 48' 031° 00' 14. French Cruiser GLOIRE
about 010° 01' 020° 30' 270° 19.

(F.O.C.W.A. 051151Z.)

Position at 2000Z/5th April.

KENYA, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT with W.S.28 006°
20' S. 011° E. to 018° 10' S. 011° E. 12½ knots. SARABANDE 013°
10' S. 010° 35' E. to Walvis Bay 5 knots. BIRMINGHAM 014° 40'
S. 000° 05' E. to 005° S. 007° W. 19 knots. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE
D'ORVES 028° 30' S. 015° 30' E. escorted tug to 027° 30' S. 015°
15' E. NORTHERN CHIEF, ALAN, ARCTIC EXPLORER, VIVIANA, with D.C.
17 034° 50' S. 019° 25' E. to Capetown 9 knots QUILLIAM
patrolling off Cape Agulhas. FRITILLARY, ST. LOMAN with T.D.12
031° 50' S. 029° 50' East Coastal to Durban 8 knots. FREESIA,
LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY, 031° S. 032° 35' E. to Durban 10 knots.
HERTFORDSHIRE, LADY ROSEMARY, 028° 30' S. 034° 20' E. to Durban
9 knots. RAIDER 026° 10' S. 036° 30' E. to Durban 20 knots.
MAURITIUS 020° 25' S. 041° 35' E. to 015° 31' S. 042° 15' E.
23½ knots.

(C. in C. S.A. 051211B.)

Convoy F.O.C.W.Af. 031717. Intend sailing convoy D.B.F.1
D.B.F.1. for Freetown as follows: 2. From Dakar 060730Z.
EMPIRE MIGHT 14 MARY KINGSLEY 11 (Cmdre) ALSACE
12 escorted by BURDOCK S.O. ORFASY M.L. 302 and
287. Speed made good 10 knots routed direct from
Goree Island to position A, 13.32 N. 16.54 W. where ALSACE parts
company and enters Bathurst. 3. N.O.I.C. Bathurst is requested
to sail following ships to R/V position A at 061500Z: NEW COLOMBIA
10 (Vice Cmdre) TOURS 7½, EMPIRE DENNIS, EMPIRE ACE escorted by
INKPEN. 4. From A convoy speed made good 7 knots routed through
following positions to Freetown. B. 12.50 N. 17.15 W. C. 11.10
N. 17.15 W. D. 10.40 N. 16.50 W. E. 09.30 N. 14.00 W. F. 08.35
N. 13.57 W. G. 12 miles due W. of Cape Sierra Leone.
(Comar, Dakar 051211Z to F.O.C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Bathurst. (R) Admty,
BURDOCK, ORFASY, INKPEN, M.L. 302, M.L. 287.)

QUAIL. Capetown arrival April 4.
(C. in C. S.A. 041231B to Admty. etc.)

/Shipping...

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- Shipping Divisions. Following from Cominch C. and R. (begins). Ref. N.C.S.O. Freetown 272056Z March. In order that vessels will have instructions for U.S. East Coast ports in event of diversion suggest use of double letter block reference positions for vessels proceeding from West Africa to Trinidad 021958 ends. (D.T.D. 051254B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.C.S.O. Freetown, Connav.)
- EMPIRE LIONEL. My 291809Z March. Owing to bunker fire EMPIRE LIONEL now unable to reach Freetown for S.L.128. Propose to sail her for inclusion in S.L.129. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 051310Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.) Concur: (N.C.S.O. Freetown 061313Z.)
- Movements, Pointe Noire. Pointe Noire (?arrived and left) p.m. (5th?) April ULSTER MONARCH. Arrival p.m. 5th MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE. (B.N.L.O. W.A., 051615A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty, C. in C. S.A.)
- LISS. Your 291031A March not to Lagos. (Requesting confirmation that L.A. or HA/LA gun and Oerlikons are available for Tanker LISS.) 4 inch L.A. guns and Oerlikon for LISS available Freetown but mounting of L.A. guns will require to be done at Lagos. If stiffening is required request material be supplied to Lagos in accordance with F.O.C.W.Af. 776/46 of 1st Sept. 1942. (F.O.C.W.A. 051702Z to Admty.)
- Movements, Dakar. Arrived BURDOCK, ORFASY, INKPEN, escorting MATANG and CADWALLADER. (Comar, Dakar 051739Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. WATCHFUL.)
- U-Boat attacked. U-Boat attacked by aircraft in 17° 15' N. 21° 21' W. at 051615. (F.O.C.W.A. 051801Z to Admty.)
My 051801.
A further attack at 051845 was made in 17° 18' N. 21° 23' W. (F.O.C.W.A. 052330Z to Admty.)
- RIMUTAKA. C.S. 45. RIMUTAKA has passengers for Freetown and St. Helena. Request ship may call at St. Helena if situation permits. (D.T.D. 051801B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- U-Boats attacked. Weekly Summary. Your 221059B July. March 16 3 planes from U.S.S. SANTEE attacked surfaced submarine at 07° 15' S. 29° 17' W. S/M fired on planes and inflicted minor wound in one pilot's hand and leg. Planes attacked with MK-17 depth charges and machine gun fire. Oil observed after the attacks. Only promising attack reported week ending 042400Z. (Cominch 051940Z to Admty.)

/CITY...

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South Atlantic - Contd.

CITY OF
BARODA.

Have you any news of CITY OF BARODA which appears to be ship referred to in O22149Z from NORTHERN CHIEF.
(D.T.D. 051957B to C. in C. S.A.)

Convoy
Reports,
South America.

Cdr. 4th Fleet has requested Assistant B.N.S.O. Recife to cease sending serial numbered telegrams of convoys leaving ports in my area as these movements are now reported in daily summaries by Cominch (C. & R.) to Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. Request if still required.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 052011Z to Admty. etc.)
Reply: No. (Admty. 061251B) Yes. (C. in C.S.A. 071551B).

B.Y.M.S.

(1) Intend to sail B.Y.M.S. 5,6,7,8 at 061300 for Takoradi for onward (?sailing) to Simonstown and Eastern Fleet calling at Pointe Noire and Walvis Bay en route.

(2) Route A. 007° 40' N. 014° 11' W.

B. 002° 05' N. 011° 21' W. C. 002° (05') N. 010° 20' W.
D. 004° 30' N. 002° 20' W. thence to Takoradi estimated speed made good. 10½ knots. E.T.A. Takoradi p.m. 10th April. Requirements at Takoradi 20,000 gallons diesel oil and 6000 gallons water. (3) B.Y.M.S. have orders to look out for overdue U.S. Aircraft on passage to Takoradi. (4) N.O.I.C. Takoradi is to sail B.Y.M.S. for Pointe Noire, reporting requirements. (5) B.N.L.O. West Africa is to sail B.Y.M.S. for Simonstown, B.Y.M.S. calling at Walvis Bay for water. (6) Endurance about 2100 miles at 9 knots. Anticipate 10 days engine overhaul will be necessary on arrival at Cape. (7) Continuous wireless guard will be maintained on group F.T. until passing 010° S. Thereafter B.Y.M.S. should be ordered to keep watch on broadcast S.L. Any B.Y.M.S. becoming detached will keep watch on international single operator period. (8) B.Y.M.S. have been issued with minor war vessel set of S.P. and carry areas 1 and 2 auxiliary vessels R/T. (9) Call signs and signal letters allocated. (list.)
(F.O.C.W.A. 052040 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O.W.A. (R) N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, C. in C. S.A. B.Y.M.S.7. C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

NEW
NORTHLAND.

Your 020130 April advised E.T.A. Freetown NEW NORTHLAND 16th April. Request information:
(a) Number of ships. (b) Details of personnel on board. (c) Space available.

2. If space available intend diverting ships to Bathurst to embark 40th General Hospital personnel to contact ALMANZORA at Freetown.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 052119Z to D.S.T.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Movements, Arrival ABDIEL, PALADIN and KELVIN.
Malta. (V.A. Malta, 050830B to Admty etc.)
- Movements, Arrival 4th April, EASTON, WOLBOROUGH.
Alexandria. Departure 4th April, DELPHINIUM, SEAHAM, PROTEA,
SOUTHERN SEA.
(S.O.(I) Alex. 050914C to Admty. C. in C. Levant)
- Convoy Following is a repetition of my 310942 addressed:
T.E.20. F.O.I.S. (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.
N.O.I.C. Oran, A.I.G.259, Cdre. Algiers. (Begins)
T.E.20, TITUS and HILDUR 1 both for Bone (Ends)
My 011227 as follows: T.E.20 add to my 310942A
- March, SERULA for Bone (Ends). Both signals with instructions
to pass.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 050918A to Admty. (R) Algiers W/T)
W.D. Note: Both these signals referred to in N.O.I.C. Bougie's
020848 April.
T.E.20 Bone Section arrived 041900.
(S.O.I.S. 050929A to A.I.G.259)
- E:T.17. Sailed EMPIRE SPLENDOUR 21 K.B. ARGUS HILL 22,
CLAN MAC BRAYNE 23 K.B, LORIGA, all for
Gibraltar.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 051129 to S.O. Escorts of
Convoy E.T.17 (R) Admty etc.)
- M.T.B's, M.T.B's will be operating tonight West of Malta.
UNSHAKEN. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) is to keep South 036° 28' until
060600 April. M.T.B's have orders not to attack
S/MS.
(Capt. (S) 10, 051129B to P.37 (UNBENDING) P.54
(UNSHAKEN)).
- M.M.S. 85, Propose following movements.
184. Motor M/S 85, overhaul now completed, from
Algiers to Bougie as temporary reinforcement to
await return of motor M/S 133. (2) Motor M/S
184 from Philippeville to Algiers for engine
overhaul and docking at Gibraltar. (3) Motor M/S 85 from
Bougie to Philippeville on return of Motor M/S 133 from
Gibraltar.
(Capt. (F), 051203A to C. in C. Med, (R) S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C.
Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bougie, F.O. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers)
- CIANO Swiss chartered Spanish CIANO leaves Genoa about
9th for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 051209B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

P.217 (1) Cancel my 041216. (2) P.217 (SIBYL) and
P.47 P.47 (DOLFIJN) try and be in position 237 degs.
67 miles by 060400 and 232° 42 miles by 060130
respectively. Both positions relative focal
point F route instructions F. Freedom 21
miles sector 4.

(Capt. (S) 8, 051224A to P.217 (SIBYL) P.47 (R)
8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10)

My 051224. (1) P.47 leaves patrol at 060400 through 038°
22' 010° 50' at 062130 thence 270° 105 miles a day.

(2) After 060800 P.217 (SIBYL) has freedom of action in zones
A. and B.

(Capt. (S) 8, 051238A to P.217(SIBYL) P.47 (R) 8th S/M.F.
Capt. (S) 10)

P.R.U. April 5th, visuals, 0950, Naples, no major Naval
Units; 1008, Castellamare, 1 cruiser; 0950,
Taranto, 2 Battleships, 3 cruiser; 1105 Messina,
no major Naval Unit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 051232B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

EMPIRE DACE. Arrived.
(S.O.I.S. 051241A to Admty etc.)
My 041114A. EMPIRE DACE sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 041756A to F.O.I.S. etc.)

ILE DE FRANCE. S.S.T.O. Capetown 311741B March, para. (3).
Request earliest possible confirmation that ILE
DE FRANCE will proceed to Suez in view of my
031153C April.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 051249C to D.S.T.)

210 Sqdn. Personal from 1st S.L.
for Biscay A. We are staging a heavy and as far as possible
Patrol. continuous attack against U-Boats as they cross
the Bay of Biscay. B. Success is dependent on
number of aircraft available and it will be
extremely difficult to provide the necessary
number. C. Transfer of two U.S.A. Liberator Squadrons from
the Bay patrol to Casablanca was a severe blow, but we recognise
it must be accepted. D. Reinforcement of Gibraltar-Casablanca
area by these two Liberator Squadrons makes this area over-insured
in our opinion, and it is therefore intended to withdraw No.210
Catalina Squadron for use in the Bay offensive, where its Leigh
Lights are urgently required.
(1st S.L.051314B to C. in C. Med.)

M.T.B. M.T.B.267 sank in approx. position 34° 26' N.
267. 16° 14' E. at 1230C 2nd April.
(C. in C. Levant, 051358C to Admty)

F.L.O / ...

5.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

F.L.O. I have suggested to Adml. Michelieu that best
Bermuda. method of dealing with financial question while
French escort vessels are rearming in Bermuda
would be by means of a temporarily appointed
French Liaison Officer, attached to Adml. Fenard's
Mission but stationed in Bermuda. Adml. Michelieu suggests
Capt De Fregate De Bon for this appointment. He would embark
in TEMPETE sailing about 11th April. Request Admiralty
concurrence.
(C. in C. Med. 051402 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. Commorseafron,
B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af.)
Reply: Admty. 081641B.

WELCOME. My 011600A (re routeing of Felucca WELCOME).
WELCOME now leaving 1800/5th and may be met off
Mentone between 8th and 10th and off Corsica
between 9th and 12th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 051508A to 8 S.F.)

P.49 (1) Patrol areas all North of 042° 19' P.49 West
(UNRULY) of line 149° from Sete Light, DZIK East this
DZIK line and West of 005° 50' P.53 between 005° 50'
P.53 (ULTOR) P.53 between 005° 50' and 007° 40'.
TRIDENT (2) Onward routeings P.49 (UNRULY) through 040°
P.314 01' 001° 31' at 0300/9th 042° 19' 003° 57' at
(TACTICIAN) 2200/10th.
P.53 (ULTOR) through 039° 43' 001° 44' at 2000
9th 042° 19' 006° 18' at 0300/12th.
DZIK through 039° 43' 001° 44' at 2000/10th and
042° 19' 005° 05' at 2100/12th.
(3) P.53 (ULTOR) is not to proceed North of 042° 50' when
West of 006° 42'. (4) TRIDENT is on patrol east of 007° 40'
P.314 (TACTICIAN) will be ordered to leave patrol p.m. 10th.
(5) Bombing restrictions arranged accordingly.
(6) All positions N. and E. all times zone minus 1.
(7) F.O.C. Gibraltar pass to DZIK.
(Capt. (S) 8, 051552A to P.53, P.49 DZIK (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
C. in C. Med. S.O.S. Gibraltar, P.314, TRIDENT)

P.47. My 051238 (N.T. in W.D.). Onward routeing
(DOLFIJN) through 038° 22' 008° 37' at 2130/7th, 037° 57'
004° 16' at 2130/9th to R/V with escort Algiers
in 036° 59' 003° 19' at 0630/10th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 051600A to P.47 (R) C. in C. Med.
Capt. (S) 10., 8th S.F. Cdre. Algiers.)

M.T.B's. Sailed on operation: M.T.B's 65, 73, 75, 84, 261,
264.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 051716B to Admty. etc.)

10 Shuttle Service. Balloon shuttle service is now operating at Oran,
Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville and Bone with

War Diary.5.4.1945
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Shuttle Service. (Contd.) original equipment and personnel. In view of probably need for extension of this service request equipment for two more ports may be sent to Algiers. (C. in C. Med. 051851 to Admty.)
- Movements, Bougie. E.T.571 and Shuttle Service. Arrived VILLE DE DJIDJELLI, MAMMY, AUDUN, ZENA. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 051924A N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) Admty. etc.)
- Equipment and Officers for Turkey. B.N.A. Ankara's 291224C March. Officers can only be made available at expense of other commitments, Accordingly undesirable that proposal should have been put to the Turks before ascertaining that officers could be supplied. (2) Cdr. Smith on Commodore 'D's staff is being relieved this month and might be spared for two months as 'T' Officer. (3) It might be possible in about three month's time to relieve the F.G.O. Levant, and spare him to go to Turkey on way back to U.K. (4) Request report whether second appointment will be of any use in view of delay involved, and whether first is acceptable. (Head of M.(I) 051927B to C. in C. Levant, N.A. Ankara.)
- Movements, Casablanca. Casa departures P.C.474 and DUMONT DURVILLE with Convoy CG - 25, U.S.S. TRIPPE to meet Break-off from OS - 45. Arrivals 2 S.C.'s from Agadir, P.C.473, U.S.S. SIMPSON with G.C.4. (C.M.S.F.F.051929 to Admty)
- P.42 (UNBROKEN) My position 036° 37' N. 016° 29' E. course 208°. Will now make R/V 0900B/7th April. (P.42 (UNBROKEN), 051946B to Capt. (S) 10 P.46 (UNRUFFLED) (R) S/Ms on patrol.)
- Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrival (ABDIEL) WHEATLAND, BADSWORTH M/L 494 departure M/Ls 258, 468 L.C.I(L)s 113, 101, 184, 251, 254. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 052006A to Admty etc.)
- Malta Air Report. MS.9640. AI.587 5th April CSR. (A) Air Part 1 Offensive. Night 4th/5th April. 1 special equipment Wellington 6 torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 1 bomb carrying Wellington made search for convoy reported in Gulf of Squillace but made no sightings. 7 Albacores and 5 Beauforts laid mines in approaches to Trapani Harbour. 6 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily 2 patrolling Comiso Catania.

hed
184^A

MOST SECRET

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

M E S S A G E

MOST SECRET

051855C April

From C. in C. Middle East.

IN
Date 6.4.43.
Recd. 0400

Cypher

Addressed - The War Office.

IMMEDIATE

324146 5221 SD/31140 cipher 5th April.

Your 66804 (S.D.2b) 3rd April.

Officer only.

BIGOP.

1. Your one. We did not infer the implication you have construed on paras. 4 and 5 of our G(P)18102 of 7th March. Standard WE of a Corps HQ does not provide sufficient senior staff officers A for comprehensive detailed and specialist planning now being undertaken by HQ 3 Corps in addition to normal Adm and supervision of Trg (repeat Trg) of formations to be placed under their Comd. B In view of distance between planning staff in Cairo and remainder of HQ in Syria. Appts requested my SD/27446 of 28 March very carefully examined before submission to you and considered essential. Work of planning staff being delayed without them. Request approval earliest.

2. Your two. Confirmed.

3. Your three. Trg. team my WS/2016 of 31 March is required to meet new commitments and is not repeat not part of enlarged CTC referred your 62734 (SD2) of 21 March our comments of which were cabled in SD/26669 of 26 March.

4. Your five. In view para. 3 above request despatch of personnel my CS/2016 may be arranged earliest as essential they arrive ME not repeat not later than 10 April.

5. /

5. Your 6. Confirmed Col. Trg. is required
My SD/26669 of 26 Mar. and para. 3 above refer.

6. Your 7. Noted but reference to your
62734 (S.D.2) in your paras. three and six not
repeat not understood in view your receipt my
SD/26669 of 26 Mar. which was framed to make
clear the system we are working on and which we
wish to retain and expand as required.

051855C

Received from War Office 0515/7th
April.

War Office circulation.

S.D.(2) for action.

D.M.O.	D.D.S.D.
D.M.T.	S.D.2(ten copies)
D.S.D.	3.5.
D.M.S.(A)	A.G.I.
D.D.M.O.(C)	Q.(Ops)1.4.
D. Plans.	Combined Ops.H.Q.
D.D.M.T.(A)	Brig. Jacob
D.D.S.D.(C)	Foreign Office
D.F.(a)	(C.L.Clutton Esq.)
D.D. of O.(C)	Hd. of War Reg.
Brig.A.G.Co-ord.	(Admy.)
Brig.Q(Ops)	A.M.C.S.(Air
M.Q.4.5.	Ministry)
G.S.(P)	
M.T.6.(C.O.)	

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)

✓ T.O.O. 031911.

D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(W)

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.C.(2)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D. of P.(Q)

Hd. of M.(2)

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Admiral Blake

D.S.D.(2)

ML/
MIEK.

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) 2 patrolling S.W.Coast and 2 patrolling Trapani area, but no suitable target was found. Day 5th April. 12 Spitfire bombers with escort of 4 fighter Spitfires and rear cover of another 4 fighter Spitfires attacked Port Empedocle, scoring hits near power station, railway sidings, and among factory buildings.

Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Night 4th/5th April.

3 Beaufighters patrolled north of Malta to cover our strike aircraft and Middle East strike aircraft returning from Sicily but no combat resulted. Day 5th April. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raiders which approached Malta and then returned avoiding combat.

Night 4/5th April. 2 special equipment Wellingtons made searches for enemy shipping North of Messina and in Gulf of Taranto at 2105 hrs. 1 MS 5000 tons and 1 D/T were sighted 38° 50' N. 16°40' West course 04° Speed 9 knots 1 of the Wellingtons is missing.

Part (75) Operations by aircraft of other Commands

Night 4/5th April. 3 Liberators of 9th Bomber Command despatched to bomb Naples Harbour landed at Malta. 1 of them (512 Sqdn.) failed to reach target owing to engine trouble. Another of 512 Sqdn. scored hits on the Mole and was damaged by flak. The third aircraft (515 Sqdn.) could not find Naples and bombed Catania airfield with unobserved results.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 052031Z)

SAHIB
P.212)

Arrival.
(Cdre. Algiers, 042042A to Admty etc.)

OSIRIS.

Your 031337 April, not to Admiralty. As future employment of OSIRIS will be almost certainly confined to A/S training and in view of the urgent need of her services with Eastern Fleet, the patrol mentioned should be dispensed with. OSIRIS should be sailed for E. Station when ready.
D.O.D.(F) Approved by A.C.N.S.(F) (164), 052050B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.S., S.l., S.4.)

Movements,
Oran.

Arrivals today NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, LOYAL VELOX, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE, HOLCOMBE, ILEX, ATHERSTONE, HAYDON, BROCKLESBY all H.M.S., plus H.M.T. JAUNTY - Departures same ships less JAUNTY and BROCKLESBY.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 052051A to Admty etc.)

KINGSTON
floated,
damage to
No.4. dock,
Malta.

My 301309 January. Both parts of KINGSTON^{*} have been floated in No.4 Dock. Fore part is being redocked for patching port side to enable it to be berthed afloat. After part is being beached. Clearance of dock floor and erection of middle line blocks is proceeding and it is hoped to be ready to dock a fleet destroyer by early May. Rate of clearance of remainder of dock

(* Sunk by 4c in dock, 11.4.42)

is / ...

War Diary.

5.4.1945.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KINGSTON
floated,
damage to
No.4 dock,
Malta.
(Contd.)

is dependent on obtaining more labour when available.

(2) Leakage at two points of major damage has been reduced and although inconvenient can be accepted. Complete stoppage cannot be effected owing to risk of causing further damage to shaky walls due to water pressure.

(3) 4.7 inch guns and mountings have been recovered and will be serviceable mid April.

(4) Rudder, shaft brackets and propellers have been recovered and will be serviceable but port propeller is severely damaged.

(5) Miscellaneous hull fittings have been removed and others together with some boiler room auxiliaries and fittings will be removed when labour can be spared. Entire engine room installation is total (?loss).

(A.S. Malta, 052153 to Admty (R) C. in C. etc.)

Movements,
Libya.

Arrived ML's 126, 134, 459, 462 and 121.
L.C.T's 115, and 118.

(N.O.I.C.Libya, 052258A to Admty.(R) V.A. Malta)

War Diary.5.4.1945.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Convoy K.B.1. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 050508Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival SCOUT 050500Z.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 050507Z to Admty.)
Arrival KARACHI with K.B. convoy.
(S.O.I. Bombay 050818Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 050700Z KONKAN.
(F.O. Ceylon 051216Z to Admty.)
CERES arrived.
(F.O. E. Af. 051331Z to Admty.)

B.P. 74 $\frac{1}{2}$. Departure 0548Z (? BOMBAY) with B.P. 74 $\frac{1}{2}$.
Arrival 0420Z ALAUNIA.
(S.O.I. Bombay 050556Z to Admty.)

OSIRIS. OSIRIS role on joining Eastern Fleet will be that of A/S training S/M. 2. I have been without one for a long time and as A/S training is urgently required I should prefer her to be sailed from Beirut for Eastern Fleet without carrying out patrol proposed in your 031337Z.
(C. in C. E.F. 05628Z to C. in C. Levant (R) Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 4, F.O.S.)

Overdue shipping. FORT MUMFORD due Aden 28th March not yet arrived.
(F.O. Ceylon 050637Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. S.O. (I) Aden.)

Convoy Intention for escort. ASTER and BALUCHISTAN
Escorts, P.A. 32 sailing 070800Z. GERALDTON P.B. 35
P.A. 32, sailing 100300Z. SUTLEJ P.A. 33 sailing 130500Z
P.A. 33, Ocean Route 2.
P.B. 35. (S.N.O.P.G. 050712Z to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. Com. I/C Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi.) Amended my 081230Z q.v.

JAN DE JAN DE WAELE left a.m. 5th. E.T.A. Aden p.m. 13th
WAELE. (N.O.I.C. Seychelles 050745X to N.O.I.C. Aden, Admty. C. in C. E.F. S.O.I. Colombo, S.O.I. Bombay C. in C. Levant, F.O. Red Sea Canal Area.)

Addu Atoll Number of mines which have broken adrift from
minefield controlled mine field at Addu Atoll is such that
condition. mine field no longer affords adequate measure of
protection. South West monsoon will almost certainly complete destruction of minefield in southern entrances. Request instructions whether (A) controlled mine field should be relaid or (B) controlled mining at Addu Atoll should be abolished. If (A) L. Mark 3 ground units should be used instead of present L. Mark 2 moored units.
(F.O. Ceylon 050806Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll.)

/JOHN ...

War Diary.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.- Contd.

JOHN W. MACKAY (Cable Ship). Now completing Restoration Bushire Muscat cable. Please direct vessel immediately future movement. Also advise reference disposal scrap cable. (JOHN W. MACKAY 070900Z to Admty.)

Passengers numbers. Rules limiting number of passengers given in Admiralty's 161140 March. As many ships hold passenger certificates under Simla rules, 1931, for numbers far exceeding life-boat capacity, it is suggested that numbers should be limited to which ever is least and not greater. 2. Also there is no provision for speeds of 10 to 12 knots. (Com. R.I.N. 051029Z. to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

Ceylon Defences, M.N.B.D.O. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. COS (India) 145. Your 44840 2 April (Despatch of 6 heavy A/A batteries to Mideast) (N.T. in W.D.)
1. In view of your para. 2 we agree to temporary reduction A/A defences Ceylon by 6 H.A.A. btys.
2. Your para.1. The desirability or otherwise of using M.N.B.D.O. in static role is being considered and a further telegram will be sent. (Air Min. 051145Z to C. in C. India (R) C. in C. E.F.)

C.J.1½. Arrived 0540Z. (N.C.S.O. Colombo 051308Z to Admty.)

Convoy M.C.6. Arrived Kilindini 1332Z/5th. (N.C.S.O. Kilindini 051415Z to Admty.) As amended 060518Z.

Shipping routeing. Reference S.N.O.P.G. 220651 March subject to your concurrence no objection is seen to ships from Indian Ocean sailing direct to South American ports without call at South African port. (D.T.D. 051512B to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. Connnav, (R) B.A.D.)

Eastern Fleet Cruisers, DAUNTLESS. A.M. 021701A. On arrival in U.K. about mid-June 1943 DAUNTLESS can be taken in hand for modernisation and reconstruction by Middle Docks, South Shields. (D.O.D. (F) 051738B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gib., F.O.I.C. Tyne, C.S.4. DAUNTLESS.)

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X.231 attacked by U/Bs. H.X.231 attacked in (57°)? 10' N. 035° 30' W. 2 ships torpedoed, 1 still afloat. H/F D/F bearing indicates about 15 U-Boats in vicinity. Weather.
(B. 7, 050010Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.R24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., E.G.4, ICARUS.)
H.X. No.231 P.C. and S. at 0700Z 057° 42' N. 034° 30' W. (X) 037°, 9.
My 050010Z. First attack at 0010⁰, second at 0103Z. One or 2 U-Boats attacked probably on surface from starboard bow. No U-Boat detected. SHILLONG No.121 sunk regret no survivors. WAROONGA No.44 torpedoed aft but is maintaining convoy speed. Her engine room bulkhead shaken. Request tug may be sailed immediately.
PINK now rejoining after unsuccessful search for survivors, remaining escort present.
57 ships, ARUBA and BLITAR broke convoy to eastward, SUNOIL straggled.
2 attempted attacks during night were foiled. U-Boat still in contact. Homing signals heard on 384 k/cs. Weather report 6470 1974.
(B.7, 050810Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., N.O.I.C. Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Greenock, Escort Group 4, ICARUS.)
SSSS SUNOIL H.X.231 attacked in 56° 38' N. 36° 51' W. at 051037Z.
(C.O.A.C., 051129Z 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.)
Following message has been received. SSSS de GKC. SSSS SSSS 56° 46' N. 30° 45' W. BLITAR attacked de GCK.
(Burnham Radio, 051331 to Admty.)
(Port Patrick Radio, 051330Z.)
(Halifax N.S., 051355Z.)
My 050810Z. Alarm, ARUBA, VAALAREN. Have sent VIDETTE to assistance SUNOIL attacked by U-Boat astern convoy at 0950Z with orders to rejoin me before dark. My P.C. and S. at 1300Z 058° 07' N. 033° 12' W., (X) 087°, 9. Weather report 9180 2463.
(B.7, 051430Z to A.I.G.303, (R) A.C.I.C., E.G.4, Cdre. Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Greenock, ICARUS.)
H.X.231 attacked in 058° 08' N. 032° 50' W. at 1415Z by 1 S/M who fired submerged from port bow torpedoing escort oiler BRITISH ARDOUR in (corrupt group)
BRITISH ARDOUR sinking. SNOWFLAKE taking off crew. No counter attack. Many H/F D/F direction finding bearings heard, aircraft already attacked one. (Weather report) 8580 2433.
(B.7, 051431Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24,7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., E.G.4, ICARUS, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/Intercept ...

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X. 231
attacked
by U/Bs.
(Contd.)

Intercept 1549 G.M.T. de Malin Head Radio.
S S S S SUNOIL attacked and follows 58° 16' N.
34° 14' W.
(Burnham Radio, 051543 to Admty.)
(Port Patrick Radio, 051544 to Navycharge
Greenock.)
(Humber Radio, No T.O.O., Recd. 1905 to Navy-
charge, Immingham.)

Escorts ex
O.N. 174.

E.T.A. 051400Z. In company FENNEL, STRATFORD,
MONCTON. FENNEL has defective tiller arm.
STRATFORD has leaking condenser. MONCTON No.1
furnace brickwork defective, R.D.F. defective.
(NIAGARA, 050030Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., (R)
Capt. (D) Halifax.)
See also 052205.

U/B.

Submarine sighted in 20° 51' N. 84° 40' W. at
041851Z.
(Navyntell, 050105Q to Admty.)

Movements.

St. Johns Newfoundland April 4th arrivals:
NANAIMO escorting FOUNDATION FRANKLIN with SS.
BARON BELHAVEN in tow. LETHBRIDGE ex standing
by SS. BARON BELHAVEN. U.S. C.G. TAHOMA
escorting SS. BACCALIEU ex Argentinia. WITHERINGTON ex S.C.124.
Departures MALPEQUE, WASAGA escorting J.H.46A to Halifax.
TROIS RIVIERES escorting J.H.46 to Halifax. CHELSEA to S.C.
125.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 050413Z to Admty.)
Arrival Vieuxfort 4th U.S.A.T. STATE OF VIRGINIA.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 051056Q to Admty.)
Kingston arrivals U.S.A.T. PASTORES, P.C.591.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 051058Q to Admty.)
Departures 4th April U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F.
RATHERS for high seas.
(B.R.L.O. Aruba, 051140QR to Admty.)
Trinidad departures April 4th B.Y.M.S. 17, 18, 25.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 051222Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Departures 5th REDCAP for Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 051230Q to Admty.)
Arrival April 4th U.S.A.T. BRIGADIER GENERAL H.F. RATHERS.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 051350Z to Admty.)
Departure VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM escorting H.J.44.
Arrivals LEAMINGTON, FREDERICTON, GRANDMERE Halifax ex O.N.S.1.
(Cdre. i/c. Halifax, 051401 to Admty.)
Arrival Vieuxfort 4th LAPWING.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 051601Q to Admty.)
M.L.1171 and 1172 arrived today.
(B.R.L.O. Santo Domingo, 051730Q to Admty.)
New Orleans arrival 31st U.S.A.T. DANIEL WILLARD.
(N.S.H.Q., 052001Z to Admty.)

/Arrivals ...

War Diary.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. Arrivals NIAGARA, FENNEL, STRATFORD, MONCTON ex
(Contd.) O.N.174. U.S. C.G. FAUNCE from Argentia.
(C. Halifax, 052205 to Admty.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 5th.	F.S. GEORGES)	23° N. 36° W.	Patrol	Blank
	LEYGUES)			
	CILICIA	15° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARNARVON)	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE)			
	QUEEN OF)	16° N. 31° W.	296°	16
	BERMUDA)			
	SS. ANDES	37½° N. 63½° W.	284°	19
	DESPATCH	Arriving Recife	241°	20
	MILFORD with)	00½° N. 45° W.	086°	5
Floating Dock)				
T.A. 39A	43° N. 35° W.	270°	17¾	
	(D.O.D.(F), 050958Z to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

Convoy Arrived.
G.A.T.53. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 051058Q to Admty.)

BARON BARON BELHAVEN heavy weather damage ex O.N.S.1.
BELHAVEN. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 051219Z to Admty.)

F.L.O. C. in C. Med., 051402.
Bermuda. See Mediterranean.

BERRY. BERRY arrived New York 1420Q/5th en route
Bermuda.
(C.E.S.F., 051421Z to Cominch, (R) C. in C.
Lant, Admty., C.T.G. 02.3, S.B.N.O.W.At.,
C.T.G. 02.1, N.O.B. Bermuda.)
About 0900Q April 6th depart New York proceed direct to N.O.B.
Bermuda. On arrival report to Commandant for further orders.
Report E.T.A. and estimated time of departure to C.E.S.F. and
information addressees. Speed 15 knots. Guard 4410 k/cs.
Guard 2716 k/cs voice. 3000 k/cs voice at scene of action.
(C.E.S.F., 051441 to BERRY, (R) Cominch, N.O.B. Bermuda, C.T.G.
02.3, C.T.G. 02.5, C.T.G. 02.9, B.N.L.O. New York, C.O.A.C. (?),
Opnav, C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 051445Z, 051446Z, 051521Z, 051522Z,
April 5th, 051523Z.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

/Convoy ...

War Diary.

5.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy C.U. 1. Your 031928Z. Arrived off Oversay 011630A.
(D.T.D., 051538Z to Connav.)

PASTEUR. Route PASTEUR at 41 via (A) 42.10, 61.30.
(B) 42.50, 47.40. (C) 42.15, 33.30.
(D) 46.20, 22.15. (E) 54.55, 18.40.
(F) 55.40, 08.45.
(Cominch C. & R., 051543Z to C. in C. N.W.A., (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)
Halifax arrived 051059Z PASTEUR.
(N.S.H.Q., 051638Z to D. of S.T.)

Convoy B.T. 8. Arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 051622Q to Admty.)

Situation Section East.
Report. S.G.(22?) W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2, 52.53 48.18, 345°
11.5 altering to 333° in 53.27 N.
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5, 47.08 52.39, 013°, 12 en route St. Johns.
J.H.46 TROIS RIVIERES 44.26 56.23, 229°, 8 altering to 275° in 56.30 W.
J.H.46A MALPEQUE, WASAGA 44.19 57.22, 273°, 13.
U.S. Ship ANTAEUS escorted by ENDRICK 42.01 58.31 255°, 16 alter to 269° in 65.00 W.
TAHOMA departed St. Johns N.F. 2230Z for Argentia.
H.J.44 VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM 44.08 58.38, 010°, 7.5 alter to 056° in 57.14 W.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 051625Z to Admty.)

Convoy H.X.233. (1) Sailing telegram part 1, H.X.233.
(2) Position C at 2230Z April 6th.
(3), (5), (8) Routes and R/V as per C.E.S.F. 022025 except all times 4½ hours later.
(6) Task Unit 24.18.7, HEPATICA, DUNVEGAN, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE.
(Port Director New York, 051650 to Admty., (R) Cominch C & R., C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 24.6, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

U.C./C.U. Convoys, inclusion of dry cargo ships. Your 041451Z maximum of 12 ships allowed in U.C. - C.U. convoys. Dry cargo ships may be included to fill vacant spaces if tankers are below allowed number dry cargo ships in eastbound convoys must be capable of maintaining 14.5 knots and in westbound convoys 15.5 knots. Sailing of convoys must not be delayed beyond schedules dates to permit inclusion of dry cargo ships.
(Cominch C. & R., 051819Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., Cinclant.)

/Petroleum ...

War Diary.5.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Petroleum Stocks. The present petroleum stock position in this country is a matter of grave concern to the Board. Any support along the lines set out in Bilge 1829, which you can render to the British Merchant Shipping Mission to rectify this position, and particularly to bring about an increase in U.K. stocks, would accord with Board policy.
(4th S.L., 051922B to B.A.D.)

U/B. Kingston intercept from Guantanamo submarine sighted 19° 53' N. 75° 07' W. 2233 ZEBRA.
(Kingston, 052015Q to Admty.)

Convoy J.H.45A. Arrived J.H.45A less POLARLAND (Nor.)
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 052036Z to Admty.)

A.T. 41 (PASTEUR). Convoy A.T.41. Request you will sail PASTEUR from Halifax independently so as to arrive Liverpool on p.m. tide 16th April, and report estimated position of ship at daylight 16th April.

2. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection.
3. Fighter protection codeword "Apricot".
(D.O.D.(H), 052043B to C. in C. C.N.W.A., (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, B.A.D., C. in C. H.F., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Liverpool, Air Min., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.)

Shipping Connav Serials 3 to 5. *(April 2nd intended)*
Casualties. GULF STATE torpedoed sunk March 3rd 024° 26' N.
080° 18' W. *(April 1st intended)*
LYSEFJORD torpedoes sunk March 1st 023° 09' N.
083° 24' W. *(April 1st intended)*

Correction to our preceding serial LAMUT aground March 1st 047° 52' N. 124° 36' W. salvage improbable.
Correction MASAYA position 5 miles from Oro (? Calay) about 008° 53' S. 148° 33' E.
BANTAM 330 gross attacked by aircraft and beached near position of MASAYA March 1st *(April 1st intended)*
(Cominch C. & R., 052115Z to Comnav.) *See pages 112 and 114*

WEST POINT. Since WEST POINT is urgently required at New York desire she discharge personnel destined for Australia at Aden, Bombay or Colombo at your discretion. Request she be routed thence via South Africa to New York calling at Rio for fuel, if Captain considers necessary. Prisoners of War and all other personnel may remain on board.
(Connav, 052136Z to C. in C. E.F., (R) WEST POINT, A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.S., D. of S.T., C. in C. S.A., P.S.T.O. India, Admty., S.S.T.O. Aden.)

/Sub. ...

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5.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.
 A. SHILLONG torpedoed sunk 57.10 N. 35.30 W.
 050010. WAROONGA torpedoed 57.10 N. 35.30 W.
 050103. SUNOIL attacked 56.38 N. 36.51 W.
 050950. BLITAR attacked 56.46 N. 30.45 W.
 051355. U.S.N. plane sights sub. 58.49 N. 32.47 W.
 051445. R.A.F. plane sights sub. 58.20 N. 31.52 W.
 051453. R.A.F. plane sights sub. 57.52 N. 33.12 W. 051433.
 Plane sights sub. 57.52 N. 34.48 W. 051600. Brazilian plane attacks sub. 11.25 S. 35.27 W. 051355. H.M.S. VIDETTE attacks sub. 56.06 N. 36.21 W. 041745.
 C. V.P.202 sights conning tower 20.51 N. 80.40 W. 041851.
 D. Army plane sights sub. 29.37 N. 78.37 W. 051540. Army plane Radar contact 29.38 N. 80.50 W. 041326. Plane sights two subs. 65.10 N. 23.00 W. 041600. SIGSBEE sub. contact 37.07 N. 74.56 W. 042330. Army plane made contact 24.15 N. 81.05 W. 042042. MONOMOY sights unidentified craft on surface 38.00 N. 51.25 W. 041800.
 (Cominch, 052146Z to Admty.)

Solops 13. April 2nd: 13 Allied fighters bombed and machine-gunned enemy merchant ship off Vella Lavella Island. Ship badly damaged and set on fire.

Many small boats and barges and one merchant ship were seen at Kieta. 3 destroyers were sighted North of Choisseul Island steering North West.

April 4th: U.S. Destroyer attacked submarine on surface 50 miles N.N.W. Russell Islands. Submarine believed seriously damaged or destroyed.

(B.A.D., 052201Z to Admty., C.O.I.S.E.F., (R) Connnav, R.I.C. Colombo. Capt. on Staff Kilindini 71 Flag Liaison Officer Delhi.)

155th, 156th M/S Flotillas. My 112033 March. Confirm 155th M/S.F. for U.K. numbers 31, 47, 48, 65, 66, 67, 185 - 186. 2. 156th M/S.F. for Med. numbers 155, 156, 49, 50, 37, 68, 187, 209.
 (B.A.D., 052207Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

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5.4.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrival Wellington U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 050447Z to Admty.)Arrivals 4th April Townsville U.S. Transport
VAN DER LIJN. Hobart H.T. KATOOMBA, H.T.DUNTROON, U.S. Transport PRESIDENT GRANT departed Port Moresby
3rd due Townsville 5th. Hospital ship CENTAUR departed
Townsville 4th due Brisbane 6th.

(A.C.N.B., 051032Z to Admty.)

Arrivals Townsville 4th ARUNTA. Sydney 3rd BUNGAREE.
Fremantle 3rd U.S. Seaplane Tender CHILDS. Exmouth Gulf 3rd
U.S. Seaplane Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON. Departures Milne
Bay 3rd ARUNTA for Townsville 4th. WAGGA for Oro Bay.
Port Moresby 4th KAPUNDA for Milne Bay. Cairns 3rd PIRIE,
WHYALLA for Port Moresby. Palm Island 5th U.S. Dest. HELM for
Brisbane. Townsville 4th WARREGO for Milne Bay. Brisbane 4th
U.S. Dest. MUGFORD for Sydney. Sydney 4th U.S. Dest. RUSSELL
for Noumea. Fremantle NEPAL for Melbourne.

(A.C.N.B., 051305Z to Admty.)

Departure F.S. CHEVREUIL 052100Z E.T.A. Vila 062200Z.

(H.M. Consul Noumea, 052150Z to N.Z.N.B., A.C.N.B., Admty.
for F.N.F.L., Australian N.L.O. Vila.)Digest
Serial
No. 439,
April 4th.Noon R/C saw sailing boat only at Wewak and
reported no shipping at Lorengau where photos
show work continuing runway and dispersal lanes.
2. Eight Fortresses attacked shipping at
Kavieng before dawn. From medium height 1
Fortress bombed medium cargo vessel or submarine
tender and another a destroyer, but neither
observed results. 3 aircraft skip-bombed from 250 to 400 feet
with 500 5 second delay bombs scoring direct hit on large
destroyer or light cruiser, probable hit and near miss on
medium cargo vessel. Also near hit on destroyer and possible
hit on cargo ship. Other 3 Fortresses bombed aerodrome town
and waterfront.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 050751Z.)

Solops 13.

(B.A.D., 052201Z to Admty.)

~~See Lion Copy.~~

WHARTON.

Departure Wellington U.S.S. WHARTON S.O.
Francisco 2200Z/33.

A. 38.58 S. 170.01 W. B. 25.22 S. 157.59 W.

C. 09.12 S. 148.58 W. D. 06.40 S. 140.41 W.

E. 23.39 S. 131.20 W. F. 34.15 S. 125.02 W.

S. of A. 15.2 knots.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 052328Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.

5.4.1843.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 051338B, 051355B.)

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

R/C of
Alten
Fiord.

The Russians carried out photographic Air reconnaissance of Alten Fiord at 1255C today. This showed one light cruiser, 2 destroyers, one old coast defence ship, one large auxiliary at anchor off Alta village, and one cruiser under way in Maula Fjord. Nothing else was seen in Alten Fjord or in the coastal area Alten Fjord to Tromso.

Servicing
of supporting
groups.

2. C. in C.W.A is arranging for sufficient spare parts and ammunition of all natures to be made available at Iceland (C) and St. Johns N.F. to ensure that ships of British support groups can be serviced quickly at whichever port they may find it necessary to call for fuel. He suggests that if not already done, a similar provision should be made in Iceland (C) and at Londonderry for the ships of BOGUE's support group.

3. CHARYBDIS and METEOR sailed from Plymouth this afternoon for convoy protection and operation Regulation in the Biscay area. It is reported (B.2) that at Bilbao 4 enemy merchant ships will be ready to sail by 8th April. These ships may sail in convoy.

Casualties.

4. C.T.U. 24.1.13 escorting Convoy S.C.124 reported at 1817Z that MAYFLOWER one of the escorts was disabled by a wire round her propeller during oiling in 59.10 N. 17.00 W. at 1640. EYEBRIGHT took her in tow; no escort is available; and he asked C. in C.W.A. to send a tug. SHIKARI was sent from Londonderry and DEXTEROUS from Campbeltown: the latter towed her to Londonderry, where she arrived on 10th April.

Steam Drifter GOLDEN GIFT was sunk in collision with SS. LOCHINVAR in Oban Bay at 1358 today.

5. An aircraft of 15 Group estimates 2 hits on a U-Boat in 58.02 N. 28.42 W. at 1926B today. An aircraft of 15 Group estimates 4 hits on a U-Boat in 57.45 N. 27.55 W. at 2155B today. Air operations from Iceland (C) were affected today by a blizzard which commenced at 1100B. Convoy commitments prevented break out patrols from being flown in the earlier part of the day.

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

6. VIVIEN reports 12 ships in convoy F.N.87 attacked p.m. today: WESTWOOD and GRANBY are missing. No further details are known. N.O.I.C. Murmansk reports air attack last night on ships anchored in Michikor area. No damage or casualties occurred.

7. The motor tanker JOSEFINA THORDEN in convoy F.S.81 struck a mine and broke her back at 0945 today close to B.8 buoy, 10 miles S.S.E. of Harwich.

North Atlantic.

U/B survivors at Las Palmas. 8. The Consul Las Palmas reports that the Spanish coastal gunboat XAUEN returned to port p.m. today, having gone out to try to locate the crew of a German submarine sunk today, south of Grand Canary. It is reported that the U-Boat was disabled by air attack and being unable to effect repairs was abandoned at 1130 p.m. 5th April and blown up. It is understood that 50 survivors landed on the beach on the south part of the island p.m. today and were taken on board the XAUEN, who brought them to Las Palmas. The British Consul at Las Palmas presumes that the U-Boat sank inside territorial waters, although no official information is available. Aircraft yesterday reported attacks on U-Boats, in which hits were made, in 27.48 N. 14.58 W. and in 27.40 N. 15.20 W.

Mediterranean.

9. M.T.Bs. from Malta operated in the Sicilian Channel last night. They found no targets.

10. 450 tons of supplies have been discharged at Gabes. There have been several air raids but no damage has been caused.

/Convoy...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Convoy
"Outwit."

11. A convoy of 12 empty merchant ships from Malta arrived at Alexandria today.

12A.F.
Operations.

12. The 12th A.F. today 47 miles N.N.E. of Cape Bon and 15 miles N.E. of Zembra Is. (14 miles E. of C.Bon) blew up a 6000 ton merchant vessel, hit and left sinking two more, left two 4,500 ton ships in flames and another vessel on fire, and hit one large and several vessels of unknown types.

18 B.17s bombed the docks and shipping at Trapani, where 15 to 20 vessels were anchored. A large ship in the harbour received a direct hit and a large explosion occurred amongst ships alongside at the docks.

In all, four convoys were attacked by 74 bombers escorted by 23 P.38s.

13. 20 B.24s bombed the Ferry Terminus at Messina today.

SAFARI.

14. In the approaches to Cagliari at 1345, SAFARI torpedoed a 4000 ton merchant vessel, which was later seen making slowly for harbour.

America & West Indies.

Convoy
H.X.231.

15. The Senior Officer of the escort reported 12 attempted attacks by U-Boats between dusk 5th and 0430Z today. All were driven off without having achieved any success, he estimates that several submarines have been damaged. Before dawn, there were 4 more abortive attacks. At 0755Z TAY attacked and claims to have severely damaged a U-Boat which partly surfaced 200 yards ahead of the Commodore in 58.12 N. 28.20 W. the 4th Escort Group are continuing to hunt: no ship was attacked.

/By...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

Convoy
H.X. 231.
(Contd.)

By 0855Z three Liberators had joined and had already attacked 2 U-Boats. At 1700Z 55 ships were present, 3 sunk, and 3 stragglers. All escorts and 4 ships of the 4th Escort Group were in company. Lack of H/F activity indicated that U-Boats had lost touch.

Convoy
O.N. 175.

16. H.M.C.S. ROSTHERN and U.S. destroyer GREER escorting O.N. 175 attacked a U-Boat contact at 1400Z today in 49.11 N. 42.45 W. and consider the U-Boat possibly damaged.

17. U.S. JOHN SEVIER was torpedoed today in 20.49 N. 74.00 W. whilst in convoy Guantanamo 83.

Australia & New Zealand.

18. Tulagi and shipping near by were attacked at 1440Z by 50 enemy bombers escorted by 48 fighters. 67 U.S. fighters claim to have shot down 26 of the enemy aircraft for loss of 7. No damage to shipping is reported.

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.VARNE,
ULA.

VARNE (P.66) has been handed over to Royal Norwegian Navy and renamed ULA. (F.O.(S), 061212B to Admty.)

Movements.S/M
Movements.

My 051234. Cancel para. (O) and substitute (O) TAKU, URSULA, SICKLE escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE sail Portland 0700B/6 for Plymouth. E.T.A. 1800B/6. (F.O.(S), 060046B.)

Capt. (S) 6's 041130B. Intend to sail LORD LLOYD by searched channels at 070200B to R/V 23 buoy A.M. Q.Z.S.322 with SERAPH, P.58, and M.L.548.

(2) Thence LORD LLOYD escorting SERAPH and P.58 to Duncansby Head for onward passage to Holy Loch, E.T.A. Duncansby Head 081200B.

(3) LA CAPRICIEUSE will take over escort of SERAPH and P.58 at Duncansby Head to Holy Loch, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 100900B.

(A.C.O.S., 061143B.)

My 041130. Delete UNTAMED.

(Capt. (S) 6, 061414.)

ULVA will R/V at 061800 at 333° Eddystone 4 with KINGSTON TURQUOISE, URSULA, TAKU and SICKLE and bring URSULA into Plymouth.

Weather being unsuitable for E-Boats, KINGSTON TURQUOISE and SICKLE are then to continue their passage to 180° Bishop 7 thence SICKLE to westward.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 061455B.)

1. Intend to sail H.28 escorted by RION for Portsmouth at 0830 tomorrow, E.T.A. Needles 071300.

(N.O.I.C. Portland, 061633B.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/7th and movements for following 24 hours.

(a) BARB, SEVERN, and STUBBORN (P.238) in zones K.193, K.192, and K.190 respectively.

(b) TUNA on patrol between 69° N. 04° W. and Jan Mayen Island.

(c) TRUCULENT 68° 44' N. 09° 30' E. probably on surface through 62° 00' N. 00° 11' E.

(d) SEA NYMPH 67° 58' N. 09° 18' E. probably on surface through 62° 00' N. 01° 02' E.

(e) TEMPLAR in zones K.162 and K.163.

(f) BLACKFISH 61° 52' N. 01° 20' W. probably on surface through 62° 01' N. 01° 27' W. and 69° 02' N. 07° 48' E.

(g) SERAPH escorted by rescue M.L. leave Blyth 0900/7 due vicinity 23 Buoy at 2000/7 thence escorted by LORD LLOYD to vicinity Duncansby Head E.T.A. 1200/8.

(h) SHAD 44° 20' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.

(j) HERRING 44° 20' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 54' W.

(F.O.(S), 061736B to Admty.)

/1. My ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)

1. My 060046. For Plymouth read 333° Eddystone 4 miles and add thence TAKU and URSULA escorted to Plymouth by trawler from Plymouth. SICKLE escorted by KINGSTON TURQUOISE to 180° Bishop Rock 7 miles thence unescorted dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 00' W.

2. My 061736 add new para. (K), SICKLE 49° 48' N. 07° 38' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 09° 00' W. and 49° 50' N. 12° 26' W.
(F.O.(S), 061834B to Admt.)

FURIOUS. Sailed FURIOUS in accordance with my 052128B. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 060708B.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Dispositions of effective units in North Atlantic.

Area Iceland (C) - HOWE, BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, 2 destroyers.

Area Scapa - ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, KING GEORGE V, BERMUDA, BERWICK, KENT, NEWCASTLE, SCYLLA, 5 destroyers.

Area Clyde: ARGUS, FURIOUS, CARDIFF, 7 destroyers.

Area Belfast: INDOMITABLE.

Area Londonderry: 6 destroyers.

Area Plymouth: CHARYBDIS, NEWFOUNDLAND, 4 destroyers.

Area Sheerness: SUFFOLK.

Area Gibraltar: MALAYA, NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, UGANDA, ADVENTURE, 5 destroyers. (D.O.D(H), 061405B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

H.F. Destroyer state 062000 April, 1943.
Destroyers. (R.A.D., 062330B to Admt.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 051224B. "Device" returned 0904. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 060907B.)

4 M.Ls from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles to southward of Convoy route between longitudes 0° 10' W. and 0° 45' E. to be on patrol by dark and return when Convoy has left Portsmouth Command. Codeword "Advent".

5. 2 M.G.Bs., 1 M.T.B. short notice Newhaven.

6. M.L.309, 464 patrolling southward of E.A.5. Constant watch on 2450 k/cs.

7. Chasseur 14 at St. Helens. TANATSIDE, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.

8. 1 M.L., 1 R.M.L. from Portland on latitude 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 061216B.)

/M.Ls. ...

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) M.Ls. 247, 516 on patrol 15 miles South St. Albans. (C. in C. Plymouth, 061617B.)
M.Ls. 142 and 138 patrolling at inner Lade Buoy. (V.A. Dover, 061716B.)

N.W. Norway S/M Patrol. Consubron 50, 031510. From 359° Muckle Flugga 5 miles proceed by route "Grey", thence through (a) 069° 01' 007° 50'. (b) 072° 15' 013° 01' to patrol zone K.194. (Capt. (S) 9, 060925B to BLACKFISH.)

Unknown ship. Investigate unidentified plot 237° 3 and $\frac{3}{4}$ miles 56 buoy at 0920. (C. in C. Nore, 060939B to VIVIAN.)

Operation "Regulation". CHARYBDIS is to take METEOR under his orders and is to pass the Gate at 061800B and proceed as follows at S.O.A. not less than 18 knots.
2. Route by A.M. Q.Z.S.278, 390 and 347 to position - K. 50.11 N. 05.59 W. L. 50.09 N. 11.01 W. M. 48.50 N. 13.30 W. N. 43.02 N. 15.02 W. and thence as necessary to cover M.K.F.11A.
3. Object. (A) Protection of convoy. (B) Operation "Regulation".
4. CHARYBDIS to detach METEOR to Plymouth when necessary for fuelling.
6. Codeword "Talbot".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061237B to CHARYBDIS, METEOR.)
S.O.E.374 para. 5 and my 031744A.
NEWFOUNDLAND is to continue to cover K.M.S.12 until M.K.F.11A passes northbound, when NEWFOUNDLAND is to proceed to cover M.K.F.11A until 081200B.
2. At 081200B CHARYBDIS estimated to be in the vicinity of position (N) 043° 02' N. 015° 02' W. will cover M.K.F.11A and NEWFOUNDLAND is to proceed Gibraltar.
3. M.K.F.11A, S.O. Escort GOATHLAND, estimated in the vicinity 040° 18' N. 016° 15' W., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots at 072000B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061655B to NEWFOUNDLAND, CHARYBDIS.)
Sailed CHARYBDIS and METEOR in accordance with my 061237P.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061835B to Admty.)

Denmark Strait Patrol. Intend following movements for patrol "White":
p.m./7th C.S.10 in BELFAST sails to relieve CUMBERLAND. p.m./11th GLASGOW and INTREPID sail to relieve BELFAST and BLANKNEY (see para.3)
p.m./15th CUMBERLAND and MIDDLETON sail to relieve GLASGOW and INTREPID.

/(2) ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Denmark Strait Patrol. (Contd.) (2) Reliefs are to take place 0800 on the day after sailing at R/V to be signalled by S.O. of the relieving force before sailing.
(3) If HOWE proceeds to sea 9th April (C. in C. H.F. 051053) BLANKNEY is to be detached to join C.S.10 on patrol as soon as screen is no longer required.

If this exercise takes place on 10th April BLANKNEY is not to be detached. INTREPID is however to sail as in para. 1 with GLASGOW.
(C.S.10, 061422B.)

Operation V.P.-R. "Carey". Carry out V.P.-R for Roger. Operation "Carey".
(1) Through position 55 miles west of R to patrol R including attack on target number 63 and leave via U.
(2) 4 M.T.B. (3) 1200B/8th or first suitable day thereafter.
(4) 5. (5) No. (6) Yes. Outside patrol area.
(7) 0600B, 055° Out Skerries 130 miles.
(A.C.O.S., 061900B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick.)

Allied Air Activity.

Patrols from Iceland. My 050107, para. (?).
(A) Aircraft had to return because of weather before reaching patrol area.
(B) Negative report. These patrols cannot be flown today because of convoy commitments.
(A.C.I.C., 060305B to C. in C. H.F.)

My A.C. 1/6th April.
(2) Programme cancelled extreme weather.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 061435B to H.Q.C.C.)

Attack on R-Boats on 5th April. Four small for Boulogne at 2020 southbound at 12 knots, turned three miles south of Etaples at 2140, divided into two sections each of two vessels which entered Boulogne at 2330 and 0010. Attacked at 2125 by Typhoons of 609 Squadron who identified vessels as four R-Boats. Pilots claim hits on two of them.
(V.A. Dover, 060959B.)

Bomber Command Operations. 12 Venturas of 2 Group took off with fighter escort and support to attack a tanker in dry dock No. 2 at Brest. Bombs seen to burst around dry docks 2 and 3 alongside the tanker. Hits were also reported on the Arsenal and Naval Barracks.

As the crews left, a heavy explosion followed.
(H.Q.B.C., 061430A.)

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk.
BRITISH
GOVERNOR
damaged.
(? 4th
April).

Divers report BRITISH GOVERNOR seriously damaged amidships, crack run right under vessel from waterline to waterline athwartships.
2. Vessel also has hole in port bow in way of forehold and fore deep tank measuring approximately 45 feet by 15 feet.
3. Trying arrange dry docking earliest possible.
4. All personnel well.
(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 061840B to Admty.)

Unknown
vessel
attacked.

Following intercepted 1955 G.M.T. begins:
A A A A D A L 6 M. Ends.
(Niton Radio, 062155 to Portsmouth.)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 062156B and 062202B.)

Mining.

Convoy
F.S. 81.
JOSEFINA
THORDEN
mined.

(1) At 060945, JOSEFINA THORDEN, Motor Tanker 6550 tons gross, passed in B.8 Buoy at 0939. Mined in after part of ship.
(Cdre. Sheerness, 061622B to Admty.)
Departure Tug KENIA at 1020B and Salvage vessel LONGTOW at 1142 to assist JOSEFINA THORDEN.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 061751B.)

Lyme Bay.

Route as in your 021145A. Swept to westward with negative result. Intend sailing ships as in my 051753B to search Eastern Run tomorrow at 0800. E.T.A. Portland 1800.
(ROSS, 061740B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Humber.

One ground mine believed self-detonated 1810 in approx. 210° H.2 Buoy 2½ miles.
(F.O. Humber, 062122.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Alten Fiord.

Russian photographic air R/C of Alten Fiord 1255C today showed one light cruiser, 2 destroyers, one old coast-defence ship, and one large auxiliary at anchor off Alta village, and one cruiser under way in Maula Fiord. Nothing else seen in Alten Fiord or in coastal area Alten Fiord to Tromso. Any amendments to above will be signalled when photographs have been printed.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 061646B to Admty.)

/Bilbao ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Bilbao.

Report graded B.2, that, at Bilbao:
 (a) KAULDI and SPERBER ready to sail.
 (b) SCHARLACHBERGER completes loading 6th April.
 (c) BALDUR should complete 8th April.
 The 4 ships may sail in convoy.
 (D.D.I.C., 061909B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.(S),
 H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boats.U-Boats
attacked.

C/84 airborne 051211B and at 051631B sighted
 U-Boat on surface in 58° 49' N. 32° 47' W.
 Attacked with 4 350-lb. Torpex depth bombs - 2
 hung up and the remaining two failed to explode
 and at 051725B in 58° 46' N. 33° 47' W. again
 sighted U/B and attacked with one D/B which exploded 250 yards
 ahead of swirl 32 seconds after submerging. Nothing further
 seen. On first attack A/C fired 50 rounds from gun.
 At 051152B U-Boat sighted surfacing in 58° 20' N. 31° 52' W.
 Attacked immediately and when fully surfaced with 6 MK.XI
 Torpex (? D/Cs MK.)XVI pistols from 50 ft. set 25 ft. and
 spaced 100 ft. from ahead and on track of U-Boat. Spray of
 first D/C seen to cover conning tower in which 4 men were seen
 when U-Boat surfaced C/V informed and D/R detached to hunt.
 At 051632B from 5000 ft. sighted periscope which disappeared
 before A/C could achieve attacking position, dropped Marine
 Marker and adopted baiting tactics for 30 minutes. Nothing
 further seen.

(H.Q. Iceland, 060345B.)

Am over enemy submarine in 57° 30' N. 27° 42' W.

(A/C 061048 to 19 Group.)

(Liverpool W/T 061048B to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C 284 Sqn., Duty 'T', 061049B to 15 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 08' N. 27° 53' W.

(A/C 431 Sqn., Duty 'E', 061208B.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C 431 Sqn., Duty 'E', 061220B.)

Am over enemy submarine in 58° 02' N. 28° 42' W.

(A/C 86 Sqn., Duty 'R', 061917 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate

(2 ?) hits.

(A/C of 86 Sqn., Duty 'R', 061926B to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate 4 hits.

(A/C 86 Sqn., 062155B to 15 Group.)

U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy S/M in 58° 11' N. 28° 13' W.

(A/C L1WE, 061030B.)

Am over enemy sub. in 57° 45' N. 27° 55' W.

(A/C 86 Sqn., Duty 'R', 062150B to 15 Group.)

/U-Boat ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-Boats - Contd.

U-Boat sunk
on 7th
March.

The attack by Fortress aircraft J of 220 Squadron on 7th March on a U-Boat has been assessed as probably sunk.
(1st S.L., 061556B to Air Ministry.)

Casualties and Defects.

SOUTHERN
GEM.

My 031503. Delayed by bilge ejector defect.
(N.O.I.C. Leith, 061010.)

GOLDEN
GIFT
sunk.

Regret to report loss of S/D GOLDEN GIFT 061358 in collision with SS. LOCHINVAR in Oban Bay. No casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 061457B.)

JAMAICA.

Oiler has been delayed by bad weather and JAMAICA will sail with only 80 per cent oil-fuel on board.
(JAMAICA, 061642B to C. in C. H.F.)

CHESAPEAKE.

Your 042030B, 042031B and my 051726B, 041736B.
(2) Completion of owners requirements in M.V. CHESAPEAKE delayed owing to strikes.
(3) Ship will not be available for O.N.178 or O.N.S.4.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 061649B and 070215B to Admty.)

CAMPBELL.

My 021035A. Sailing delayed 48 hours owing to non-completion of machinery defects arising from trials.
(F.O.I.C. London, 061835.)

IMPULSIVE.

Will be ready for sea p.m. Wednesday 14th. Docking will have to be deferred to a later date.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 061907.)

Shipping and Convoys.

S.L. 126.
Attacked
on 29th
and 30th
March.

Preliminary report on Convoy S.L.126 escorted by First Escort Group PELICAN (S.O.), WEAR, SPEY, ROTHER, SENNEN. All times G.M.T. Enemy aircraft. The convoy was sighted by a F.W. Kurier on the 26th and 27th March and in both cases homing signals on 424 k/cs were received shortly after the sighting. High level bombing

/attack ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.

Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.L. 126.
 Attacked
 on 29th
 and 30th
 March.
 (Contd.)

attack was carried out by F.W. 200 K. on 29th. No hits being registered. Information was also received from Admiralty that Convoy had been reported.

2. U-Boats sighted. On the 29th March U-Boats were sighted by patrolling aircraft and attacked on the port and star beam of convoy. In view of lack of fast ships in escort and shortage of fuel no offensive action was taken.

At 291551 March patrolling aircraft attacked U-Boat four miles from convoy and then returned to base without relief. Had additional air escort been provided till dusk consider convoy would have stood better chance of avoiding attack.

3. First attacks escort stationed PELICAN S, WEAR G, ROTHER C, SPEY Q, SENNEN M. At 292038 March ROTHER detected and carried out very promising attack on U-Boat coming in from starboard bow. PELICAN closed to assist ROTHER, SPEY and WEAR returning from dusk sweep astern at 2100 NAGARA No.91, OCEAN VICEROY No.11 and EMPIRE WHALE were torpedoed. "Raspberry" was not carried out as escorts were not in station. From information available consider U-Boat attacked from ahead of convoy and then dived.

"Wand" attack at 2147/29th March UMARIA No.102 was torpedoed on starboard side. At this time no escort was stationed on starboard bow. Escorts still searching after previous attack and picking up survivors.

3rd attack at 300451 March EMPIRE BOWMAN No.22 was torpedoed on starboard side and half "Raspberry" was carried out. This attack also appears to have been delivered by U-Boat ahead of the convoy.

OCEAN VICEROY and NAGARA subsequently arrived in port, UMARIA, EMPIRE WHALE and EMPIRE BOWMAN sank conclusions.

7. Consider that attacks developed as U-Boats were in daylight hours allowed to work up ahead of convoy this was due to lack of fast ships to put them down when detected and lack of air coverage between 1600 and dusk on 29th March.

8. The absence of a rescue ship weakened an already weak escort after the first attack as some were employed rescuing survivors.

9. It appears that U-Boats are continuing to operate in formation coming in to deliver their attacks from ahead or bow positions at approximately thrity minute intervals.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 060001B to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N. 175.
 FOREST.

My 051517 and C. in C. W.A's 052034. Rescue Tug SAUCY escorted by WISTARIA will sail at 0001Z/6th.

(A.C.I.C., 060117B to C. in C. W.A.)

C. in C. W.A. 052245. Confirmed that WISTARIA and

Tug SAUCY have sailed to assist FOREST.

(A.C.I.C., 061147B to ITCHEN.)

WISTARIA, (? FURY), SAUCY awaiting SS. FOREST 63.25, 25.01 to Reykjavik.

(A.C.I.C., 061715B to Ships.)

/O.N.S.2 ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

O.N.S. 2. Your 052124. Proceed through position 055° 34'30" N. 022° 37'45" W., 063° 57'42" N. 022° 56'45" W., 064° 06'36" N. 022° 56'30" W., thence steer 074° to number one buoy and proceed up buoyed channel to Hvalfjord.
(A.C.I.C., 060241B to VILLE DE QUEBEC.)
Your 051615. Arrived.
(A.C.I.C., 061827B to ITCHEN.)

D.S. 39. Cancel my 1812/27th March. LETITIA will now comprise convoy D.S.39 instead of LEINSTER. My 2145/17th March refers.
2. Approximately 1500 personnel will embark on LETITIA at Tail of the Bank on 12th April and 13th April.
(D.S.T., 060321B.)
SS. LETITIA allocated for D.S.39 leaving Clyde p.m. 13th April.
(D.O.D.(H), 061329B to C. in C. W.A.)

Atlantic
Support
Groups.

I am arranging for sufficient spare parts and ammunition of all natures to be made available at Iceland (C) and St. Johns to ensure that ships of British support groups can be serviced quickly at whichever port they may find it necessary to call for fuel.

If this is not already being done may I suggest a similar provision made in Iceland (C) and at Londonderry for the ships of BOGUE's support group.

(C. in C. W.A., 060805Z to C.T.F. 24.)

Your A.14-1/C.T.F.24 serial 0186 dated 1st March 1943 and your 022143Z.

Following is brief summary of provisional A.C.Is for operation of British support groups as it affects escort carriers.

A. Air support group consist of an escort carrier and about 6 escort vessels.

B. The command in the air support group is exercised by the S.O. of ships other than the carrier. If, however, the group should consist only of the carrier and two or three vessels detailed as her screen, command will be exercised by the C.O. Carrier. In the event of attack by surface raider or in any circumstances when convoy protection ceases to be the primary object, then S.O. present assumes command. Ships detailed for the specific duty of screening the carrier are at all times under the command of the C.O. Carrier.

C. When in company with a convoy it is left to discretion of C.O. Carrier whether he will -

1. Station himself in convoy.
2. Operate independently.

If C.O. Carriers elects - 1. He should take station in accordance with A.M. 221918A March and endeavour to operate aircraft inside the convoy screen. When not flying on or off carrier screen may be placed under orders of S.O. close escort. If C.O. Carrier elects (2) distance from convoy is left to his discretion it may be advisable to operate at maximum efficient

/ R/T ...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Atlantic Support Groups. (Contd.)

R/T range from convoy provided this does not waste too much flying time.

D. Flying operations. Main purpose is to operate aircraft when convoy is threatened important, therefore, to conserve flying hours. Advisability of dawn and dusk patrols when U-Boats are known to be in vicinity should be considered. Danger exists of compromising convoy if a short range aircraft is sighted by a U-Boat in mid-Ocean.

E. Patrols should be in accordance with A.C.I. article 200. When operating on a convoy S.O. escort should inform C.O. Carrier of his air requirements and it is the duty of the Carrier to meet these requirements to the best of his ability.

F. When approaching a convoy, consideration should be given to flying off an aircraft when about 150' distant to locate convoy and obtain early information of S.O. Escort's requirements.

G. Fighter operations are at the sole discretion of the C.O. Carrier.

2. Request I may be informed whether you concur generally in (A) to (G) above or of any amendments you require to enable me to inform S.Os of Escort Groups of the rules under which BOGUE will be operating when she is placed under my operational control.

(C. in C. W.A., 061214 to C.T.F. 24.)

Convoy diagrams. Mercantile convoy instructions article 74. Propose these diagrams to be adjusted to provide for convoys of up to 90 ships and that they should be drawn up so that not more than 12 columns should be formed if there are 60 ships or less and not more than 14 columns as a final limit up to 90 ships.

(C. in C. W.A., 061035B to Admty.)

O.N. 179. Request you will sail ALGOMA as additional escort with C.3 Group escorting O.N.179.

(C. in C. W.A., 061040Z to C.T.G. 24.7.)

MAURETANIA. Arrival SS. MAURETANIA.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 061332B.)

F.S. 81. F.S.81 all arrived except SS. JOSEFINA THORDEN, reported mined near B.8 Buoy.

(N.C.S.O. Thames, 061511B.)

O.N. 176. Your 051221. Arrived 061228Z.

(A.C.I.C., 061511B to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18.)

/O.N. ...

211

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.O.N. and
O.N.S.
Convoys.

My 221412 March. Following are anticipated dates of sailing of outward bound convoys during remainder of April.

Convoy	Date
O.N. 179	18th
O.N.S. 5	21st
O.N. 180	24th
O.N.S. 6	29th

(C. in C. W.A., 061514Z.)

SUFFOLK.

SUFFOLK sailed 1230Z/6. E.T.A. Capetown 27th April.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 061534B.)

C.U. 1.

Average speed 13.4 knots. Arrived off Oversay 011530. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 061539B to Connav.)

M.K.F. 11A.

N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail VANOC (S.O.) and VERITY a.m. tomorrow to join convoy in 45.58 N. 15.50 W. at 081800Z. Convoy is routed through 49.18 N. 15.32 W., 55.00 N. 10.45 W., and 55.25 N. 08.30 W. VANOC should detach GOATHLAND and KRAKOWIAK to Plymouth day April 9th.
(C. in C. W.A., 061541B.)

On crossing 15° W. alter course for new position W. 50.01 N. 14.30 W., then to U.

2. No amendment to stragglers route.

(D.O.D.(H), 061638B.)

My 061541B and Admty. 061638B. Amended R/V 046° 22' N. 014° 44' W. at 081800Z.

(C. in C. W.A., 062236B.)

F.N. 87.

"Casing" now expected to reach 62 D Buoy at 2200B today. 12 ships attacked p.m. WESTWOOD and GRANBY missing. Weather 5772 9977.
(VIVIEN, 061602B to C. in C. Rosyth.)
Sailings from Humber - nil. Owing to stress of weather.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 061659B.)AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE.My 031221A. At special request of military just made intend sailing 0230B all times now one hour earlier.
(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 061638B to C. in C. Rosyth)

/H.X.231 ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- H.X. 231. My 060855. SNOWFLAKE has entire crew 54 men of BRITISH ARDOUR on board. 6 passengers and 11 crew of WAROONGA are missing. ALISMA is short of depth charges. 55 ships present, 3 sunk, 3 stragglers. All escorts in company and 4 ships of 4th E.G. Lack of H/F activity indicates U-Boats have lost touch. Aircraft have been splendid. My P.C.S. 058° 24' N. 025° 24' W., 087°, 9. Weather 5862 1566. (B. 7, 061700Z.)
- H.X. 230. Average speed 9.54 knots. Arrived off Oversay 010700Z. WILLIAM PIERCE FRYE, stragglers torpedoed and sunk. Remainder arrived. (D.T.D., 061739B to Connav.)
- S.C. 125. Intend to sail DEVERON 081400Z for Iceland (C) and to join escorts S.C.125 in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 051143B. E.T.A. 110400Z. S.O.A. 15 knots. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 061742B to A.C.I.C.)
- S.C. 124. MAYFLOWER disabled by wire round screw during oiling in 059° 10' N. 017° 00' W. at 1640. EYEBRIGHT standing by to tow. No escort available. Request tug be sent. Weather 3862 1068. (C.T.U. 24.1.13, 061817Z to C. in C. W.A.) Request you sail SHIKARI when ready to stand by MAYFLOWER disabled with wire round screw in 059° 10' N. 017° 00' W. at 061640B. EYEBRIGHT taking MAYFLOWER in tow. No tug available at present. (C. in C. W.A., 062153Z to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- K.M.F. 13. A.M. 021855, para. 2, for LETITIA substitute SS. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. (D.O.D.(H), 061839B.)
- D.F. 4. Sailed LEINSTER in accordance with my 051108B 1½ hours late. Subsequent movement as in AC.O.S. 051822B. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 061824B.)
- Convoys in Biscay Area. The following North and Southbound convoys will pass through the Bay area in the near future. Southbound leaving U.K. - O.S.46 about 15th April 8 knots and then every 15 days. W.S.29 and K.M.F.13 about 15th April 12½ knots. U.C.2 about 9th April, 13½ knots.

/Northbound ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoys in
Biscay
Area.
(Contd.)

Northbound leaving Gibraltar.
S.L.127 about 13th April 8 knots.
S.L.128 about 29th April 8 knots and then
every 15 days.
(D.O.D.(H), 061840B, and 081024B to C. in C.
Plymouth.)

K.M.S. 11. / Preliminary report of convoy K.M.S.11 escorted
by C.2 Group BROADWAY (S.O.), LAGAN, SHERWOOD,
PRIMROSE, SNOWDROP, SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE,
DORNOCH, MORDEN, DRUMHELLER, CHAMBLY, SAVORGNAN

DE BRAZZA. All times zone minus one.

Aircraft. Convoy was sighted and shadowed by F.W.200 (K)
between 19th and 21st March.

2. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA shot down the first F.W.200 sighted at
191400 March.

3. At 211700 March in 39° 29' N. 12° 38' W., F.W. 200 (K)
circled convoy and carried out an attack from six thousand feet
dropping three bombs attached to parachutes. CITY OF CHRISTCHURCH
was hit and subsequently sunk. No casualties.

4. No homing on M.F/D.F. was heard on normal homing frequencies
although S.O. considers that U-Boats were homed by aircraft.

5. EMPIRE DARWIN C.A.M. ship, did not fly off aircraft to attack
shadowers. U-Boat attacks on 22nd March.

6. At 1242 PRIMROSE stationed in position D obtained firm A/S
contact on star bow of convoy. One depth charge attack and one
H.H. attack carried out. H.H. attack most promising. Twenty
seconds after firing explosion was heard and felt and mushroom-
shaped head of water was seen on surface. Oil streaks were seen.
Asdic conditions excellent, contact was not regained.

7. At 1608 periscope was sighted by aircraft two thousand yards
on bow of convoy which was subsequently sighted by BROADWAY and
SHERWOOD at close range - no Asdic contact was obtained but three
attacks were carried out by eye with no result.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 061916B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

SOKOL. My 051037A para. 1.
Amend to read Polish S/M SOKOL passes
36.51 09.13 at 2200/5th thence through 36.37 07.24
35.53 06.15 35.49 06.06 to Gibraltar on surface
10 knots. If unable to reach Gibraltar before dark April 6th
SOKOL has been ordered not to cross 06° 40' W. before daylight
April 7th.
(F.O. Gib. 060125A. (Situation report for Area 'X.A.')). See
also 062251A.

Convoy Request you sail for Aruba when ready to convoy to
T.O.3. (?Charleston) ESSO NORFOLK, CHERRY VALLEY,
ESSO HARTFORD, COLORADO, escorted by task group
61.1, DUPONT, DICKERSON, ELLIS, route according to
Admty. 051635. MONMOUTH to join from Casablanca.

Gibraltar pass to C.T.G. 61.1.
(M.S.F.F. 060800Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) A.H.Q. Gib. Admty.
C.A.F.A.C. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, etc.)
T.O.3.

Intend sailing COLORADO, ESSO NORFOLK, CHERRY VALLEY, ESSO
HARTFORD.
(F.O.C. Gib. 061501 to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 062001.
P. 31 (UPROAR) 036° 44' 008° 21' through 36.37
07.24 at 070410 35.53 06.15 at (?07)1110 35.49
06.06 at (?07)1200 to Gibraltar diving by day
6/2 knots proceeding on the surface 10 knots.
after ?/0410. (2) Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE 036° 05' 010° 08'
through 36 (?17) 10.01 thence Gibraltar 14. (3) UGANDA 35.15
12.37 through 35.20 10.01 to Gibraltar 18. (4) D. 70 French
Sloop M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE 28.32 12.36 Northbound coastwise 7.
(5) LORD NUFFIELD, MIRROR, repairing cable vicinity of 36.17
07.25 (6) HAARLEM patrolling off Tagus. (7) S.C.525 (?125) 1
merchant ship 34.16 07.37 through 35.45 06.30 to Gibraltar 6.
(8) STELLA CARINA off Cape Mondego to Tagus 10. (9) S/M SOKOL
due Gibraltar 062000. If unable to arrive before dark will not
cross 06.40 W. before 070630 thereafter proceeding on surface
Gibraltar 10. (10) C.G.24, 2 U.S. destroyers, depart Casablanca
1000 (7) 032° 9½.
(F.O. Gib. 061014A.)

Situation 061959.
SPORTSMAN through 43.01 12.54 at 070130 and 42.23 12.32 at
070800 to 42.03 12.20 at 07200 diving by day 7/2. (2) TRESPASSER
through 43.01 13.22 at 070130 and 42.18 12.56 at 070800 to 41.52
12.36 at 072000 diving by day 8½/2½. (3) K.M.S.12 044° 23' 016°
25' 176° 7. (4) Portuguese Naval Tanker SAMBRAZ sailed today
from Lisbon for Aruba, 12. (5) O.S.45 BLACK SWAN 030° 08' 011°
50 through 28.35 13.11 thence 228° 8½. (6) and (7) Same as (2)
and (4) of 061014A. Add to para. 7 THYME part company as
necessary to R/V O.S. (corrupt group) (?28). 38.13.08 at 070900.
(8) UGANDA 035° 15' 012° 37' through 35 (?07) 10 (?01) to
Gibraltar 18. (9) HALCYON, SALAMANDER 2 tugs small craft

/convoy...

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Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. convoy (? 041°) 11' 013° 04' 152° 10. (See
(Contd.) amendment 062254A).
(10) M.K.F.11A GOATHLAND 37.03 11.58 through 37.
40 13.30 and 40.01 16.15 thence 002°, 12½. (See
amendment 062254A).
(F.O. Gib., 061022B.)
My 061022A para. (10) amend all after 13.30 to read - and
38.56 15.01 thence 352°, 12½. Para. (9) amend P.C. and S. to
read - 45.40 14.01 through 42.30 13.59 thence 152°, 11½.
(F.O.C. Gib., 062254A.)
Situation 2002A/6th. ARGONAUT, HERO 037° 22' 022° 31'
to Ponta Delgada. After fuelling ARGONAUT proceed 281°, 16.
HERO after fuelling patrol off Ponta Delgada until ARGONAUT
sailed thence through 037° 55' 024° 05' 047°, 23¼.
(2) U.G.S.6A, C.T.F.60, 033° 12' 026° 52', 086°, 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gib., 061045.)
Situation 062000A. 2 Swedish relief ships 034° 07' 036°
26' through 34.01 39.01 thence 270°, 12½.
(2) 2 Swedish relief ships 34.01 38.38 through 34.01 39.01
thence 270°, 13.
(3) QUEEN OF BERMUDA 022° 11' 032° 12', 358°, 16.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 061102A.)

FANTOME. Arrival.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 061048A to Admty., etc.)

Enemy Convoy Report. N. Coast of Spain. Your 1545/3rd, 1150/4th and 1020/5th. Report of convoy should have been telegraphed to me and not sent by Bag. Reports of this character should be graded. CANARIAS, Spanish Cruiser, has not moved from Ferrol. Vessels observed were in Bilbao Ore traffic escorted by Flak-ships. Please endeavour to obtain description of Cruiser. (N.A. Madrid, 061111A to R.O. San Sebastian, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Admty.)
Reference San Sebastian 051020 sent you by Bay. Information regarding CANARIAS and German destroyers is not correct. Please instruct Vice Consul as necessary. His previous signals refer. (N.I.D.20, 061710B to N.A. Madrid.)

KAULDI, SPERBER, BALDUR, SCHARLACHBERGER. 59 (KAULDI) and 65 (SPERBER) in outer harbour fully loaded ready for sea. 55 (SCHARLACHBERGER) should finish loading today 6th. 61 (BALDUR) should be fully loaded 8th. 4 ships mentioned may sail together in convoy. (Bilbao, 061127 to Admty., M.E.W., etc.)

G.U.S.6. My 051733A. Delete ESSO BAYWAY. Add WILLIAM FLOYD, MICHAEL STONE, WASHINGTON, IRVINE, RICHARD H. LEE, HAYOU, CHICO, AGWIDALE. Request pendant numbers.
(F.O. Gib., 061137 to Com. N.O.B.Oran, Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty., N.S.H.Q., Connav.)

U.G.S.6A. U-Boat estimated probably in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 061138B to U.G.S.6A, (R) Cominch, etc.)

/Axis ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Axis Shipping. Arrival 5th 59, Magdalena. Arrival 6th, 18, 17, 2, 16, Industrial. Departure 5th, 1024, 13, 3, 27, 28, 22, Ulia (corrupt group ?Admiralty). Repeated S.O.(I) Gibraltar. (Consul Bilbao, 061200 to Admty. (Bank Block)).

BRIQUETAS My 311326 March. Sailing postponed until 7th.
ZORROZA (D.E.W.D. 061203B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.
(Swiss Med).
Charter).

Convoy Arrived.
C.G.23. (F.O. Gib. 061206A to Commorseafron (R) C. in C.
Med., Connav, Admty).

Italian Repatriations. Italian liners SATURNIA, VULCANIA, DUILIO and GIULIO CEASARE will shortly sail under "safe conduct" from Italy on third repatriation voyage to East Africa. Vessels will proceed from Gibraltar to St. Vincent (C.V.) for fuel thence to Port Elizabeth and Massawa calling at Mogadishu on return voyage. 2. Request routes to be followed within limits of your respective stations may be communicated as a matter of urgency.
(Head of M. 061242B to F.O.I.C. Gib. R.A.W.Af., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, B.C., St. Vincent, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. Massawa)
Route to Port Elizabeth see C. in C. S.A., 071541B.
Route from St. Vincent, see F.O.C.W.A., 081720Z.

French Evacuation. N.A. Madrid, 061243A. See Mediterranean.

O.S.45 Casablanca movements unnotified. CROCODILE escorted by P.C.471 made R/V convoy O.S.45 accordance my 032350. (N.T. in W.R.) P.C. 101? returned Casablanca escorting ELGRIM PRINCE, W.T. MCLEOD and HALYCUS from this convoy. No repeat concerning this movement had been received here and no provisions for escort to Casablanca had been made.
(S.N.O.C.A., 061434Z to Admty).
Reply: Admty. 071850B.

Gibraltar, congestion. Your 041431 and 011207. During period 9th to 12th April berthing situation at Gibraltar will be critical. 2. Simultaneous arrival of E.T.17 and whole of K.M.S.12 will add 75 merchant ships to 50 already anchored in Bay. 100 in Bay is considered maximum practicable. 3. Arrival about 11th April of 22 L.C.Ts. from Plymouth and possible L.S.T. stragglers from U.G.S.6 A, who cannot be anchored in Spanish waters, precludes any additional berthing of merchant ships in Admiralty H.1 4-4, in view of your instruction that Gibraltar must be ready to receive force "H" at any time. 4. Situation will be eased materially.

/A...

War Diary.6.4.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Gibraltar
congestion.
(Contd.)

A. If about 37 ships now ready to sail from Gibraltar for U.K. can be accepted in S.L.127 A.T. 051905 refers. B. If the 25 ships of K.M.S.12 for North African ports do not stop at Gibraltar. 5. In view of number of ships already anchored in Bay, consider essential in interests of safety to delay arrival of N.T.17 (?E.T.17) until daylight 9th April. 6. If proposals in para. 4 (A) and 4 (B) are not acceptable, North African ships of K.M.S.12 will have to be anchored east of dock where there are no fixed A/S defences and where strong Levanter will necessitate ships concerned putting to sea.
(F.O. Gib. 061525 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)
(Reply C. in C. Med., 081151A).

Convoy
R.S.4.

Intend sailing (list) all for Freetown for orders. Also PETER STONE (Dakar) BANNSHIRE (Freetown for Capetown) also H.M. Tug LARIAT for Freetown.
(F.O. Gib. 061636 to F.O.C. W.Af., Commorseafron.
(R) Admty. etc.)

S.L.127.

Intend sailing (list). Request destinations.
(F.O. Gib. 061656A to Admty.)

Spanish
Shipping,
Information
for S/Ms.

MANUCHU expect to leave Puerto Barrios vicinity Valencia p.m. April 5th for Marseilles.
(ii) Spanish CIANO leaves Genoa April 9th by approved route for Gibraltar. (iii) Spanish Swiss chartered BRIQUETTAS ZORRSA now leaves Genoa April 7th for Gibraltar.
(F.O. Gib. 061724A to TACTICIAN, ULTOR, UNRULY, DZIK.)

S.L.127.

Your 051905 April. (Requesting if any merchant ships are to join S.L.127.) 17 ships which is total number of loaded ships at Gibraltar awaiting convoy.
(F.O. Gib. 061935A to Admty.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

April 6 U.S.S. TRIPPE P.C.471 arrived with breakoff from O.S.45. S.C. 525 departed with MONT VISO for Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. pass to Commavnaw.
(S.N.O.C.A. 062000Z to C. in C. Med. (W) (R) Commavnaw F.O.C. Gib. Cominch, Admty.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals M.Ls 173, 175, from escort duties Almeria. U.S. P.C. 474 French DUMONT, D'URVILLE with convoy C.G.23. Departures WISHART, QUANTOCK for Oran. Polish S/M DZIK for patrol. ST. NECTAN escort duties Melilla.
(F.O. Gib. 062005A to Admty. etc.)

/M.K.F...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

M.K.F.11A.

N.U. On crossing 015° W. alter for new position (X) 044° 01' N. 015° 58' W. thence (T) omit (S). (F.O.C. Gib. 062243A to Escorts of Convoy M.K.F. 11A. (R) NEWFOUNDLAND, Admty. Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.12, C. in C. W.A., A.O.C. in C.C.C.) Cancelled by 070734A q.v.

SOKOL.

My 052251. Keep W. of 07° W. till 070630A April. 2. Acknowledge forthwith. (F.O. Gib. 062251A to O.R.P. SOKOL (R) UPROAR.)

Convoy
T.O.3.

Your 020910. Intend to sail Gibraltar section T.O.3 1800A April 9th. (F.O.C. Gib. 062301A to Commorseafron (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. Connnav, Connavnaw.)

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

GEORGES My P.C. and S. 024° 12' N., 036° 00' W. 107° 20.
LEYGUES. E.T.A. Dakar 080800Z.
(GEORGES LEYGUES, 060030 to Comar Dakar (R)
F.O.C.W.Af).

SONTAY Ref. P.S.T.O. Middle East's 010921. Sailing
date from Durban of SONTAY has been agreed as 14/
4.
(D. of S.T. 060319B to P.S.T.O. Capetown).

Dispositions. B.Y.M.S. 7, 5, 6, 8, 07.44 14.08 to 07.40 14.11
thence 154 10½.
BUTTERMERE M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 07.30
15.11 to Freetown 8½.

ARRAN about 06.24 11.53 to Marshall 10.

FANDANGO off Monrovia to Takoradi.

M.L. 209 M.L. 272 off Marshall.

M.L. 285 escorting 06.46 13.08 to Freetown 5.

ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN 2 M.L.s with S.T.61 04.04 03.09 to 04.25 01.
42 thence Takoradi 9.

M.L. 271 M.L. 305 escorting off Sassandra to Takoradi 6.

DUNCTON off Accra. WOLVERINE off Pointe Noire to Lagos 20.

WITCH off Pointe Noire to Takoradi 15.

BIRMINGHAM 08.21 S. 04.38 to 05.00 S. 07.00 thence Freetown 19.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.00 23.00 15½.

Allied naval units on patrol in Ascension - St. Paul's Rocks
area.

(R.A.W.A., 060947Z).

Situation at 061958Z April.

French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 022° 16' 027° 11' to 020° 00'
020° 01' thence Dakar 20.

Air France 4 about 021° 00' 017° 20' to Dakar 14.

ROCHESTER with S.L. 127 020° 38' 021° 59' 046° 6¾.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA 022° 18' 032° 17' 358° 16.

BURDOCK, ORFASY, INKPEN 2 M.Ls. with convoy D.B.F.1., 013°
01' 017° 09' to 012° 50' 017° 15' thence 180° 7.

BRIDGEWATER escorting off Bathurst to Dakar 9.

SNOWDROP, KUUS (?KUMAON), PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, KATHIAWAR 010°
31' 017° 11' to 009° 59' 016° 59' thence Freetown 8½.

CILICIA on patrol about position 013° 30' 031° 30' 14.

F.C. GLOIRE on patrol about position 009° 30' 027° 30' 19.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about position 005° 00' 022° 30'
15½.

(F.O.W.A., 061210Z).

Position at 062000Z.

KENYA, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT with W.S.28
011° 30' S., 011° 00' E. to 018° 00' S. 011° 00' E. 12½ knots.

SARABANDE 015° 20' S., 010° 50' E. to Walvis Bay 5 knots.

NORTHERN CHIEF 031° 00' S. 017° 00' E. to Capetown 10 knots.

QUAIL 033° 20' S. 015° 10' E. to 033° S. 009° 30' E. at 18½
knots with escorted group then returning to Capetown.

QUILLIAM patrolling off Table Bay.

(C. in C. S.A., 061104B).

/WOLVERINE...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

WOLVERINE Pointe Noire departure 0015Z/6th WOLVERINE in accordance with your 051535 (No Trace in W.R.) E.T.A. Lagos 0600/7th. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 060855A to R.A.W.A.)

D.B.F. Convoy. Comar Dakar's 051211 (Sailing convoy D.B.F. for Freetown) SS. NEW COLOMBIA, SS. TOURS and tug EMPIRE DENNIS sail 1100 to R/V. S.Ps. held. EMPIRE DENNIS has no W/T. Speeds 10, 7½ and 11 knots respectively. EMPIRE ACE unable to sail owing to Master's sickness. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 061105Z to C. in C. E.F. (sic) R.A.W.A.F., S.S.T.O. Freetown (R) Admty. Comar Dakar, BURDOCK) My 061105 (1) EMPIRE ACE with temporary Master sailed 1230 for R/V. Speed 11 knots. No W/T. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst, 061508Z to R.A.W.Af. (R) Comar, Dakar, Admty).

WITCH Pointe Noire departure 060030Z. WITCH to carry out search for missing Hudson aircraft. Proceeding at 061000 starting in accordance with your 051535. E.T.A. Takoradi 1400Z. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 061105A to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi).

SOUND FISHER. TURCOMAN is to be sailed Pointe Noire as escort to SOUND FISHER. Anticipate TURCOMAN and SARABANDE will then escort SOUND FISHER from Pointe Noire towards Bahia, TURCOMAN and SARABANDE being relieved to return Freetown at prudent limit of endurance. (F.O.C.W.A., 061151Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) B.N.L.O.W.A., C. in C. S.A., Admty).

Movements, Lagos. Arrival 6th April PORTSDOWN, RUMBA. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 061245Z to Admty).

Convoy Reports, South America. Your 050211. These telegrams are no longer required by Admiralty. (D.T.D., 061251B to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro) Further Reply: D.T.D., 081652B.

EMPIRE LIONEL. Concur with your 051310. EMPIRE LIONEL accepted for S.L. 129. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 061313Z to S.O.(I) Rio de Janeiro (R), F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

/ARRAN...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

- ARRAN Departure 051854Z ARRAN for Marshall.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 061455Z to R.O. Monrovia etc).
- HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN. Your 032313 para. 2 (use of HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN to move 270 military personnel) C. in C. S.A. concurs (?.) S.S.T.O. Durban will issue necessary orders accordingly informing N.A. Montevideo of number on board on departure from Durban.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown, 061555B to D.S.T.)
- CITY OF
BARODA. My 041026 (CITY OF BARODA reported torpedoed). Aircraft sighted CITY OF BARODA aground in approx. (073° or 027°?) (20' or 47'?) S. 015° E. Back reported broken.
(2) 14 missing out of total complement 315.
(C. in C. S.A., 061605B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Durban).
- WASTWATER,
defective
transmitter. 311805Z and 312050Z both Emergency from WASTWATER took from 312328 until finally cleared at 010512. Although ship indicated that VPU could be heard strength 3 K's passed via VPU produced no result and message was not broadcast. Ship's transmitter defective and off frequency.
(D.S.D., 061727B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- A.F.D. 24,
CHESHIRE. A.M. 061534 to N.A. Montevideo only. (N.T. in W.D.) Dock is to proceed to Bahia as soon as ready for sea, routed close inshore escorted by CHESHIRE.
2. CHESHIRE is then to return to U.K.
3. C. in C. S.A. and F.O.C.W.Af. are requested to concert arrangements for ocean escort from Bahia to Walvis Bay using CILICIA if desired.
4. F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to arrange with Com. 4th Fleet for all practicable local A/S protection in vicinity of Bahia.
5. Com. 4th Fleet has no information about this movement and F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to keep him informed.
6. Explanatory signal to F.O.C.W.Af. follows.
7. N.A. Montevideo pass to CHESHIRE.
(D.O.D. (F) 061734B to N.A. Montevideo, C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.W.A. (R) CHESHIRE).
Dock referred to in A.M. 061734B is 5000 ton floating dock purchased by British Government in Montevideo for service at Port Elizabeth.
2. It is towed by Dutch tugs THAMES and ROODE ZEE.
3. An attempt at direct passage from Montevideo to the Cape was abandoned on account of weather.

6.4.1943
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

A.F.D. ~~24~~,
CHESHIRE.
(contd).

4. CHESHIRE was sent to Montevideo to provide ocean escort.
5. Route via Bahia has been chosen as affording best prospect of favourable winds currents and sea conditions at this season.
(D.O.D. (F) 061804B to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements,
Bahia.

U.S. Destroyer MCKEAN Brazilian Destroyer
MARANHAE minelayers CAMOCIM, CANANEA Wednesday
Southbound convoy.
(R.O. Bahia, 061735Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I)
Freetown, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro).

B.Y.M.S.

Departure 061300 April B.Y.M.S. 7,5, 6,8,
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 062009 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
B.N.L.O. West Africa, (R) Admty. etc).

BUTTERMERE

E.T.A. Freetown 072359Z.
(BUTTERMERE, 062245Z to F.O.W.A.)

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War Diary.

6.4.1943.

Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 5 E/Vs. 38.10 N. 12.25 E. 240°
6 knots.
(A/C BWW/Y via Malta 060210B to A.O.C. in C. Malta.)

Repatriations. Your 041031. No troopship is now required for first flight.
2. As sailing date of second flight from Alexandria has been postponed to 5/5 SONTAY will be available.
(D. of S.T.. 060317B to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C.Levant, G.H.Q. M.E.)

Troopships ex C.M. 40. Your 030913C and 010924C. No objection to proposed allocation of returning vessels of C.M.40 subject to P.S.T.O.India's concurrence.
(D.S.T. 060333B to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 73, 65, 75 and 84 returned from operations.
(V.A.Malta 060458B to Admty. etc.)

P.A. 31. Convoy P.A. 31 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 060654Z to Admty.)

UMBROKEN. Your 051946 acknowledged. Sanctuary arranged from 0500B. ABDIEL and 2 destroyers will be arriving from westward at approx. same time as you.
(Capt. S.10 060709B to P.42 (UMBROKEN.))

Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 5th M.Ls. 1143, 1164.
Departures 5th April WOLBOROUGH, CROOME, ALDENHAM, ROCKWOOD, HURWORTH, EASTON, HURSLEY, KANARIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 060906C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No., 114 part 3. 4 April. 25 B.24s despatched to make dusk? attack on Naples Harbour. 14 aircraft returned early, 1 landing Malta engine trouble caused by dust storms at Base prior to take off. 9 aircraft bombed objective, bombs bursting along Baustnia Mole and at base of Vigliena Mole, damage unobserved. 12 enemy fighters seen climbing but no attack made. All 9 B.24s hit by A/A fire at 23,500 feet to 25,000 feet. 1 B.24 unable to reach Naples bombed Catania aerodrome. Results unobserved. 2 aircraft landed Malta on return. 1 B.24 missing believed down in sea N.W. Benghazi. 72 X 500 lb. H.E. Naples at 1735Z hours.

/Night...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Bi-weekly Night 4/5 April. 6 Liberators despatched to bomb
Opsum No. 114 Palermo Harbour. 2 aircraft returned early due
Part 3. technical trouble. 4 Liberators bombed objective,
(Contd.) bombs bursting in Southern portion of town east
of Military H.Qs. 48 X 500 lb. H.E. at 2059Z
hours. 5 Halifaxes, 31 Wellingtons, bombed Sfax.
Bursts seen north of Harbour in area of Railway
Station and Sidings, Barrack and Factory Buildings. 1 small
fire started in Railway Yard. Albacores illuminated. 76 tons
H.E. at 2130 hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 060923Z.)

MAX BERENDT. My 231206/1; (MAX BERENDT submerged at Tobruk)
MAX BERENDT salvage completed and arrived
Alexandria for repairs.
(Supt. Salvage E.M. 060927B to Admty.)

T.E.20(B) For Bone SERULA 23, TITUS 43, HILDUR I 53,
For Philippeville CAUDEBEC 51, ZENA 52.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 061001A to F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C.
Philippeville.)

(?T).E.20B. Intend sailing for Philippeville ST. CLEARS.
For (?Bone) JACINTH, ALEXANDER ANDRE. (T) LINGE, ESMEH, (Master
Acting as Commodore). Also 4 L.S.T. for Philippeville and
M.M.S. 85 for Bougie.

(N.O.I.C. Algiers 061119A to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os.I.C.
French North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca), F.O.C.
Gibraltar, Admty. Connav.)

Your 040639B. (W.R. signal requesting repetition of
310942 and 011227 quoted in N.O.I.C. Bougie 020848.)
Following is a repetition of my 310942 and my 011227, begins
Addressed F.O.I.S., from N.O.I.C. Bougie, T.E.20, TITUS,
HILDUR I, both for Bone T.O.O. 310942/March
Begins, Address F.O.I.S. from N.O.I.C. Bougie T.E.20. Add
to my 310942/March. SERULA for Bone T.O.O. 011227 (Ends.)
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 062330A to Admty.)

G.U.S.6. Request you will sail G.U.S.6 at 1500 April 10th
S.O.A. 9 knots.
2. Route through 52, 3, 57 letters J. to L. via
Q.K.A. 87 to R/V in position M. 034° 34' N. 008°
32' W. at 1400 April 12th with Casablanca section. Stragglers
route as convoy.
3. Gibraltar section join in position 57 at 1800 April 11th.
4. Ocean route and stragglers route as in A.M. 051640.
5. 1st two letters of W/T call sign H.A. Incon.351.
6. Fighter priority 3. Codeword "Wasting."
7. Escorts from Oran to R/V as detailed by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
All times A.

(C. in C.Med. 061043A to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.
S.O. Force H, Admty. Connav, Commorseafron.)

G.U.S.6 Have following for inclusion (List.)

(Com N.O.B. Oran 061122A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.Gib., etc.)

/Material...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Material for Turkey. Turkish Naval requirements have now been incorporated into the Adana list. Preferred that item numbers shown in Adana list be retained, to avoid confusion.
(N.A. Ankara 061158C to Admty.)

Repatriations. Italian repatriation liners VULCANIA, SATURNIA, DUILIO and GUILIO CESARE under "safe conduct" will shortly leave Trieste on third repatriation voyage to Middle East.

2. Vessels will bear same markings and illuminations as on previous voyages.
 3. From Trieste to Gibraltar vessels will proceed by following route:- (details).
 4. Vessels should not be molested while following above routes. Air authorities concerned should be informed sailing date will be notified later.
- (Head of M.I. 061241B to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S).)

French Evacuations. Your 021305. (Re evacuation of French Refugees) H.M.Ambassador and American Ambassador agree 17th.
See Embassy Telegram 640 to F.O. repeated Lisbon as 64 April 4th.

Americans want 10 days (?notice) and will not begin until they know Port. Is this settled?
(N.A.Madrid 061243A to N.A.Lisbon, (R) C. in C.Med. etc.)

PARTHIAN. Times zone minus 3.

1. Cancel para. 1 of my 031151 (N.T. in W.R.)
2. Leave your area to pass through A. 035° 49' 028° 34' at 071100 B. 034° 12' 032° 48' at 081300 C. 034° 12' 034° 38' at 090030 to arrive Beirut searched channel at 090600, proceeding on surface during daylight 8th April. Estimated speed 11½ knots from surfacing p.m. 7th till reaching position B. then mean S.O.A. 8 knots.
3. You have freedom of action in your area.

(Capt. S.1 061248C to PARTHIAN (R) G.S.KATSONIS, C. in C. Levant, R.A.(D), Med. C.C.F. Eastern Med.)
My 061248 in abeyance. (Capt. S.1 071619C q.v.)

UNBENDING. Arrived.
(V.A.Malta 061256B to Admty.etc.)

Movements, Aden. Arrivals 0624Z BATHURST and LAUNCESTON in company 0719Z U.S.S. WEST POINT.
(Cdre. Aden 061313Z to Admty. etc.)

/M.T.Bs...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs. 261, 264.
(V.A.Malta 061306B to Admty. etc.)

Convoy E.T.17. E.T.17 sailed as in my 021031 plus ALCINOUS Gibraltar for orders, SHUNA for Oran. Following carry mails for U.K. Following carry passengers. Following have iron ore ballast. (List in each case.)
(Cdre. Algiers 061416A to Admty. etc.)
E.T.17. Algiers section arrived less BJORKHAUG.
(Cdre. Algiers 061530Z to N.Os.I.C.Bone, Philippeville, Bougie, (R) Admty. etc.)

S/Ms information Swiss ST. GOTHARD sailed Gibraltar 5th for Genoa 8 knots. Swiss chartered Spanish CIANO leaves Genoa about 9th for Gib. Above not to be molested on approved route. German controlled MANOHU (MANUCHU) may have left Castille on 5th for Marseilles.
(Capt. S.8 061425A to TRIDENT, P.314 (TACTICIAN).)

WELCOME. My 051508. WELCOME now sailing 061800. First operation cancelled, second takes place between 9th and 11th.
(Capt. S.8 061440A to 8 S.F.)

Mines Casablanca. 4th mine exploded by sweepers position 33.8.00 N. 07.34.45 W. at 060915. 3rd mine 051105 was magnetic type. Harbour remains open for shipping. C. in C.Med. pass to Comnavnav.
(C.M.S.F.F. 061515Z to Comnavnav, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. Cominch, C.T.F.63, Convoy Cdre. G.U.S.6.)

QUANTOCK. Position 109, E.T.A. 2044.
(QUANTOCK 061652A to Com N.O.B. Oran (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

Situation Report No. 19. Alexandria. Convoy of 10 storeships, 2 troopships, 1 tanker for Tripoli, Libya, 2 storeships a troopship and a tanker for Malta sailed 5th April. Convoy of 12 empty Merchant ships arrived Alexandria 6th April.
2. REDWOOD and GENERAL BIRDWOOD unsuccessfully attacked by 2 Italian torpedo bombers 031237 April whilst salvaging a tug in Gulf of Bombay.

/3...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Situation Report No. 19 (Contd.)

3. Second Minesweeping Flotilla sweeping minefield North of Ras Tolkeitt.

4. My 041001C M.T.B. 63 abandoned in 30° 50' N. 19° 50.5 East, heavy weather preventing towage. All crew rescued by HAILSTORM.

5. L.C.Ts. have completed discharge 450 tons of supplies at Gabes. Several air raids but no damage.

6. Suez Canal blocked by sinking of Eastern pontoon of Koubri Military Bridge - about 6 miles North of Suez 4th April. Obstruction removed and Canal opened 6th April. (C. in C. Levant 061656C as amended 071018C to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed ABDIEL, PETARD, and KELVIN. (V.A. Malta 061803B to Admty. etc.)

SEAHAM. E.T.A. 2130C. Request light. (SEAHAM 061805C to N.O.I.C. Tobruk.) Arrived SEAHAM, sailed SOUTHERN ISLE. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 062303C to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 595 6th April C.S.R. Part I Offensive. Night 5/6th April. 5 Special equipment torpedo carrying Wellingtons and 1 special equipment Wellington with bombs made searches for enemy shipping North of Marittimo and Southeast of Sardinia but severe A.S.V. jamming was experienced and no significant sighting was made. The bomb carrying Wellington on return journey bombed the Railway Station South of Trapani. 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily, 2 patrolling Catania, Gerbini, 1 patrolling Castelvetro, and 1 patrolling North and East coasts, but no suitable target was found. Day 6th April. 8 Spitfires bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires with 3 fighter Spitfires as rear cover made successful attack on factory and railway sidings at Ragusa, scoring hits on Railway station and railway buildings. Part II Enemy Air Activity. Day 6th April. 1003 hours 6 plus Me. 109s approached at great height and were intercepted North of Malta by 4 Spitfires which probably destroyed 1 Me. 109 without loss to themselves. (H.Q.R.A.F. Malta 062000Z.)

Movements, Oran. Following ships arrived BADSWORTH, WHEATLAND, BUDE, WISHART, SULTANE, ARETHUSE, PERLE, LA SETOISE, U.S. RESOLUTE. Following ships departed BADSWORTH, WHEATLAND, G.S. ADRIAS, BUDE, JAUNTY, EMPIRE NED, L.S.Ts. 304, 361, 363, 403. (Com N.O.B. Oran 062013/4 to Admty. etc.)

/Black...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Black Sea
Report.

1. Sea. A. Russian Surface forces sank 2000 ton merchant vessel on March 30th.
B. Enemy subs reported off Caucasus coast on March 29th, S.W. Sukhum March 30th (West?) Sochi March 31st, S.W. Novorossisk, and April 3rd N.W. Dansvla lighthouse.
2. Air attacks. Russians have kept up attacks on ports etc. in Taman and Nevillech Peninsula.
3. Land. A. Much less change in position around Novorossisk, several inhabited points to N.E. have been taken. Abinskaya was occupied by the Russians on March 24th and reported Krimskaya was taken on April 4th.
B? Kuban area. Anastasievskaya occupied by Russians on April 1st, since then several inhabited points have been taken and fighting is now taking place on north bank of Kuban River. (N.L.O. Black Sea 062050 to Admty. etc.)

TRIBUNE,
TROOPER.

Following is a repetition of my 052003 (received U/D.) Begins, Admty. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.O Gibraltar. V.A.Malta from N.O.I.C. Algiers. Algiers arrival TRIBUNE. Departure TROOPER. Ends. T.O.O. 052003.
(Cdre. Algiers 062116A to Admty. etc.)

OSIRIS.

Your 021715 (N.T. in W.R.) On completion of trials and working up about 19th April OSIRIS is to be sailed to Port Said for onward passage to Kilindini.
(C. in C.Levant 062120C to S.1 (R) C. in C.E.F. Admty. F.O.(S) F.O.R.S.C.A.)

ALDENHAM
(aground off
Sollum.)

C. in C. 061934C (N.T. in W.R.) Position at 070430C 3 miles North Cone bend thence trouble, (as received) speed 8 knots.
(ALDENHAM 062150C to SEAHAM. HURWORTH, (R) A.I.G. 71, A.I.G. 72.)

12th A.F.
Report.

1. Escorted by 26 P.38s. 16 B.25s dropped from 6,100 feet 70 - 500 pound bombs on convoy 48° 15 minutes (? miles intended) north of Cape Bon. Direct hits and several near misses on all 3 large M/Vs. in convoy; also 1 destroyer blown up and 2 barges hit. Intense flak over target. A formation of about 50 Ju.52s escorted by Me.109s and 110s were encountered just before target was reached. 7 Ju.52s, 1 Me.110, 1 Me.210, ?3 Me.109s and 3 Ju.87s were destroyed. 3 probably destroyed and 6 damaged. 1 B.25 lost, 4 P.38s missing.
8. 34 Spitfires attacked 2 enemy boats off coast of Tunis leaving one smoking. 3 Me.109s encountered. 1 destroyed, 2 damaged. 1 Spitfire shot down, 2 damaged. Numerous fighter sweeps made in Tunis area.
9. 18 A.20s escorted by 50 P.40s attacked El Djam airdrome. 5 engagements with enemy aircraft took place. 4 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 2 damaged.

/10...

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6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

12th A.F.
Report
(Contd.)

10. 18 A.20s escorted by 60 Spitfires attacked La Fauconnerie airdrome and were engaged by 3 enemy formations of which 1 probably destroyed and 4 damaged. Many flights were made over the El Guettar-Gafsa area. Fighters flew 738 sorties.

Night 4/5 April, 15 Wellingtons bombed Trapani docks and shipping; coastal flew usual convoy and R/C patrols. (12th A.F. Constantine 062235Z to Etousa.)

HAILSTORM.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 062356C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

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War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival 060534 SONAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 060534Z to Admty.)
Colombo departures 051220Z April TRUSTY,
061030Z LUCIA, 1031Z LISMORE, 1032Z MARYBOROUGH
1035Z KONKAN.
(F.O.Ceylon 061116Z to Admty.)
TOOWOMBA, FROBISHER (?arrived) left DEVONSHIRE, TOOWOMBA.
(F.O.E.Af. 061331Z to Admty.)

LUCIA. Following is intended programme of LUCIA.
Arrive. Place. Leave.
p.m. 9th Addu a.m. 14th
a.m. 19th Seychelles a.m. 25th
p.m. 29th Kilindini Nil.
(F.O.Ceylon 060556Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.I.C.
E. Af. N.O.I.C. Seychelles, Admty. N.O.I.C.
Addu Atoll.)

B.A.41. 2. 060630Z April. 3. E.T. crossing 055°
101630Z April 3A. E.T.A. Aden 130430Z April.
4. 10 knots. Route. 6. RANPURA, RAJPUTANA A/S
escort till dusk 7th April.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 060651Z 060653Z to Admty.)
Departure RANPURA with B.A.41 and RAJPUTANA escorting through
local area. S.O.A. 10 knots.
(S.O.I. Bombay 060711Z to Admty.)

M.B.31. Convoy sailing telegram. 2. 061030Z April.
4. 9 knots. 5. R. 07° 08' N. 78° 00' E. S.
08° 07' N. 76° 59' E. thence 10 miles off shore.
6. KONKAN
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 061105Z 061108Z to Admty.)

M.C.6. Sailing telegram. 2. 061200Z. 3 "Chop" April 10th
E.T.A. Durban 130600Z. 4. 11.5. Route.
6. DEVONSHIRE.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 061206Z to Admty.)

SONTAY. Request you will sail SONTAY on 14th April.
1. to Aden by route in C. in C. Eastern Fleet's
221629/March.
2. from Aden to Alexandria by route in C. in C.
Levant's 291642/March.
II. S.O.A. should be 11 knots. III. Vessel should be fully
illuminated and bear the following marks:- On deck forward and
aft three horizontal stripes each three metres wide coloured
red, white, and blue. On sides amidships the National flag
and the word "PROTECTED". Forward and aft three vertical
stripes as above.

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

SONTAY
(Contd.)

4. Addressees pass to air and other authorities as requisite.
(M.B.I. 061243B 091326B to Cdre. Durban, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Aden.)

KDEAH:

Requirements in my 031201* Feb. are unaltered F.O.Ceylon's 040534/April+ and your 100402/March/ refer.
(C. in C.E.F. 061255Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon, D.G.S.R. Bombay.)
* re KEDAH necessary for escort duties.
+ re request for report if KEDAH still required.
/ re KEDAH's trials complete.

MADRAS.

Amend E.T.A. Quion Is. A.P. 27 080600Z April.
(MADRAS 061302Z to S.N.O.P.G. (R) N.O.I.C. Hormuz.)

Independent'
Shipping.

As there is only 1 escort for P.B. 35 my 030746B (N.T. in W.R.) Hormuz is to sail the following ships independently giving them routes thro' Gulf of Oman to link up with their ocean routes. WILLIAM GRAYSON and STORAAS destination Capetown BRITISH AMBASSADOR Kilindini. NORAVIND, ATHELDUKE and KORGS DAL for Geraldton, Fremantle and Sydney (N.W.S.) respectively.
(S.N.O.P.G. 061356Z 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.)

HOMEFORD.

Your 91045 19th March. (Re-floating of HOMEFORD) Para. 2 assumption correct.
(W.O. 061645B to G.O.C. in C.E.Af. (R) C. in C. M.E.)

War Diary.

6.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.HAKE,
HADD0.This is Comsublant's 052209, addressed Cominch
Cinclant, (R) Comnaveu F.O.S. (Brit) Comsubron
50 and Amty.

Add 24 hours to all times stated in my 040205
as modified by my 041629. This delay is
necessary in order to avoid conflict HAKE with East and West
bound convoys during first night of voyage.
Following for Action Cominch info remaining adees.
My operation orders for HAKE and HADD0 will require reporting
position if more than 50 miles ahead 75 miles behind estimated
positions and more than 15 miles either side prescribed
track while West of "Chop". Recommend that British Authorities
prescribe reports similar nature after passing "Chop".
CB 03092 studied by C.O's will not be carried on board
submarines. Cominch 041856Z.
(Comnaveu, 060031 to Admty. F.O(S))

Movements.

U.S. Navy Transport MOUNT VERNON sailed
?Melbourne April 2nd and for San Francisco
via Wellington.

(N.S.H.Q. 060050Z to Admty.)

St. Johns N.F. April 5th. Arrivals BRANTFORD, MATAPEDIA,
O.N.S.C.125, ESCAPADE, GARLAND, NARCISSUS, AZALEA ex Argentina.
Departures TAHOMA to Argentina.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.060429Z to Admty)

Arrivals ST. KENAN, AYRESHIRE, PAYNTER ex J.H.45,

DUNDAS, MULGRAVE ex H.X.232.

(C. Halifax, 061329Z to Admty)

San Francisco arrival April 4th BOSCHFONTEIN (Du) April
5th BLOEUFONTEIN (Du). Departure April 4th NOONDAM (Du) for
Noumea. All U.S. Army transports.

(N.S.H.Q.061845Z to Admty)

New York arrived 4 from Norfolk (Vir) TRACKER from
Boston BERRY.

(N.S.H.Q.061907 to Admty.)

Departure U.S.C.G. FAUNCE for Boston KENORA for
Newfoundland. Arrival MALPEQUE WASAGA ex J.H.46 A.

(C. Halifax 062209Z to Admty)

FENCER.

Following is recyphered version Commander West
Sea Frontier 052214.Departure San Francisco FENCER 2000Z/5th April
for Balboa.S15 (Route)

(Radio Washington 060215 to Cominch etc.)

San Francisco departed 5th for High Seas FENCER.

(N.S.H.Q. 060535Z to Admty)

H.F.46.

Arrived.

(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 060317Z to Admty)

My 060317. Arrived H.F.46 including Tug

PREVENTOR and Tow.

(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 061217Z to Admty)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

T.A. 39. Convoy T.A. 39 A comprising U.S. MARIPOSA
(MARIPOSA) sailed from U.K. 2/4 for New York.
(2) For details of personnel on board see W.O.
signal 66399 of 2/4 to Milstaf Washington.
(D. of S.T. 060320B to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York.)

MONOWAI Your 012025Z. Presume MONOWAI will be sailed
as soon as practicable for U.K. Request report
of her intended itinerary.
(D. of S.T. 060334B to B.A.D. (R) N.Z.N.B.)

H.X.231. H.X.231. Twelve attempted attacks since dusk
Attacked driven off. None successful. Estimate several
by U/B's. submarines damaged. All appear now to be astern.
All escorts in company. P.C. and S. 058° 15' N.
029° 13' W. (S) 087° 9. Weather report.
(B.7 060430Z 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., N.O.I.C.Londonderry, N.O.I.C.
Greenock, E.G.4, A.C.I.C.)

U.635
Sunk.

My 060430Z and 051431Z. 4 more abortive attacks before dawn.
At 0755Z TAY attacked and severely damaged a U-Boat which partly
surfaced 200 yards ahead Cdre. No ship attacked. 4th Escort
Group are continuing hunt. Regret to report WAROONGA's
bulkheads collapsed and she sank at 0800Z all survivors on
board LOOSESTRIFE and JOELROGER Number 24. BRITISH ARDOUR
C.B's destroyed and left sinking by VIDETTE. 3 Liberators have
joined and have already attacked 2 U-Boats. Weather report.
(B.7 060855Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, Admty. C.T.F. 24.
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.
N.O.I.C.Greenock, N.O.I.C. Londonderry E.G.4.)
D/F bearings on 6290 K/cs at 2015Z and 2033Z indicate
convoy is still being shadowed.
It is probably that W/T traffic will be on series 7.
(D.D.I.C. 062320B to Escorts H.X.231, (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.
Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)

U/B. Intercepted Guantanamo W/T, submarine sighted
20° 15' N. 74° 08' W. at 061107 G.C.T.
(Kingston, 060838Q to Admty.)

C.T.U. If required can remain with O.N.175 2 days from
24.12.2. 072000Z before detaching to St. John's N.F.
Convoy O.N. (C.T.U.24.12.2, 060845Z to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav,
175. Admty, C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.
C.T.G.24.6, H.Q.C.C., C.T.U. (number omitted)
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3.

Convoy / ...

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Convoy Cinclant 052359 addressed for action to N.O.B.
U.G.L.2. Bermuda informs as follows:
Escort On arrival T.G.68.1 deliver these orders to
T.F.68. Capt. Zimmerli. This establishes T.F.68 (Capt.
Zimmerli): NELSON, BUTLER, MADDOX, GLENNON, HERN-
DON, SEER, SENTINEL, PILOT, KAWEAH, P.C.543,
P.C.546, P.C. 562, S.C.503, S.C.534, S.C. 526,
S.C.532, S.C. 535, S.C. 692, Y.M.S. 62, Y.M.S. 69, PEPPERWOOD
and NARRAGANSETT. Escort convoy U.G.L.2 consisting of 20
L.S.T's (Am), 5 L.S.T's (Br), 36 L.C.I.'s (Am), plus 3 L.S.T's
(Am) 3 L.S.T's (Br), 1 L.C.I.(Am) now at Bermuda, to North
African ports and Gibraltar. Follow routeing as prescribed by
Cominch C.R. At 47° W. operational "Chop" shifts from Cinclant
to Admiralty; and at 10° W. to Cinemed. On arrival in African
Waters, detach P.C's, S.C's, Y.M.S's, PEPPERWOOD, and direct
these plus all L.S.T's (Am) and L.C.I's (Am) to report to
Comnavaw for duty. Also detach SENTINEL and SEER and direct
them to report to Comnavaw for temporary duty. Then relinquish
command of T.F.68 to Cdr. Madeira. Advise Cdr. Madeira as to
escort of certain L.S.T's and L.C.I's to Port Lyautey in accord-
ance with my 260152 (N.T. in W.R.)
When directed by C.M.S.F., T.F.68 depart African Waters escorting
ALMAACK in accordance with my 292158. At a later date, detail
and orders for NARRAGANSETT and KAWEAH will be issued.
(Comnavau, 060942 to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	QUEEN OF BERMUDA	21½°N. 32° W.	358°	16
1800	F.S. GEORGES			
G.M.T. 6th.	LEYGUES	23° N. 30° W.	107°	20
	CILICIA	about 15° N. 31° W.	Patrol	-
	F.S.GLOIRE	10° N. 27° W.	Patrol	Blank
	MILFORD and)			
	ALCANTARA with)	03° N. 48° W.	135°	3½
	floating dock)			
	T.A. 39A	42½°N. 52½°W.	255°	17¾
	(D.O.D.(F) 061000Z to Opnav (R) Comnavau)			

HAKE. Following re-encipherment Comsublant 060828 to
Comeastseafon, Cominch.
HAKE without escort departs Point Judith 080012.
All times Z dates April. At 12 knots on surface
diving at discretion via Narragansett Swept Channel to arrive
position (A) 39.35 N. 70.43 W. 0930 same date. Then dives and
advances submerged 2 knots during daylight 8th and thereafter on
the surface submerging at will speed of advance 264 miles
daily via (B) lat. 38.53 long. 62.33 at 100759 to (C) 40.33 N.
51.36 W. 120800. Thence advancing 115 miles daily diving by
day surface in darkness to (D) 43.30 N. 45.00 W. 150801 and
(E) 46.58 40.01 at (15120?). Submarine is painted black and will
report if exceeding area limit. 50 miles ahead 75 miles behind
estimated positions or if more than 15 miles each side of track.
(Cominch, 061030Z to Admty, F.O.S.)

J.H. 45A / ...

War Diary.

6.4.1945.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

J.H.45A,
POLARLAND.

J.H.45A my 052036Z April POLARLAND Norwegian now arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 061104Z to N.C.S.O. Montreal, N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., Admty.)

X.B.42.

X.B.42, 19 ships E.T.A. Cape Cod 061400Z .
C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4. 061126Z to Connav)

C.M.O.E.T.U.
24.1.5.

When relieved by Western local escort about 072000Z direct your unit proceeds as follows - MONTGOMERY and Corvettes to St. Johns N.F. unless otherwise directed by F.O.N.F. SPENCER to St. Johns N.F. for dry docking. U.S. Dest. GREER to (?Argentina).
(C.T.24. 061225Z to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.5.
(R) Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A.,C. in C. N.W.A. F.O.N.F. W.L.E.T U.24.18.2.)

Survivors
from
DOGGER BANK.

Spanish ship CAMPOAMOR has landed at Aruba German seaman Fritz Kuert picked up 29th March in 015° 31' N. 051° 21' W. claims to be survivor from German ship DOGGER BANK (ex British SPEYBANK) sunk by unidentified submarine 3rd March in approx. 031° 00' N. 037° 00' W. Report awaited following interrogation at Aruba.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 061252Q Admty, N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. S.B.N. . W.At. S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

COVENTRY CITY,
CAPE WARWICK,
U/B attacked
20/5/42.

U.S. authorities request logs of H.M.Trawlers COVENTRY CITY and CAPE WARWICK may be checked for information concerning recovery or attempt to recover floating body near 36° 10' N. 74° 55' W. at approx. 1930Z on May 20, 1942, after receiving signal from aircraft. Identity of body is required to determine whether it is one of crew of a

U-Boat attacked in above position on May 15, 1942. Logs of U.S. Ships in vicinity have been checked with negative results.
(B.A.D.061401Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Reply: C. in C. S.A.191719.

G.U.F.6.

Re-encipherment of Port Director New York 052130 (Begins). Convoy G.U.F.6 arrived New York complete 052000Z April (Ends.)
(Connav, 061430Z to Admty)

L.S.T.404,
Convoy
U.G.L.2.

L.S.T.404 departed Ambrose 061300Z April. Speed 8½ knots. Holds route and convoy instructions and will overtake and join convoy as quickly as possible.
(Port Director New York, 061450Z to C.T.G.68.1 (R) Cdt. 3rd U.S.N.Dist. New York, Cominch C. and R, Admty, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, C.E.S.F. Vice Opnav, Comampforlant, C. in C. Med, Cdr. Service Force Atlantic Fleet, U.S.N. O.B.Bermuda.)

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

S/M estimate 6th April. U.S. Submarine Notice. Delayed U.S.S. HAKE leaves Point Judith 080012 (change my 051445) proceeds surfaced submerged at discretion through Narragansett swept channel. E.T.A. 39.35 70.43 at 080930. From 1100 to 2100/6th and 7th S 16 and S 17 within 43.07 43.27 69 53/70 05 operating on surface and submerged with surface craft. Using swept channel en route Casco Bay moorings. (Cominch, 061500, 061501Z, 061545Z, 061546Z, 061547Z)

M.M.S. Understand you are taking action on (?C. in C.) C.N.W.A's 032029*. Request N.S.H.Q. pass to addressed. (Naval Member Canadian Joint Staff Washington, 061521Z to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A., Admty, N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M., F.O.I.C. (?W)A., Cominch, C.E.S.F., N.O.I.C. SHELBURNE.)

Proposed N.D. Base at Montreal. Request approval to establish a proper N.D. base at Montreal. A suitable location agreeable to National Harbour Board and other Canadian authorities exists at Sutherland Wharf. Considered desirable that vessels building in Saint Lawrence should receive their defence before they proceed down river, and some ten vessels have been equipped with N.D. at Montreal in 1942 without proper resources. (Estimated cost). (B.A.D. 061531Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.T.M. M.O.W.T. Montreal for Huband. Wartime Merchant Shipping Montreal for Pennington.)

Convoys, organisation. In Trans Atlantic Trade convoys only Cmdre. and escort oiler should be given positions in Cmdr's column on A.1 form. Remaining positions in this column are reserved for use of aircraft carrier when in company and conditions require that she be stationed within the convoy. During extended periods when no carrier is present Cmdre. may fill up gaps at his discretion. C.E.S.F., C.T.F.24, C.O.A.C. and Port Director New York have by other means. (Cominch, 061604Z to C.E.S.F. Cdr. Gulf Sea Fron., Cdr. Carib. Sea Fron. Port Director New York, (R) Cdr. Pan.Sea Fron. C. in C. Lant, C.A.F.A.C., Adty. C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. C.O.A.C., Com 4th Fleet, N.O.B.Trinidad, Com. Air Lant.)

French Escort Vessels - Equipment. C. in C. Med. has requested that French Escort vessels being fitted with A/S gear, A/A armament and R.D.F. at Bermuda should also be given instruction and A/S work-up. Intend therefore that instruction of personnel should begin immediately each pair of ships arrived. (Proposals). (S.B.N.O.W.At. 061604 to Admty. (R) Com.i/c, Bermuda.)

Aircraft / ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Aircraft Carriers, position in Convoy.

Instructions have been issued as requested in your 1918A/22 as a tentative measure pending further experience.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 061605Z to Admty. (R) Commd. Carriers Atlantic F, C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S) Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.W. At. C. in C. W.A.)

X.B.42.

Boston Section arrived 061521Z.
(Cdre. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, 061610Z to Connav etc.)

J.H.46.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax, 061614Z to Admty)

W.L.E's North, assignments for Convoys.

Your 051051 following is anticipated assignment of Western Local Escorts North.

Group.	Eastbound.	Westbound.
W.6	H.X.232	O.N.176
W.7	H.X.233	O.N.177
W.1	S.C.126	O.N.S.3
W.9	H.X.234	O.N.178
W.11	S.C.127	O.N.S.4
W.8	H.X.335	O.N.179
W.4	S.C.128	O.N.S.5
W.10	Nil	O.N.180
W.2	H.X.236	O.N.181
W.3	S.C.129	O.N.S.6
W.6	H.X.237	O.N.182

(2) In the event of Westbound Convoys being delayed it is sometimes necessary to exchange groups. This necessity is always foreseen in ample time to effect the change and arrange a suitable Westomp during daylight hours.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A.061707Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.T.F. 24, Connav, F.O.N.F. Admty.)

Stragglers R/V signalling.

Stragglers R/V.
Propose: (a) When escorts nominate a R/V for stragglers present system of broadcasting, irrespective of controlling authority, should continue. Cominch C. & R. to take action if convoy is West of 40° W and C. in C. W.A. if East

of 40° W. (b) When escort does not request a R/V but controlling authority decides to broadcast, signal to be passed to the appropriate B.A.M.S. station for the area in the normal manner. A.M.122110 Jan. refers.
(D.T.D. 061735B to Cominch C. & R. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. N.W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.)

"Chop" / ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

"Chop" and Escort Reliefs. Cominch's 031524 and C. in C. W.A's 051050. (1) It is considered important that authority responsible for sailing the relieving escort should have control of the convoy for a reasonable period before and after junction at Westomp. i.e. "Chop" for westbound convoys should precede E.T.A. Westomp and for eastbound convoys follow E.T.A. Westomp. (2) Recommend therefore that C.T.F.24 designate "Chop" up to 24 hours before or after E.T.A. Westomp and make necessary signal to all authorities and escorts concerned 48 hours in advance of "Chop" time. (N.S.H.Q. 061802Z to Admty. Cominch C. & R. (R) C. in C. W.A. C.T.F.24. C. in C. C.N.W.A.)

O.N.175, U/B. attacked. O.N.175. ROSTHERN Close on starboard quarter convoy 1400Z in 49° 11' 42" 45' made Sound contact echoes and hydrophone effects classified as U-Boat. Beginning 1415Z made 5 depth charge attacks followed by U.S. Destroyer GREER with 2 attacks. Large oil slick seen, hunt continued 3 hours no further contact. ROSTHERN considered U-Boat possibly damaged. (C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3, 061905Z 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.,)

BEATRICE. My 302219 March. Arrived Curacao April 2. (N.S.H.Q.061931Z to Admty, Connav)

A.T.41 (PASTEUR) A.T.41. Your 052043. (1) Departure CHEDABUCTO 2200Z/9th. (2) E.T.A. Bar L.V.1900Z/16 April. (3) Position 0600Z/16 55° 30' N. 08° 18' W. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 062000Z to N.S.H.Q. Connav, B.A.D., C. in C. H.F., Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. N.O.I.C.Liverpool, Air Ministry, H.Q.Fighter Command, H.Q. Coastal Command.)

HIGHLANDER. With ref. C.O.A.C's 052204Z ?052204 from C. in C. W.A. intended, request you make arrangements for docking HIGHLANDER at St. Johns on arrival. (Comtask 24, 062013Z to F.O.N.F.(R) C.O.A.C. HIGHLANDER, Admty.)

NICOLAOU MARIA. My 031456 April. Arrived Los Angeles April 4. (N.S.H.Q. 062021Z to Admty Connav.)

U.S.A.T. Army Transport BRIGADIER H.F. RETHERS (U.S.) sailed Aruba April 4 for high seas. (N.S.H.Q. 062058Z)

Sub / ...

War Diary.6.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z para A. BRITISH ARDOUR torpedoed sunk 58.08 N. 32.50 W. 051415. JOHN SEVIER torpedoed 20.49 N. 74.00 W. 051155. U.K. plane sights sub 58.02 N. 28.42 W. 061800. R.A.F. plane sights sub 58.11 N. 28.13 W. 060825. R.A.F. plane sights sub 57.30 N. 27.42 W. 060845. R.A.F. plane attacks sub 58.08 N. 27.53 W.

061008. Numerous attacks by escorts H.X. 231 between 052400 and 061000. Para. B plane attacks sub 19.53 N. 75.07 W.

052115. Para C. K 44 made contact 25.09 N 79 (40 ?W) (3 corrupt group) 060055.

Para. D. Sub contact 20.15 N. 74.08 W. 061107. MONOMO attacks sub 40.15 N. 51.25 W 051945. Brazilian escort vessel attacks sub. 10.30 S. 35.33 W. 052050. C.G. Vessel sound contact 34.52 N 75.38 W. 042200.
(Cominch 062126Z to Admty.)

Ship attacked by U/B. N.O.B. Guantanamo reports submarine attacked ship off Cape Maysi about 061100Z.
(S.O.I. Jamaica, 062135Q to Admty)

BAYNTUN, BAZELY. Yorktown arrived 5th BAYNTUN and BAZELY.
(N.S.H.Q. 062208Z to Admty)

U/B attacked. S/M contact attacked 049° 11' N. 042° 45' W. at 061400Z.
(C.O.A.C. 062216Z to GB 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.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departures Auckland 052127Z U.S.S. PRESIDENT JACKSON and U.S.S. PRESIDENT ADAMS in company for Noumea E.T.A. 081930Z also U.S.S. PRESIDENT HAYES for Nukualofa E.T.A. 090001Z.

Arrival Espiritu Santo 050515Z U.S.S. TAURUS. Departure Noumea 041900 U.S.S. SOLACE for Auckland E.T.A. 070600Z.
(D.N.I. Wellington 060522Z to Admty)

Arrival Port Moresby WHYALLA. Milne Bay 5th BROOME, KAPUNDA. Townsville 5th WARRAMUNGA, VENDETTA. Thursday Is. 5th LATROBE. Sydney N.S.W. 5th U.S.S. MUGFORD, ROCKHAMPTON.

Departures Melbourne 5th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT for Sydney N.S.W.
(A.C.N.B. 060933Z to Admty)

Arrivals / ...

War Diary.

6.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals 5th April Townsville H.T. DUNTROON
 U.S.T. PRESIDENT GRANT Brisbane U.S.T. BOTH.
 R.A.F.A. KURUMBA arrived and departed Thursday
 Island 5th due Townsville 8th. U.S. VAN DER
 LIJN departed Townsville 5th due Brisbane 9th H.T. TAROONA dep-
 arted Townsville 5th due Fall River 7th. R.A.F.A. AASE
 MAERSK departed Townsville 5th for Comer Bay.
 (Cdr. S.W.P.S.F. 061245Z to Admty)
 Departure Wellington 1920Z/6 U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON E.T.A.
 Auckland 2130Z/7.
 (D.N.I. Wellington, 062032Z to Admty)

Digest (2) Fortress reported sighting 3 sailing vessels
 Serial off Iorengak runway 5th. Later reported 1
 No.440 Cruiser apparently beached, 1 medium, 3 small
 April 5th. cargo vessels Kavieng Area. (3) Another
 Fortress attacked barges in Wide Bay afternoon and
 later bombed Finschhafen runway. (9) Two
 Liberators attacked 6 vessels including 1 medium,
 2 small merchantmen, 3 possible Lighters in Sekar Bay (McCluer
 Gule) morning scoring near misses. Two small ships sighted at
 Kaimana noon and new runway at Utarom, (4 miles West Kaimana)
 reported under development. (10) One Medium vessel sighted off
 Koepang early morning.
 (G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 060751Z)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 061400B, 061418B)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly My 221059 July.
 Summary. (1) HURRICANE reports sighting two U-Boats in
 vicinity of Convoy H.X.230 in 56° 35' N. 37°
 18' W. at 280001Z. Both U-Boats were attacked
 and it is reported that they were both at least
 damaged. (2) A wellington aircraft on patrol in the Bay of
 Biscay attacked a U-Boat with depth charges at 281106A. in 47°
 07' N. 08° 22' W. A large oil patch and bubbles were seen for

five / ...

War Diary.

6.4.1945.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary
(Contd.)

five minutes after the attack. (3) At 281810A a Hudson aircraft attacked a U-Boat about 50' E.S.E. of Alicante, Spain. The U-Boat was severely damaged and remained on the surface. It was attacked again next day by other aircraft and there are good indications that it eventually sank as a result of damage sustained. (4) At 281715A a Liberator aircraft claimed three hits on a U-Boat in 55° 21' N. 35° 00' W. (5) After an attack on Convoy O.S.45 in 41° 02' N. 15° 40' W. BLACK SWAN and STONECROP carried out promising attacks on the U-Boats. (6) There have been several attacks on U-Boats by aircraft operating off the African Coast south of the Canary Islands but no details have been received. (D.A/S.W. 061655Z to Cominch)

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

U/B sunk
off Jan
Mayen.

U644.

1. TUNA, who established A/S patrol off Jan Mayen on 4th April, sank at 2105B today in 69.28 N. 05° 40' W. a 750 ton U-Boat. In the course of her patrol TUNA between 6th April and 14th April sighted four other U-Boats, one of which she attacked unsuccessfully. The U-Boats were disposed on a line of bearing 150° from Beerenberg on the south of Jan Mayen, 25 to 30 miles apart.

Shipping
Protection
on U.K. -
Gibraltar
route.

2. In view of new dispositions of enemy air, surface and submarine forces the Admiralty intend to make the following arrangements.
(a) To provide additional protection against air attack for personnel convoys.
(b) To hold 2 cruisers and 4 Fleet destroyers under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth in readiness to act in support of convoys and for Operation "Regulation".
(c) To hasten the transfer of C.A.M. ships from North Atlantic to U.K. - Mediterranean routes.
(d) To increase the effectiveness of A/A protection in merchant ships and escorts.

Weather.

3. The weather again caused air patrol in the Denmark Straits to be cancelled. Dislocation of sailings also occurred in most areas of the U.K. ARCHER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE sailed from the Clyde at 0624B today (24 hours late) to R/V with and escort Convoy O.N.83 for 48 hours, but they returned to the Clyde this evening, as the convoy is delayed by the weather.

O.N.S 3

4. C.S.10 in BELFAST sailed at 2256B to relieve CUMBERLAND on Patrol "White".

5. INGLEFIELD one of the 4th Escort Group with Convoy H.X.231 attacked a U-Boat at 2313Z today and considers it probably damaged.

6. 39 out of 47 aircraft which took off laid 105 mines last night off Biscay ports.

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

S/M
operations.

7. SAHIB reports that she sank a 2500 ton eastbound tanker south of Lipari Islands at 1316/24. At 1545/27 she attacked shipping in Milazzo harbour (northern Sicily) and saw one ship settle by the stern. At 1110/30, in the northern approaches to the Straits of Messina she sank 3 schooners by gunfire and left a fourth damaged.

TRIBUNE damaged and probably sank a 6600 ton southbound tanker in 39.14 N. 15.59 E. (75 miles north of Cefalu, northern Sicily) at 1115/22 and she hit and possibly sunk a 6000 ton laden southbound merchant vessel in 39.37 N. 13.15 E. (50 miles south of Taranto) at 1330/30.

At 1415/29 UNRIVALLED attacked two merchant ships at anchor outside Palermo; a 3000 ton ship was sunk and a 6000 ton ship is believed sunk. At 0920/1 she torpedoed a 300 ton schooner which blew up.

UNBROKEN estimates one hit in attack on a large southbound tanker at 1433 in 38.15 N. 16.30 E. (off Pt. Stilo).

8. C. in C. Levant is much concerned with the inadequacy of the R.A.F. Naval Co-operation Group in the Eastern Mediterranean. This group, together with the few light naval forces in his command, is intended to take the place of an important battle fleet; but it falls a very long way short of that. Valuable Allied convoys constantly pass within easy striking distance of the Italian fleet, but the heavy operational demands made on the limited number of aircraft available prevent the attainment of the high state of training necessary to attack successfully escorted warships steaming at high speed.

In view of forthcoming activities, including the institution of through Mediterranean convoys, he urges that the matter be considered without delay.

9. At 0550C ALDENHAM escorting a straggler from a convoy, reported that she was aground off Ras Azzaz, near Sollum and required immediate assistance. The ship was refloated and returned to Alexandria at 8 knots with one shaft out of action, but damage not serious.

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

10. GERONIA (Dutch tanker, 8096 tons) was reported today to have been damaged by external explosion inside the baffle to Haifa outer anchorage, caused by a mine 30 yards from the ship, method of laying unknown. (cf. 8th April).

11. An appreciation by the War Cabinet of German intentions to evacuate Tunisia has yielded the main conclusion that there are little signs of this at present. Troops and supplies continue to be sent to Tunisia.

12. 20 B.24s made a successful attack on Messina harbour last night. Naples was also bombed. Wellingtons bombed Sfax last night; hits were made on the railway station, where a large explosion occurred, and on the railway repair depot and sidings, and on the phosphate quay. 7 B.24s bombed Palermo harbour today.

13. ABDIEL again laid mines unseen in the Sicilian Channel last night, covered by destroyers of Force K.

14. In view of the effect which the passage of aircraft has on U-Boats transit aircraft will whenever convenient be routed over the sea.

Australia and New Zealand.

15. Cominch reported 14th April that U.S. destroyer STRONG today attacked in the south Pacific a submarine which settled slowly then sank stern first.

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S.B.N.O. My 0209/27th. In view of Admiralty 021705
North arrangements have been made to leave Moscow on
Russia. April 12th. Request approval.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 070718B to Admty)

Larne. A.L.M.O. 1411/43 dated 13th March 1943. Request
your early remarks on the possibility of expanding
the organisation at Larne outlined in your
281846/March (not to all addressees) to include
the satellite working-up base. (2) It is hoped to be able to
repair and equip NEMESIS to act as base ship for the latter.
(D.A/S.W.072008B to C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

S/M In view of breakdown of RION request you sail
Movements. H.28 escorted by KIHNA to Needles.
(Capt. S.5, 070915B to N.O.I.C.Portland.)
My 061736. Add new para. (L) H.28.
Escorted by RION leaves Portland 0830/7th E.T.A.
Needles 1500/7.
(F.O.S.070294)

My 041130 as amended by My 061414. Sailed.
(Capt. S.6, 070930B to A.C.O.S.)
(1) Cancel my 061633B. (2) Intend sailing H.28 escorted
by KIHNA at 1100 today for Portsmouth. E.T.A. Needles 1600/7.
(N.O.I.C.Portland, 071030B)
Intend sailing H.28 escorted by Chasseur 15 to Sheerness
from Spithead at 081700. E.T.A. Sheerness 091430/April.
(Capt. S.5, 071331B)
TAKU exercising off Plymouth in Area D between 0930 and
1800/8.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 071629B)
Capt. (S)5's 071331B. Amend E.T.D. Spithead Gate 081400
and add speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Sand Head Buoy 090530 and
Dumpton 090645.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071730B)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/8 and movements for following
24 hours.
(A) U.S.S. BARB, SEVERN and STUBBORN Patrolling in zones K.193,
K.192 and K.190 respectively.
(B) TEMPLAR in zones K.162 and K.163 leaving patrol at 2100/8
probably on surface through 62° 00' N 01° 00' E.
(C) TRUCULENT very approx. 65° 22' N. 04° 32' E. Probably on
surface through 62° 01' N. 00° 11' E. for Lerwick.
(D) SEA NYMPH very approx. 64° 44' N. 04° 35' E. Probably on
surface through 62° 02' N. 01° 00' E. for Lerwick.
(E) BLACKFISH approx. 64° 40' N. 01° 52' E. Probably on
surface through 69° 00' N. 07° 48' E. and 72° 15' N 13° 01' E.
(F) TUNA on patrol between 69° N. 4° W. and Jan Mayen Island.
(G) SERAPH escorted by LORD LLOYD crossing Moray Firth from
Southward due vicinity Duncansby Head at 1200/8, thence
escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE to Holy Loch speed 9 knots.

(H) / ...

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M
Movements
(Contd.)

(H) SICKLE 49° 50' N. 14° 45' W. dived by day through 49° 50' N. 12° 34' W and 49° 10' N. 13° 22' W., thence to Southward, daily advance 120 miles.

(J) SHAD 46° 35' N 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W.

(K) HERRING 46° 40' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 11' N. 12° 54' W.

(L) TAKU exercising off Plymouth in area D between 0930 and 1800/8th.
(F.O.S.071754B)
Intend sailing ALECTO from Garroch Head at 081000B by standard route to Lerwick, thence as ordered by S.O.(S) Lerwick escorting SEA NYMPH and TRUCULENT to Holy Loch.
(Capt. S.3 071819B)
E.T.A.22 Buoy 0215B.
(SERAPH 072106 to Capt. S.9)
My 071754B. Add new para. (M) H.28 escorted by Chasseur
15 leaves Spithead 1700/8 for Sheerness. E.T.A.1430/9.
(F.O.S.072312BP)

JAMAICA My 051545 and 061207 and F.O.i/c. Liverpool's 0903. Sailing of JAMAICA delayed owing to weather 24 hours.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 071212B)

HUNTER. Admiralty 291458/3 and F.O.I.C. Greenock
STALKER. 061558. Do not intend to provide surface escort whilst in W.A. Command. Request you will consider whether escort on east coast is necessary.
(C. in C. W.A. 071244B to C. in C. Rosyth)
Your 071244. Consider escort from Duncansby Head in insufficient. Arrangements to provide one destroyer for escort are being made with C. in C. Nore.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 071649B to C. in C. W.A.)

ASTURIAS. On completion of refit about 30th April, F.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail ASTURIAS for Clyde.
(2) Ship will be required to leave U.K. with convoy sailing about 19th May to rejoin South Atlantic Station.
(D.O.D.(F) 071341B)

CORFU. My 191600 March. On completion of working up practices CORFU will be required to leave U.K. with convoy sailing about 19th May to join South Atlantic Station.
(D.O.D.(F) 071546B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

NEWCASTLE / ...

War Diary.7.4.1945.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (Contd.)

NEWCASTLE. Owing to weather NEWCASTLE has been unable to proceed up river today and therefore it is doubtful if it will be possible to comply with dates in your O22047 April. Every effort will be made to shorten time to the minimum.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 071631 to C. in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS. Scapa arrivals FURIOUS escorted by PENN, PATHFINDER, BRISSENDEN.
(A.C.O.S. 071654B)

HERO F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 031717. Route from (R) 045° 01' N. 014° 01' W. through (S) 049° 01' N. 013° 58' W. (T) 180° Bishop Rock 10 (U) 180° thence for 3, then by Q.Z.S. 347, 390, 278 to Plymouth.
(2) Arrive position (U) after daylight.
(C. in C. Plymouth 071707B to HERO)

Operations.

Biscay Convoys and Operation "Regulation". New dispositions of enemy air, surface and submarine forces have necessitated an alteration in the arrangements made in A.M.1214/28.
(2) In order to deal with this situation and to carry out operation REGULATION, it is intended
(a) to provide additional protection against air attack for personnel convoys.
(b) To hold two cruisers and four Fleet destroyers under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth in readiness to act in support of convoys and for operation "Regulation".
(c) To hasten the transfer of C.A.M. ships from North Atlantic to U.K. - Mediterranean routes.
(d) To increase the effectiveness of A/A protection in merchant ships and escorts.
(3) On the return of UGANDA to U.K. she and CHARYBDIS will fulfil the duties of the two cruisers referred in para. 2(b)
(4) To meet the requirements of para.2(a) CHARYBDIS will be required as close A/A escort for W.S. 29 between about 46° and 40° N.
(5) UGANDA should be ready to leave Gibraltar 8th or 9th April.
(6) Details of Trade convoys crossing the Bay are given in A.M.061840.
(7) With reference to C. in C. H.F. 051407 BERMUDA may be used if required for the duty outlined in para. 2 (b), provided she completes docking etc. and returns to H.F. by 2nd May.
(8) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to arrange a programme direct with H.F. keeping Admiralty informed.
(9) A.M.030010 to C. in C. Plymouth is being passed to C. in C. H.F.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 070110B to C. in C. H.F. C. in C. Plymouth)

Coastal Patrols.

Stand by Newhaven - M.G.B.616, 613, M.T.B.242. M.L.309, 572. Patrolling southward of E.A.5.
(4) Chasseur 10 at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. (5) M.L.233, 122. From Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 25'

7.4.1945.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols
(Contd.)

W. and $01^{\circ} 45' W$.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth 071105B)
 (1) Weather permitting, intend M.L's 233(S.O)
 and 122 to patrol tonight on $50^{\circ} 20' N$. between
 $01^{\circ} 45' W$ and $02^{\circ} 25' W$.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 071125B)
 Cancel my 071125B. M.L's remaining in harbour
 at short notice.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 071725B)

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

Estimated position at 2157 tonight.
 CUMBERLAND patrol "White". BELFAST west coast
 of Iceland to patrol "White".
 (A.C.I.C.071743B to Ships)
 R/V with me in $066^{\circ} 30' N$. $025^{\circ} 45' W$. at
 (?0730Z) tomorrow. (Corrupt group) latest ice
 situation by V/S on meeting.
 (C.S.10, 072037B to CUMBERLAND)
 C.S.(10) in BELFAST sailed to relieve CUMBERLAND on patrol
 "White".
 (A.C.I.C.072256B to C. in C. H.F.)

Exercises.Special
exercise.
HOWE.

My 051053. Exercise will take place 9th April.
 (2) A.L.T. is timed for 1400 to 091600B.
 (3) Appreciate that HOWE will possibly proceed
 before aircraft take off from U.K.
 (4) If aircraft fail to take off from U.K.
 exercise will be postponed 24 hours and immediate
 signal will be made to HOWE.
 (C. in C. H.F. 071753 to HOWE).

Allied Air Activity.Denmark
Straits.

My 050107. Para.(A) will be carried out today
 Wednesday by one Hudson from 1430 to P.L.E.
 (A.C.I.C.070135B to CUMBERLAND.)
 My 070135. Patrol cancelled owing to weather.
 (A.C.I.C.071222B to CUMBERLAND)

Enemy Air Activity.Murmansk
bombed on
5th and
night
5th/6th
April.

Raids 051100C and 05153C on ships anchored in
 Michikov area. Also during night of April 5th/
 April 6th. No damage or casualties. My
 041635. Inspection by diver has revealed
 extensive under-water damage necessitating
 ship being docked.
 (N.O.I.C.Murmansk, 070905B)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

O.N.177. 2 enemy aircraft shadowing convoy in 45.23 N.
13.34 W.
(SALAMANDER 071143A)
You were probably sighted by Focke-Wulf at
071217.
(D.D.I.C.071308B to SALAMANDER, HALCYON,
Escorts K.M.S.12)

Mining.

JOSEFINA KENIA connected to tow and proceeding.
THORDEN. (KENIA, 070740B to F.O.I.C.Harwich.)

PLOVER. (1) It is under consideration to transfer
PLOVER to Milford Haven for operations in the
Nympe Bank - Cornwall area. (2) Request you
will state whether you would like her to carry
out a further lay in the vicinity of the Haddock Bank before
proceeding to Milford Haven.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 071547B to C. in C. Nore.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest Photographs taken at Brest on 051742 show:
on 5th Total of 1 T/B Mowe-Class moving towards Harbour
April. exit, 2 T/Bs probably Mowe-Class, 2 T/Bs T1-19
class, 7 M-Class Minesweepers, Sperrbrechers,
S.P. AA, S.P. AC, S.P. AI, 1 aircraft Security
Vessel, 10 Trawler-type Auxiliary S/M Chaser
140', and Tankers T.59, T.20, T28. New Arrivals are
Sperrbrecher S.P. AA, 2 T/Bs probably Mowe-Class, 1 M-class
Minesweeper, 1 aircraft Security Vessel, 150/200, 1 Auxiliary
100/150. Probable departures are 1 Elbing-Class D/R, 3 500 ton
U-Boats, and Sperrbrechers S.P AD and S.P AH. Smoke screen
obscures part of Rade Abri.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 070115B)

HIMALAYA, A.M. 311903A March.
PORTLAND, (1) No further reports of raiders. (2)
OSORNO, HIMALAYA had returned to La Pallice by 2nd April.
ALSTERUFER, PORTLAND, OSORNO and a vessel probably ALSTERUFER
DOGGER appear to have left Biscay Ports between 20th
BANK. March and 4th April. All probably sailed dur-
ing night 28th/29th March. ALSTERUFER may be
used as a supply ship. (3) A German seaman
picked up on 29th March in 16° N. 51° W. claims
to be survivor of German DOGGER BANK (ex SPEYBRANK) sunk on 3rd
March in about 31° N. 37° W. by unidentified submarine. (Page 235)
Comment: DOGGER BANK last reported in Far East. Attack
presumably by Axis U/Boat.
(D.D.I.C.071822B)

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.Convoy
H.X.231.

See Shipping.

U-Boats
attacked.Am over enemy S/M in position WCNW 5800 57° 58' N.
21° 00' W.

(A/C 101 Sqdn. 071116A to 15 Group)

Am over enemy submarine previously reported in
57.45 N. 20.02 W.

(A/C. 101 Sqdn. Duty W. 071435 to 15 Group)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges.

(A/C. 101 Sqdn. Duty W. 071435B to 15 Group)

U-Boats
reported.

Am over enemy submarine in 57.30 N. 18.02 W.

(A/C. 101 Sqdn. Duty W. 071612B to 15 Group)

Am over enemy submarine in 57.58 N. 21.42 W.

(A/C.101 Sqdn. Duty X. 071710B to 15 Group)

Am over enemy S/M in 57° 58' N. 22° 42' W.

(A/C.101 Sqdn. Duty X. 071719B to 15 Group)

Am over enemy submarine in 57.20 N. 20.20 W.

(A/C.541 Sqdn. Duty C. 071750B to 15 Group)

By D/F at 071924Z, U-Boat estimated anywhere within 75
miles of 47° 30' N. 24° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C.072310B to T.A. 39)

Casualties and Defects.

CRAGPOOL.

SS. CRAGPOOL dragged ashore Rudha Fionn, Lynn
of Lorne. EMPIRE CUPID standing by, EMPIRE
SINEW being sent for from Fort William. Request
larger tug if available.

(N.O.I.C.Oban, 070959 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Dragged anchors and went ashore 070230 in Lismore
anchorage.

(N.C.S.O.Oban, 071042B to Admty)

CHANTICLEER.

Cancel my 061834B. CHANTICLEER has sustained
damage to depth-charge rails which will take
6 days to repair.

(Cdre, Londonderry, 071143B)

AMHERST,
CALGARY.AMHERST, CALGARY Delayed by defects 4 days.
(C.T.G.24.7, 071706)BRITISH
GOVERNOR.Earliest date of docking BRITISH GOVERNOR is
May 20th. Temporary repairs will take about
15 days in dock.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 071823B to Admty.)

TAM O SHANTER / ...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.(Contd.)

TAM O
SHANTER.

Walton C.G. reports barge TAM O SHANTER sunk through stress of weather in immediate vicinity Swin Spitway Bell Buoy at 1454 today. Clacton lifeboat standing by at time reported hurricane conditions. Crew of two of barge and 2nd coxswain of lifeboat missing.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 071857B)

Search
for
Lifeboat.

Detach ECLIPSE forthwith to search for Lifeboat reported by Aircraft in 57.30 N. 27.35 W. at 072040B.
(C. in C. W.A. 072128B to E.G.4.)

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.176. Your 051221. VIMY and BEVERLY sailed at 062145Z to rejoin.
(A.C.I.C., 070008B to C.T.U. 24.1.18).
- M.K.F.11 A. Intend sailing VANOC and VERITY at 071000 to company with C. in C. W.A., 061541B.
Routed through 180° Lizard Head 3 miles, 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles and 48° 50' N., 13° 30' W,
thence R/V convoy in 46° 22' N., 14° 44' W.
Codeword "Scent".
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 070230B).
- HIGHLAND PRINCESS. My 0411/24/3. Propose the use of HIGHLAND PRINCESS ex convoy W.S.29 for the movement of personnel in excess of unescorted numbers from Freetown to Takoradi and Lagos.
2. Request report whether this voyage can be agreed to by you.
(D.S.T., 070301B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- O.N.175 FOREST. Following from SAUCY. FOREST in tow at 2300B/6th. Heavy weather.
(A.C.I.C., 070307B).
- O.N.S.3 Oban portion O.N.S.3 cancelled owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 070350B).
Sailed ARCHER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE in accordance with my 031904A, 24 hours late. Codeword "Profit".
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 070624B).
Your 070835B. LANDGUARD, MOYOLA only in company. NARVIK reports 2 hours late. Intend joining Clyde portion and anchoring them in Carnlough Bay. Am instructing POPPY and oilers to return Moville.
(LULWORTH, 071055B to C. in C. W.A.)
Liverpool and Milford Haven section returning Belfast E.T.A. Mew Island 1630B. Clyde Section not in company.
(NARVIK, 071255B).
LULWORTH, LANDGUARD, MOYOLA. E.T.A. Carnlough Bay 1600B/7. NORTHERN PRIDE and Clyde portion reported by NORTHERN GIFT to have returned to Clyde, latter also proceeding there.
Request N.O.I.C. Londonderry may instruct STARWORT to proceed Carnlough Bay to transfer my S.O. to LULWORTH.
(LULWORTH, 071439B to C. in C. W.A.)
Liverpool, Clyde, and Milford Haven portions are proceeding to Belfast where convoy will be reformed. Escort group 40 return Moville.
2. ARCHER is to return to Clyde.
3. N.C.S.O. Belfast is sailing convoy when ready.
(C. in C. W.A., 071530B to ARCHER).
Cancel my 071013.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry, 071742B).
My 021924. Delete BIDEFORD.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 071927A).

/My...

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.S.3
(contd). My 071528B para. one. STARWORT, POPPY, and oilers are returning Moville, STARWORT then Carnlough Bay. LULWORTH, MOYOLA, and LANDGUARD are in Carnlough Bay.
(C. in C. W.A., 071928B to ARCHER).
- My 0624. ARCHER, OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE have returned to Clyde.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 072106B to C. in C. W.A.)
O.N.S.3 (i) 080600B (ii) 2000B 270° 6 miles Oversay
(iii) Noon M.S.T.9th April, 056° 06' 30" N. 009° 22' 00" W.
Noon M.S.T.10th, 56° 52' 00" N. 14° 08' 00" W. (iv) and (v)
Mersey's 291429A.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 072325B).
- H.X.231 A.M. 062320B. Since 0130Z a number of transmissions indicate convoy is still being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C., 070640B to Escorts H.X.231).
B.7s 061700Z. D/F Bearings at 0452Z indicate that U-boats are still ahead of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 070743B to Escorts H.X. 231).
Intercept De WRD 64 to WRD unread, periscope, stand by Ends.
(Valentia, Radio, T.H.I. 071800).
Grade 1 bearing by D/F 268° distress from WRD 61.
(Gallon Head Radio, 071933Z to Lyness).
SSSS de WRD 61. Periscope port quarter Q.S.A.4 de GKR.
(Wick Radio).
(Ship in H.X.231 072138. Read by Lyness W/T).
One S/M on surface, 57° 28' N., 17° 45' W.
(INGLEFIELD 072302).
My 072302Z. Submarine submerged. Attacked.
(INGLEFIELD, 072313Z to Admty).
- O.N.S.C.177 Sailed LANCER and Rescue tug BUSTLER to overtake O.N.S.C.177 in accordance with C. in C. W.A.
021634A.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 070645B).
- T.A.40 Sailed in accordance with my 051404Z 2½ hours late. Codeword "Tictac".
(QUEEN ELIZABETH). (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 070928B).
- D.F.4 LEINSTER ordered to Loch Ewe.
Request you will sail her to R/V CHIDDINGFOLD in 270° Cape Wrath 18 miles at 1400B/8.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 071008B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
Your 071008B. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 072045B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
- S.C.124 A.C.I. Article 415 para. 2.
MAYFLOWER. (A) BITTERSWEET (B) Portion.
(B) 2100Z/8th. (D) 0900Z/9th. Your 281709 March
Request approval for JED, BURNHAM to proceed Clyde.
(C.T.U. 24.1.13 071103Z to C. in C. W.A.).

/Request...

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- S.C.124
MAYFLOWER.
(contd). Request you sail DEXTEROUS to Merville as soon as ready. She may be required to proceed to assist MAYFLOWER who has a wire round her screw in 59° 10' N., 17° 00' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 071213B to F.O.I.C. Campbeltown).
Sailed DEXTEROUS for Merville. E.T.A. 072100B.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 071335B).
Your 071103Z JED and BURNHAM should proceed to Londonderry.
(C. in C. W.A., 071401Z to C.T.U. 24.1.13).
Sailed SHIKARI at 1310B.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 071551B).
In tow by EYEBRIGHT. P.C.S. at 1600Z 58.41 15.48 124°. EYEBRIGHT has 60 tons fuel remaining. Used last towing-wire, all other parted. Sea moderating, conditions appear favourable. Weather 6972, 3363.
(MAYFLOWER, 071701Z to C. in C. W.A.)
MAYFLOWER in tow of EYEBRIGHT, P.C.S. at 071500B 58.47 N. 15.52 W, 124° 6 knots. Proceed to intercept and take over tow from EYEBRIGHT.
(C. in C. W.A., 071845B to DEXTEROUS).
Your 071335B. Arrived.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 071820 to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).
My 071845B. MAYFLOWER P.C.S. at 071800B 058° 41' N. 015° 48' W. 125° 5 knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 072228B to DEXTEROUS).
- O.N.S.2 Sailed VILLE DE QUEBEC, CAMROSE, SHEDIAC at 1021B to rejoin.
(A.C.I.C., 071128B to Escort O.N.S.2).
- F.S.82 Sailing from Humber - Nil. owing to stress of weather.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 071136B).
- EMPIRE GRACE. Independently routed M/V. 0800B/7 position 45° 30' N., 27° 30' W. routed through 46° 30' N., 26° 35' W. 48° N. 23° W, thence 034° speed of advance 14½ knots.
(D.O.D. H., 071212B to NEWFOUNDLAND, CHARYBDIS).
- S.L. 126. Commodore Londonderry 0600Q1 is being passed to you for information. Para. seven, one A/C of 19 Group failed to find convoy between 1627 and 1649 due to bad weather in area. One A/C escorted convoy from 1945 to 2015. Para. eight, need for improved rescue measures is again emphasized. My 281916 March refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 071230B and 132032B to Admty).
- O.N.177 On leaving Tobermory proceed at best speed to Merville and complete. You are required to join C.4 Group(S.O. in CHURCHILL) escorting O.N. 177.
(C. in C. W.A., 071235B to TRENT).

/Cdr...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.177
(contd). Cdr. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14 in CHURCHILL, H/F D/F,
plus BRANDON; COLLINGWOOD, RESTIGOUCHE H/F D/F
sailed to meet O.N.177.
SAINT ALBANS proceeding independently to Iceland
and will join O.N. 177 from Iceland. Expect
to sail TRENT H/F D/F April 8th to overtake. AMHERST, CALGARY
delayed by defects 4 days.
(C.T.G.24.7., 071903Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- U. C. 2 Comtask Group 21.6 in MADISON plus H.P. JONES
LANSDALE, C.F. HUGHES, BABBIT, UPSHUR designated
Escort U.C.2. UPSHUR fitted H/F D/F.
(C.T.U. 21.2.3., 071300 to C. in C. W.A.)
- Atlantic
Support
Groups.
BOGUE. Your 061214. Following amendments required
in so far as operations of BOGUE are concerned.
(A) Delete your para. one (B) and substitute
therefore "The command of the Air Support Group
remains at all times with the S.O. of the Group".
(B) Addition of specific instructions concerning
communications along line indicated in my WGRO
22143.
(C) In absence of specific request to contrary patrols will be
in accordance with Cominch tentative doctrine for A/S warfare by
aircraft recommend following changes. (i) Deletion mention
of compromising danger in your para. (D). Believe risk of
sighting of aircraft should be accepted in order cover projected
track and vicinity of convoy whenever repeat whenever weather
permits.
(ii) Addition of primary distress signal such as wobbling of
wings and intermittent gunning by aircraft in order to lead
an escort vessel to point of emergency without use of R/T or
Flashing Light.
(C.T.F.24, 071643 to Admty).
- F.N.88 My 071133. Humber ships failed to contact F.N.
88 and are ordered to return to Humber.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 071747B).
F.N.88 has become completely scattered. Touch
was lost in heavy squall when convoy hove to. They may have
gone into Humber by Trautoon Channel as 2 ships were seen in
channel. Search between 59 and 62 Buoy shows no further ships
except MR. THERM and EMPIRE HEARTH both at anchor. Intend to
proceed up swept channel at slow speed during the night pending
further instructions. My position 59 A, wind N.N.W. Force 7.
(VANITY, 071927B to C. in C. Nore).
My position 59 A Buoy in Company VANITY. As Steering
Engine has slight defect intend to proceed slowly up Swept
Channel until weather moderates.
(WORCESTER, 072014B).

/VANITY's...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

F.N.88.
(contd).

VANITY's 071927. WORCESTER order all ships of F.N.88 in sight to anchor off Humber Light Vessel and await orders from N.O.I.C. Humber. VANITY cast back to 6 buoy and order stragglers to Yarmouth Roads. Report situation at daylight. (C. in C. Nore, 072157B to VANITY, WORCESTER).

TAMARA,
WIRIL.

A.M. 041742. Swedish Government intimate sailing of TAMARA and WIRIL postponed until 10th April. (M. Branch, 072126B).

Convoy
diagrams.

Your 061035. Concur that these diagrams require adjustment but it is considered that before any amendments are made it would be preferable to wait until the reports on the "V" formation trials are available and an agreed decision on the best formation has been arrived at. (A.C.N.S., 072300B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ARGONAUT, Very heavy panting caused by pitching in slight
defects, swell at 12 knots has caused following damage.
HERO. (details.) Safe passage speed not more than
12, speed of advance 10, and as ship cannot be
steamed into head sea consider A/S escort is
necessary. HERO will remain in company until
further orders are received. Intend leaving Ponta Delgada
1100Z/8th E.T.A. Bermuda A.M. 16th April. Please acknowledge
and pass to N.O.I.C. Bermuda.
(ARGONAUT, 070707Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C.
Bermuda, HERO.)

Mines, 5th and 6th mines acoustic type exploded by
Casablanca. sweepers 6th April positions 33° 43' 07" N.
07° 23' 25" W. 33° 43' 10" N. 07° 23' 05" W.
(Commorseafon, 070852 to Comnavnav (R) C. in C.
Med., F.O.C. Gib., Admty., Cominch, Convoy Cdre.
G.U.S. 6.)
Amend my 070652 (070852 intended) correct positions are
33° 43' 50" N. 07° 22' 45" W. and 33° 43' 53" N. 07° 23' 09" W.
(Commorseafon, 071512, to Comnavnav etc.)

M.K.F.11A. Cancel my 062243 comply with Admiralty 061638
(see Home Commands)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 070734A to Escorts of Convoy
M.K.F. 11A. (R) Admty., E. of Convoy K.M.S.12
C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., NEWFOUNDLAND.)

U/B My 031852. Confirmed only survivors known
Survivors were landed at Altea by fishing boat. 5 dead,
landed in burial at Altea. Survivors believed still at
Spain. Alicante. Valencia report life belt survivors
marked U.77 but this is not confirmed.
Spanish Navy convinced S/M lost.
Note Verbale will not be sent.
(N.A. Madrid, 071001 to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C.
Gibraltar.) Further details: N.A. Madrid 202056B.

Dispositions. Situation 071955A. P.229 (SPORTSMAN) 042°
03' 012° 020° thence 155 diving by day two knots
surface by night 7.
2. P.312 (TRESPASSER) 041° 54' 012° 37' thence
152° diving by day 2½ knots surface by night 8½
3. U.G.S. (?6 A) C.T.F.60 033° 29' 022° 40' 086° 9
4. HERO leaves patrol off Ponta Delgada 072002 through 37.55
24.05 thence 047° 21.
5. M.K.F.11 A, GOATHLAND, 040° 48' 014° 56' 002° 12½
6. HALCYON, SALAMANDER 2 tugs small craft convoy 041° 48' 013° 31'
(?210) 10. (See amendment 072215A)
7. O.S.45 BLACK SWAN 027° 35' 014° 23' through 26.10 16.11 thence
to 202° 8½.

/8...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- Dispositions (Contd.)
8. K.M.S. 12, 41.05 16.06 through 40.01 16.01 thence to 125 7½.
9. S.L.127 ROCHESTER 22.25 19.58 (?163°) 6¾.
10. ? Portuguese Naval tanker (?SAMBRAZ) left Lisbon 6th for Aruba 12.
11. NEWFOUNDLAND two destroyers cover M.K.S.12 until approx 072100 then cover M.K.F.11 (?A).
(F.O., Gibraltar, 071051A.)
My 071050A. (071051, situation at 071955 presumably intended)
Amend para. 6 to read (E) 042° 36' 031° 57' through 042° 30' 013° 59' thence 152° 6½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 072215A.)
Area X. Situation 071955 . D.70, COMMANDANT DELAGE, 30. ?07 10.01 northbound coastwise 7.
2. LORD NUFFIELD, MIRROR working in vicinity 36.17 07.25.
3. HAARLEM (? ARCTIC RANGER) (S.O.) 3 M/Vs 1 trawler off Tagus proceeding coastwise through 270° Chipiona 3 speed 8.
4. S.C. (?125) one M/V 013° (?Malabata) (?Point)(?6) to Gibraltar 6.
5. C.G.24, 2.U.S. destroyers, sail Casablanca 081001 032° 9½.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 071120A)
Situation 2004A/7th. 2. ARGONAUT leaving Ponta Delgada 2001/7th (?33) 14½.
3. HERO leaving patrol off Ponta Delgada 1959/7th through 37.55 24.05 thence 47.21.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 071140A)

R.S.4. Propose include EMPIRE PRINCE, HARPALYCUS, FORT MCLEOD, EGYPTIAN PRINCE in R.S.4 for Freetown. Request sailing date and R/V.
(Commorseafon, 071105 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C. Gib. Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F.)

Swiss Shipping. Swiss vessels CALANDA and LUGANO and Swiss chartered Spanish MINA PIQUERA sail from Genoa for Genoa for Gibraltar 9th, 11th and 10th April respectively.
(D.E.W.D., 071121B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)

Survivors from U/B, (sunk 5/4) My 061150 (N.T. in W.D.) XAUEN returned port p.m. 6th having gone out trying to locate crew from German submarine sunk yesterday off Mas Palomas, South, Grand Canary.
(2) Understand 50 survivors landed beach on South of Island p.m. yesterday. Consul. (Las Palmas, 071140 to Admty., (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar and B.N.A. Madrid.)

Further to my 071140 it is now reported that S/M damaged by aircraft eventually came to surface apparently disabled and being unable to effect repairs was abandoned 1130 p.m. 5th April and blown up. (2) Crew of 53 (some wounded) reached shore by raft five hours after sinking vessel and I am informed they are now accommodated on German vessel CORRIENTES.

(British Consul Las Palmas, 071800 to Admty., (R) S.O.'I) Gibraltar, and B.N.A. Madrid.)

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

TRESPASSER,
SPORTSMAN. My 031719, para 2, last sentence amend to read;
Do not cross the meridian of 7° (?west) (before)
0630 April 11th and 0630 April 12th respectively.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 071207A/ to P.312
(TRESPASSER), P.229 (SPORTSMAN.)

UPROAR. E.T.A. 1615A/17th.
(P.31 (UPROAR), 071334A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

OXFORDSHIRE Your 011627A (Re sailing OXFORDSHIRE) arrived.
(F.O.Gibraltar 071401A to N.O.i/c Avonmouth (R)
Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

U/B
attacked. B (?24) plane attacks enemy S/M estimated
position 35.00 N. 15.30 W.
(Commorseafon, 071530 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
(R) Cominch, C. in C. Med., Admty., C.T.60.)

Axis
Shipping. April 6th arrivals Nil. Departures 6th,
LOUVETOT, COURDANNES, THRIANTHA, OLGA, POETA
AROLAS.
(Consul, Bilbao, 071555, to Bank Block London.
(R) S.O.I. Gibraltar.)

S.T.4. Request your proposals for sailing of S.T.4.
(2) There are 16 ships at Gibraltar for R.S.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 071737A to F.O.C. West Africa,
(R) Admty., C. in C. Med. Commorseafon.)

SOKOL,
UPROAR. Arrivals.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 071750 to Admty. etc.)

M.K.S.11. Intend sailing (list). Request destinations and
pendant numbers.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 071757A to Admty.)

Casablanca,
movements
not
notified. Commorseafon's 061434Z from S.N.O.C.A. Request
you will supply this information to Commorseafon
for future convoys.
(D.T.D., 07185B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Commorseafon, C. in C. Med., C. in C.W.A.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA. Your 071112A (N.T. in W.D.) approved.
2. A.M. 231223A/March and 270030A/March neither
to all addressees. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is to
be sailed to join Eastern Station at next
convenient opportunity.
(D.O.D., 071919B B to F.O. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med. etc.)

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.- Contd.

Mines, Casablanca. Ref. 050940/April and 061515A/April from C.M.S.F.F. (re mines exploded by sweepers). Request information by signal or air mail of circumstances in which mines were swept to assist judgement of nature of mine. Any available data listed in M/S reports numbers 4 and 5 in C.B.04031/43 is desired as applicable. (D.T.M., 071923B to C. in C. Med.)

32 M.L. Flotilla. Request you will arrange for M.Ls. of 32nd Flotilla to be onward routed to Freetown. 2. First boat of this flotilla sailed from Milford Haven for Gibraltar on 6th April. (D.D.O.D.(C), 071925B to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

UGANDA Admty. 030010 UGANDA arrived 071900. Request instructions. (F.O. Gibraltar, 072031A, C. in C. Plymouth. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)
Para 1. (A) of Admty. 030010A and Admty. 061840B. Unless otherwise required at an earlier date it is intended UGANDA shall remain at Gibraltar until required to sail about 15th April to cover passage of S.L.127 northward from 042° N. (C. in C. Plymouth, 072215B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) UGANDA, C. in C. Med., Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals ADVENTURE, WISHART, QUANTOCK, BROCKLESBY from Oran. LADY HOGARTH from Escort duties East. S.C.524 on Escort duties from Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 072210A to Admty., C. in C. Med., Cominch.)

SCHARLACH-BERGER. German 55 fully loaded proceeding outer harbour 1740 G.M.T. (N.A.Madrid, No T.O.O./7 to Admty., Recd. 2216)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

ILE DE
FRANCE.

Your 311741. It is now intended that ILE DE FRANCE should proceed to Middle East to lift balance of South African Armoured Division and not to India. 2. This answers P.S.T.O. Middle East's 031153.
(D.S.T. 070250B to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) P.S.T.O. M.E. etc.)

S.A.A.F.
Sqdn. for
Takoradi.

My 020204. Air Ministry now advise that strength of S.A.A.F. Squadron is 380 of whom 100 are air crews. As this exceeds numbers possible on DEMPO and ELIZABETHVILLE on unescorted basis it is now proposed that (a) 250 should embark in DEMPO, (b) Balance should embark in BRITANNIC or ARUNDEL CASTLE or STRATHEDEN including as many as possible of the air crews. 2. Appreciated that personnel under (b) will have to disembark Freetown but this will have to be accepted in view of importance of this Squadron.
(D.S.T. 070255B to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D.S.T.O. Durban F.O.C. W.Af., D.S.T.O. W.Af., C. in C. S.A.) Reply: P.S.T.O. Capetown 081626B.

Convoy
C.A.16.

Sailing telegram.
(2) 0800Z/7th April. (3) Disperse at position (F)
(4) 9½. (5) D. 034° 26' S. 018° 26' E. 7036° 30' S. 020° 00' E. F. 039° 10' S. 020° 50' E. thence in accordance with Capt. Town's serial No. 771 -
778. (6) COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, F.S. COVENTRY CITY.
Code word "Pagan".
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 070908Z to C. in C. S.A. etc.)

MOANDA
Survivors.

My 041533, not to Admiralty.
Air France IV. arrived Port Etienne 061900Z with six survivors from MOANDA. M.W.T.R. has names. Search continues for a second raft.
(Comar, Dakar 070917Z to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty.)

Dispositions.

Position at 072000Z April.
SARABANDE 015° 20' S. 010° 40' E. to Walvis Bay 5 knots. KENYA, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, QUADRANT, 016° 20' S. 011° 00' E. with W.S.28 to 018° 00' S. 011° 00' E. to 023° 00' S. 013° 00' E. 12½ knots. QUAIL 036° 10' S. 012° 20' E. to 037° 00' S. 020° 30' E. 20. QUILLIAM on patrol off Table Bay. F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES, COVENTRY CITY 036° 10' S. 019° 40' E. with C.A.16 to 039° 10' S. 020° 30' E. 8. JASMINE, NORWICH CITY, SONDRRA 031° 00' S. 032° 40' E. with D.N.31 to 033° 00' S. 036° 00' E. 9. FREESIA 029° 10' S. 031° 40' E. escorting group coastal to Lourenco Marques.
(C. in C.S.A. 071107B.)

Situation at 072008Z.

F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES 019° 21' 019° 41' to Dakar 20. ROCHESTER with S.L. 127 022° 59' 019° 24' 046° 7½. BRIDGEWATER 2 M.Ls. escorting off Bathurst to Dakar 8. ?BURDOCK, INKPEN, ORFASY, 2 M.Ls with D.B.F.1. 010° 34' 016° 35' to 009° 30' 014° 00' thence 177.7. CILICIA on patrol about 013° 30' 031° 30' 14. F.C. GLOIRE on patrol about 009° 30' 027° 30' 19. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 005° 00' 022° 30' 15½.

/BUTTERMERE...

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. BUTTERMERE M.M.S.102, 103, 105, 106, 107, 008°
(Contd.) 17' 013° 48' to Freetown 8½.
(F.O.C.W.A. 071301Z.)

Situation at 072003Z.

B.Y.M.S. 7568 004° (704') 012° (722') to 002° 05' 011° 21' thence
(7090°) 10½. M.Ls. 272, 209 (?escorting trawler) to Freetown 10.
FANDANGO escorting 005° 10' 009° 42' to Takoradi 9. M.Ls. 271,
305 escorting about 004° 54' 003° 30' to Takoradi 6. WOLVERINE,
CROCUS, escorting off Lagos to Takoradi 11. WITCH about 000°
30' S. 005° 50' E. to Takoradi 13. BIRMINGHAM 001° (756') S.
(7008°) 42' 330° 19. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 06.00
22.30 15½.

(F.O.C.W.A. 071302Z.)

Accra, 113677. O/57531 cipher 7th April.
A/S defence. Your 56416 (MO7) 27 Feb. Presume vulnerability
of aerodrome and oil installations Accra to
bombardment by submarine is fully realized.
U.S.A.F.I.C.A. have indicated probability greater
flow of aircraft on air reinforcement route and have raised
question of defence. West African School Arty is being
established Accra and will have two 3.7 A/A guns which can fire
seawards but these will not normally be continuously manned.
(G.O.C. in C.W.A. 071231ZA to W.D.)

CILICIA, (1) CILICIA leaves present patrol at 082000Z and
GLOIRE, proceeds to patrol in area.
CARNARVON (A) 011° 48' N. 027° 41' W. (B) 009° 54' 025° 04'
CASTLE, (C) 006° 42' 027° 37' (D) 008° 56' 029° 56'.
GEORGES (2) French Cruiser GLOIRE leaving patrol by a.m.
LEYGUES. 9th to return Dakar.
(3) CARNARVON CASTLE leaves present patrol at
092000Z and proceeds patrol in area
S. 001° 31' N. 022° 18' W.
T. 000° 37' 021° 22'.
U. 005° 22' 018° 35'. V. 002° 30' 015° 26'. (4) Intend French
Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES to commence patrol at 100800Z in area
O. 008° 36' N. 022° 59' W. P. 005° 01' 025° 48°. Q. 002° 01' 023°
01' 04" 006° 01' 019° 00'.
(?Freetown 071313Z to CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE, GLOIRE (R)
Admty., Comar, Dakar. etc.)

B.T.9. Series number 30, following ships joined B.T.9.
off Recife p.m. 6th April: HERVAL Brazil for
Cabedello. FARRAPO, BURY, 2 Brazil, for Ceara.
MASSACHUSETTS, U.S., for Trinidad.
(A. S.O. (I) Recife 071414Z to Admty. etc.)

T.S.34. Arrival 061745Z CORINTHIAN, PETUNIA, BELLWORT,
DUNKERY, with T.S.34.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 071520Z to Admty. etc.)

/SATURNIA...

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

SATURNIA, Your 061242B. Route through South Atlantic to
VULCANIA, Port Elizabeth A. 010° 00' S. 005° 00' W.
DUILIO, B. 035° 20' S. 001° 00' E. C. 037° 30' S. 019°
GIULIO CESARE. 45' E. D. 036° 50' S. 024° 00' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 071541B to Admty.)

Convoy Your 052011. Information is required of all
Reports, merchant shipping leaving South Atlantic with a
South America. view to identification of possible raider or
blockade runner. Request convoy telegrams may
continue to be repeated to me.
(C. in C. S.A. 071551B to B.N.L.O. Rio de Janeiro
(R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements, Arrival 7th April WOLVERINE.
Lagos. Departures WOLVERINE, CROCUS, PORTSDOWN.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 071628 to Admty.)
My 071628 CROCUS returned with CAP PADARAN.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 072130Z to Admty.)

ARGO 1. Intend to sail F.S./M. ARGO escorted by
M.L.289. M.L. 289 at 1000Z/10th for Konakry passing through
position A 008° 40' N. 013° 47' W. at 1230Z/10th
(corrupt group) 009° 30' N. 013° 57' W. at
1630Z/10th thence Konakry estimated speed made
good 12½ knots. 2. Intend ARGO and M.L.289 to sail from Konakry
for Dakar at 0700Z/14th passing through position.
C. 010° 41' N. 016° 49' W. at 2300Z/14th.
D. 011° 10' N. 017° 15' W. at 0200Z/15th.
E. 012° 51' N. 017° 15' W. at 1000Z/15th.
thence Dakar E.T.A. 1830Z/15th estimated speed made good 12½
knots. 3. Request total bombing restriction for 30 miles
ahead and astern and 10 miles each side of estimated position.
ARGO will report P.C. and S. if she passes outside T.B.R. Zone.
4. ARGO will proceed on surface but may dive if attacked.
5. ARGO will keep watch on Group F.T. and Rugby F.S. routine.
ARGO holds Anglo French cypher and small ships signal code. In
harbour Konakry ARGO will keep watch on Group F.T. at 0001, 0600,
1200, 1800 daily all times G.M.T. for one hour. 6. Comar, Dakar,
is requested to inform authorities at Konakry.
(F.O.C.W.A. 071900Z to Comar, Dakar.(R) Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival 7th April, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, M.L. 278
Takoradi. and 279. Departures 17th, 1016, CHIEF ASSINI to
Screen S.S. KAJANG loading E.T.A. 080600Z.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 071905Z to Admty. etc.)

BURDOCK, My position course and speed 010° 29' N. 015° 21'
Convoy W. 113° 7 knots, expected time of arrival
D.B.F.1. Freetown 090700. TOURS stopped with engine
trouble at 070750Z in 011° 30' N. 017° 18' W.
detached BIRDLIP with orders to escort on
stragglers route. Aircraft reports she was making
5 knots at 070930. Weather report.
(BURDOCK 072003Z to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Capt. (D). Freetown, BIRDLIP)

/BIRMINGHAM...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

BIRMINGHAM. Alter course to pass position 005° N. 010° W.
and thence to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 072023 to BIRMINGHAM (R) Admty.)

U-Boat attacked
20 May 1942. B.A.D. 061401Z. (Logs of COVENTRY CITY and CAPE
WARWICK to be checked for information concerning
recovery of floating body). You are requested
to signal any information available to B.A.D.
repeated Admiralty.
(D.A/S.W. 072131B to C. in C. S.A.)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- ALDENHAM, grounding. ALDENHAM aground off Ras Azzaz requires immediate assistance.
(ALDENHAM, 070535C 070550C to Alexandria W/T)
See also 072025.
- Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 6th April ROMNEY, G.S. QUEEN OLGA, F.S. COMMANDANTE DOMINE. Arrived and sailed 6th April BELVOIR G.S. MIAOULES, G.S. PINDOS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 070914C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).
- Movements, Malta. Arrival ABDIEL, PETARD, KELVIN.
(V. A.M. 070936B to Admty. etc).
- E. T. 17 My 061416 ALCINOUS carried 69 passengers.
(Cdre. Algiers, 071002A to Admty. etc).
E.T.17. Arrived PROSPER, SCHIAFFINO, NARVA, ODDYSSEUS, WASHINGTON IRVING, SHUNA, STAR.
(?Algiers, 071709A to C. in C. Med).
- Bi-weekly Opsum No. 114 - Part 4. 5th April, 23 B.24s despatched to attack Palermo Harbour. 2 returned early with mechanical troubles. 21 bombed Palermo scoring hits on Quay in N.W. corner of Harbour and along Quays at bases of Moles in Southern Section of Harbour. Large explosions and fire seen at Base of Central Mole, many fires along Quays.
(H. Q., R.A.F., M.E., 071018Z).
- M.K. S. 11 My 041227 para. 7. Mediterranean escorts, CARLISLE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY, WHADDON, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM.
(C. in C. Med., 071036A to F.Os. I.C. etc).
- G.U.S. 6 Please inform me why tanker ESSO BAYWAY is not sailing in G.U.S. 6, my 061551 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(C. in C. Med., 071040A to F.O. Gibraltar).
- 201 N.C. Group inadequacy. I am much concerned with inadequacy of R.A.F. naval co-operation group in Eastern Med.
2. This group, together with the few light naval forces in (?my) command, is intended to take the place of an important battle fleet. I fear that it falls a very long way short of that.
3. Valuable convoys constantly pass within easy striking distance of Italian Fleet. This continuous threat is being faced by a R.A.F. torpedo bomber striking force, which, if Malta striking force is included, is possibly adequate in number, but which cannot be kept in high state of training necessary to attack successfully escorted warships steaming at high speed.

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

201 N.C.
Group,
inadequacy.
(contd).

4. This is due to heavy operational demands made on limited number of aircraft available rendering it quite impossible to release squadrons to carry out intensive training. Majority of air R/C bomber aircraft pilots have never had any practice at concerted attacks, or at targets moving at more than 12 knots. They are continuously on operations which give them no opportunity for exercising the most difficult of their functions.
5. Strongly recommend that at least one R.A.F. squadron of torpedo bombers be formed now in Middle East, in order that a change-round of squadrons can be effected and thus give an opportunity for much needed training.
6. I will afford every possible facility for training of these squadrons on high speed targets.
7. Situation with regards to anti-submarine (?aircraft) is also unsatisfactory. Whilst doing their best to meet all my demands for A/S patrol, 201 N.C.G. is living "hand to mouth" existence.
8. Number of aircraft available was sufficient when our lines of communication were much shorter, but with greatly increased area of operations and more numerous convoys this force is now totally inadequate, and will be still more so on removal of 701 and 815 Squadrons. Strongly urge this matter be considered without delay and steps taken to remedy it at earliest opportunity, particularly in view of forthcoming activities, including institution of through Mediterranean convoys. (C.in C. Levant, 071057C to Admty).

TROOPER

Onward routeing from 038° 32' 010° 11' at 0330/8 through 038° 50' 011° 30' thence course 90 to zone E.
(Capt. S.8., 071128A to TROOPER (R) 8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10).

UNBROKEN

Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 071130B to Admty. etc).

Convoy
T.E. 20.

T.E. 20 A, SAN CIRILO arrived. T.E. 20 B, ships sailed as in my 061119A. All have Kite balloons.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 071246 to F.Os. I.C. etc).

Situation
report No.
77.

1. My 041102 (M.T.B. attack on convoy 31st March) Attack was made through escort of 4 destroyers and 6 E-boats.
2. M.T.Bs. from Bone carried out sweep to Bizerta Roads night 4/5 April and some from Malta operated in Sicilian Channel night 5/6 April. Neither party found any targets.
3. ABDIEL laid mines in Sicilian Channel on nights 4/5 April and 6/7 April. Both operations were covered by destroyers of Force K and were completed unseen.
4. SAHIB reports sunk 2500 ton eastbound tanker south of Lipari Islands at 1316/24. Attacked shipping in Milazzo harbour

/at...

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation at 1545/27 one ship observed to settle by stern, report No. fate of other target not seen. At 1110/30 in 77. Northern Approaches to Straits of Messina (contd). sank three schooners by gunfire and left a fourth damaged.
5. TRIBUNE reports in 39.14 N. 15.59 E. at 1115/22 attacked 6600 ton south bound tanker which settled by the stern and had later disappeared apparently sunk. Possible sank after one hit 6,000 ton laden southbound merchant vessel in 39.37 N. 13.15 E. at 1330/30.
6. UNRIVALLED reports at 1415/29 attacked two ships at anchor outside Palermo 3000 tons merchant vessel sunk and 6,000 ton merchant vessel believed sunk. Off Cape St. Vito at 0920/1 300 ton schooner blew up after hit with a torpedo.
7. UNBROKEN estimated one hit in attack on large southbound tanker at 1433/4 in 38.15 N. 16.30 E.
(C. in C. Med., 071600A to Admty).

PARTHIAN My 061248 is in abeyance. Return to cover approaches to Rhodes if you have not already compromised your position. Suggest at your discretion between Symi and Alimnia. Use full salvo.
(Capt. S.1., 071619C to PARTHIAN (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.C. (D) Med. Fleet, Cdr. C. F.E. Med., KATSONIS G.S.)

WEST POINT. Following is a repetition of my 070502Z (begins) Admty. C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., Connnav, S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, from Com. Aden. Departure U.S.S. WEST POINT (ends).
(Cdre. Aden, 071623Z to Admty. etc).

G.U.S.6 My 061122, add WASHINGTON IRVING delete RANGITATA, now sailing to Gibraltar with special escort.
(Comnob Oran, 071715A to C. in C. Med).

Movements 7th April Port Said arrivals MIAOULES, PINDOS, Port Said. BELVOIR, EXMOOR, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA.
Departures G.S. IERAX, BELVOIR, G.S. COUNDOURIOTIS MIAOULES, PINDOS, EXMOOR, CUMBRAE, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 071752C to Admty. etc).

12th A.F. To C.G.8th Air Force. (R) C.G. 9th Air Force. Report. From H.Q., N.A.A.F. Adv. From. Spaatz, For Eaker and Brereton.
1. 24,500 (evidently two 4,500 ships is meant) ton ship in flames, 1 6,000 ton merchant vessel blown up, 1 merchant vessel left burning, 2 vessels hit and left sinking, 1 large and several vessels of unknown types hit, sums up the air-shipping score for the day.

MOST SECRET

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 071700Z/April
Date 7.4.43 OUT

To Commanders-in-Chief Mideast.

CYFHER

From Air Ministry

Turkey - Staff Talks.

IMPORTANT

OZ 991 7th April 1943.

Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(M.E.)369.

Reference Ankara telegrams 635 and 638 of 1st April, (repeated Minister of State), Foreign Office reply No. 503 to Ankara with which we agree, and Minister of State's No. 852 to Foreign Office.

1. In our view items four and six of Adana Conclusions clearly envisage direct contact between visiting Staffs and Turkish Staff for preparation of combined plans. Duration of the visit would seem to be that necessary for the completion of the initial plans, though something more permanent may have been discussed during visit of A.O.C.in C, as implied by para. 8 of PUNCH 317 of March 18th from H.Q. R.A.F. Middle East to Air Ministry. We must endeavour to consolidate and maintain the closer relations offered by Turkey in these negotiations but even so must not endanger these advantages by going too fast. We are sure that you will realise the importance of proceeding carefully in this respect.

2. We recommend therefore that your instructions to the Air Missions and to other Missions which may be sent to Turkey under these provisions be drawn up in collaboration with H.B.M. Ambassador and Service Attaches in Turkey so as to take in full account political and other factors obtaining in Ankara. It would seem that the strength of and arrangements for the Air Mission could still be adjusted accordingly.

071700Z

Received in War Registry 0105/8

Distribution over/....

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Admiral Blake
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Hd. of Air
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Air Ministry Circulation:-
Brig. Jacob
Foreign Sec.
1st S.L.
C.6. Tels, War Office
A.M.C.S.(C)

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- 12th A.F. Report. (contd). 2. Appreciation of photographs of airdromes bombed in Italy, Sicily and Tunisia on April 5th indicates over 120 planes destroyed or damaged on ground. Bomber attacks on airdromes were carefully co-ordinated with fighter attacks on Ju.52 formations.
3. 18 B.25s escorted by 23 P.38s bombed convoy from 8,000 feet. 2 vessels hit and left sinking.
4. 18 B.17s bombed convoy from 11,000 feet. Near misses on one destroyer. Formation heavily attacked just prior to bomb run. 4 enemy aircraft destroyed, 5 probably destroyed and 5 damaged.
5. 22 B.17s bombed convoy from 10,500 feet. 1 6,000 ton vessel blown up, explosion felt by bombers. Another merchant vessel left burning. Formation heavily attacked. 15 Me. 109s destroyed, 3 damaged. Intense flak. 10 B.17s slightly damaged and 2 badly damaged.
6. 18 B.17s bombed Trapani docks and shipping from 22,000 feet. Dock and harbour area completely covered where 15/20 vessels were anchored. Large ship in harbour directly hit. A large explosion occurred among ships along dock. 3 enemy aircraft destroyed and 1 damaged in ensuing combat.
7. 16 P.38s 5 of which carried bombs attacked a convoy of 3 4,500 ton ships from low altitude. Direct hits on 2 ships which were left in flames and near miss on other ship. (12th Air Force (Constantine) 071755Z to Etousa)

F.F. Ships N. Africa. Your 071112 (N.T. in W.D.) It is preferable to avoid bringing Fighting French ships into North African harbours at present. (C. in C. Med., 071852A to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty).

P.R.U. April 7th visuals. 1730 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 071942B to C. in C. Med., etc).

TORBAY (1) Your escort will be Trawler JULIET.
(2) One Trawler leaves Algiers eastbound at 080615.
(Capt. S.8., 071954A to TORBAY).
Your 041444A (Re time of R/V) 3 hours late.
(TORBAY, 072102A to Capt. S.8)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 507 7th April. C.S.R. Malta.
(A) Part 1 Offensive. Night 6/7 April.
1 special equipment Albacore with bombs, 2 torpedo carrying Albacores on search for shipping in Gulf of Hammamet experienced A.S.V. jamming and made no sighting. 4 Mosquitoes on Intruder patrols over Sicily found no suitable target. Day 7th April, 4 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires with 4 other fighter Spitfires as rear cover made offensive sweep off Southern Sicilian Coast but found no shipping. One Spitfire bomber and fighter Spitfire bombed and strafed industrial buildings at

Alabarnardo.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep Southern Sicily intercepted and destroyed one Ju.88 South East of Sciacca.
Part 2. Enemy air activity.
Day 7th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 4 Spitfires provided escort to incoming Naval Unit.
Part 5. Operations by aircraft of other Commands. Day 6th April 1 Liberator 513 Squadron despatched from Solluch to bomb Messina landed Malta because 1 of crew was injured by flak after aircraft had scored hits on or near ferry terminus.
(H. Q., R.A.F., Malta, 072002Z).

Movements Bone. Bone departures SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LAFOREY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA L.C.Is. 113, 184, 186, and 25.
Arrivals AURORA, DIDO, TARTAR, ASHANTI, BICESTER, ZETLAND, L.C.(I?)s 106, 240, 111, 104, 256, 119, 248 and 174. M.G.Bs. 644, 642, 643, 645, 646 and 647. M.T.Bs. 640, 634, 638 and 656.
(S.O.(I)S. 072016A to Admty. etc).

Situation Report No. 20. Tripoli, Libya. 5,400 tons Can S. discharged 6th April. (2) ALDENHAM, escorting straggler from convoy, ran aground 0535/7th April in position 124° Ras Azzaz 2.2 miles. Ship refloated and returning Alexandria, 1 shaft out of action, speed 8 knots. (3) CERONIA damaged by external explosion inside baffle to Haifa outer anchorage. Cause not yet known.
(C. in C. Levant, 072025, to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., etc).
Explosion caused by mine, see 091937C.

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals WHEATLAND, LAMERTON, BADSWORTH, WHADDON, LOOKOUT, L.S.T.'s 361, 403, 304, 363. SIRIUS, PENELOPE, LAFOREY, BLYSKAWICA.
Departures AURORA, DIDO, TARTAR, ASHANTI, CARLISLE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY, WHADDON, ROTHESAY, BRIGHAM, L.S.Ts. 361, 403, 304, 363, M.M.S. 85, HENGIST, L.C.I.(L)s 108, 103, 109, 110, 182, LOOKOUT, BICESTER, ZETLAND.
(Cdre. Algiers, 072044A to Admty.etc).

Movements Oran. Arrivals today. RODNEY, NELSON, FORMIDABLE, HOLCOMBE, CALPE, ATHERSTONE, VELOX, PUCKERIDGE, ILEX, LOYAL, FARNDAL, HAYDON, LOOKOUT, QUANTOCK. Departure. ADVENTURE, BROCKLESBY, WISHART, QUANTOCK, HOLCOMBE, VELOX, ATHERSTONE.
(Comnob Oran, 072150 to Admty. etc).

Movements, Benghazi. Sailed KLO, HAILSTORM, FAVOURITE.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 072150C to Admty).

/Movements...

270

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW,
RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE. Sailed REDWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 072205C to Admty).

Cairo Air
Reports.

For Arnold, Andrews Bissel (?), Spaatz,
Doolittle. Signed Brereton.
Night of April 4/5, 25 B.24 aircraft of 376
group departed to raid Naples. 14 aircraft
returned early due to engine trouble caused by
dust storm during take off. 11 dropped 72 by 500 pound bombs
from 23500 feet on target. Hits observed on oil storage facili-
ties and Vigliena Mole. All our aircraft were hit by A/A fire
and 1 is missing. 23 B.24 aircraft of 98th Group departed to
attack Palermo at dusk April 5th, 2 returned early due to
mechanical failures and 21 dropped 60 by 1000 and 81 by 500
pound bombs plus incendiaries. Fires and explosions observed
in target area. 6 Liberators 178 R.A.F. Squadron departed
on night attack Palermo. 2 returned early due mechanical
failures 4 reached target dropped 48 by 500 pound bombs. Burst
observed in Barracks area.

(Cairo No T.O.O. Recd. 071815Z to Etousa).

1. Night April 6th successfully attacking Messina Harbour
20 B.24s of 376 Group scored hits on ferry buildings and slips.
Enemy aircraft attacked formation, 1 Mc. 202 shot down.

(Cairo No T.O.O. Recd. 072205Z to Etousa).

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- U-Boat. Following has been read.
80° 11' E. 11° 45' N. sub periscope.
(DAISY MOLLER T.O.R. 070135.)
- Raider situation No.28. Bordeaux departure between 20th March and 4th April 1 ship probably German supply ship ALSTERUFER.
(C. in C. E.F. 070608Z to E.F. 243Y.)
- Movements. Arrived CHITRAL.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 070631Z to C. in C. E.F.)
Departure AMRITSAR.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 071132Z to Admty.)
MAURITIUS arrived.
(F.O. E.Af. 071416Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 7th April 0900Z OKAPI 1250Z, BARRYMORE, departures 0730Z WORCESTERSHIRE.
(F.O. Ceylon 071500Z to Admty.)
- P.A. (?32). Sailing telegram.
(2) 070800Z. (4) 9 knots. (5) N.N. 024° 05' 058° 40' P.P. 022° 52' 060° (?50') thence GAN.
(6) ASTER, BALUCHISTAN.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 070830Z, 070835Z to Admty.)
- ISLAMI. ISLAMI 12th April. Pacific with approx. 80
B.P.76. Military Officers speed 10 knots. B.P.76 EKMA TALMA, LANCASHIRE and CITY OF CANTERBURY with Service Personnel sailing 17th April.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 070848Z to C. in C. E.F.
F.O. Ceylon, N.C.S.O. Kilindini, N.C.S.O. Bombay, D. of S.T. P.S.T.O. Bombay.)
- WORCESTERSHIRE. Following embarked WORCESTERSHIRE for S. Africa (numbers).
(S.S.T.O. Ceylon 070931Z to D.S.T.O. Durban (R) D. of S.T., C. in C. E.F.)
- Ceylon movement summary No.45, 7th April. 1. Ref. movement summary No.44 of 311449/March para 1. ASTER did not sail. ASTER and BALUCHISTAN leave Bandar Abbas 7 April escorting P.A.42. 2. BARRYMORE due Colombo 8 April from Seychelles. Leaves Colombo 12 April due Trincomalee 14 April. 3. BOMBAY left Bombay 5 April escorting B.P.74½ due Khorkwai 10 April.
4. SAWLER and TULIP left Colombo 2 April escorting J.C.9 due Calcutta 8 April. 5. GERALDTON leaves Bandar Abbas 10 April escorting P.B.35. 6. JAN-DE-WAELE left Seychelles 5 April due Aden 11 April. 7. KONKAN left Madras 2 April escorting C.61½ arrived Colombo 5 April. Sailed Colombo 6 April escorting M.B.31 due Bombay 11 April. 8. LISMORE and MARYBOROUGH left Colombo 6th April escorting C.K.1. due Addu Atoll 9th April, thence escorting one merchant ship to Colombo due 11th April.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ceylon movement summary No.45 7th April. (Contd.)

9. SCOUT left Colombo 3rd April to R/V and escort B.M.47 to Trincomalee arrived 5th April.

10. SONAVATI arrived Diego Garcia 4th April sailed 5th April arrived Addu Atoll 6th April sails 8th April due Colombo 11th April.

11. SUTLEJ left Bombay 3rd. April escorting B.P.75 due Khor Kwai 7th April.

12. VERBENA left Calcutta 3rd. April escorting one ship to Colombo due 10th April.

13. CESSNOCK and FALMOUTH left Bandar Abbas 4th April escorting P.B.34 due Bombay 10th April. (F.O. Ceylon 071020Z to Admty.)

Enemy Air Force Intelligence.

Following for F.M. Wavell from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S. (India) 147. Your 43911/C.O.S. of 26th March (1145Z/26).

1. We are not in favour of establishment of Combined Allied Air Intelligence Staff in S.W. Pacific area as we are not satisfied proposed organisation would achieve object desired. (Reasons). (Air Min. 071225Z to Armindia.)

"L.L." Minesweepers, allocation.

A.M. 041554. Request information whether any difficulty is anticipated in manning engine room complement of first six vessels mentioned in para. 3 (A) as it is understood these are Asiatic volunteers at present. (D.M.S. 071904B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, Com. R.I.N.)

Dispositions. My 311224/March.

Following changes in U.S. Pacific Forces. CONCORD at Valparaiso. DETROIT in Alaskan Area. HELENA in South Pacific. NASHVILLE at Sydney. NEW ORLEANS at Seattle. SALT LAKE CITY at Sea. TRENTON at Callao. (D.O.D. (F) 071935B to C. in C. E.F.)

Troop transport.

There are a large number of personnel to be moved from India and P.A.I.C. to U.K.

2. Admiralty have been asked whether escort to Durban can be provided for STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE leaving Bombay about 2 May on completion of voyage referred to in your 241537 March and P.S.T.O. Middle East's 301803 March. 3. At Durban personnel would tranship to ILE DE FRANCE for onward passage to U.K.

4. Request your remarks. (D.O.D. (F) 071953B to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. P.S.T.O. India.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.H.X. 231
U/B attack.
BLITAR.

BLITAR was attacked in 056° 46' N. 030° 45' W. at 051336Z no further information. Estimated drift 100° 1½ knots. If you leave H.X. 231 sweep through likely area and look out for ship or survivors.
(C. in C.W.A. 070036B to E.G.4 (R) S.E.C. H.X. 231, Admty.)

U.S. Floating
Docks.
Allocation.

My 030035Z.
Further discussions on our requirements for docks in Indian Ocean with particular reference to sectional docks and 18,000 ton dock for Durban, took place today.

2. American's attitude at this meeting may be summarized as follows -

- A. First two sectional docks must go to South West Pacific. They are not willing to discuss these two docks any further.
- B. Third sectional dock ready for leaving U.S.A. 1st Oct. 1943, will be held as a reserve for first two docks should they suffer damage on passage. Should first two docks be established successfully, they will consider sending third dock to Indian Ocean if justified by Naval activity at that time. They look on third dock as being mobile, and hedge as soon as any definite location is named. Necessity for building up harbour and A/A defences and repair facilities was stressed without apparent effect incidently they mentioned for first time that in their judgement a period of four months might well be required for assembly of the sections after arrival at site.
3. The dates quoted above, and which Navy Dept. have been loath to admit, put an entirely different complexion on the matter. The simplest solution of this difficulty problem appears to be a hastening of the Bombay dock if this is in fact possible.
4. A more favourable view is being taken of providing 1 18,000 ton dock at Durban. Following is American proposal which is being looked into by Navy Dept. at once. 18,000 ton dock to be laid down in July for completion about February with a view to its arrival in Durban Mid-1944.
5. American opinion has advanced in our favour during last few days. Case has been laid before C.M.A.B. and will be considered shortly.

(B.A.D. 070047Z to Admty.)

A.M. 041120 para. 10.

On 5th April Duncan informed D. of D. that he has now cabled to Washington in the following sense:-
Duncan draws attention to the last sentence of his report to U.S. authorities dated 23rd November in which it is made clear that he was referring to D. of D.'s proposal, adding that this proposal was not approved by the Board, also that the present position had been detailed in a long despatch from Admiralty to B.A.D. He also draws attention to his original report to Vice Opnav to the effect that proposed facilities were inadequate and stressing need for improvement in docking facilities in the East generally.

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U.S. Floating Docks. Allocation (Contd.) 2. From para. 1 of B.A.D. 010025 Admiral Reeves seems to have combined ingenious paraphrases with suppression of facts. (Air Min. 072115Z to Britman Washington.)

Movements. Sixth April St. Johns N.F. Arrivals ANNAPOLIS, SASKATOON Ex S.C. 125. Departures NARCISSUS, AZALEA to H.X. 232. NANAIMO, MILLTOWN, QUESNEL, CHICOUTIMI to O.N. 175. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 070101Z/April to Admty.) Kingston arrival U.S. S.C. 1026. Convoy anchored outside. (S.O.I. Jamaica 070750 to Admty.) Arrival 7th NORSEMAN. (B.R.O. Saint Lucia 070946Q to Admty.) Kingston arrival U.S.A.T. CUBA. (S.O.I. Kingston 071707Q to Admty.) Departure 7th April U.S. Army EVA CONWAY for St. Lucia. (Harbour Master Barbados 071816Q to Admty.) Arrival THREE RIVERS, ex J.H. 46, KAMSACK, MEDICINE HAT, MINAS ex B.X.H. 41. (C. Halifax 071550Z to Admty.) Arrivals 6th U.S.A.T. DRENEN. (B.N.S.O. Curacao 071915Z to Admty.)

CHELSEA. Left S.C. 125 at 061600Z. My P.C. and S. 50° 06' N. 39° 58' W. 232° 12 destination St. Johns. C.T.F. 24, 1403Z/15th first (corrupt Group) A. Nil weather unsuitable. B. 42% weather report. (CHELSEA 070201Z to Comtask 24, (R) Connav, C.T. 24.1.4., N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.W.A. F.O.N.F.)

Dispositions. Cominch 061615 informs as follows: Changes my 301721 March, Serial 68. Atlantic - ARKANSAS, CINCINNATI, CORE, ESSEX and MILWAUKEE at sea. ALABAMA, AUGUSTA, BOGUE, RANGER, SOUTH DAKOTA and TUSCALOOSA at Argentinia. BROOKLYN at Philadelphia, MEMPHIS and OMAHA at Recife. NEW YORK at New York. Pacific - CONCORD at Valpariso. DETROIT in Alaskan area. HELENA in South Pacific. NASHVILLE in Sydney. NEW ORLEANS at Seattle. SALT LAKE CITY at sea. TRENTON at Callao. (Comnav 070759 to Admty.)

Movement Summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M. T.7th	CILICIA.	14° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	F.S.GLOIRE	09° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	28° N. 32½° W.	358°	16
	CARNARVON CASTLE	04° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	MILFORD with Floating dock	01° N. 41° W.	088°	5
	T.A.39A	42° N. 54° W.	255°	17½
	(D.O.D.(F) 071037B to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

L.C.I.(L)s. My 042132 (042135 intended). L.C.I.(L)s delayed Bermuda until gale abates. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 071231Z to Connav, (R) Cinclant, F.O.I.C. Gib., N.S.H.Q., F.O.C.W.Af., Commorseafron, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. Med., C.T.F. 69.)

B.X. 41. Arrived B.X.41 between 2110Z and 2400Z/6th April. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 071238Z to Admty.)

British Support Groups. BOGUE. A.M. 031820A when BOGUE and 5 escorts are ready about 15th April direct them to report by despatch to Commaveu for duty as directed by Admty. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 071246Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S., (R) Admty., C.T.24, C. in C. W.At., Commaveu, N.S.H.Q., Comairlant, B.A.D.)

Group A.3 position. Following is the position with regard to A.3 Group now with O.N.175 due to sail a.m. April 11th to H.X.233.

1. Information from C.T.U. 24.15.3 states defects and weather repairs to DIANTHUS and ROSTHERN will require 5 and 7 days respectively in harbour. Though this time may be cut down slightly when defects can be surveyed.
2. SPENCER requires docking but anticipate ship can be made ready in time.
3. TRILLIUM and DAUPHIN both requiring repairs are due for refit and are being replaced by ARVIDA, WETASKIWIN.
4. Anticipate SPENCER will arrive St. Johns p.m./8th remainder p.m./9th. GREER proceeding Argentia and will be able to join group.
5. No reliefs for DIANTHUS, ROSTHERN available in St. Johns. (F.O.N.F., 071405Z to C.T.F.24, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.A., Admty., N.S.H.Q., Cominch.) (Begins). F.O.N.F. 071405.

If the indications materialise group on sailing date will consist of 2 U.S. escorts and 2 Canadian considered entirely too weak. Unless additional escorts can be provided by C. in C. C.N.W.A. from Western Locals or by C. in C. W.A. from Support Groups recommend H.X.223 (233 intended) be diverted to Halifax in accordance with para. 3 of A.M. 271743A Feb. and sailed when Group A.3 can be brought up to standard strength. C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. C.C.N.W.A. requested advise Cominch direct. (Ends). (C.T.F.24, 072047 to Admty.)

U.C./C.U. Convoys. Your 061954. In view of A.M. 232049 March from which it appears British escorts will not be employed on U.C./C.U. convoys submit for consideration - A whether pool will now be required. B disposal of the considerable quantities of radio D/F and asdic stores at present here. (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 071413Z to Admty., (R) OSPREY, S.B.N.O.W.At., B.A.D., Combrax Portsmouth.)

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

J.H. 46.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 071433Z to Admty.)A.T. 41
(PASTEUR)A.T.41. Your 051543Z N.U. position B. will be amended to read 42° 30' N. 47° 40' W. (R) 42° 30' N.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 071440Z to Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A.)Stragglers
R/V sig-
nalling.Your 061735B concur.
(Cominch C. and R. 071551Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.W.A.)S/M estimate
7th April
U.S. S/M
Notice.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 071551Z, 071552Z, 071610Z, 071611Z, 071612Z.)

Situation.

Section East H.X. 232 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6.
E. 045° 02' 049° 07' 057° 9.5. W.H.X. 232.
AZALEA 046° 08' 048° 53' 105° 9.0 F.S. ROSELYS,
RENONCULE 046° 06' 049° 10' 100° 12.0 H.J.44
VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM 046° 50' 052° 18' 002° 7.5 U.S.S.
SPENCER vicinity 047° 07' 047° (?52') 263° 12.0 U.S.S. BARNEGAT
046° 28' 054° 45' 033° 16.0 KENORA 055° 52' 057° 05' 054° 12.0.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 071635Z to Admty.)
My 071635 add LETHBRIDGE 047° 12' 052° 40' 197° 12
altering to 235° in 046° 35' N.
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 less RENONCULE, ROSELYS plus Task Unit
24.12.4 vicinity 046° 15' 050° 50' to join H.X. 232 at 0812(00?)Z
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 072211Z to Admty.)Atlantic
Convoy
Support
Groups.
BOGUE.Your 061214. Following amendments required.
(C.T.F. 24. 071643 to Admty.)
See Home Commands: Shipping.Comtask
Group
21.6.escort
for U.C.2.Comtask group 21.6 in MADISON plus H.P.JONES
LANSDALE, C.F.HUGHES, BABBITT, UPSHUR designated
escort U.C.2. UPSHUR fitted high frequency
direction finder.
(C.T.U. 21.2.3 071714Z 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. Comcaribseafon, N.O.B.
Trinidad, Comnaveu.)

/B.X.42...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- B.X.42. Sailing telegram part 1.
1. 7.5 knots. P.Z. Route E. 42.23 N. 70.42 W.
F. 42.31 N. 70.28 W. G. 42.46 N. 65.09 W. H.
44.07 N. 63.26 W.
2. April 8th at 2000Z at position E. E.T.A. Halifax 102200Z/
April.
3. Task Unit 24.18.4 BARRIE (S.O.) BUCTOUCHE, GANANOQUE.
Cdre. Master in AUDACIOUS pendant 41.
4. "Chop" 092145Z April.
(Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. Boston, 071855Z to Comnav, C.E.S.F.
N.S.H.Q. Comtask 24, C. in C.C.N.W.A. Admty. Cdr. Destroyers
Atlantic Fleet (U.S.).)
- O.N. 175 Following received from HOLLYWOOD Straggler from
HOLLYWOOD O.N. 175 (Begins) Damaged propeller number 1
damaged. hold full of water 071540Z (Ends.) No position
given. No action taken by O.N. 175.
(C.T.U. 24.12.2 071936Z to C. in C.W.A. (R)
Comnav, 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.)
- U/S S/Ms. Comsublant's 040205 last para. Onward route
from "Chop" will depend on intended area of both
operations and will be signalled direct to S/M
as situation develops.
(F.O.S. 071937B to Comsublant, (R) B.A.D. C. in
C.U.S.Fleet Comnav, Admty. Consubron 50.)
- X.B. 42. Boston arrived 6th escorting X.B. 42.
GANANOQUE, SALISBURY.
(N.S.H.Q. 071953Z to Admty.)
As amended N.S.H.Q. 082143Z to Admty.
- Lifeboat Following has been read addressed 15 Group. H.Q.
sighted by Am over ships lifeboat containing 20 live persons
A/C. position 57.30 N. 27.35 W.
(A/C 3LBD via Liverpool W/T 072040B.)
- TYNDAREUS. Would appreciate early advice of arrival
TYNDAREUS in H.R. 231.
(N.S.H.Q. 072149Z to Admty.)
- Sub. attack All times Z.A. Plane sights sub course 192, 57.45
& sighting N. 27.55 W. 061950. Plane sights sub submerging
summary. course 086 58.02 N. 28.42 W. 061800. TAY attacks
sub area 58.15 N. 29.13 W. 060755.
B. Plane sights sub 57.58 N. 21.42 W. 071510.
Plane attacked sub course 070 20.30 N. 72.13 W.
071305.

/C...

A.M.I.
27.6A.

MOST SECRET

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 071954B/April OUT

To: B.A.D. WASHINGTON

Date 7.4.43.

Naval Cypher (X) Plug

From: Admiralty

Addressed: SNAR from CNR.

Helicopters

After conversations with Mr. Weir, Captain Malstrom, U.S.N.A.A. has sent Bureau details of Weir's criticism of Sikorsky Helicopter, feeling that at least Bureau can initiate realistic trials to disprove Weir's contentions.

2. Should Weir be proved right, it is open to Bureau to invite Weir to America to advise on re-design or to give him facilities for construction of prototype to his designs.

3. Alternatively U.S. authorities might request that we proceed over here with Weir's design with object of proving it. M.A.I. is generally adverse to undertaking further design work in this country whilst production over here could only be at the expense of something else. Technical Departments of Ministry not, in any case, unanimous that Weir would necessarily be the best man to re-open development over here, some hold that Haffner and others have more knowledge.

4. Recent conversation with U.S. Naval officer suggests that U.S. Navy's interest in Helicopter, as reported in BA 185528/3, may not be wholly inspired by existence of firm operational requirement by Navy but that they are influenced also by desire to see that Vought Sikorsky capacity at present earmarked for Corsair and TBU is not prejudiced by production of an unsound Helicopter at present sponsored officially by Army Air Corps.

5. I feel also from conversations here there is danger of U.S. Navy accepting a much lower operational load than would be acceptable to our Staff.

6. Request you send me an appreciation of Service political background and also of the progress being made with the XR5 and likelihood of production going to schedule.

071954B

(CNR) (Franklin 2211/3309)

Distribution over/...

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.
Vice Contr.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
A.C.N.S. (A)
A.C.N.S. (W)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)
U.W.R.
D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
Hd of M (2)
D of P (2)
Hd of Air Branch
D.N.A.C.
D.A.W.T.
D.A.C.R. (2)
Hd of M.A.S.
D.A/S.W.
C.N.R. (M.A.P.) (2)
Ad. Blake (4)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
C.C.L.S.
Dep. Controller) Bath
Hd of S.W.R.)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Sub attack
& sighting
summary.
(Contd.)

C. A.T.C. Plane sights sub on surface 04.25 N.
51.15 W. 061620.
D. SCORON 40 reports periscope sighted 21.33 N.
84.28 W. 070015. U.S.S. FOOTE sound contact
33.01 N. 56.57 W. 061743. ROSTERN and GREER
attack sound contact 49.11 N. 42.45 W. 061400.
(Cominch 072150 to Admty.)

O.N. 176

INGERFIRE P.C. and S. 060° 20' N. 030° 29' W.
205° 6 stragglers on S.2 ordered to proceed on
Stragglers route. Weather report.
(BEVERLEY 072210Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav,
Comtask Force 24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.
C.O.A.C. Comtask Group 24.7 C.T.U.24.1.11.)

H.X. 232.

ESCAPADE and GARLAND in (?060°) 11' N. 050° 30'
W. course and speed 095° 14 at 072200Z altering
to 057° at 080800Z.
2. Request SAINTONGE may be in square 75 prepared
for oiling destroyers when I arrive.
3. Special weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.17 072300Z to C.T.U. 24.18.6 (R)
F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.W.A. C.T. 24, NARCISSUS,
AZALEA, F.S. ROSELYS, WITHERINGTON.)

Australia & New Zealand.

CHEVREUIL.

Arrival Vila 070110Z F.S. CHEVREUIL.
(Australian N.L.O. Vila 070158Z to A.C.N.B. etc.)

NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

Ref. B.A.D's 031909Z. Presume suggestion in
para. 1 is acceptable to you.
2. Regret no alternative means of lifting
additional 1000 Personnel can be foreseen at
present. Further signal will be made if and when
opportunity is foreseen.
(D. of S.T. 070319B to N.Z.N.B. (R) B.A.D.
A.C.N.B.)

/Movements...

279

War Diary.7.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Movements. Departure Norfolk Island U.S. SKYLARK escorting H.T. WAHINE, W.G. Noumea E.T.A. 1800Z/8. (D.N.I. Wellington 070600Z to Admty.)
Arrival Auckland U.S.S. SOLACE. (D.N.I. Wellington 070729Z to Admty.)

Arrivals Port Moresby 6th U.S.S. tender PIRIE Brisbane 5th DELORAINE Sydney N.W.S. 5th U.S.S. MUGFORD Melbourne 5th Dutch ship VAN GALEN. Departures Milne Bay 5th BROOME for Townsville Thursday Is. 5th ECHUCA for Merauke Townsville 6th (?VENDETTA) for Milne Bay Brisbane 6th DELORAINE for Sydney N.S.W.

(A.C.N.B. 071126Z to Admty.)

H.T. DUNTROON U.S. transport PRESIDENT GRANT departed Townsville 6th April due Brisbane 8th H.T. KATOOMBA departed Hobart 6th due Sydney (N.S.W.) 9th U.S. transport BONTEKOE departed Townsville 6th due Fall River 9th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 071227Z to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 441 6th April. Forenoon R/C Rabaul sighted approx. 75 ships in Harbour.
2. Same time Fortress bombed Gasmata Drome. Subsequently bombed and strafed fifty foot open boat 35 miles further East and later encountered medium bomber over Cape Orford.
4. Afternoon R/C Fortress strafed Finschhaven Waterfront and bombed buildings Salamaua where before noon seven B.25s, 6 Bostons worked over Isthmus.
5. Noon R/C Beaufort unsuccessfully bombed large destroyer 80 miles west of Buin Course 327°
6. Photos shipping Sekar Bay noon 5th, refer Digest 840 para. 9, show 1 vessel of 1500 tons, 2 vessels of 500 tons, 3 large lighters. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 070716Z.)

Dispositions. Main naval units S.W. Pacific area 7th April. Milne Bay WARREGO. Cairns area VENDETTA Townsville WARRAMUNGA, ARUNTA.

Dunk Island area AUSTRALIA, U.S. PHOENIX, U.S. BAGLEY, U.S. SELFRIDGE, U.S. HENLEY, U.S. PATTERSON. Brisbane area SWAN Brisbane U.S. HELM, U.S. FULTON Sydney U.S. NASHVILLE, U.S. CRAVEN, U.S. MUGFORD, U.S. DOBBIN, U.S. RALPH TALBOT, HOBART, H.M.A.S. MORESBY, H.M.S. KANIMBLA, Dutch HEEMSKERCK in reserve, WESTRALIA. Port Chalmers area, STUART, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT, Melbourne QUIBERON, MANOORA, Dutch ship VAN GALEN. Great Australian Bight area, NEPAL, Fremantle ADELAIDE, Dutch TROMP, Dutch ship TJERK HIDDES, U.S.S. CHILDS, U.S.S. HERON, U.S. Ships OTUS PELIAS, EXMOUTH GULF, U.S. ship W.B. PRESTON. (A.C.N.B. 071537Z.)

War Diary.

7.4.1943.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 071420B, 071450B.)

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

1. CHESHIRE sailed from Montevideo today for Bahia, escorting the floating dock, in tow of 2 tugs, for Capetown. CILICIA is to proceed to Bahia from patrol in the Atlantic narrows about 23rd April, to escort the dock across the Atlantic.

2. M.V. DESEADO (British), Montevideo for Clyde, at 1700 G.M.T. saw a cargo-passenger steamer off Fernando Noronha behaving suspiciously.

3. It is reported that Spanish SS. CASTILLO MONTEALEGRE (Fernando Po for Valencia) was torpedoed and sunk in 09.46 N. 16.50 W. at 081200Z INKPEN picked up some survivors on 10th April.

Mediterranean.

4. C. in C. Med. asks that 2 flotillas of 70 ft. M.T.Bs may be sent to him as soon as possible.

5. UNSHAKEN torpedoed a 4000 ton merchant ship in the Gulf of Hammamet at 0424 today and it is believed the ship sank at 1819/10.

6. Two magnetic mines exploded clear of Haifa swept channel this morning (cf. 7th April).

Australia and New Zealand.

7. H.M.N.Z. trawler MOA was sunk by enemy aircraft whilst fuelling at Tulagi today. 39 enemy aircraft were destroyed in this raid.

(p.170)

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.12th S/M
Flotilla.

My 301921. Intend 12th S/M Flotilla to be constituted as from 17th April 1943. (F.O.S. 081509 to Admty.)

Movements.S/M
Movements.

My 071754B. Amend para. M. to read H.28 escorted by Chaser 15 leaves Spithead Gate 081400 for Sheerness speed 8 knots. E.T.A. Sand Head Buoy 090530 and Dumpton 060645. (F.O.S. 080847B.)

My 011504. Intend to sail TALLY HO escorted by KIRKELLA 1530B/10th Northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbraes 0645B/11th. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 081041.)

My 061143B. Amend para. 2 E.T.A. Duncansby Now 081830. Amend para. 3. E.T.A. Clyde Boom Now 101530B. (A.C.O.S. 081049B.)

As F.S. MINERVE is to proceed to Mediterranean on completion of her refit it is intended that she should proceed to Holy Loch to carry out work-up practice for 2 or 3 weeks. MINERVE will also carry out A/S training in accordance with my 021111.

(F.O.S. 081226B to Capt. S. 9.)

S.5's 071331B and my 071730B. Sailed 1335 (H.28.)

(C. in C. Portsmouth 081400B.)

Positions of submarines at 090800 and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone B.

A. BARB, SEVERN, STUBBORN in zones K.193, 192 and 190 respectively.

B. TUNA on patrol between 69° N. 04° W. and Jan Mayen Island.

C. BLACKFISH approx. 68° 02' N. 06° 05' E. probably on the surface to zone K.194.

D. TRUCULENT approx. 62° 30' N. 00° 40' E. probably on the surface through 62° 01' N. 00° 11' E. for Lerwick.

E. SEA NYMPH approx. 62° 25' N. 01° 30' E. probably on surface through 62° N. 01° E. for Lerwick.

F. TEMPLAR approx. 66° 10' N. 06° 40' E. probably on surface through 62° N. 01° E. for Lerwick.

G. SERAPH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity 58° N. 06° W. for Clyde 9 knots.

H. SICKLE 49° 02' N. 13° 22' W. dived by day, course 180° daily advance 120 miles.

I. SHAD 48° 50' N. 12° 26' W. dived by day through 49° 10' N. 12° 26' W. 49° 10' N. 09° 00' W. thence on the surface to R/V 000° Round Island Scillies 7 miles at 110800.

J. HERRING 48° 50' N. 12° 54' W. dived by day through 49° 11' N. 12° 54' W. 49° 30' N. 12° 56' W. 49° 30' N. 09° 01' W. thence on the surface to R/V as for SHAD.

K. H.28 escorted by Chaser 15 approaching Sheerness from S.E. (F.O.S. 081657B.)

Intend sailing H.34 escorted by trawler LORD HOTHAM from Lough Foyle at 2000B/9 arriving Rothesay 0800B/10. (Cdre. Londonderry 081658B.)

/VULCAN...

War Diary.8.4.1945.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

- VULCAN. Arrived U.S.S. INGHAM, BIBB and VULCAN.
(Cdre. Londonderry 081134B.)
In paraphrase my 081625. When INGHAM and BIBB fuelled to capacity about 1800Z/8 VULCAN escorted by Vessels named proceed to Norfolk via routing furnished in Admiralty 072145B S.O.A. 16 knots.
(C.T.G. 24.7 081644 to Admty.)
Sailed VULCAN, BIBB, INGHAM.
(Cdre. Londonderry 082014B.)
- JAMAICA. My 071212 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 060903.
Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Barrow 081455B to C. in C.H.F.)
- HERO. My 071707B. Amend route as follows from position S. proceed through new positions. T. 050° 10' N. 013° 01' W. U. 000° Round Island 10 miles, thence by A.M.Q.Z.S. 389, 347, 390, and 278 to Plymouth. Arrive Lizard Head after daylight.
2. CHARYBDIS estimated to be near position T. at 091800B bound for 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles.
(C. in C.Plymouth 081713B to HERO.)
Cancel my 071707B and my 081713B.
(C. in C.Plymouth 082339B to HERO.)

Operations.

- Coastal Patrols. 1. Weather permitting intend M.Ls. 208 (S.O.) and 124 to patrol night 8th, on latitude 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2030 and thence on course 124 degrees from No. 5 Buoy to patrol-line, returning from patrol-line at dawn/9th.
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 081212B.)
1. S.G.B. 6, M.T.B. 242 and 89 are to patrol in a line 328° Dieppe 6' to 328° Treport 6'.
2. Leave Newhaven 082000 and adjust speed to pass through passage one not before 2130.
3. Return by passage one or two so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight.
4. Code word "Advent."
(C. in C.Portsmouth 081313B.)
My 081212B. "Device" sailed 2048. For M.L. 124 read M.L. 122.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 082055B.)

/Operation...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "Regulation." Leave patrol at 1600/9 and proceed Plymouth passing through position O. 050° 10' N. 012° 38' W. P. 180 Bishop Rock 10 Q. 180° Lizard Head 3, and Q.Z.S. 347, 390, and 278.
2 S/MS estimated as follows at 0800/9. SICKLE in 049° 00' N. 013° 22' W. steering 180°. HERRING in 049° 05' N. 012° 54' W. pass through 049° 30' N. 012° 26' W. thence 090° SHAD 20 miles to starboard of HERRING. All diving by day.
(C. in C.Plymouth 081344B to CHARYBDIS.)
Arrived ORKAN, PIORUN.
(C. in C.Plymouth 081811B to C. in C.H.F.)
C. in C.Plymouth 081337. Proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 1200B/9. Route through A. 058° 43' N. 008° 30' W. and thence covering convoy U.C. 2 in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth 081337B.
2. After leaving Scapa act under orders of C. in C.Plymouth.
3. Copy of orders for operation "Regulation" is being sent.
(C. in C.H.F. 081816B to BERMUDA.)
CHARYBDIS and METEOR proceed forthwith to carry out a creeping search to westward from long. 14° W. between 045° 10' N. and 044° 20' N. It is estimated objective could reach long. 15° W. by 090800B.
2. Air co-operation being arranged.
(C. in C.Plymouth 082357B.)

Denmark Strait My 072256. Hvalfjord 1855B arrival CUMBERLAND.
Patrol. (A.C.I.C. 081932B.)

Allied Air Activity.

Denmark Straits. My 050107 para. A. Patrol will be carried out with one Hudson from 1400B to 2230B today.
(A.C.I.C. 080207B to C.S.10.)
My 080207. In addition 6 Catalinas will carry out a sweep to the south west from course Reykjanes Light between 0800B and 1930B.
(A.C.I.C. 080421B to C.S.10.)
My 080207 cancelled.
(A.C.I.C. 081601B to C.S.10.)
My 080421. All negative reports.
(A.C.I.C. 082104B to C.S.10.)

Iceland. Accommodation for V.L.R. aircraft.
(C. in C.C.C. 081830B to Air Ministry.)

East Coast. Commodore of F.S. 75 reports that several large bombers bound east flew over convoy at 2140A/29 in 53° 05' N. 01° 25' E. at height of 300 to 400 feet. Balloons were flying at 1000 feet.
(C. in C.Nore 082152B.)

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

PLOVER. Admiralty 071547B para. 2. Further laying not required.
(C. in C.Nore 081051B to Admty.)

Portsmouth Harbour Explosion. At about 0830 today, an explosion occurred in Portsmouth Harbour at a position between Vernon Pier and Gosport Ferry Landing corresponding approximately to the position of N.2 mine of the C.M.A. minefield. Preliminary investigations point to the possibility of this explosion having been caused by N.1 or N.2 mine of the field though no reason for it can, as yet, be assigned. Investigations are proceeding.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 081915B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ. Report graded B.2 concerning TIRPITZ on sailing from Trondhjem.
A. Camouflage shown in W.I.R. 160 has been altered. Vessel has now been coated a steel grey on which is painted variegated colours in rows of diagonal stripes. These are broken up amidships and give way to a White Side towards stern.
B. The original main mast has apparently been removed and replaced by a short tripod mast.
C. Four barrelled close range guns have been mounted as follows.
1. Forecastle right forward.
2. A turret.
3. Y turret.
4. Quarter deck right aft.
D. The damaged port repeat port side referred to in my 241033 March was abreast B and X turrets. It appeared to be high up close to the deck which showed signs of having been displaced recently for repairs and was still partially coated with red lead when vessel sailed March 11th.
(N.A.Stockholm 081731.)
Comment. Para. A. Quite probable TIRPITZ has already been reported painted dark grey with diagonal white stripes.
Para. B. No confirmation. Para. C. Reports have been received of TIRPITZ being given heavier A/A Armament and of guns being hoisted in.
Para. D. Previously reported that ship's port side had been damaged below the forward and after turrets, but repairs are now believed to be completed.

Lorient &
St. Nazaire
on 6th
April.

Sortie R.A./184 of 6/4/43 shows:-
Lorient. Only partially concur. (No important changes.)
St. Nazaire. Only Bassin de St. Nazaire West Part of Outer Harbour and East part of Bassin De Penhouet covered. No change in shipping seen since 4th April, 1943. One 500 ton U/B seen protruding from shelters as on that date.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 081745B.)

/Six...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

Six trawlers. At 1410B sighted six steam trawlers fishing vicinity 049° 50' N. 010° 36' W. Nationality unknown.
(SICKLE 082241 to Capt. S.5.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. Following from A/C 3 S.N.B.
Am over enemy S/M in 45.40 N. 8.10 W.
(Belcomew W/T 080410B to 19 Group.)
D/F bearings at 072317Z indicate U-Boat in your general vicinity during forenoon 8th April.
(D.D.I.C. 081021B to QUEEN ELIZABETH.)
ESCAPADE's 080510Z. Nothing seen. Left vicinity at 0930Z to join H.X. 232.
(NARCISSUS 081248Z.)
Am over enemy sub in 56° 50' N. 19° 52' W.
(A/C 543 Sqdn. Duty E. 081321B to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 543 Sqdn. Duty E. 081325B to 15 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

CRAGPOOL. My 070959. Attempt to refloat SS. CRAGPOOL unsuccessful. Further attempt will be made a.m. tide today.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 080050B.)
My 070959 and 080050 CRAGPOOL refloated at 0946 today.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 081001B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

CRAGSIDE. CRAGSIDE was slightly damaged in collision with unknown Northbound ship off 4 buoy last night.
(VICEROY 080930B.)

STOCK FORCE. Rudder damaged in gale. Unable to steer. Request tug to port of repair.
(N.C.S.O. Invergordon 081216B.)

CAMPBELL. My 061835B. Owing to defects which have arisen during preliminary tests it has not yet been possible to carry out a basin trial and a further delay of 24 hours is necessary.
(F.O.I.C. London 081601B.)

ATHABASKAN. Proceed passing Switha at 1900B today to Tyne via Swept Channels for structural weather damage repairs at South Shields.
(R.A.D. 081705B to ATHABASKAN.)

/DAUNTLESS...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

DAUNTLESS. Admiralty 051738. Reconstruction of DAUNTLESS based on experience with DANAE, will take at least six months of which only two months is necessarily in dry dock. Owing to lack of berthing facilities at middle docks, cruisers refitting there have to be retained in dock for most of the period and it is for reconsideration whether it is desirable to occupy for such a period one of the two docks on this river capable of taking County Class cruisers.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 081722 to Admty.)

NEWCASTLE. As seen at present is unlikely to proceed down river before a.m. 16th April.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 081951B to C. in C.H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

MAURETANIA. My 020132 para 3. MAURETANIA should be ready to sail from Liverpool 20/4 on the berth.
(D.S.T. 080155B.)

W.S. 29 & K.M.F.13. As JOHN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT will not now be available for inclusion in convoy W.S. 29 (North African Portion) following vessels have been substituted: EMPIRE PRIDE, BANFORA.
(D.S.T., 080215B.)

Amend A.M. 031850 as follows:-

Para 2. From Mersey add GLOUCESTER (14½ knots).
Para. 6. c. Joining F.O.C.W.Af. delete BULLDOG add RAPID.
6. d. Joining C. in C.Med. delete ANTHONY add VENOMOUS.
Para 9 and 10. For BULLDOG and ANTHONY Substitute RAPID and VENOMOUS respectively.

Amend A.M. 021855 as follows:-

Para. 2. From Mersey delete J.V. OLDENBARNEVELT. add EMPIRE PRIDE.
From Clyde add BANFORD (14½ knots).
Para. 6c Joining F.O.C.W.Af. delete BULLDOG add RAPID.
6d. Joining C. in C.Med. delete ANTHONY add VENOMOUS
Para. 8. For BULLDOG and ANTHONY substitute RAPID and VENOMOUS respectively.

(D.O.D.H. 081351B.)

My 021850 and 021855. Combined convoy will R/V at 1200Z/16 in position:- B.A. 270° Oversay 6' miles through B.B. 55.45
10.00 B.C. 55.30 11.30 B.D. 53.25 14.25 B.E. 45.05 14.35
B.F. 42.00 13.58 B.G. 36.45 10.10
2. K.M.F. 13 will then proceed as ordered by C. in C.Med.
3. Speed, estimated at 12½ knots, is to be adjusted to pass through position B.G. at 0600Z/21.
4. W.S.29 on parting company will proceed through B.H. 30.01
11.05 B.J. 28.10 13.40 B.K. 25.28 17.15 B.L. 20.00 18.30
B.M. 12.20 18.25 B.N. 08.45 15.50 thence to Freetown.
5. Stragglers Route W. 48.01 14.50 X. 43.10 15.40 Y. 38.05 14.15
Z. 36.30 10.50 A. 30.35 11.27 B. 28.10 13.40 C. 24.50 18.48
D. 18.12 19.11 E. 12.29 19.09 F. 08.45 15.50
6. Ships of K.M.F.13 are to be given stragglers route to Z thence to Gibraltar.
7. W.S.29 is to be given an alternative route from position B.K.
B.O. 19.31 26.20 B.P. 14.10 26.18 thence to B.M.

War Diary.

8.4.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S. 29 & K.M.F.13. (Contd.)
8. Alternative Stragglers route from position C through G. 21.40 25.00 H. 19.38 27.42 J. 12.37 27.41 K. 11.45 20.55 thence to F. (D.O.D.H. 082007B.)
- H.X. 231. Search for BLITAR survivors.
- C. in C.W.A. 072128. Catalina Aircraft will assist you in search between 14.00B and 2000B. (A.C.I.C. 080455B to ECLIPSE.) My 072313Z. Result of attack doubtful S/M probably damaged. Contact finally lost in large area of (?oil). (INGLEFIELD 081101Z to Admty.)
- Am over a ship's lifeboat containing 20 live persons position 56.02 N. 22.?(33) W. May I land. I have fuel for one hour only.
- (A/C 223 Sqdn. Duty N. 081230B to 15 Group.) Life boat reported by A/C in 056° 02' N. 022° 35' W. at 081247B. Close this one.
- (C. in C.W.A. 081317B to ECLIPSE.) Am over a dinghy containing 20 live persons. Position 56.07 N. 22.35 W. I have fuel for half an hour.
- (A/C 228 Sqdn. 081400B to 15 Group.) Your 081317B. E.T.A. 2030B. (ECLIPSE 081447B to C. in C.W.A.) My 081317B. If life-boat is found ascertain if this boat was sighted by aircraft at 072040B April and bags of rations dropped. My 072128B refers.
- (C. in C.W.A. 081604B to ECLIPSE.) Have recovered 16 survivors in 056° 06' N. 022° 20' W. from BLITAR torpedoed at 2200Z/5th in 057° 12' N. 027° 10' W. Boat was not sighted by Aircraft on 7th April. 2 other boats should be near. Am continuing search until 0800/9th when I must proceed to fuel.
- (ECLIPSE 082356B to C. in C.W.A.)
- F.N. 88. Have swept to number 6 buoy. Nothing seen. Am proceeding to join BLENCATHRA. (VANITY 080649B to C. in C.Nore.) Report position of F.N. 88 and number of ships in company. (C. in C.Nore 080941B to VANITY.)
- O.N. 177. Sailed TRENT in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 072444B. (Cdre. Londonderry 080720B.) TRENT H/F D/F sailed 080715B to overtake O.N.177. (C.T.G. 24.7 081000Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N. 177 less TRENT at 1600Z, 056° 26' N. 011° 12' W. 324° 8 knots. Unidentified merchant ship followed ship no. 41 straggler to 55.55 N. 09.14 W. and turned away on sighting convoy.
- (C.T. 24.1.14 081630Z to C. in C.W.A.)

/My...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.O.N. 177
(Contd.)My position 061° 03' 017° 00' speed 16 knots.
E.T.A. Reykjavik 1200Z/9.
(ST. ALBANS 082000B to C.T. 24.6.)

LEINSTER.

Scapa departures at 0718 CHIDDINGFOLD.
(A.C.O.S. 080851B.)My 051114 and 071008. "Droll" now proceed to
Q.C. 46, 99 at 081400B April, thence northward.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 081034B.)CHIDDINGFOLD should be ordered to part company from LEINSTER
on passing lat. Butt of Lewis and proceed Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 081230B to N.O.I.C. Faroes.)

AMSTERDAM.

Scapa departure 0635 AMSTERDAM.
(A.C.O.S. 080921B to N.O.I.C. Invergordon.)CHARLES
CARROLL.Returned from O.N.S. 176 owing to stress of
weather.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 080943B.)S.C. 124
MAYFLOWER.C. in C.W.A. 071845. Sailed tug DEXTEROUS.
(Cdre. Londonderry 081001B.)
Sail MOLDE to R/V S.C. 124B escorted by
BITTERSWEET. S.C. 124 E.T.A. position A.
081845B.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 081358B.)Met at 1355B. EYEBRIGHT has tow well in hand. My P.C. and S.
are at 2000B, 057° 29' N. 011° 58' W. 124° 4½ knots.
(SHIKARI 081925B to C. in C.W.A.)On arrival of DEXTEROUS, if weather permitting change of
tow, EYEBRIGHT proceed to Londonderry, SHIKARI escorting tow
to Londonderry.

(C. in C.W.A. 082236B to SHIKARI.)

H.X. 232.

1. H.X. 232. 2. 1st April. 3. "Chop" 081000
April. 4. 9 knots. 7. 48 ships. 8. Q. 46° 56'
N. 45° 02' W. R. 51° 44' N. 41° 14' W. S. 55°
18' N. 36° 42' W. T. 56° 11' N. 27° 12' W. U. 56°
36' N. 16° 40' W. V. 55° 50' N. 08° 00' W.
13 Tankers.
(D.T.D. 081301B to C. in C.W.A.)U.C. 2
BERMUDA.Your 051407B. It would be appreciated if before
proceeding to Plymouth for docking BERMUDA could
be employed to provide cover for U.C. 2, no
other cruiser being readily available.2. U.C.2 is estimated to consist of 10 tankers
escorted by 6 U.S. destroyers with MADISON S.O. and is
expected to pass (T.E.) 050° 20' N. 014° 00' W. about 111100B
Routed thence through T.F. 49° 02' N. 15° 58' W. T.G. 43° 05' N.
16° 01' W. T.H. 36° 59' N. 16° 03' W. speed 13½ knots.

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

U.C.2
BERMUDA.
(Contd.)

3. If you concur request BERMUDA may be sailed so as to be within 60 miles of U.C.2 while convoy is between 50° N. and 42° N. to act as cover against surface attack. proceeding Plymouth when Convoy passing 42° N.
4. 4 Narvik-Class destroyers were in Bordeaux on 4th April.

5. Request BERMUDA may be supplied with copies of orders for operation "Regulation."
(C. in C.Plymouth 081337B to C. in C.H.F.)

O.N. 175
FOREST.

My 060117. Reykjavik arrivals WISTARIA escorting SAUCY with FOREST in tow.
(A.C.I.C. 081429B.)

Coasters from
West Coast.

To save delays of East bound coastal vessels at Loch Ewe - A. All Coasters from West Coast Ports should be given through routes to Methil and instructions to report to the examination vessel off Loch Ewe.

B. If no suitable convoy is sailing within the next 24 hours, they should be ordered to proceed independently.
(C. in C.W.A. 081443B/4.)

Stationing
of ships
in Atlantic
Convoys.

A.M. 091809A February not to B.A.D. is cancelled.
2. When an aircraft carrier is stationed in convoy she will take position astern of the escort oiler in Commodore's column.
3. In all transatlantic convoys remaining positions in Commodore's column are to be left vacant.

4. When a carrier is not present the Commodore should fill the vacant positions with important ships at his discretion.
(D.T.D. 081550B.)

Your 201015A March and A.M. 221918A March. Following received from Cominch begins.
In Transatlantic Trade Convoys only Cdre. and escort oiler should be given positions in Cdr's column on A one form. Remaining positions in this column are reserved for use of aircraft carrier when in company and conditions require that she be stationed within the convoy. During extended periods when no carrier is present Cdre. may fill up gaps at his discretion. 061604Z. Ends.

2. Admiralty will promulgate to F.Os. I.C. and N.C.S.Os. in the sense of A.M. 221818A March.
(D.T.D. 081556B to C. in C.W.A.)

O.N. 178.

Intend sailing OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE for Londonderry 0900A tomorrow. C. in C.W.A. 1502A/27th March para. three refers.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 081558B.)

BITER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE are to be sailed with O.N. 178 for operational experience and after about 48 hours will probably be diverted Iceland for service. When in convoy A/C should be operated as much as possible by day and night, BITER endeavouring for trial purposes to remain within convoy screen throughout.
(C. in C.W.A. 081851B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/M.K.F.11A...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

M.K.F.11A.

You were probably sighted by F.W. aircraft at 081615.

(D.D.I.C. 081748B to Escorts M.K.F.11A.)

M.K.F.11A. 045° 15' N. 014° 51' W. 003° 12 knots.

(GOATHLAND 082000Z to VANOC.)

8.4.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

ARGONAUT,
HERO.

Following received from Ponta Delgada (begins).
ARGONAUT escorted by HERO arrived.
Ponta Delgada 071500 G.M.T. T.O.O. 071039/April.
(F.O. Gib. 080024, to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Med.)

Following is a repetition of my 080229 (begins).
Addressed Admiralty (R) ARGONAUT. From F.O.C. Gibraltar.
ARGONAUT's 070707Z (re weather damage) is being passed to you.
(2) In view of HERO's condition request instructions. (Ends.)
(F.O. Gib. 080224B. to Admty.)

ARGONAUT's 070707 approved. HERO to accompany ARGONAUT to
Bermuda.

(Admty. 081008B to ARGONAUT, F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Cdre. i/c.
Bermuda.) Cancelled by 091705 q.v.

ARGONAUT's 070707 and my 080229 are passed to you for
information.

(F.O. Gib. 081044A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

VELOX,
U-Boat.

My 0557. No further contact. Am rejoining convoy.
(VELOX 080429A to F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)
At 0340 attacked S/M in 036° 21' 002° 15' W.
S/M was sighted on the surface. Lost contact.
(VELOX 080557A to F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958A/8th.

P. 312 (TRESPASSER) 040° 08' 011° 22' 153° 8½/2½.
(2) P. 229 (SPORTSMAN) 040° 34' 011° 25' 155° 7/2.
(3) U.G.S.6A company C.T.F. 607 (a) 33 ? 45 18.06
through ((?36) 33) ? 50 17.15 thence 078° 9. (4) S.L.127,
ROCHESTER, 024° 55' 017° 05' 285° 7 1/4. (5) K.M.S. 12, EGRET,
038° 45' 014° 05' 130° 7½. (6) NEWFOUNDLAND left vicinity 43.29
14.50 at 1100A/8th proceeding through 42.01 13.30 37.01 12.01
35.49 09.59 thence to Gibraltar or Tripoli H.M.S. ADVENTURE
sailed 2100A/8th through 36.30 10.01 thence 314.18. (8) (corrupt
groups.) HALCYON 40.13 12.24 152.6½. (9) Portuguese Naval
Tanker SAMBRAZ left Lisbon 6th for Aruba 12.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081037A.)

Situation 082004A.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA 34.50 32.44 through 40.01 33.01 and 42.02 32.02
thence 031° 16. 2. U.G.F.7. C.T.F. 66.36 46.34.11 through 36.48
33.10 thence 095° 13½. 3. ARGONAUT, HERO 37.28 27.20 261° 10.
(F.O.C. Gib. 081233A.)

Axis
Shipping.

LEZARDRIEUX and ST. LUCIEN arrived Valencia 7th
from Marseilles in ballast.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081054 to P.314, (TACTICIAN),
P.33 (ULTOR), P.47 (UNRULY), DZIK.)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

On leaving patrol (?proceed) to Gib. thro'
(AB) 42.01 N. 13.30 W. (AC) 37.01 N. 12.01 W.
(AD) 35.45 N. 09.59 W. thence thro' Q.K.A.87.
(2) Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient
before crossing 007° W.
(F.O.C. Gib. 081058A to NEWFOUNDLAND (R) Admty, C. in C. Plymouth,
H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Med. C. in C. W.A.)

8.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- R.S.4. Your 071105. (Sailing of R.S.4.) concur.
R/V and date will follow.
(F.O. Gib. 081130A to Commorseafon.)
- U-Boat attacked by A/C. This a re-encypherment of Comfairwing 15
080258 (080250) to C.M.S.F.F. (begins)
071221A (corrupt group) B.24 sighted sub
stationery on surface 34-35 N. 24-56 W. Sub.
fired at plane. 1354 second B.24 arrived. Sub
fired at both aircraft. First plane made attack
1430A and 1440A under fire. Second plane attacked 1505A under
fire. All attacks unsuccessful. Aircraft departed 1510A.
Sub. remained on surface headed west.
(C.M.S.F.F. 081456 to Admty. (R) F.O. Gibraltar.etc.)
- G.U.S.6. Sailing telegram part 1.
2. W.S.J. 0700Z/11 April from Casablanca.
R/V Mediterranean section 34-01 N. 08-01 W.
0704Z/12 position A 2300Z/13 9 knots.
4. First Chop 10° W. 1900Z/12 second Chop 47° W. 0700Z/21. Radio
shift 20° W. 0200Z/15. (Route). Comtaskfor 63, WAINWRIGHT
(Capt. Welaborn) RHIND, ROWAN, MAYRANT, TRIPPE, BROOME, SIMPSON,
AUK, CHICKADEE. (A).
(Commorseafon 081623 to Port Director New York. (R) Connav,
Cinclant, Admty. etc.)
1. Sailing telegram G.U.S.6. Part 2 ships as follows (list)
(C.M.S.F.F. 081625 to P.D. New York.)
- ADVENTURE. Intend to sail ADVENTURE at 2100/April 8th.
(2) Route Q.K.A.87. (J) 36.30 N. 10.01 W.
(K) 40.01 N. 14.30 W. (L) 42.59 N. 14.29 W.
(3) S. of A. 18 knots. (4) Codeword Gremlin.
(5) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to signal onward route and
destination.
(F.O. Gibraltar 081709A to Admty. etc.)
My 081709. Sailed.
(F.O.C. Gib. 082147 to Admty.)
- Survivors from U/B Sunk 5 April. Your 1140/7th not clear.
Were 50 survivors picked up by XUAEN and landed by
her on shore or transferred to other craft? Or
how did they get ashore. Did XUAEN land any
survivors Las Palmas? The important point is to
establish whether or not they were assisted by
warship as it is on this that internment may depend.
Did submarine sink inside territorial waters?
(N.A. Madrid 081808 to R.O. Las Palmas (R) S.O. (I)
Gib. Admty.)

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

- C.G.24. April 8th. U.S.S. BROOME and U.S.S. RHIND departed with C.G.24 for Gibraltar. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnav. (S.N.O.C.A. 082015 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals ST. NECTAN with one M/V from Melilla, VELOX, HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE with SS. RANGITATA from Oran. Departures U.S. P.C. 474 French Ship DUMONT D'URVILLE for Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gib. 082059 to Admty. etc.)
- M.K.S.11. Your 071757A, sailing destinations. (list). (D.T.D. 082105B to F.O. Gib.)
- SICKLE, bombing restrictions. T.C.A.O.16. (A)P.B.F.A.L. (L) SICKLE (N) SICKLE (C) 1700/11 43.01 13.22 1730/13 36.51 09.13 0400/14 36.37 07.24 1100/14 35.53 06.15 1200 35.49 (?) 06.06½ to arrival Gib. 1600/14 (D) 8½ knots increasing to ten knots at 0400/14. All times zone minus 1, positions N. and W. (F.O.C. Gib. 082241 to R.A.F., Gib. H.Q.C.C.)
After crossing 43° 30' N. at 1700/11th proceed on surface at your discretion and pass the following positions time stated:
(p) 36.51 09.13 at 1730/16th. (q) 36.37 07.24 at 0400/14th.
(r) 35.53 06.15 at 1100/14th. (s) 35.49 06.06½ at 1200/14th
thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87 all times zone minus 1, positions N. and W. (2) Speed 8½ knots. After passing position (q) increase speed to 10 knots. Do not cross meridian 07° W. before 0630/14th. (3) Total bombing restrictions have been arranged 10 miles either side of your route from 35.30 to 35 and your estimated position. Report if you are unable to keep within your bombing restrictions. (4) Read H.S. and G.S. routine after 1700/11th.
(F.O. Gib. 082243 to P.224 (SICKLE) (R) F.O.S. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., Capt. S.8, Capt. S.3, STURGEON.) 24 hours added to all times. (F.O. Gib. 101001A.)
- Gibraltar Air Report. A.I. 319 8 A.L. Opsum 15 (?158 intended) for 24 hours ended 081800 April. (G) Sightings and attacks. R/C attack by Hudson LX233 Agadir at 050929 see Opsum 155 (N.T. in W.D.) Two patches bubbling D.30 blue nearly black oil two to three mins. after attack. Ref. attack by Hud. W/233 Agadir at 051658 (See Opsum 155) D/Cs. straddled U-Boat on surface at angle 30°. U-Boat submerged slowly after attack.

/Oil...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Gibraltar Oil patch 400 x 50 yds. Also bright green patch
Air in water.
Report. (A.C.H.Q. Gib. 082255.)
(Contd.)

K.M.S.12. K.M.S.12 and U.G.S.6A are to proceed in company
U.G.S.6A. when in Mediterranean. 2. K.M.S.12 is to form in
10 columns on passing Europa Point and carry out
emergency turn to reduce S. of A. until 1900A/11th
April when convoy is to proceed at $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
3. U.G.S.6A is not to pass Europa Point before 2200/11th. Merchant
ships of U.G.S.6A are to be formed in 10 columns at daylight 12th,
ships for Oran in starboard wing columns. U.S. warships are to
be formed astern of convoy as necessary to break off to comply
with Comamphornaw 041905A. 4. Convoys are to combine and
proceed in company as soon as possible after 0900A/12th April.
Commodore K.M.S.12 is to manoeuvre K.M.S.12 so that convoy
joins ahead of U.G.S.6A. 5. Commodore combined convoy Commodore
Candy R.N.R. in CITY OF VENICE. Vice Commodore Cdr. Cummings,
U.S.N. in J.E.B. STUART. Rear Commodore pass to Commodore of
Convoy after Algiers Commodore Owens R.N.R. ship to be signalled.
6. Gibraltar (?section) 7 ships escorted by Mediterranean escorts
will join (?K). M.S.12 as it passes Gibraltar. U.K. escorts
(?are to) remain until combined convoys have formed up when they
are to part company and proceed Gibraltar. 7. U.G.S.6A consists
of 14 merchant ships 24 L.S.T. (?30) L.C.I. (L) L.S.C. Gibraltar
and Mediterranean part of K.M.S.12 consists of (?4) merchant
ships and (?3) tugs. 8. EGRET and MAUMEE acknowledge receipt
of this signal by aircraft.
(N.O.I.C. Gib. 082301A to Escorts K.M.S.12, Escorts U.G.S.6A.
(R) C. in C. Med. Com. N.O.B. Oran, C.M.S.F.F.)

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Convoy S.R. 4. Intend to sail CORINTHIAN, DUNKERY, INKPEN, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, WASTWATER, M.Ls 244 and 281 at 1730 Friday 9th April escorting S.R.4 consisting of about 10 ships for Gibraltar and U.K., 2 for Dakar and 2 for Bathurst. 2 ships for Gibraltar and U.K. join en route.
2. Route (A) 010° 35' S. 017° 12' W. (B) 014° 50' N. 017° 35' W. (C) 023° 15' N. 017° 35' W. (D) 035° 40' N. 006° 57' W. thence by searched channel to Gibraltar. Estimated speed made good 5½ to (B) then 6½ knots.
3. M.Ls 244 and 281 will be detached as necessary escorting WICKENBURG and PINTO to Bathurst arriving a.m./13th.
4. N.O.I.C. Bathurst is requested to sail BACTRIA to join Convoy at 130800Z in 014° 01' N. 017° 30' W.
5. EMPIRE GLEN and FORT DE VAUX will be detached as necessary to proceed Dakar arriving p.m./13th.
6. Comar Dakar is requested to sail M.Ls 1044 and 1041 escorting RUTJENFELL convoy for U.K. from Dakar to your escort and convoy at 131200Z in 014° 33' N. 017° 33' W. M.L. 1044 and 1041 will be detached as necessary to arrive Port Etienne a.m./16th.
7. Comar Dakar is requested to sail LA GRACIEUSE escorting BAMAKO from Port Etienne to join escort and convoy at 151800Z in 020° 20' N. 017° 35' W. Both ships for Casablanca.
8. Convoy E.T.A. position (C) 162000Z. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange R/V for exchange of escort with R.S.4 and to detach LA GRACIEUSE and BAMAKO to proceed Casablanca. (F.O.C.W.A., 080117Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) C. in C. Med., (? Admty.), Commorseafront, CORINTHIAN, Capt. (D) Freetown.)
Postponed to 13th April. See C. in C. Med., 081231A.

BRIDGEWATER Arrived BRIDGEWATER, LADY DENISON PENDER, M.L. etc., 1044, M.L.1141.
Dakar. (2) 2 former docking a.m./11th. BRIDGEWATER commenced boiler cleaning. Her docking plans have not arrived.
(Comar Dakar, 080930Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) F.O.W.A., Admty.)

GEORGES Your 071314 addressed Comar Dakar only. Intend LEYGUES. to sail Fr. Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES 090830Z Saturday 22 knots routed through 13.01 N. 20.01 W. to Point (B) of patrol zone.
(Comar Dakar, 081156Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, CARNARVON CASTLE, Fr. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES.)

MALCOLM. Cancel para. 1 of my 051535 and B.N.L.O.W.Af. 070935.
MALCOLM urgently required for other important escort duties.

/Sail ...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.MALCOLM,
(Contd.)

Sail MALCOLM forthwith direct to Freetown to arrive not later p.m./13th.
 B.N.L.O.W.Af. pass to MALCOLM.
 (F.O.C.W.A.F., 081307Z to B.N.L.O.W.Af., (R)
 Capt. (D) Freetown, Admty., N.O.I.C. Lagos
 Takoradi, C. in C. S.A., MALCOLM.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 082003Z.

ROCHESTER with S.L.127 024° 45' 017° 22', 046° 7.
 BUTSER escorting about 024° (739') 017° 22'
 to join O.S.45.

BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, F.S. LA MALOUINE, STONECROFT,
 CAMPION with O.S.45 025° 01' 016° 41', 202°, 8½.

F.S. VICTORIA off Dakar to Casamance 9.

BURDOCK, INKPEN, ORFASY, 2 M.Ls with D.B.F.1 009° 14', 013°
 58' to 008° 35' 013° 57' thence Freetown 7.

BIRDLIP escorting about 009° 53' 016° 26' to Freetown 5.

CICLICIA about 011° 00' 031° 01' to South-east 14.

French Cruiser GLOIRE on patrol about 009° 30' 027° 30', 19.

French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE escorting off Dakar to (? north-
 ward) coastwise 7.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 005° 00' 022° 30', 15½.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 081431Z.)

ALMANZORA.

My 071420 (N.T. in W.D.) Recommend drastic
 diversion to westwards.
 (D.T.D., 081440B to C. in C. S.A.)

A.F.D.
Montevideo.

No. 61, 8th April. Please telegraph your
 independent views as to reasons for Floating
 Dock's return to Montevideo, and for discrepancies
 in opinion of local experts expressed in Mast
 telegrams as to seaworthiness of Dock for onward
 journey.

(Foreign Office, 081510 to Montevideo.)

Convoy
D.C. 17B.

Sailed FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM escorting Convoy
 D.C. 17B in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban
 071508B.

2. FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM shift to group S.L.
 at 082300Z.

(N.O.I.C. Durban, 081526Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A., C. in C.
 E.F., N.O.I.C. East London, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C.
 Capetown.)

D.C. 17B. Sailing telegram. (2) 081500Z. (4) 13 knots.
 (5) Coastal 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay. (6) FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM.
 (N.C.S.O. Durban, 081527Z to Admty., etc.)

/QUEEN MARY ...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- QUEEN MARY. Intend to sail H.M.T. QUEEN MARY at 2200Z/9th. (Ocean route). S. of A. (a) 24 knots (b) 25½ knots, E.T.A. Freetown 1630Z/15th. Books held. "Chop" 12th April. Endurance 9½ days. Requirements at Freetown 6400 tons fuel oil, 3000 tons fresh water. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 081603Z to Admty., etc. amended 091315Z, q.v.)
- VENDOME. Sailed VENDOME escorted by M.L.271, M.L.305 081230Z from Abijan for Takoradi. Expected time of arrival 090800Z. (Comar Dakar, 081606Z to F.O.C.W.Af., N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Admty.)
- S.A.A.F. Sqn. for Takoradi. Your 070255. S.A.A.F. have arrived at Capetown as train escort for Italian P.O.W from inland and have therefore been embarked in QUEEN MARY for passage to Freetown and transhipment there. DEMPO unescorted will not have room for them and ELIZABETHVILLE will not be available for some time as she has to proceed to Durban to embark P.O.W. for Lagos. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 081626B to D.S.T., (R) F.O.C.W.A., etc.)
- CROCUS. Departure 8th April CROCUS Takoradi 100630Z April. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 081647Z to Admty.)
- Convoy Reports, South America. A.M. 061251B. Reports are still required of movements not included in Connav's Daily Summary such as contained in Asst. S.O.(I) Recife's 301812Z March, and these should continue to be serially numbered. A.M. 091722 Oct. to S.O.(I) Montevideo refers. (D.T.D., 081652B to B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
- Italian Repatriation Ships. Your 061242B. Onward route from St. Vincent (easy) 012° N. 024° W. (Fox) 002° N. 014° W. (George) 010° S. 007° W. (F.O.C.W.A., 081720Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., B.C. St. Vincent, C.M.S.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 8th April WITCH, M.L.1042. Departure ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN. Lagos 9th April M.L.277, Accra 9th April. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 081825Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty., R.N.O. Lagos.)

/CHESHIRE ...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

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

CHESHIRE sailed 1800Z with tug THAMES and
ROODE ZEE and Floating Dock.
Route coastal to 022° 00' S. 040° 47' W. thence
(A) 019° 55' S. 039° 30' W. (B) 018° 00' S.
038° 23' W. (C) 016° 53' S. 038° 57' W.
(D) 015° 50' S. 038° 42' W. (E) 014° 20' S.
038° 48' W. thence direct to St. Antonia Point,

Bahia. Estimated speed 100 miles per day. Due Bahia April
26th require 500 tons diesel oil.

ROODE ZEE requires 80 tons light diesel oil, THAMES 80 tons
heavy diesel oil.

(N.A. Montevideo, 081831Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A.,
F.O.C.W.Af., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro for Com. Fourth Fleet.)

BIRMINGHAM.

E.T.A. 091015Z. Weather report.
(BIRMINGHAM, 082121Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TORBAY
U/B.

One S/M submerged 350° one mile from 38° 18' N.
4° 21' E.
(TORBAY, 080001 to Algiers W/T)
My 080001. Enemy S/M diving in 038° 19' 004° 20'
E. Expect to arrive R/V at 1030/8th.
(TORBAY, 080045 to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8th.)

Enemy
M/Vs.

Following read: Position of one unknown enemy
vessel 38.27 N. 12.40 E.
(A/C BUA/B via Alex. W/T, 080055B.)
Following read: My 0055. Have lost touch with
enemy. P.C. and S. of 2 medium vessels 38.28 N.,
12.40 E. 2000° 8 knots.
(A/C BUA/B via Alex W/T, 080128B)

Situation
report
No. 20.

Tripoli Libya. 5400 tons Can S discharged 6th
April. 2. ALDENHAM escorting straggler from
convoy ran aground 0535/7th April in position 124°
Ras azzaz 2.2 miles. Ship refloated and returning
Alexandria one shaft out action speed 8 knots.
3. CERONIA damaged by external explosion inside
baffle to Haifa outer anchorage. Cause not yet known.
(C. in C. Levant, 070225 (080225 intended) to Admty.)

KATSONIS.

Your 080005C (N.T. in W.D.) Well done. Report
if unable to comply with my 041456C.
(Capt. S.l., 080404C to G.S. KATSONIS (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

Army
advance,
UNSHAKEN.

8th Army now threatening Sfax.
(Capt. (S) 10, 080852B to P.54 (UNSHAKEN))

Movements
Alexandria.

Departure 7th April PRIMULA, JERVIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 080909C to Admty., C. in C.
Levant.)

TRIBUNE.

(Admiralty's 1655/10 March (Hush circulation)
para. 7 refers.) 1. TRIBUNE has developed main
engine defects. (details) 5. It appears at
present that defects could be made good over a long
period by depot ship to make S/M fit for operational duties, but
in view of amount of work involved necessitating considerable
interruption of other S/M repair work and that TRIBUNE is in any
case due to return to U.K. in mid May propose making her fit for
passage only and sailing her for U.K. in approx. three weeks' time.
(S.8 080928A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., F.O.S.)

/G.U.S.6...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- G.U.S.6. My 061034 para. 2, (? 061043 intended, re sailing of G.U.S.6) Cancel amendment in my 071025 and substitute R/V in position (m) 034° 01' N. 008° 01' W. at 0800 A, April 12th.
(C. in C. Med. 081019 to Comnob, Oran. (R) Connav, Admty., S.O. Force H. etc.)
- M.K.S.11. Intend to sail (list) Request destinations.
(Cdre. Algiers, 081047A, to Admty etc.)
- SONTAY. Admty. 061243. Sail ship when ready by route in C. in C. Levant's 291642.
2. Attention is drawn to P.S.T.O.M.E8s. 300929 March to S.S.T.O. Aden.
3. Inform A.O.C. Aden in accordance with para. 4.
(F.O.R.S.C.A., 081058C to Com. Aden. (R) C. in C. Levant. Admty. P.S.T.O.M.E., M.W.T. M.E.)
- Vessels P.S.T.O. Bombay 071145 April C. in C. E.F.
ex C.M.40. 050937 April F.O.C. Red Sea Force 031836C April
D. of S.T. 060333B April.
Returning vessels of C.M.40 should be sailed in accordance with my 030913C April. EMPIRE
WOODLARK, PULASKI, to proceed Durban after disembarkation, Kilindini.
(P.S.T.O.M.E., 081102C to S.S.T.O. Suez (R) S.S.T.O. Capetown F.O.C.R.S.F., C.in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Bombay etc.)
- RANGITATA. M/V RANGITATA sailed for U.S.A. via Gibraltar. 1945/7. Numbers etc.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 081106 to B.A.D., C.O.A.C. etc.)
- Movements, Arrivals 1615Z/7, RAINSTORM, CARADOC.
Aden. (Cdre. Aden, 081122Z to Admty., etc.)
- P.L.M.16. German Ship P.L.M.16 entered Dardanelles 0645 G.M.T. from Piraeus bound for Black Sea. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 081133C to S.O.I. Levant (R) S.1 Beirut, S.10 Malta.)
- SHAKESPEARE. Intend sailing SHAKESPEARE at 091900 routed through 038° 32' 003° 04' at 100800 038° 40' 009° 28' at 130330 thence patrol in zone J.
(Capt. (S) 8, 081138A to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers. 8th S/M F.)

/Gibraltar...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Gibraltar, congestion. Your 061525 para. 4. It appears that K.M.S.12 and U.G.S.6A arrive Gibraltar at 1200 and 2300 April/11th respectively. Suggest that K.M.S.12 should continue into Mediterranean doubling back to R/V with U.G.S.6A at daylight April 12th.
(2) R/V of G.U.S.6 has been amended by my 081019 so that escorts of G.U.S. 6 can be used also for U.G.F.7. Request you will adjust escorts detailed in your 071123, not to Admty., accordingly. (3) Sailing of R.S.4 should be postponed until 13th April to include ships ex K.M.S.12. Your 061636 refers. (4) Request Admty., decision on para. 4 (A) of F.O.C. Gib's. 061525.
(C. in C. Med., 081151A, to F.O.C. Gib., (R) Admty.)
Reply: Admty. 091324B.
- KIUNGCHOW. Your 032023. Amplification of report on salvage of KIUNGCHOW will be sent shortly. Cause of fire not definitely known but from evidence collected presumed to be Marine risk.
(C. in C. Levant, 081201C to Admty.)
- RORQUAL. Intend sailing RORQUAL 091830 routed through 038° 18' 003° 58' at 100530 038° 15' 011° 26' at 130530 thence through P.Q. and R. to Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10. 2. RORQUAL carries 31 torpedoes and 4 tons stores for Capt. S.1. and Capt. S.10 and ships (? keeps) normal W/T watch to Malta broadcast at 130530. (Capt. S.8. 081216A to C. in C. Med. Capt. S.10 (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F.)
- R.S.4. Your 080111. (080117 intended?). Sailing of R.S.4 from Gibraltar is postponed until 13th April. (C. in C. Med., 081231A to F.O.C. W.A.F. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- 70 Ft. M.T.Bs. Your 050818. (Repetition of 021321) Request 2 flotillas as soon as possible.
(C. in C. Med., 081235 to Admty.)
- P.R.U. 8th April visuals. 1035 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers, 1130 Messina no major naval units. A.H. Naples and Castella are obscured.
(V.A. Malta, 081241B, to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- TROOPER. You have freedom of action in Zone E.F. and H. South of 040° 10' N. and North of 038° 42' N. (Capt. S.8. 081244A to TROOPER (R) 8th S/m F. Capt. (S)10.)
- C.M.40. Convoy C.M.40 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 081250Z to Admty.)

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly
Opsum
No.115
Part 1.

6. Apr. 24 B 24s despatched to attack Ferry Terminus Messina. 4 aircraft returned early with engine trouble. 20 B.24s bombed objective claiming hits on ferry berths and buildings and terminus area. 114 x 1000 lb H.E. at 1505Z hrs. Night 6/7 Apr. 5 Liberators despatched to bomb Naples Harbour. Owing to low cloud only 2 aircraft located objective bombs starting fires in west side of town. Of remainder 2 bombed Messina bombs bursting on land north of harbour. 1 Liberator returned with bombs. 12 x 1000 lb H.E. on Naples at 0014Z hrs. 12 x 1000 lb. H.E. on Messina at (0119Z or 0118Z?) hrs. 67(?6/6 April intended.) Wellingtons bombed Sfax and M.T. on roads Sfax area. Hits scored on railway sidings repair depot railway station and phosphate quay large explosion seen at station. Several large fires with explosions started among M.T. on roads direct hits on some vehicles. 144 tons H.E. 7 April. 21 B.24s despatched to bomb Palermo Harbour. 12 Aircraft returning early owing to bad weather. 7 B.24s reached objective and scored hits on southernmost of the 3 moles in harbour and at base of same mole. Remaining 2 aircraft landed Malta. Reports awaited. 35 x 1000 lb H.E. between 1500Z and 1710Z hours. (H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 081307Z).

TACTICIAN. Leave patrol pass 042° 19' 005° 38' at 2030/10th 038° 08' 004° 28' at 2030/12th thence on the surface to R/V with escort for Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 00' at 0615/13th. (Capt. S.8., 081352A to TACTICIAN (R) 8th S.F. F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

F.L.O. Bermuda. Your 051402 (Re appointment of French Liaison Officer in connection with financial question, while French escort vessels are repairing in Bermuda.) and A.M. 070218 (N.T. in W.D.) Capitaine De Fregate DeBon is personally acceptable. (Head of M.(I), 08164 to C. in C. Med.)

DIDO refit and R.D.F. DIDO needs to be brought up to date in her R.D.F. equipment. The lack of type 272 and 284, second set of type 285 and ABU is a serious handicap to her fighting efficiency. 2. 289 of her ratings have been away from U.K. for 2 years and upwards. Desirable but not essential that these should be relieved. 3. If para. 2 is approved, essential that she regains full efficiency at the earliest possible moment. 4. Provided C. in C. Levant concurs, following alternatives are practicable. A. To progress her R.D.F. equipment as much as possible, while giving a few days leave in U.K. to each watch and changing 289 ratings. Completion of R.D.F. work to be carried out at Alexandria. B. To have her R.D.F. properly fitted, which could presumably be done in 4 weeks in U.K. and such other refit work which can be done in the time. Changing ratings and giving leave as considered practicable. 5. In either case she must be in Mediterranean worked up and efficient, as near end of May as possible.

War Diary.

8.4.1943.

Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

DIDO,
refit
and R.D.F.
(Contd.)

6. C. in C. Levant is requested to signal comments to Admiralty. 7. An immediate decision is necessary.
(C. in C. Med. 081644A to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant) Reply: Concur. Alternative (B) preferred.
(C. in C. Levant, 101836C to Admty.)

Transit
Aircraft
to be
routed
oversea.

In view of the (? deterrent) effect which the passage of aircraft has on U-boats, transit aircraft will, whenever convenient be routed over the sea. Then aircraft will be given instructions not to approach within 5 miles of convoy but the need for quick recognition is emphasised.
(C. in C. Med., 081646A to Med. Stn. 355 K. A.I.F., R.A.N.A.S. Kingston, Jamaica, Admty. etc.)

UNSHAKEN.

Try and be in position 327° 49 miles from focal point by 090400B April, freedom 308° 24 miles.
(Capt. S.10, 081727, 082309B, to P.54 (UNSHAKEN))

M.Ls. for
Turkey.

Turkish General Staff are enquiring as to future arrivals of remainder of H.D.M/Ls and mine recovery launches.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 081829C, to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

P.R.U.

April 8th. Visual 1530 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 cruisers. P.m. Messina, CASTELLA MARE, Naples obscured.
(V.A. Malta, 081857B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy
Units.

Aircraft reported at 1700 today in 039° 42' 015° 45' coast crawling South one tanker 2 merchant ships escorted by destroyer and escorting ship.
(Capt. (S) 10, 081933B to Subs. on Patrol (R) Capt. (S) 8.)

Movements
Oran.

H.M.T. SALVESTOR and G.S. ADRIAS arrived.
(Commob Oran, 081955A to Admty., etc.)

Movements
Algiers.

Algiers arrival S/M TORBAY. Departure French Chasseur 3.
(Com. Algiers, 082004A to Admty., etc.)

/French...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

French
Evacuations
from
Portugal.

My 021907A. Ambassador, Lisbon, informs me that Dr. Salazar has agreed to April 17th as date for embarkation of craft and that he has decided that their departure should take place from Setubal. Please arrange.
(C. in C. Med., 082014A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., N.A. Madrid, N.A. Lisbon.)

Malta
Air
Report.

Part 1. Offensive. Night 7/8th April. High wind and poor visibility prevented offensive operations. Day 8th April. 2 Fighter Spitfires swept over Southern Sicily. 2 Spitfire bombers attacked railway station and bridge near Porto Empedocle, strafed and damaged railway water tanks and scored cannon strikes on locomotive.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Nil. Part 5 Operations by Aircraft of other commands. Night 7/8th April. 2 Liberators despatched to attack Palermo Harbour landed at Malta. 1 of them (415 Squadron) from Benine unable to reach target owing to engine trouble bombed Partanna area. The other Liberator (343 Squadron) from Lete dropped bombs in Harbour area and landed Malta owing to petrol shortage.
(H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 082040Z)

Algiers
Air
Report.

From: Spaatz H.Q. A.D.V. To: C.G. 9th Air Force. For: Eaker and Brereton. 4. Night 6/7 April, 15 Wellingtons attacked Tunis and Djebel Djelloudmrr Yards, dropping 6 4000 pound, 540 4 pound incendiary and 31,380 pounds H.E. 4 Albacores attacked 8000 ton merchant vessel 5 miles off Bizerta. Coastal further carried out intruder raids in Sardinia.
(Allied Air Force, Algiers, 082115Z to Etousa.)

DOLFIJN.

My P.C. and S. are 038° 15' 006° 50' E. 260° 90 miles due to weather conditions. One ship torpedoed. (Weather) (Position)? 38° 07'.
(P.47 (DOLFIJN)(Dutch), 082116A/ to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers.)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrivals 8th April MIAOULES, PINDOS, BELVOIR, CUMBRAE, Gr. Dest. IERAX.
Departure 8th April R.55 shipped in S.S. O. HENRY BURRA, BELVOIR Gr. Dest. AETOS, Gr. Dest. IERAX, MIAOULES, PINDOS.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 082124C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrived DELPHINIUM, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE,
SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.I.i/c Benghazi, 082128C, to Admt.)

Movements,
Bone.

Bone departure Landing Craft I.161. Arrivals
CARLISLE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY,
WHADDON, ROTHESSAY, BRIXHAM, HENGIST. Landing
Craft I.108, 109, 110, 103 and 182.
(S.O.I.S., 082133A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

RODNEY,
defect.

Daily leakage from buoyancy compartments into
all wing rapid flood compartments now totals
260 tons port 170 starboard controlled by
periodical pumping. (Details.)
10. Intend short docking at Gibraltar at early
opportunity. 11. In meantime request early decision on proposal
to reduce water level in buoyancy compartments.
(C. in C. Med., 082300A to Admt. (R) F.O.H. etc.)

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Arrived.
C.M. 40B. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 080406Z to Admty.)

Movement April 8th.
Summary 1. DEVONSHIRE left Kilindini 6th escorting
No. 53. Convoy M.C.6 joining ships due Durban 13th.
2. WORCESTERSHIRE left Colombo 7th due East
London 22nd routed through 030° 01' S. 075° 02'
E. S. of A. 13½ knots.
3. CHITRAL left Durban 2nd arrived Diego Suarez 7th.
(C. in C. E.F., 080631 to E.F. 244Y, etc.)

B.M. 48. Sailing telegram.
(2) 0730Z/8th. (3) E.T.A. crossing Cochin
1730Z/10th.
(3A) E.T.A. Colombo 0230Z/12th. (4) 10 knots.
(5) (S) 015° 31' 072° 53'. (T) 010° 21' 075° 15'. (U) 007°
53' 077° 06' thence Colombo. All ships ordered Colombo but
(? independent) routes to destinations.
(6) HINDUSTAN.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 080740Z, 080742 to Admty.)

J.C. 9. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 080841Z to Admty.)

Movements. Departure 0220Z VIRUS (sic) 0140Z KARACHI towing
2 skids.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 080843Z to Admty.)
Arrival GAWLER, TULIP.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 081121Z to Admty.)
Arrival RAJPUTANA.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 081016Z to Admty.)

C.M. 40, Arrival 0415Z CANTON with C.M.40. Departure
B.M. 48. 0730Z HINDUSTAN with B.M. 48.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 080909 to Admty.)

B.P. 77. Further to my 070847Z April, B.P.77 3 personnel
ships CITY OF LONDON, NEVASSA, EMPIRE TROOPER
sailing 22nd April.
(P.S.T.O. Bombay, 081108Z to C. in C. E.F., (R)
F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Hormuz, N.C.S.O. Bombay,
D. of S.T.)

Convoy Amend my 050712 to read H.M.I.S. SUTLEJ and H.M.S.
Escorts. GERALDTON, P.B.35. ORISSA, P.A.33. H.M.I.S.
BOMBAY P.B.36 sailing 0200Z/(?16th) April Ocean
route number one.
(S.N.O.P.G., 081230Z to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C.
E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. etc.)

8.4.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

JOHN W. MACKAY. Pass to Master Cable Ship JOHN W. MACKAY. (Begins). Your 040900Z orders regarding your future movements already sent to S.N.O. Persian Gulf. If large quantity scrap cable retain on board pending further instructions otherwise dispose as you think it. On arrival Bombay request you will send tank list to Admiralty. (Ends). (D.S.D., 081344B to S.N.O. Persian Gulf, (R) P.S.T.O. Bombay.)

M.Ls 436, 437. A.M. 281846/12/42, para. 2. Can report requested now be given relative to M.Ls 436 and 437. (D.D.O.D.(C), 081409B to F.O.C.R.I.N.)

M.E.I.R.I. amendment. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Amendment No. 9 to M.E.I.R.I. (C. in C. E.F., 081555Z to E.I. Station General, E.I. Station 217 ?C.)

Military Convoys for India. 45619/Q cipher 8th April. Ref. Troopers 66746 (Q.(M).9a) dated 3rd April (031600A/4) para. 2. Q.2/Mov. (1) We have fallen so far behind our minimum shipping requirements since January this year we cannot afford to take any chances on possible six weeks delay. We therefore require despatch in May via Cape practically whole of tonnage stated in para. 10(B) of our 44690/C.O.S. dated 1st April. Details below. (C. in C. India, 081715FG to W.O., (R) B.A.S. Washington.)

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

HOLLYWOOD Presume you will take action on Comtask 24.12.2.
damaged. 071936Z addressed to me in error.
(C. in C. W.A., 080001Z to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav,
Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., H.Q.C.C.
Comtask 24.12.2).

C.T.G.'s 0235Z/8th. HOLLYWOOD last seen 2130Z/2nd in 057°
54' 039° 27'. Possible course 195° till 0430/3rd then 180° still
1500/3rd then to stragglers route. Speed 6 knots till 1200/3
then 9 knots. No positive information available. Have not
called on 500 k/cs.

(C.T.U. 24.(?12).2., 081221Z to A.I.G. 301, Connav, (R)
C.T.F.24, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
C. in C. C.N.W.A., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C., No. 1 Group
Control, C.T.G. 24.7).

Capacity of For your information it has now been agreed that
the "Queens". from May to September, both months inclusive,
the capacity of the "Queens" for the trans-
Atlantic run should be 15,000. This has been
accepted by General Lee on behalf of the U.S.
Forces, by Cunard White Star and also by the
Canadians. Agreed.
(D. of S.T., 080201B to B.M.S.M. Washington).

T.A.39 Convoy T.A.39 comprising EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND
(EMPRESS sailed from U.K, 5th April for New York.
OF 2. For details of personnel on board see War
SCOTLAND). Office signal 67485 of 6th April to Milstaf
Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa.
(D. of S.T., 080220B to B.A.D. Washington,
B.M.W.T. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q.)

E.T.A. at position Z 1730Z/9th April.
(T.A.39 081300Z to Cominch C.and R. (R) C.E.S.F., Cinclant N.S.
H.Q., C.O.A.C., Admty. Command General New York, Port Embarkation)

H.X.232 ESCAPADE, GARLAND hunting S/M in 046° 05' N.
049° 16' W. at 080137Z.
(C.T.U. 24.1.17, 080302Z 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. C.T.U. 24.18.6
NARCISSUS).

My 080302Z. GARLAND lost contact at 0140Z after firing 2
patterns.
Corvette abandoned at 0430Z owing to inconclusive evidence of
S/M. ESCAPADE and GARLAND joining convoy at 18 knots.
NARCISSUS remained vicinity till 080930Z then rejoined.
Request air co-operation with NARCISSUS at dawn.
(C.T.U. 24.1.17, 080510Z to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc).
Relieved by M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 H.X. 232 P.C.S. at 1400Z 046°
26' N., 046° 07' W. 056° 9.5 knots alter to 044° at 2000Z.
C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 intends fuelling all escorts today.
Weather Report.

(W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6., 081714Z to Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24.
Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.W.A.,
C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17, WITHERINGTON,
NARCISSUS).

/Movements....

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 7th.
 Arrivals VEGREVILLE, FORT WILLIAM ex H.J.44.
 Departures ESCAPEDE, GARLAND, NARCISSUS,
 WITHERINGTON to H.X. 232. LETHBRIDGE to H.X.233.
 (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 080402Z to Admty).
 OTTO departure U.S.S. MARION 8th.
 (B.R.O. St. Lucia, 081024 to Admty. etc).
 Kingston departure 0200Q U.S. S.C.10 26.
 (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 081056Q)
 Departure 8th COMSTACK 'U.S.E.S.) Paramaribo 9th April.
 (B.R.O. Georgetown, 081125Q to N.S.H.Q. etc).
 Departure April U.S.A.T. T.W. DRENNEN Aruba 7th April.
 (S.B.N.O. Curacao, 081347Z to Admty).
 New York departed 6th to Bermuda BERRY.
 (N.S.H.Q. 081424Z to Admty).
 Arrival 7th U.S.A.T. T.W. DRENNEN U.S.
 (B.R.O. Aruba, 081511Z to Admty).
 Kingston departure PASTORES (U.S.A.T.) and P.C.591.
 (S.O.(I) Kingston 081512Q to Admty).
 Kingston arrivals U.S.S. T.W. DRENNEN D.E/13.
 (S.O.(I) Kingston, 081549Q to Admty).
 DESPATCH arrived Rio de Janeiro 1430 G.M.T./8th.
 (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 081610Z to Admty).
 Departure HAMILTON, THE PAS, KAMSACK, BLAIRMORE, escorting
 L.S.T.321 and S.C.126, SKEENA for St. Johns N.F. WETASKIWIN,
 ARVIDA escorting 1 ship to St. Johns N.F. LINCOLN, MEDICINE HAT
 escorting H.H.X. 233.
 (C. Halifax, 082123Z to Admty).

U/B Following has been read (address missed) S/M
 contact. contact 25° 55' N., 79° 58' W. at 080435Z.
 (Burnham W/T, 080638 to Admty).

ANDES New York arrived a.m./7th April ANDES.
 (N.S.H.Q., 080725 to D. of S.T.)

U/B For information. The attack by 3 aircraft based
 assessment. on U.S.S. SUWANNEE on 11th November 1942, has been
 assessed as Vichy French known sunk.
 2. Copies of the relevant "Proceedings of the
 U-boat Assessment Committee" have been forwarded
 to Cominch by air mail.
 (D.A/S.W., 080940Z to Comnavu).
 W.D. Note. SUWANNEE is an escort aircraft carrier. She
 was reported "in operational area" on 11th Nov.
 but no indication of area, presumably "Torch".

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S.11, 12, and 20 arrived 1300Z/8th.
 (B.R.L.O. Balboa, 081001R to Admty).

/Movements...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed	
081800 G.M.T.	ARGONAUT } HERO }	37½° N. 27° W.	261°	12	
	QUEEN OF BERMUDA	34½° N. 32½° W.	358°	16	
	CILICIA	13° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank	
	F.S. GLOIRE	09° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank	
	CARNARVON CASTLE	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank	
	MILFORD with) Floating Dock }	00½° N. 46° W.	087°	4½	
	T.A. 39 A.	40½° N. 63° W.	256°	17¾	
	T.A. 39	43° N. 28° W.	233°	19	
	D.O.D. (F) 081015Z to Opnav (R) Comnav (U).				

Survivor from DOGGER BANK. Your 061252Q. Request you take every step to check
1. Positions in view of apparent excessive draft.
2. Authenticity of report.
(D.D.I.C., 081041B to S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At).

Refitting escort vessels under R.C.N. Command. Your 292121. It is presumed that para. 1 (a) refers to ITCHEN and LAGAN. It is not intended to withdraw these ships until the long endurance strength of R.C.N. mid-ocean groups has been strengthened.
2. Intended to carry out the refits of DIANTHUS PRIMROSE and NASTURTIUM in U.K. during 1943. POLYANTHUS is now refitting.
(A.C.N.S. (H); 081101B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.A., F.O.N.F., B.A.M.R. Washington, B.A.D.)

S.X.B.43 Sailing telegram. 2. Halifax 081100Z.
3. E.T.A. Boston 101500Z. E.T.A. Cape Cod 101600Z
4. 7.5 knots. 5. (route) Ships for Boston detach position D. 6. C.T.U. 24.18.11.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 081231Z, 081233Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., Connav, C.E.S.F., Com. 3, Port Director New York, N.O.I.C. SHELBURNE).

Instructions to Convoy stragglers. Requested it may be stressed at Convoy Conferences that
(1) Escort Support Groups are operating in mid Atlantic and are normally available to assist threatened convoys.
(2) Water in vicinity of a shadowed convoy is highly dangerous and any ships deliberately breaking away from a convoy are more than likely to be torpedoed and that normally escorts cannot in these circumstances be spared to proceed to their assistance.
(3) If a ship straggles and cannot rejoin at Commodores R/V she must (when east of 45° W. and subject to M.A.R.I. Section I para 5) proceed by Stragglers route.

/(4)...

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- Instructions to convoy stragglers. (contd). (4) If a straggler received a broadcast to proceed direct to Stragglers Route it is normally an indication that convoy is being shadowed and she should immediately obey order unless she is within ten miles of convoy and Master is certain he can rejoin before dark. (D.T.D., 081237B to Connav, C. in C. C.N.W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24).
- Group A.3. position. F.O.N.F.'s 071405Z and C.T.F.24's 072047 ALBERNI can be made available. Propose in addition SKEENA join A.3 group if C. in C. W.A. can provide destroyer to relieve her in C.3 group sailing U.K. 17th April. ROSTHERN and DIANTHUS to be sailed direct to U.K. on completion of defects and SKEENA sailed direct to St. Johns from U.K. to rejoin C.3. group for next assignment. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 081250Z to C.T.F.24, C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F., Cominch, (C. and R.) N.S.H.Q.) In view of C. in C. C.N.W.A., 081250Z will not order H.X.233 into Halifax unless you so request. (Cominch C. and R. 081932Z to C.T.F.24, (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.W.A.)
- H. J. 44 Arrived. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 081301Z to Admty).
- A.T.41. (PASTEUR). 1. Re-sailing telegram. Admty's 052043B. Cominch (C. and R) 051543Z April. C. in C. N.W.A., 071440Z April. 2. CHEDABUCTO 2200Z/9 April. 3. 0600Z/16 April 55.39 N., 08.18 W. 4. 19.5 knots. 5. (Route) "Chop" 2100Z April 11. 6. Passengers and mail Liverpool. 15. Codeword "Apricot". (C. in C. N.W.A., 081412Z 101445Z to Admty. Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. Lant, C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)
- Submarine Estimate April 8th. U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch, 081507Z, 081508Z, 081540Z, 081541Z, 081542Z).
- H.X.233, Escorts. H.X. 233. Your 081250 (N.T. in W.D.) Suggest BRYONY, BERGAMOT due St. Johns N.F. p.m./9th as additional escort with B.5 group should sail to join H.X. 233 thus allowing SKEENA to sail direct to U.K. as arranged. (C. in C. W.A., 081548Z to C.O.A.C. (R) Admty. Comtaskfor 24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, N.S.H.Q., HAVELOCK).

/O.N...

War Diary.8.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N. 175 O.N. 175 (S) 044° 28' 048° 13' 255° 9 knots.
Homing by H/F D/F since 1330Z. Weather.
(C.T.U. 24.12.2 081700 to W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2
(R) C. in C. W.A., Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty.
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.T.G.24.7., C. in C. C.N.W.A.
H.Q.C.C.)

O.N. 175. Met. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.2 still in company with
8 ships previously reported detached. 26 M/Vs one new straggler
DILWORTH, MONTGOMERY relinquishing S.O. of escort but remaining
till 1200Z/9 as support force.

(W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2., 081900Z to C.T.F.24 (R) Comtask
24.12.2 Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.
C. in C. C.N.W.A., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.)

Suspicious Vessel. 1700 G.M.T. Fernando Noronha 129° 420 observed
cargo passenger steamer steering suspiciously
as if keeping B/V estimated tonnage of suspicious
vessel 7000 tons suspicious vessel has one funnel
tallying (as received).
(DESEAO, 082005 G.M.T. to Connav).

ST. CLAIR. Expected Time of Arrival 1330Z. Boiler hours
ST. CLAIR, 1, 0: 2, 0: 3, 162: 4, 180.
In company TIMMINS, TRAIL, NORANDA, ST. CLAIR
has defective evaporator and echo sounder.
TRAIL, defective R.D.F. and Asdics.
(ST. CLAIR, 082017Z to F.O.C.N.F. (R) Capt. (D)
N.F.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.D.P.C.611 sound contact 25.55 N.
79.58 W. 0803448. B.18 sub contact 12.20 N.
70.43 W. 080945. P.B.M. sights sub. course
020 34.54 N. 74.28 W. 081345. Fisherman sight
sub. course S. 21. S. 40.30 W. 070600. U.S.S.
SPENCE sub contact sub. contact 31.38 N. 52.52 W.
071600. Cuban motor boat sights sub on surface
19.52 N. 76.08 W. 062100.
(Cominch, 082025Z to Admty).

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serials 7 and 8. ESSO MANHATTAN en route
New York Curacao broken in two cause unknown
March 29th arrived Bayonne March 30th in tow.
(Cominch C. and R. 082057Z).

O.N. 174. O.N. 174 following arrived New York 8th (list).
(B.R.L.O. New York, 082128Z to Admty).

/Solops...

War Diary.

8.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Solops 14. 4th. 3 light cruisers, 5 destroyers, 4 M/Vs and 2 small unidentified ships seen in Buin Harbour.
6th. Catalina sighted enemy force probably consisting of 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers and 2 M/Vs early in morning in Blakett Straits S.W. of Kolom Bangara Island. Ships made smoke and proceeded S.W. through Ferguson Passage. A/C left at dawn to attack but failed to locate. 1 enemy destroyer unsuccessfully bombed 80 miles West of Buin. April 7th. following enemy aircraft report by R/C Buin area, at Kahili 114 fighters 5 medium and 1 heavy bombers. At Ballale 95 fighters and 1 medium bomber, at Faisi 6 Float Planes, at Buka 37 fighters and 6 medium bombers. Identification of all planes was not positive.
One B.17 unsuccessfully bombed 2 enemy tankers in Manning Straits.
At 1440 L Tulagi and near by shipping attacked by 50 enemy bombers escorted by 48 fighters. 67 U.S. fighters claim 21 fighters and 5 dive-bombers shot down for loss of 7. One pilot saved.
At 1510 L 2 allied merchant ships were attacked by 7 enemy planes off North East Coast Guadal Canal causing minor damage. 3 enemy planes shot down.
(B.A.D., 082135Z to Admty. C.O.I.S., E.F., (R) Concentric Colombo, C.O.S. Kilindini, F.L.O. Delhi).

BERRY

BERRY arrived Bermuda 8th.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 082343Z to Admty. B.A.D.,
N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica).

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Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Auckland 2218Z/7 U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON, 0214Z/8 U.S.S. RIXEY.
Departure Auckland 0022Z/8 U.S.S. SOLACE for Wellington E.T.A. 1900Z/9.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 080348Z to Admty.)
Arrival Port Moresby 6th BALLARAT. Milne Bay 7th WAGGA, WARREGO. Thursday Island 7th INVERELL. Brisbane 7th U.S. Dest. HELM. Melbourne 8th NEPAL.
Departure Milne Bay 7th KAPUNDA for Oro Bay, WARREGO for Townsville. Port Moresby 7th WHYALLA, TOOWOOMBA for Milne Bay. Brisbane 7th SHEPPARTON for Sydney (N.S.W.) Sydney (N.S.W.) 6th ROCKHAMPTON, 7th U.S. Dest. RALPH TALBOT for Brisbane 7th BUNGAREE for Port Phillip.
(A.C.N.B., 081026Z to Admty.)
Hospital ship CENTAUR arrived Brisbane 7th April. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Fall River 7th due Oro Bay 8th. R.A.A.F. Store Ship WANAKA departed Port Moresby 7th due Fall River 8th. Hired Transport TAROONA arrived Fall River 7th departed 8th due Townsville 10th.
(C.W.S.P.S.F., 081207Z to Admty.)
Departure Auckland U.S.S. MOUNT VERNON for San Francisco E.T.A. 20th.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 082252Z to Admty.)

Digest Morning R/C Fortress sighted 1 cargo vessel
Serial apparently beached Kavieng harbour plus 3 small
No. 442 boats. 3 fighters took off strip but nil
April 7th. interceptions effected. Later saw 1 destroyer,
2 medium cargo vessels with float-plane escort
17 miles North-west Kavieng course 320°. All
3 ships strafed but last seen still proceeding
North-west. Fortress subsequently strafed enemy submarine
before it submerged 60 miles South-east Lorenku (as decyphered)
course 320°. (4) Midday Liberator unsuccessfully bombed 5 ships including
2 medium and 3 small vessels Wewak vicinity.
(7) Two morning search Hudsons reported nil shipping sighted
Aroe and Tanimbar Islands. One bombed Dobo and other Saumlaki.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 081020.)

Solops 14. (B.A.D., 082135Z to Admty., etc.)
See America and West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 081412B, 081423B.)

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

O.S./K.M.S.
Convoys.

1. K.M.S. and O.S. convoys are to be sailed together in future. The combined convoys are to be treated as Commercial Convoys.

Home Commands.

Search for
HIMALAYA.

2. BERMUDA sailed from Scapa today to come under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth for Operation "Regulation" and for convoy protection on the U.K. - West Africa route. CHARYBDIS and METEOR are searching west of 14° W. between 45.10 N. and 44.20 N. with air co-operation. P.R.U. reported about 2000 that HIMALAYA, 3 NARVIK destroyers and 2 T.Bs had left the Bay of Biscay ports since 4th April. CHARYBDIS and METEOR were ordered to remain on patrol as long as fuel permitted and at C. in C. Plymouth's request F.O.I.C. Gibraltar sailed UGANDA for patrol at 100500. At 2310B an aircraft sighted a merchant ship with 3 escorting vessels steering 230° at 10 knots in 45.25 N. 07.45 W. (110 miles N. by E. of Cape Ortegal.)

3. One of two Hampden aircraft on shipping patrol off the west coast of Norway torpedoed a 6000 ton tanker in convoy 5 miles N.E. of Statland at 1728 today. The tanker blew up in a sheet of flame 300 ft. high.

4. Bomber Command aircraft laid 62 mines last night off Lorient, St. Nazaire, Le Verdon, Bayonne, and St. Jean de Luz.

South Atlantic.

5. French M.V. BAMAKO (Freetown for Dakar) escorted by F.S. LA GRACIEUSE reported being torpedoed by a U-Boat in the early hours of today in 14.57 N. 17.15 W. (off Dakar.)

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

6. Five M.L. hunting groups are being formed for A/S operations on the north African coast. This will entail a reduction in M.Ls for local purposes. A message from C. in C. Med. today gives details of the new organisation.

S/M
Operations.

7. SAFARI sank a 300 ton brigantine by gunfire at 1218 in the approaches to Cagliari. Greek S/M KATSONIS reports having sunk a 1000 ton merchant ship and an Italian auxiliary patrol vessel during a patrol in the Aegean.

East Indies.

8. M.V. AMERICAN BUILDER reported that she was torpedoed at 2327Z in 16.04 N. 73.03 E.

America and West Indies.

O.N. 176.

9. BEVERLEY, one of the escort of Convoy O.N. 176 was in collision at 2206Z today with SS. CAIRNVALONA in dense fog about 360 miles S.E. of Cape Farewell and is holed. Her A/S and degaussing gear are out of action.

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Biscay S/M Routes "Gold" and "Rose". Your 051149. Concur with following slight amendments. Route "Gold" and "Rose" to terminate in latitude 049° N. to allow S/M to be routed to vicinity of either Scilly Isles or Lizard Head as required.

2. Propose bombing restrictions 20 miles either side of route area one from latitude 049° N. to 045° N. area 2 from latitude 045° N. to 043° N. H.Q.C.C. concurs.
(F.O.S., 091009B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Larne Your 072008Z. My intended organization at Larne consists of two exercise areas and berthing inside the harbour at buoys or alongside for a maximum of 10 ships. With the exception of one office no organization on shore is intended and only such minor repair work as can be undertaken by N.O.I.C. Larne with his existing facilities are contemplated. Due to the main shipping lanes no increase in the practice areas is practicable. A depot ship can only be included at the expense of berthing arrangements for ships to be exercised. Under those conditions it is considered impossible to include a satellite working up base at Larne on top of my organization for group training.
(C. in C. W.A., 091852B to Admty).

Movements.

S/M My 081657 add para. (L) H.34 escorted by LORD HOTHAM sails Lough Foyle 2000B/9, E.T.A. Rothesay 0800B/10th.
(F.O.S., 090014B).

Intend to sail TRUCULENT and SEA NYMPH escorted by ALECTO 101800B for Holy Loch by standard route E.T.A. 121700B.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 091007A).

TAKU exercising in Area C. off Plymouth until 1900B today.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091039B).

HONEYSUCKLE has been ordered to R/V with you in 000° Round Island 7 miles at 0800B/11 to escort you to Clyde. Adjust speed so as not to be early and report by immediate signal not later than 0400B/11 if you will be more than 3 hours late at R/V.
(Capt. S.3. 091135B to SHAD, HERRING).

Intend to sail UNTAMED at 1400/10th to R/V at 20 R buoy at 1500 with tanker on passage to Moville escorted by RISKATO to 21C buoy thence by Gruinard to vicinity Tobermory. N.O.I.C. Newcastle-on-Tyne 1200/9 refers.

Capt. (S) 3 is requested to provide escort from vicinity Tobermory at approx. 2100 April 12th to Holy Loch.

(Capt. S.6., 091540B).

Following is repetition of my 070845B. My 011645A. SICKLE has been delayed 24 hours ends.

(Capt. S.5., 091620B).

Positions of submarines at 0800B/10 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 091654B).

My 1645 add: HERRING 49.30 N. 12.30 eastbound 160 miles in 24 hours. SHAD 49.10 N. 12.00 W. eastbound 160 miles in 24 hours.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091821B).

/Sailed...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Movements. (contd). Sailed LORD HOTHAM, H. 34. (Cdre. Londonderry, 091905B). Intend sailing URSULA escorted by KHINA at 0900/10th for Holy Loch. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091931B). My 091007 para. 1. Add TEMPLAR. Amend time of sailing to read 1600B/11 and E.T.A. to read 1500B/13. (S.O. S/M Lerwick, 092111B). My 091654B. Add new para. UNTAMED leaves Blyth 101400B for R/V 1500B at 20R buoy with Tanker escorted by RISKATO to 21C buoy thence by GRUINARD to vicinity Tobermory 9 knots. (F.O.S., 092137B). GRUINARD is to be sailed to R/V at 21C buoy at 2100/10th and take over from RISKATO the escort of P.58 and tanker SCOTTISH HEATHER. (2) The S/M and tanker are to be escorted by searched channel and standard route position 057° 17' N., 007° 04' W. (3) The escort of S/M is there to be turned over to an escort to be provided by Capt. (S) 3 for onward passage to Holy Loch. (C. in C. Rosyth, 092315B to N.O.I.C. Methil) S/M TAKU exercising in area C off Plymouth from 2030/10th to 0130/11. (C. in C. Plymouth, 092337B).

ADVENTURE F.O.C. Gibraltar 081709. Destination is Milford Haven. (D.D.O.D. M., 091142B to C. in C. Plymouth).

JAMAICA Your 1545B/5. Arrived 1715B. (A.C.O.S., 091919B to N.O.I.C. Barrow).

Force J. Intend to proceed to Milford Haven p.m. 11th. Propose to transfer my broad Pendant to LOCUST at 0800/12th. (S.O. Force J., 092246B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operations.

Operation "Regulation". My 082357B. Two Liberators and one Halifax detailed to carry out parallel track search between latitude 44.00 and 45.20 N. and 14.00 and 18.00 W, commencing at 090800B. (C. in C. Plymouth, 090033B to CHARYBDIS, METEOR) My 082357B. If nothing sighted by dark return Plymouth proceeding in accordance with my 081344B/April. (C. in C. Plymouth, 091207B to CHARYBDIS, METEOR). P.R.U. report 3 NARVIK 2 T/B and HIMALAYA have left Bay of Biscay ports since 4th April. Remain on present patrol as long as fuel permits. Report when you leave. (C. in C. Plymouth, 092003B to CHARYBDIS, METEOR).

/Your...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Operation "Regulation". (contd). Your 092003B. My P.C.S. 046° 10' N., 014° 46' W, 020° 15 knots. Have left patrol. Weather 0611 0251.

(METEOR, 092201B to C. in C. Plymouth).
P.C.S. of one Merchant vessel, 3 escorts 45° 25' N. 07° 48' W. Course 230° speed 10.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty M., 092310B to 19 Group).

Coastal Patrols.

My 081212B. "Device" arrived 090842B.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 090858B).

Weather permitting intend M.Ls. 247 (S.O.) and 269 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/10th.

3. Object: Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 091145B).

1. S.G.B. 6, M.T.B. 242, 89, 81 to patrol tonight. Object, to intercept shipping leaving Dieppe Northward.

2. Leave Newhaven 092000 adjusting speed to pass through passage one not before 2130.

3. Hastings - Treport Line is not to be crossed.

4. Return by passage one or two so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight.

5. Albacores from Tangmere will be patrolling Dieppe to Berck Buoy.

6. Codeword "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091245B).

1 S.G.B. 3 M.T.Bs. patrolling Southward from Newhaven.

3 M.Ls. from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles to Southward of Convoy Route between longitudes 0° 10' W. and 0° 45' E, to be on patrol by dark and return when convoy has left Portsmouth Command.

M.L. 309, 572 patrolling Southward of E.A.5.

Chasseur 14 at St. Helens. LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.

2 M.Ls. from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091300B).

Patrol tonight.

1. M.G.B. 324 is to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 210° Start 10 miles.

2. Object, to intercept E-boats attacking convoys.

3. Execution, leave Dartmouth, 2030B for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0700B. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 091349B).

Your 091349B. Sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 092027B).

My 091145B. "Device" sailed.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 092047B).

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Accommodation at Kaldadarnes. It is desired to establish as early as possible facilities for the replacement of aircraft in Escort Carriers working from Iceland (C). It is visualised that initially these facilities would comprise storage for some 12 erected Swordfish aircraft and accommodation for a small number of officers and from 50 to 100 ratings.

2. It is understood that owing to severe congestion it would not be feasible to make any provision for the foregoing at Reykjavik but that suitable arrangements could be made at Kaldadarnes.

3. It would be greatly appreciated if such assistance as is possible may be provided to meet this commitment.
(A.C.N.S. A., 091420B to Air Ministry).

Denmark Straits Patrol. My 050107 para. A. Cannot be flown today because of weather.
(A.C.I.C., 091442B to C.S.10).

Western Channel. My 081411A March. Swordfish aircraft will fly patrols X and XA from 092200B April till dawn 10th April.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 091501B).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C reported in 47° 50' N., 14° 50' W. at 1205 hours, steering 270.
(A/C 3PSJ 091212B to 19 Group).

Mining.

Harwich. LL Trawlers detonated 2 ground mines, 1 at 0405 in 52° 3.55' N. 1° 46.65' E. Second mine at 0445 in 52° 4.1' N. 1° 47.4' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 090753 and 091223B).

Biscay Ports. Night 8/9 April 27 A/C took off to lay mines. 21 laid mines in their allotted areas. 1 A/C is missing.
(H.Q.B.C., 091305B).

S.N. 123. My 1600A/24th March. After consulting with M.D.D. Arrochar it appears most desirable to postpone laying for several days to give adequate time for laying and testing of hydroplane circuits.
(2) Proposed laying date 27th. Latest date to embark layer to meet this is 19th, but do not however intend to do so until former date is firm.

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.N. 123.
(contd).

(3) If S.N. 111 A was to be carried out before S.N. 123 it is not anticipated the latter could be laid before 10th May. In view importance of S.N. 123 propose it should be carried out before S.N. 111A unless considerable delay is expected.
(R.A.M. 091830B to Admty).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy
Battleship.

One Pocket Battleship was sighted at Swinemunde April 4th. Graded B.3.
(N.A. Stockholm, 091006 to Admty).

U-boats.

U-boats
reported.

Am investigating suspicious oil patch in position (indecypherable).
(A/C 091115B to 15 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 47° 58' N., 08° 00' W.
(A/C TN3H 091830B to 19 Group).
Have obtained A.S.V. contact.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty M. 092310B to 19 Group).

Casualties & Defects.

VIDETTE

VIDETTE is to proceed to Liverpool forthwith for docking.
(C. in C. W.A., 091423B to TAY).

JOSEFINA
THORDEN.

JOSEFINA THORDEN refloated and now proceeding direct to Shellhaven.
(N.S.C.O. Thames, 091634B).

L.C.T. 328.

Your 081605 B. L.C.T. 328 entered Dartmouth with engine defect.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 092014B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X. 231.
Search for
BLITAR
survivors.

Proceed to search for lifeboat with 20 survivors reported by aircraft in 57.30 N. 27.35 W. at 2040B/7.
(C. in C. W.A., 090151B to DEVERON).
Boat picked up was under sail. Survivors had not seen other boats since 6th April. Probable that they would be sailing but not as well as this one and would therefore be further west. Your 090826 refers. My P.C.S. 056° 40' N., 024° 50' W. 010° 14.
(ECLIPSE, 090929B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- M.K.F.11 A. Troopship SAMARIA in convoy M.K.F.11 A is due
Survivors. Liverpool 12 April with following 728 personnel
on board including 71 survivors from CITY OF
PERTH and 32 survivors from PORT A LA CORNE.
(D.S.T., 090207B).
One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy in 48.06 N. 13.36 W.
course 066° speed 22 knots.
(GOATHLAND, 090938Z).
Two U-boats estimated near you today.
(D.D.I.C., 091135B to Escorts M.K.F.11 A).
Convoy is being shadowed by one enemy aircraft in 48° 00'
N. 14° 22' W.
(VANOC, 091215).
(1) Destination of escorts:
(2) Convoy is to proceed unescorted from 7° west.
(C. in C. W.A., 091918B to VANOC).
C. in C. Western Approaches 061541B.
Route to Plymouth through 50.59 N. 09.58 W. 000° Round Island 10,
then by Q.Z.S. 389, 347, 390, 278 to Plymouth.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 092019B to VANOC, VERITY, GOATHLAND,
KRAKOWIAK).
Cancel my 092019B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 092313B to VANOC etc).
- O.N. 177 My P.C.S. at 0736Z, 58.03, 12.35 294° 14 knots.
Request P.C.S. of O.N. convoy and position of W.B.
(TRENT., 090759Z to C. in C. W.A.)
TRENT's 090759Z. Position W.B. is 059° 40' N.
023° 01' W. CHURCHILL taking necessary action to
ensure TRENT joining.
(C. in C. W.A., 091221B to TRENT).
Hvalfiord departure ST. ALBANS at 2207B to join O.N. 177.
(A.C.I.C., 092226B).
- O.N.178. Sailed OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE in accordance with
my 081558B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 090958B to Cdre. Londonderry).
Arrived OBDURATE, OPPORTUNE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 091545B).
- W.S.29 Admiralty's 070110 para. 4. It is not considered
and K.M.F.13. necessary for CHARYBDIS to attend convoy
conference at Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 091008B to C. in C. Plymouth).
Admiralty 021850, 021855, 081351, 082007.
1. Ocean escorts. NEWCASTLE from Clyde.
 2. A/S escorts (a) Bristol Channel portion. SHIKARI
(b) Liverpool portion. SHIPPIGAN (c) Clyde portion. WESTON
(d) To join from Londonderry at Oversay R/V WELLINGTON, TOTLAND
GORLESTON, NESS, EXE, LEWES, LAUDERDALE, SWEETBRIAR, RAPID.
 3. SHIKARI is to escort advance portion of Liverpool ships from
Bar Light Vessel to Clyde 12th April as arranged by N.O.I.C.
Liverpool and is to arrive Barry Roads before dark 14th April
to escort Bristol Channel portion.

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.W.S.29
and K.M.F.13.
(contd).

4. LEWES, LAUDERDALE, VENOMOUS, RAPID are to proceed to Londonderry to fuel after convoy conference.

5. SHIKARI, SHIPPIGAN are to proceed to Londonderry from Oversay R/V.

(C. in C. W.A., 091428B).

Noon R/V 16th, 055° 40' N., 006° 40' W. Noon R/V 17th 053° 50' N., 013° 48' W.

(N.C.S.O. Greenock, 091733B to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

S.C.124.
MAYFLOWER.

My position 1200B will be within 5 miles of 056° 46' N., 010° 16' W, course 124° speed 4½.

DEXTEROUS not yet joined. Visibility 10 miles EYEBRIGHT, MAYFLOWER in company.

(SHIKARI 091022B to Admty. DEXTEROUS).

DEXTEROUS joined. She acknowledged your 082247.

(SHIKARI, 091201B to C. in C. W.A.)

My position 2000B will be 056° 10' N., 009° 07' W. course 125° speed 6½ knots. E.T.A. Lough Foyle 1000B tomorrow.

DEXTEROUS towing MAYFLOWER. EYEBRIGHT detached 1400B.

(SHIKARI, 091645B to C. in C. W.A.)

Arrived EYEBRIGHT.

(Cdre. Londonderry, 092255B).

F.N.88

Your 090639. From 20 C proceed to Rosyth at 25 knots.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 091035B to VANITY).

North Russia.

Signal 234 as enemy attacks seem concentrated on tankers have arranged with Senior B.N.O. North Russia to remove 2 remaining undamaged tankers to Molotovsk. They will sail 10th.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk, 091237 to Admty).

Atlantic
Convoy
Rescue
Trawlers.

Your 281916 March. Concur with para. 4.

(2) Para. 4 (b) it is considered that the commitment of a minimum of two trawlers for U.R/R.U. convoys should have priority over the commitment in para. 4 (b).

(3) Reference para. 7. there are only five suitable trawlers in Home Waters outside your

Command and the transfer of these is being investigated. Such transfer could not take place till towards the end of April.

(4) Your para. 2, concur. N.C.S.O's are being instructed by signal that, when special rescue ships or trawlers are not available, rear ships of columns are no longer to act as rescue ships, but that rescue work will be carried out by the escorts as opportunity occurs. C.B. 04024 (41) article 78 and C.B. 03058 (3) I.C.O.C.22 will be amended.

(5) It is requested that the trawlers concerned may be fitted with as many rescue facilities as accommodation and time allow and at least with scrambler nets.

(6) In the interest of the esprit de corps of these trawlers it is suggested that they should be detailed as "Additional A/S Escorts and for rescue duties".

(A.C.N.S. U.T., 091305B to C. in C. W.A.)

/K. M. S. ...

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

K.M.S. and
O.S. convoys.

My 021746A is cancelled. K.M.S. convoys will be numbered consecutively as heretofore and will be sailed with O.S. convoys which will also retain their normal sequence.

Combined convoys are to be treated as Commercial Convoys and sailed by N.C.S.Os. In signals referring to these convoys the combined appellation is to be used viz O.S.46/K.M.S. 13.
(D.T.D., 091315B).

Atlantic and
North Russian
Convoys.
Rescue work.

Pass to N.C.S.Os. at ocean convoy assembly ports. In Atlantic and North Russian convoys, rear ships of columns are no longer to act as rescue-ships even if no special rescue-ship or trawler is present. In the latter event, rescue work is to be carried out by the escorts as opportunity occurs.
(D.T.D., 091651B).

U.C.2.

Sailed H.P. JONES for U.C.2.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 091815B).

BOGUE
Group.

C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 071246Z. When ready, BOGUE and escort are placed under your operational control.
(D.O.D. H., 091920B to C. in C. W.A.)

LEINSTER

Sailed my 082134.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes, 092051B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

9.4.1943.
Friday.WarDiary.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.

Passengers, A.M. 161140A March para. 3 is amended as
Numbers. follows: (1) Vessels of over 20 knots unescorted,
add to sub-para. C "women and Children should not
exceed half the life boat capacity".
(2) Add new sub-para. D "In the case of ships
carrying passengers in pursuance of certificate
under Defence Regulation 47 BB the combined number of passengers
and crew should not be allowed to exceed the number specified
in the certificate". (3) Addressees are requested to inform
S.T.O's Military and R.A.F. authorities on their stations.
B.A.D. Washington pass to U.S. Authorities concerned.
(D.O.D.(F) 091412B to Various)

North Atlantic.

ARGONAUT, My 070707, HERO (?reports) owing to unreliable
HERO. state of boilers and evaporators ships may only
be able to steam for 4 days. Fuel endurance
8 days at 10 knots. Intend HERO remains in
company as A/S screen until further orders
received. Passed by N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada.
(ARGONAUT, 070017 (? 090017 intended) to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar,
(R) HERO).

Following is a repetition of N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada's
081154 addressed F.O.C. Gibraltar. (Begins) "ARGONAUT escorted
by HERO left Ponta Delgada 081200 G.M.T. T.O.O.081154" (Ends)
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 090855A to Admty)

ARGONAUT departed Ponta Delgada 1200 G.M.T. 8th for
Bermuda. (2) ARGONAUT has no rudder and no power on capstan.
(5) E.T.A. Bermuda 1800 G.M.T. 16th 1800.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 091814A to Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At.
(R) Cominch, C. in C. Lant, ARGONAUT, C. in C. Med.
N.S.H.Q.)

Cancel A.M.081008. In view of your 070017, not to
C. in C. Plymouth, detach HERO after dark today Friday to
Plymouth or Gibraltar at C.Os discretion.

D.O.D.(F) 091705B to ARGONAUT, (R) HERO, F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. Plymouth.)

See also America and West Indies, 091755B.

Following is a repetition of my 091814 addressed as above,
(Begins): ARGONAUT departed Ponta Delgada 1200 G.M.T. April 8th
for Bermuda. (2) ARGONAUT has no rudder and no power on
capstan. (3) E.T.A. Bermuda 1800 G.M.T. April 16th (Ends)
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 091827 to Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Cominch,
C. in C. Lant, C. in C. Med., S.H.Q., ARGONAUT.)

ST. LUCIEN / ...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ST.LUCIEN (French-Axis control) Following is a repetition of Valencia's 032112 (Begins) address S.O.(I) Gibraltar (R) B.N.A. Madrid. ST. LUCIEN will sail tonight 8th from Burriana for Marseilles (Ends). (F.O. Gibraltar, 090353A to P.314 (TACTICIAN), P.49 (UNRULY) P.53 (ULTOR), DZIK)

Convoy C.G.24. C.G.24 arrived. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 090747A to Commorseafron. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

K.M.S.12. Intend sailing: For Algiers TYNEBANK, H.M.Tug ST.DAY for (?Philippeville) WILDWOOD, GEORGE WEEMS for Bone, GEORGE TAYLOR, H.M.Tug EMPIRE FRED, MEK, H.M.Tug EMPIRE NED. Agreed M.W.T. and S.T.O. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 090959A to Escorts of Convoy K.M.S. for Cdre, Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C.Bone, N.O.I.C.Bougie, N.O.I.C.Philippeville, (R) Connav, Comnob, Oran.)

Dispositions. Situation 092000A.
S/M TRESPASSER 38.21 10 (?10) through 36.51 09.13 at 101200 thence 099° diving by day 8½/2½.
(2) S/M SPORTSMAN 39.05 10 (?30) 115° diving by day 7/2.
(3) K.M.S.12 ? EGRET 36.20 10.31 through 36.01 10.01 and 35.?01 09.31 thence 073°. CLION, 2 M/S part company in 36.01 10.01 for Cape St. Vincent thence coastwise to Lisbon 7½.
(4) Coastal craft convoy, HALCYON, 37.54 10.49 through 36.40 10.02 thence 106° 6½.
(6) T.O.3 U.S.S. ELLIS sails from Gibraltar 091900 through 35.45 06.30 and 34.10 08.01 at 100830 thence 277 13½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 091011 as amended 091332A) For para.(8) see 100234A.
Situation 091939A. (Corrupt group) convoy H.M.S. RHODODENDRON 43.10 14 (? 02) through 42.30 13.59 thence (? 232°) 10.
(4) U.G.S.6 A (through?) (? 45) 60, 34.22, 14.12, 078° 9.
(5) S.L.127 ROCHESTER 26.57 14.44 through 27.56 13.35 thence 024° 7¼.
(6) K.M.S.12 EGRET 36.20 10 (?21) and 35.01 09.31 thence 073°.
(7) ADVENTURE 37.27 11.10 through 40.01 14.30 and 42.59 (?14) 29 thence northbound 18.
(F.O.Gibraltar 091024A, as amended 091335) For para 10 see 100231A.
ARGONAUT, HERO 36.52 32 (?01) 261 10. (?35) 09 20.02.
(2) QUEEN OF BERMUDA 40.52 32.32 through (?71) (?22) 32.01 thence 031° 16.
(3) U.G.S.7, C.T.F. 69, (?29).39 42.52 087° 9.
(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 091102A)

MIRROR. My 031108. Repairs completed p.m. 8th. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 091105A, Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (Contd.)

U.S.6A. From position (0) proceed direct to Q.K.A.87.
(2) Med. escort consists of FANTOME (S.O) ESPIEGLE, QUANTOCK, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, POLRUAN, CLACTON R/V in position (Z) 35.32 07.46 at 0800A/11th April. (3) On R/V being made Casablanca section is to part company and proceed to Casablanca through Q.K.A.92. (4) Route through Med. will be passed to Cdre. by (?Commander of) escort.
(?F.O.Gib, 091201A to Escorts of U.G.S.6A for Cdre. (R) Commor Seafon, C. in C. Med. Escorts of K.M.S.12.)

E.T.17. Arrived less CONAKRIAN 32 ships.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 091212C to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Connav, Com. Algiers, Connob Oran, N.O.I.C.Bone, Bougie, Philippeville.)

E.T.17. Amend my 091212 to read: E.T.17 arrived less CONAKRIAN and WASHINGTON IRVING (31 ships)
(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 091750A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty etc.)

SICKLE. Your 082243 and my 011645 amending my 070845, P.224 (SICKLE) crossing latitude 043° N. at 121700 April.
(Capt. (S) 5, 091253 to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar (R) F.O.S.,C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3, P.224 (SICKLE)

Gibraltar Admty. 091324B. See Mediterranean.
Congestion.

U/B's. Aircraft reports sighting 2 U-Boats at 091002A in 040° 43' N. 009° 25' W. course Northerly.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 091517A to S. and A. North Atlantic Station. (R) C. in C. Plymouth)

Survivors Further to my 071800, I am now reliably informed from U/B that survivors swam ashore Maspalomas beach and (sunk later taken on board Spanish Armed Trawler 5/4) XAUEN and brought to this port. It is presumed that submarine sank inside territorial waters although no official information obtainable.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 091530 to Admty (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, B.N.A.Madrid.)
Reply: 131523B.

Movements, Arrivals SEMINOLE in tow of EMPIRE NED, FORT Gibraltar. BABDNE in tow of JAUNTY. ZAAU, WALT WHITMAN in tow of EMPIRE FRED.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 091647 to C. in C. Med.(R) Connob, Oran, Connav, Comm.Algiers, Admty.)

ALMAACK / ...

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

ALMAACK,
towage.

ARAPHO ?with U.G.S.6A. arriving Gibraltar about 12th April report F.O.I.C. Gibraltar for purpose of towing ALMAACK to Casablanca. 3 destroyers from Task Force 66 arriving Gibraltar about 14th April to be used as escorts.
(?Aluslo Gibraltar) 091651 to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C.T.F.60(R) C.T.F.66, C. in C. Med. Cominch, Admty. Cinclant, Comnavnaw, (?Gibraltar), ALMAACK)

K.M.S.12
EGRET.

Following is a repetition of para. 2 of my 082301 (Begins) (2) K.M.S.12 is to form in 10 columns on passing Europa Point and carry out emergency turns to reduce S. of A. until 111900A/ April when convoy is to proceed at 7½ knots.

T.O.O.082246 (Ends). (2) Confirmed that U.K. escort proceed Gibraltar when convoy combines. EGRET 090715 refers. (N.T. in W.R) (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar 091701 to Escorts of K.M.S.12, Escorts of U.G.S.6A)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Arrival.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 091728A to Admty etc.)

CORRIENTES.

Your 0532/26th March. Offer so far only verbal and accepted verbally. Spanish Govt. now await formal communication. So far no mention quid pro quo and none expected as ship herself is recompense for MONTE GORBEA. Repatriated crew not mentioned but obviously will be raised as also in case Italian ship in Canary Islands if we eventually approve transfer of flag. (N.A.Madrid, 091747A to Admty)

T.O.3.

Sailing telegram. (2) 091900A April.
(3) 092315A April. 13.5 knots. (4) (41° 50' W. a.m. 16th 40° W. a.m. 16th.
(5) (W) 35° 45' N. 06° 30' W. (X) 34° 10' N. 08° 00' W. (E) 35° 00' N. 16° 00' W. (F) 31° 00' N. 26° 00' W.
(G) 25° 00' N. 38° 00' W. (H) 18° 00' N. 50° 00' W.
(J) 11° 00' N. 60° 00'. (6) U.S.S. ELLIS, DUPONT, DICKERSON. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 091939A, 091941A to Cominch C. and R. Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) Commorseafron. N.S.H.Q.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

April 9th arrivals U.S.S. RHIND, BROOME, Fr. DUMONT DURVILLE P.C. 474 from Gib.
(C.M.S.F.F. 091950 to C. in C. Med.(W) (R) Comnavnaw etc.)

Operation / ...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (Contd.)

Operation "Regulation". Request you will sail UGANDA forthwith to proceed 45.01 N. 14.59 W. at 22 knots. Information as in my 092003B April.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 092013B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, (R) BERMUDA, ADVENTURE, BONAVENTURE, Admty. CHARYBDIS, C. in C. W.A. F.O.S.)

Gibraltar Air Reports. Op.Summ. No.159 for 24 hours ended 1800/9 April. (G) Sightings and attacks. Transit Wellington (? Homs) ASY 679 from U.K. at 1002A/9 in 40.43 N. 09.15 W. sighted 2 U-Boats. course 315° both on surface submerged. (I) Enemy aircraft activity nil. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 092015Z)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals - LIDDESDALE, WILTON, POLRUAN, CLACTON, GAVOTTE, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA with ETIY. LORD NUFFIELD cable ship MIRROR from cable operation HAARLEM, STELLA CARINA with 4 M.V.s from Lisbon. U.S. Ships BROOME, RHIND with C.G.24, EGGESFORD, VETCH, BUDE, TANGO, FOXTROT escorting WALT WHITMAN, SEMINOLE, FORT BABINE in tow of tugs EMPIRE FRED, EMPIRE NED, JAUNTY.
Departures- ACUTE, CADMUS, ALBACORE, PENSTEMON, SPEEDWELL, CONVOLULUS for Oran. U.S. Ships BROOME, RHIND for Casablanca. M.Ls 443, 341 escort duties Almeria. U.S. S.C.525 for Casablanca. FELIXSTOWE, CIRCE for Algiers. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 092217A to Admty. C. in C. Med. Cominch.)

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

BAMAKO torpedoes. SSSS de VPQB (? MARUDU) BAMAKO torpedoed 14.57 N. 17.15 W. 0045. 0106/9 de GCK Controlling Station Valentia Radio. R.A.F. informed. (Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 090107 G.M.T. to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

BAMAKO, French, 2357 tons, Freetown for Dakar. BAMAKO has been torpedoed in position 14.57 N. 17.15 W. (F.O.C.W.A., 090205Z to Admty.)

Sailed LA GRACIEUSE escorting BAMAKO 081900Z. My 071902 refers. (Comar Dakar, 090232Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty., DESPATCH.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z on 9th April.
D.C. 18. (3) 8 knots. (5) Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay H.M.
(6) FRITILLARY, LE TIGER, VEREENIGING.
(12) E.T.A. Capetown p.m. April 13th. E.T.A.
Port Elizabeth a.m. April 11th. E.T.A. East London p.m. April 10th.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 090748 to Admty., etc.)

ARMERIA, Arrivals 9th April.
CYCLAMEN. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 090830 to Admty.)

ALMANZORA. H.M.T. ALMANZORA sailed 6th April ebb tide Lagos 16th April. Draught on arrival Lagos 24 feet. Required at Lagos (details). Embarked for Lagos (numbers). (S.T.O. Capetown, 080951Z to D. of S.T., N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Dispositions. Situation at 092002Z April.
3 corrupt groups. BLACK SWAN (S.O.) with Convoy O.S.45 (?21) (? 36) 1800 179, 8½.
French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE (? escorting) 2 (M.L.?) about 14.57 17.15 searching.
F.S. VICTORIA escorting about 13.07 17.05 to Dakar, 6½.
French Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES 12.07 20.36 to 08.36 22.59 thence to patrol about 05.01 22.29, 22.
(?) JAVELIN about 11.59 21.46 to Dakar, 20.
CORINTHIAN, INKPEN, WASTWATER, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, 2 M.L. with S.R.4, 08.31 13.31, 300?, 5½.
CILICIA on patrol about 09.31 27.29, 14.
M.L.296, M.L.256, 09.08 14.27, 302, 10.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 04.00 21.01, (? 6½).
(?F.O.C.W.A., 09110Z to Ships in Area P. of W.Af. Station north of 8° N., Admty.)
WITCH, WOLVERINE off Takoradi to Freetown, 18.
MALCOLM off Pointe Noire to North-west, 20.
SNOWDROP 07.19 (?13).38 westwards, 12.
B.Y.M.S. 7, 5, 6, 8, 03.27 05.33, 074°, 10.5.
FANDANGO escorting about 04.27 02.46 to Takoradi, 9.
Situation at 092003Z. CROCUS escorting about 05.08 00.?06 to Takoradi, (? 9 or 10).

ARRAN off Marshall, one motor launch off Assini, one motor

/launch ...

War Diary.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. launch off Accra.
(Contd.) Allied naval unit on patrol in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.
(F.O.C.W.A., 091311Z.)
SARABANDE 019° 15' S. 011° 35' E. to Walvis Bay, 5 knots.

KENYA, RACEHORSE, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT 028° 15' S. 014° 20' E. with W.S.28 to 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E., 13 knots.
GENISTA, NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, WELLARD 032° 25' S. 012° 40' E. with C.N.16 to dispersal at 032° 20' S. 009° 50' E. 8½ knots.
QUILLIAM patrolling off Table Bay.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, COVENTRY CITY off Cape Point to Simonstown and Capetown respectively.
CHALLENGER, NORTHERN CHIEF, STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY 034° 55' S. 019° 30' E. with C.D.13 coastal to Durban 8 knots.
QUAIL 037° 10' S. 020° 35' E. with AQUITANIA to Capetown 18 knots.
FRITILLARY, LE TIGER, VEREENIGING 031° 35' S. 030° 00' E. with D.C.18 coastal to Capetown 8 knots.
FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM 034° 10' S. 025° 55' E. with D.C.17B coastal to Capetown 13 knots.
JASMINE, NORWICH CITY, SONDRRA 031° 00' S. 032° 40' E. to Durban, 10 knots.
FREESIA 028° 00' S. 032° 50' E. escorting group from Lourenco Marques coastal to Durban 8 knots.
H.M.R.T. INTEGRITY, EREBUS, NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK, NIGELLA 028° 55' S. 032° 40' E. to 028° 01' S. 034° 01' E. thence 021° 01' S. 038° 01' E., 10 knots.
DEVONSHIRE 018° 30' S. 040° 50' E. with M.C.6 to 022° 10' S. 040° 00' E., 11½ knots.
(C. in C. S.A., 091224B.)

FORT WEDDERBURN ? U/B rammed. On arrival Saldanha Bay Master FORT WEDDERBURN reported possible ramming of submarine. Ship was in convoy O.S.44 which was attacked at 0430Z/13th March in position 42° 54' N. 13° 12' W. She altered course to starboard and five minutes later felt a series of five shocks as though she had struck submerged object. S O S sent out and subsequently cancelled. Ship appears to have suffered no damage.
(S.O.(I) Capetown, 091015 to Admty.)

U/B. U-Boat in 014° 57' N. 017° 15' W. at 090045Z. (F.O.C.W.A., 091027Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafon, Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, BLACK SWAN.)

EREBUS, INTEGRITY, NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK, NIGELLA. Sailed EREBUS, H.M.R.T. INTEGRITY to Kilindini routed as in my 071423 (N.T. in W.R.). S. of A. 7.5 knots.
2. INTEGRITY will be detached in 23° S. to proceed independently.
3. EREBUS E.T.A. Kilindini 0500Z/19th April.

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EREBUS,
INTEGRITY,
NAPIER,
QUALITY,
CATTERICK,
NIGELLA.
(Contd.)

4. INTEGRITY S. of A. from 23° S. 12 knots. E.T.A. Kilindini 0500Z/17.
5. Local escorts NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK, NIGELLA. My 080801 refers.
6. EREBUS shifts to Group V at 1415Z/15 April.
7. INTEGRITY when detached will set watch on 500 k/cs shifting to read B.A.M.S.? routines.
8. INTEGRITY holds S.P. 02360 (27), S.P.02383 (24), S.P. 02272 (23) (24). Signal letters BJXX.
(Com. i/c. Durban, 091054Z to Admty., etc.)

GEORGES
LEYGUES.

Sailed French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 0900 in accordance with my 081156.
(Comar Dakar, 091126Z to F.O.C.W.Af.. Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, CARNARVON CASTLE.)

MALCOLM.

Departure from Pointe Noire 091100Z MALCOLM routed in accordance with your 081307 direct to Freetown. S. of A. 17 knots, E.T.A. Freetown 132300Z.
(?B.N.L.O. W. Af., 091205 to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty., etc.)

CHALLENGER,
C.D. 13.

Capetown departure CHALLENGER escorting C.D.13 to outer end Durban searched channel thence to Kilindini routed (A) 29° 55' S. 31° 10' E.
(B) 28° 00' S. 35° 00' E. (C) 20° 00' S. 39° 00' E. (D) 12° 30' S. 43° 30' E.
Carry out running survey of Comoro Isles thence (E) 11° 20' S. 43° 30' E. thence Kilindini.
2. S. of A. from Durban 9½ knots. E.T.A. Kilindini p.m./21st April.
3. Shifts to W/T organisation J at 1700Z/12th April and V at 0800Z April 18th.
(C. in C. S.A., 091225B to Admty., C. in C. E.F., C.O. Durban, F.O.E.A.Z.)

EMPIRE GLEN.

Your 082156 (re request expected date of sailing of EMPIRE GLEN for Dakar.)
EMPIRE GLEN sailing in S.R.4 to Dakar.
(F.O.C.W.A., 091242Z to Admty.)

DOMINION
MONARCH.

DOMINION MONARCH sailed 8th for New York, E.T.A. 8th May. Personnel on board.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 091301Z to B.A.D., etc.)
Cancelled by 120841.

/GRANICOS ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

GRANICOS (sunk 28th March.) Greek ship GRANICOS sailed Rio de Janeiro 11th March for Freetown, speed 7 knots, sunk by U-Boat at 282000 March in position unknown. One survivor Nokolas Antilis picked up from raft on 4th April in 1° S. 17° W. Believed only one other survivor was Brazilian deckhand name unknown who was taken aboard U-Boat.

2. Ship sank in 3 minutes. U-Boat switched on searchlight and cruised in wreckage for 30 minutes.

3. If ship received diversion signal on 17th March estimated position when sunk 2° 00' N. 15° 30' W. If not received then position estimated 00° 00', 16° 30' W.

(S.O.(I) Freetown, 091301Z to Admty.)

PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE.

Arrived Freetown p.m./7th sailing in convoy p.m./9th as escort.
(French Ship PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, 091303Z to Free French Naval Force, London, (R) F.F.N.L.O. Pointe Noire.)

BARCLOSE.

Left BARCLOSE.
(F.O. E.Af., 091312Z to Admty.)

QUEEN MARY.

Amend my 081603 (Ocean route for H.M.T. QUEEN MARY) to read -

(M) 033° (?13') S. 017° 36' E. (N) 020° 00', 006° 22'. (O) 010° 00', 007° (?00').

(P) 002° 37' N. 007° 34' W. (Q) 007° 40', 014° 12'. (R) 008° 30', 013° 54'.

(N.C.S.O. Capetown, 091315Z to Admty., etc.)

SONTAY.

Amend address of A.M. 061243 April to addressees of this message.

A.M. 061243 April is being passed to Cdre. Durban and C. in C. S.A.

(Hd. of M.(I) 091326B to Cdre. Durban, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, Cdre. Aden.) Former amended.

RAPID.

A.M. 081351. On arrival of W.S.29 at Freetown RAPID is to remain under orders of F.O.C. West Africa for the time being. F.O.I.C. Greenock inform RAPID.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 091415B to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/MOANDA ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.MOANDA
survivors.

My 070917. AIR FRANCE IV has landed 2 more survivors from MOANDA and sailed to continue search. M.W.T.R. has names.
(Comar Dakar, 091612C to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM.

Arrival 091100Z April 1943.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 091745Z to Admty., etc.)
Intend sailing BIRMINGHAM for U.K. at 1500Z/10th by following route - (A) 011° 30' N. 018° 30' W.
(B) 022° 01' N. 018° 29' W. (C) 025° 59' N. 021° 00' W.
(D) 046° 00' N. 020° 59' W. (E) 050° 01' N. 013° 00' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. Estimated speed made good 18½ knots.
(2) E.T.A. position (E) 0300Z/17th.
(3) BIRMINGHAM shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 1200Z/13th and will keep watch on area A organisation when shifting to Home Station organisation on cross latitude 043° N. (F.O.C.W.Af., 091811Z to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Gambia, BIRMINGHAM, Comar Dakar.)

Accra A/S
defence.

091/3256 (00/1) 68817 (M.O.7) cipher 9 April.
Ref. your 0.57531 cipher 7th April (071231).
(1) This is first intimation defences against bombardment by submarines are required at Accra and was not mentioned by Gen. Giffard on his recent visit. Latest defence plan does not include guns for Accra.
(2) Two alternatives seem open:- (a) Man two 3.7s at School Arty in case of emergency only. (b) Establish more comprehensive defences with two 4.5s and S.L. layout.
(3) Request further details of vulnerable installations and which alternative defence you propose. We favour alternative (a).
(W.O., 091830B to G.O.C. in C. West Africa.)

Movements,
Takoradi.

Arrivals 9th WOLVERINE, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, M.L. 271, 305. Departure M.L.266 Accra escorting.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 091830Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

TAMOIO.

Brazilian S/M TAMOIO leaves Rio de Janeiro Monday 12th to carry out exercises off Ilha Grande Bay returning on 21st.
(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 091956Z to Admty., (R) CHESHIRE, S.O.(I) Freetown.)

S/M
Exercise,
Area.

My 091021 Jan. (re subs. exercise area) and Q.L.A.158. S/M Exercise area off Dakar is suspended until 2359/13th April.
2. S/Ms in this area may be attacked.
(F.O.C.W.A., 092234Z to Comar Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., C.M.S.F., Ships in Area P.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- DOLFIJN. Your 082116, well done. Pass 038° 00' 004° 56' at 2115/9th and R/V with escort for Algiers in 036° 59' 003° 19' at 0915/10th proceeding on the surface at your discretion on 10th. (Capt. (S) 8, 090112A to P.47 (DOLFIJN), (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M.F.)
- DUNNOTTAR CASTLE, BOISSEVAIN. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE in K.M.F.13 is filled completely with personnel for Gibraltar but there are 242 personnel for that destination still remaining. They are being embarked in BOISSEVAIN which is for Oran. Request confirmation that on return voyage BOISSEVAIN can call at Gibraltar to disembark these personnel. Agreed. (D. of S.T., 090608B to P.S.T.O. Med., (R) C. in C. Med., S.T.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- T.E. 20B. Arrived 1900A/8th. (F.O.I.S., 090746A to Admty.)
- Movements, Alexandria. Arrivals 8th April, ALDENHAM, JERVIS, EXMOOR, G.S. PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 090908C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
- DURBAN. One and a quarter hours late on my (2 corrupt groups) (? 10) Z of 8th April. (DURBAN, 090912Z to N.O.I.C. Aden.)
- REGENT. REGENT sails at 1600B April 9th for patrol in Adriatic routed through 035° 10' N. 015° 40' E. and 039° 48' N. 018° 49' E. (Capt. (S) 10, 090940B to C. in C. Med., (R) S/Ms on Patrol, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta.)
Departure REGENT.
(V.A. Malta, 091724.)
- M.K.S. 11. M.K.S.11. My 081047 add BRUSE JARL for Doran SAN CIRILO (T) for Gibraltar. (Com. Algiers, 091002A to A.I.G.259, Com. N.O.B. Oran.)
Your 081047A. Sailing destinations (list). (D.T.D., 091905B to Cdre. Algiers.)
M.K.S.11. Sailing of convoy M.K.S.11 as ordered in C. in C. Med. 041227A postponed 24 hours due to weather. (S.O.I.S., 091431A to A.I.G.260.)

/P.R.U. ...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. April 9th visuals. Taranto, Messina, no result, 10/10 cloud.
(V.A. Malta, 091026B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

M.L. In view of present U-Boat dispositions it is
Hunting intended to form 5 M.L. Hunting Groups to
Groups. operate on North Africa Convoy routes.
(2) To achieve this object it will be necessary to accept a reduction in M.Ls for local purposes.
Following organisation of flotillas is to be brought into force forthwith. Authorities concerned are to sail forces to operational port as soon as possible.
(2) 22nd Flotilla: M.L.449, 468, 494, 460, 258. 25th Flotilla: M.L.238, 336, 273, 280, 283. 28th Flotilla: M.L.443, 493, 491, 307, 295. 29th Flotilla: M.L.471, 469, 463, 480, 458. 31st Flotilla: M.L.555, 556, 560, 561, 564.
(4) 22nd and 28th Flotillas based and operating from Algiers. 25th Flotilla based Algiers, operating from Bougie. 29th and 31st Flotillas based and operating from Oran.
(5) M.L. 554, 557, 566, 483 allocated Oran for convoy escorts. M.L.444 allocated Oran as spare boat. M.L.338 allocated Algiers as spare boat.
(6) 9th Flotilla as at present.
(C. in C. Med., 091040A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie, Com. N.O.B. Oran, (R) Admty., C.S.12, C.C.F., C.F.W., F. or S.O. Inshore Squadron, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)
Reply: Admty. 161055B.

U.G.F. 7. Destination HOUSATONIC Gibraltar.
(C. in C. Med., 091041A to Comtask 66, (R) C.M.S.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

Mediterranean Your 291721 March (re proposed organisation of
Repair repairs facilities in Mediterranean - N.T. in
Facilities. W.D.) Approach to this proposal is complicated by recent claim of Adm. King to dictate priorities at Bermuda which has been resisted by us.
2. Provision of additional repair facilities by Americans is most important and they are more likely to be forthcoming if they have more responsibility and some local control.
3. Suggest therefore you modify your reply that as area must be considered as a whole and includes Gibraltar and Malta, a centralised direction under you is essential; that your staff already includes an organisation under a senior officer for dealing with docking, maintenance, repairs and salvage which collaborates with N.A.S.B.O., but suggest that Adm. Hewitt should attach an officer to this organisation so that he could represent American views as regards priorities.
4. An increase in personnel and equipment for repairs is very desirable and such could with great advantage be provided in ports under American control under local supervision of Comnavnav.
(Controller, Approved by 1st Lord, 091054B to C. in C. Med.)

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Contaminated Fuel. Unable to sail new groups yesterday or today due to serious fuel contamination.
(C.F.B. Mers-el-Kebir, 091057 to Com. N.O.B. Oran,
(R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

P.L.M. 16. My 081133 (German ship P.L.M.16 entered Dardanelles). P.L.M.16 arrived April 9th and is loading Chrome.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 091107C to S.O.(I) Levant.)

KATSONIS. Your 082240. Report as soon as possible your estimated P.C. and S. at 0600C tomorrow Saturday. Walrus aircraft will escort you.
(Capt. (S) 1, 091113C to G.S. KATSONIS, (R) C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Levant Area, 701 Sqdn.)

French Refits, Bermuda, COMMANDANT BORY. Bermuda have requested one additional French escort may be taken in hand at same time as TEMPETE and GAZELLE. French have nominated COMMANDANT BORY.
2. Request Commorseafron will arrange with Admiral Afrique - (A) COMMANDANT BORY to embark A/S set type 127A now reported on passage from Gibraltar to Casablanca in DUMONT DURVILLE.
(B) COMMANDANT BORY to adhere to her present convoy commitment proceeding to Gibraltar with French convoy on April 12th.
3. Request F.O.C. Gibraltar will arrange in conjunction with Flog to supply 4 Oerlikon equipments and sail COMMANDANT BORY independently to Bermuda as soon as ready.
(C. in C. Med., 091221A to Commorseafron, F.O.C. Gibraltar,
(R) S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty.)
Cancelled by 101734A, q.v.

Bi-Weekly Opsum No. 115, Part 2. Night 7th/8th April. 5 Halifaxes, 53 Wellingtons bombed Sfax town and motor transports and camps along Mohares - Sfax Road. Hits scored on barracks and railway sidings in Sfax. Albacores illuminated. 8th April early morning R/Cs reported considerable enemy M.T movement towards Sfax on Auast Road and tracks between Mezzouna and Sfax. These targets attacked throughout day by light bombers and fighter bombers.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 091301Z.)

Gibraltar, congestion. Your 081151 para. 4 and F.O.C. Gibraltar 061525 para. 4A, concur.
(D.T.D., 091324B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Damaged M/Vs. Your 310946 March (re 6 large damaged merchant ships in "Torch" Area). Request names of 6 vessels referred to may be reported. (Head of M. Br., 091328B to C. in C. Med.) Reply: 101105Z.

Movements, Aden. Departure 0615Z CARADOC. Arrivals DURBAN, French Auxiliary Patrol Vessel ASIE. (Cdre. Aden., 091502Z to Admty., etc.)

P.R.U. April 9th visuals. 1145 Castellamare 1 cruiser. 1152 Naples no major naval units. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 091516B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

SAFARI. If you were off Cape Boi at 1320 today you were probably sighted. (Capt. (S) 8, 091518A to P.211 (SAFARI).)

TAURUS. At 0954A today a U-Boat was fixed by R.D.F. in approx. position 040° 30' 013° 05'. (Capt. (S) 8, 091558A to P.339 (TAURUS).)

W.S. 27. Convoy W.S.27 arrived 091601Z. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 091601Z to Admty.)

UNSHAKEN. Intercepted report in Italian P/L. S/M approximate position Cape Bon at 091436 April. (Capt. (S) 10, 091602B to P.54 (UNSHAKEN).)

Movements, Port Said. 9th April Port Said arrivals BELVOIR, IERAX, CUMBRAE. Departure BELVOIR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 091729C to Admty., etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 520, 9th April, C.S.R. Offensive. Night 8th/9th April. High wind and heavy rains prevented offensive operations. Day 9th April. 10 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily found no enemy aircraft. Enemy air activity - nil. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 091730Z.)

KLO, Convoy. Convoy "Cradle" hove to off "heel", awaiting daylight before entering Channel. Present weather too heavy for KLO provide efficient A/S cover to convoy. (KLO, 091750C to N.O.I.C. Tripoli.)

/Movements ...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Shuttle Service. EMPIRE BAIRN and escorts
Bougie. arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 091815A to N.O.I.C. Algiers,
(R) Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.,
Connav.)

AVONVALE. Your 060959 (N.T. in W.D.)
Work on new bow will be sufficiently advanced
to enable AVONVALE to be taken in hand at Chatham
3rd week in May.
2. Request you will arrange for ship to arrive accordingly
and signal anticipated date of arrival.
(D.O.D.(F), 091823B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gib., A.S.
Chatham.)

DIDO, C. in C. Med.'s 081644A, para. 6.
R.D.F. Request your comments will include statement of
any preliminary work on installation R.D.F.
sets which has been carried out at Alexandria.
(D.O.D.(F), 091847B to C. in C. Levant, (R)
C. in C. Med.)

Situation Eastern Tunisia. Mobile beach party now at
Report Skira Kedima.
No. 21. (2) Submarines. KATSONIS reports having sunk
1000 ton merchant ship and an Italian auxiliary
patrol vessel of 12000 ?(1,200) tons during
Aegean patrol.
(3) My 072025 April, para. 3 (CERONIA). Explosion caused by
mine thirty yards from ship, method of laying under investi-
gation, possibility exists schooner may have been used. Two
magnetic mines exploded clear of Haifa swept channel 080700
April.
(4) Egyptian sailing vessel sunk by aircraft p.m./6th April
in 31° 48' N. 34° 39' E. Seven survivors.
(5) Another Egyptian sailing vessel ashore south of Jaffa
fired by U-Boat 061300 April.
(6) My 072025 April para. 2. ALDENHAM has arrived Alexandria,
damage not serious.
(C. in C. Levant, 091937C to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived OXFORDSHIRE, French ANGELE, PEREZ.
Algiers. Departures MINNA, M.Ls 273, 338, submarines
RORQUAL, SHAKESPEARE.
(Com. Algiers, 092002A to Admty., etc.)

Movements, CADMUS, ACUTE, ALBACORE, CONVULVULUS, SPEEDWELL,
Oran. PENTSTEMON arrived. Departures H.M.T. SHIANT,
INCHMARNOCK.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 092153 to Admty., etc.)

/Movements ...

9.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrived (corrupt group) Armament Store Carrier
Benghazi. sailed DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE,
M.L.357.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 092301C to Admty.)

S.L. 127. A.M. 091324B. Ships sailed to join S.L.127
must have minimum speed of 7½ knots.
(D.T.D., 092301B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.
Gibraltar.)

HURWORTH. Survey at (2 corrupt groups) 2100(?B) April
9th (3 groups missed) (corrupt group) thence
direct to (? Algiers). S. of A. 6½ knots.
E.T.A. depends on weather.
(HURWORTH, 092347B to N.O.I.C. Libya, (R)
C. in C. Levant, etc.)

Enemy Use 2877 cipher 9th April. 114126.
of Red Cite F.H.G.C.T. Signed Eisenhower.
Cross, N.W. African Strategic Air Forces report Red
Bizerta. Crosses displayed on roof of building in centre
of seaplane station area, Bizerta, Corouba
Naval Base in Bizerta.
2. Request you take immediate steps to notify
Axis Governments through diplomatic channels and if considered
appropriate by radio broadcast that hospital be moved from this
important military objective within 48 hours of delivery of
notice; failing action Allied Air Force cannot be responsible
for damage to premises now marked with Red Cross.
3. Request inform this H.Q. concerning action taken,
specifying exact hour at which attacks on this objective can
be undertaken.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers, T.O.O. Nil to War Office, (R) Agwar, Usfor,
Adv. N.A.A.F.)
Reply: W.O. 110215B.

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Trooping Requirements. Your Mov./Tn. 94028 of 2nd April. The inconvenience which has been caused is regretted, but the necessity to use ASCANIUS from Persian Gulf to Middle East was operational and all available ships had to be used.

2. My O11930A para. 1(c) refers regarding future position. It is hoped that your requirements will thereby be satisfactorily covered.

3. Agreed.

(D. of S.T., 090605B to G.O.C. in C. E.Africa, (R) C. in C. E.F., D.S.T.O. Kilindini, P.S.T.O.M.E., S.N.O.P.G., P.S.T.O. India.)

Escort will be provided as in para. 2 of your O71953. (C. in C. E.F., 090749Z to Admty.)

Movements. Departure GAWLER. E.T.A. Colombo 0130 G.M.T. 14th.

(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 090635Z to Admty.)

CAIRNS, M.Ls 829, 380, 382, 383 arrived.

(F.O. E.Af., 090711Z to Admty.)

Colombo arrivals 9th, 0830Z M.L.1098. 0930Z VERBENA.

(F.O. Ceylon, 091121Z to Admty.)

Departure SCOUT for Colombo 1130Z/11th April.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 091142Z to Admty.)

Arrival 091135Z LUCIA, LISMORE, MARYBOROUGH escorting M.F.A. SINGU 192, JALAGOPAL.

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 091142Z to Admty.)

Departure 1142Z/9th April SONAVATI.

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 091145Z to Admty.)

Following is repetition of my 091142Z.

Departure SCOUT for Colombo at ?1139Z/9th.

(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 091420Z to Admty.)

Movements,
Beira.

983 14 Z 9th M.C.T.F. EMPIRE SAM towing Motor

Fishing Vessel VALHALLA and EXCELSIO E.T.A.

Kilindini 17th April knots 6, days 12 oil.

Coastal no wireless apparatus.

(C.S.A. Beira, 091014Z to C. in C. S.A., Admty.,

S.O.(I) Colombo, N.S.H.Q., D.C. in C. E.F.

Kilindini.)

AMERICAN
BUILDER.

B.S.138 departure 9th AMERICAN BUILDER 12.

(S.O.(I) Bombay, 091051Z to Admty.)

S S S S from unknown station bearing by D/F is 283° third class.

(Wick, 092327Z to Admiral Lyness.)

W.D. Note: AMERICAN BUILDER.

/C.X. 1 ...

War Diary.

9.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

C.X. 1. Arrival 1135Z/9th April Convoy C.X. 1.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 091140Z to Admt., (R)
F.O. Ceylon.)

U-Boat dis- Japanese, 1 possibly south of Madras 7th.
positions German, 1 600 miles S.E. of Durban 2nd.
No. 9. (C. in C. E.F., 091246 to E.F. 551Y.)

DOMINION Required to move 3,000 New Zealand reinforcements
MONARCH, to Middle East as soon as possible. For this
Troop purpose, DOMINION MONARCH is being diverted to
transport. New Zealand where she should arrive about 30th
April and be ready to sail about 10th May.
2. Addressees requested to put forward their
proposals for escort to Suez. Suggested that
N.Z.N.B. and A.C.N.B. provide escort to a suitable R/V with an
escort to be detailed by C. in C. E.F.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 091945B to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.,
(R) C. in C. S.A., Comsowestpac, Comsoupac.)
As amended D.O.D.(F), 101542B.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

L.C.I.(L)s. Departures Bermuda 8th. 17 British L.C.I.(L) C.O. in L.C.I. 269. N.O.B. Bermuda's 042135 and B.A.D. Washington's 072331, refer. L.C.I. 252 and 266 did not sail. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 090013Z to Admty., C. in C.Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.) As amended S.B.N.O.W.A., 110948.

Movements. St. John's Nfld. April 8 arrivals KENORA ex Halifax CHELSEA ex S.C.125 SPENCER, ROSTHERN ex O.N. 175 departures Cape Mariato LORD MIDDLETON to O.N.175. (N.O.I.C. St.Johns, 090325Z to Admty.)
Kingston arrival P.C.622.
S.O.(I) Kingston, 090928Z to Admty.)
Kingston Jamaica departure U.S.S. BRENNAN, O.E. 13 P.C.622 (S.O.I. Kingston 091508 to Admty.)

T.A.40 Convoy T.A.40 comprising S.S. QUEEN ELIZABETH
(QUEEN sailed from U.K. 7/4 for New York.
ELIZABETH) 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and C.G.S. Ottawa.
(D. of S.T. 090158B to B.A.D., B.M.W.T., New York.
(R) N.S.H.Q.)

Survivor Your 081041. My 061252Q. Aruba now reports:
from 1. Position (A) Sinking 034° 37' N. but longitude
DOGGER- unknown. (B) Rescue position confirmed.
BANK. 2. Rescued from small boat under sail originally containing Captain and fourteen all perished except Kuert but no traces of others found in boat.
3. Security Officer states bona fides of survivor not entirely satisfactory. 4. Safe hand report expected tomorrow.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 090944Q to Admty., (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O., W.A., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)

Shipping Paraphrase of Connav Serial 6, giving following
casualties. information: On April 4, MEVANIA was fast ground in 05.43 S. 35.11 W., and is probably a total loss. BRITISH ARDOUR was torpedoed and is sinking on April 5 while in Convoy H.X.231 in 58.08 N. 32.50 W. BLITAR in same Convoy was attacked during the same day in 56.46 N. 30.45 W. GLORIA reported aground at River Platte on April 5. On April 6, while in Convoy Guantanamo 83, JOHN SEVIER was torpedoed in 20.49 N. 74.00 W. (Commaveu, 090946 to Admty.)

Mediterranean From War Registry. Please note that A.M.
Repair 091054 April addressed to C. in C. Med. has been
facilities. passed to B.A.D. Washington for information and for B.A.D. to pass to B.M.S.M. Subject - additional repair facilities. (H.W.R. 11/4.)

/G.A.T.54...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

- G.A.T.54. Convoy G.A.T.54 arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 091112Q to Admty.)
- T.U. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 091600Z. PIMPERNEL,
24.1.19. LAVENDER, GODETIA, SWALE, BUTTERCUP, BRYONY and
defects. BERGAMOT in company. Following urgent defects in
SWALE, PIMPERNEL, LAVENDER, GODETIA, HAVELOCK, BERGAMOT.
(T.U.24.1.19. 091130Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.24 C. in
C. C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q., Admty., C. in C.W.A.)
- ESQUIMALT. P.C. and S. 1100Z 045° 10' 054° 55' 055° 10. E.T.A.
St. Johns (N.F) 100900Z TARARALITE (sic) in company
Weather.
(ESQUIMALT, 091150Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Connav,
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.)
- Spare B.A.D. 230143Z/March. Escort oilers and ships
Depth fitted with stowage for spare depth charges.
Charges. 2. Clear that need has now arisen for an officer
both at New York and Halifax to undertake
following duties (list.) 5. An officer with
master's experience is contemplated. 6. Request
your remarks and suggestions. (a) Whether a Canadian officer
could be made available for Halifax. (b) Under whose control
the appointment could best be made to function in New York.
(D.T.D., 091230B to B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C.N.
W.A.) Reply - (B.A.D., 152157Z to Admty.)
- MELBOURNE Have you any news of MELBOURNE STAR due Colon 7th
STAR. April?
(D.T.D., 091250Z to Connav.)
German High Command Communique of 7th April claims
that MELBOURNE STAR has been sunk. Have you any
information as to survivors or any evidence confirming this
claim.
(D.T.D., 091451Z to Connav.)
Regret no information MELBOURNE STAR your 091250Z.
(Cominch C. and R., 091652Z to Admty.)
- ATLANTIS New York arrived 080826Z Hospital Ship ATLANTIS.
(N.S.H.Q. 091311Z to D. of S.T.)
- H.J.45. Departure MALPEQUE, TROIS RIVIERES escorting
H.J.45.
(C. Halifax, 092133Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Connav,
C.C.N.F., C.T.F.24.)
- Training 2 L.C.1 (L) to be retained for Admiralty. My
of A/A 262152 (Training personnel awaiting new
personnel. construction in short range A/A fire.) Request
approval.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 091336Z to Admty?)
/Convoy...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

Convoy H.J.45. Sailing telegram (7 ships) 2. Halifax N.S. 091500Z. 3. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 130600Z. 4. 7.5 knots. 5. (Route) 6. MALPAQUE TROIS RIVIERES. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 091445Z 091449Z to Admty.)

Movements summary.

1800 G.M.T. 9th April.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA	41°N.42½°W.	021°	16
ARGONAUT	} 36½°N.36½°W.	261°	10
HERO			
CILICIA	10°N.28°W.	Patrol	Blank
F.S.GLOIRE	11½°N.23½°W	063°	20
CARNARVON CASTLE	04°N.23°W.	105°	15
MILFORD with Floating Dock.	} 01°N.44°W.	087°	4
T.A.39			
T.A.40	39°N.36½°W.	274°	19
	41½°N.30°W.	246°	26

(D.O.D.(F) 091513B to Opanav.(R) Commaveu)

Sub. Estimate April 9th. U.S. Sub. Notice.

(Cominch, 091516Z, 1517Z, 1532Z, 1533Z, 1542Z.)

B.Y.M.S.

Trinidad arrivals 9th B.Y.M.S. 26, 27, 9. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 091552 to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., S.O.I. Jamaica)

ARROWHEAD.

ARROWHEAD expected sailing date p.m.16th April. Request destination. Halifax pass to S.N.E.M. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 091602Z to C. in C. N.W.A., (R) Admty. etc.)

French Shipping.

Following is text of Algiers telegram number 6798 dated March 15 from Eisenhower to Agwar for Somervell repeated Troopers. Begins - Cite FHGDS 970E. In answer your 3750 of 12 March. It has been the consistent policy of A.F.H.Q. that the amount of shipping taken over by Allied Governments had no relationship to tonnage which would be used for French imports (Further remarks) (J.S.M. Washington T.O.O. 091621Z to W.C.O. London.)

Iceland Aircraft needed for Biscay.

Personal from 1st S.L. Please put following to Adml. King: A. We are making a great effort to stage an effective offensive against U-boats crossing Bay of Biscay. B. Our ability to provide necessary aircraft for (A) is dependent on our being able to withdraw our Hudson Squadron from Iceland, but we do not feel able to do this until American P.B.Ys in Iceland (C) are up to 24. (C) Now is the best time for the Bay offensive as U-boats are /unable...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.Iceland Air-
craft needed
for Biscay.
(Contd.)unable to read our cm A.S.V.
D. If, therefore, King could send the extra
P.B.Ys. to Iceland (C) now it would greatly help
the Battle of the Atlantic.
(1st S.L. 091636B to B.A.D.) *Reply: 131645, p. 565*

ARGONAUT.

A.M. 091705B and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 031717.
Request you will make whatever arrangements are
practicable to provide air and surface escort
for ARGONAUT and keep Admiralty informed.
(D.O.D.(F) 091735B to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R)
ARGONAUT, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
See also North Atlantic.Cinclant direct N.O.B. Bermuda Route ARGONAUT onward to
Philadelphia when ready about April 12th. Advise time of
departure, route, S.O.A. S.B.N.O.W.A.T. give to N.O.B. Bermuda.
(Cominch 092119Z to Cinclant (R) N.O.B. Bermuda etc.)

Dispositions.

Section South West.

H.X. 223 Western Local E.T.U. 24.18.7 042° 39'
059° 38' 087° 9.5. Halifax portion H.X. 223
HEPATIC, DUNVEGAN, MEDICINE HAT vicinity 043°
20' 061° 55' en route Halifax 12.
S.C. 2126 Western Local E.T.U. 24.18.1 043° 27' 059° 18' 087° 7.5.
U.S.S. BARNEGAT 043° 29' 060° 22' 266° 16.5 altering for
Boston in 068° 50' W.
U.S.S. BOGUE, U.S S/M SEAWOLF, U.S.(D) BADGER 043° 13' 064°
11' 267° 13 alter for Boston in 068° 50' W.
H.J.45, MALPEQUE, TROIS RIVIERES, 044° 30' 062° 49' 090° 7.5.
alter to (?111° or 075°) in 062° 20' W. and 115° in 060° 30' W.
Louisburg Section H.J. 45 departs Louisburg 100100Z to R/V
in 044° 51' N. 060° 30' W.
H.F. 47, KENTVILLE, GRANDMERE, SUMMERSIDE, departs Sambro light
vessel 2030Z course 240° 7.5 altering to 23° in 063° 59' W.
B.X. 42, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4 042° 41' 066° 51' 087° 7.5. altering
to 044° in 065° 09' W.
X.B. 43 Task Unit 24.18.11 043° 08' 068° 07' 269° 7.5 alter to
231° in 086° 59' W.
Swedish relief vessels MONGABARRA, FORMOSA, CAMELIA 044° 28'
066° 38' 000° 10 en route St. John N.B.
B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185 vicinity 044° 03' 067° 39' coastwise
to Halifax 11.
(C.O.A.C. 091715Z to Admty.)

Convoy H.F.47

Sailing telegram. (11 ships) 2. Halifax 1800Z/9
3. E.T.A. St. John N.B. 0400Z/11. 4. 9 knots. 5.
Route. 6. KENTVILLE, GRANDMERE, SUMMERSIDE.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 091745Z 091749Z to Admty.)

/North...

War Diary.9.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

North Atlantic X 471 A 67 9th April your A.X. 701 1st April. Trade Convoys, For Portal from Breadner under date April 7th Air cover have written Cominch as follows "In regard to control. paper A.C.C. one appendix A.1 concur in the proposal that Great Britain and Canada take charge of the North Atlantic Trade Convoys (H.X., S.C., O.N. convoys) and in the detailed recommendations for implementing the proposal. I would be agreeable that the effective date of the shift of operational control of all A.S.W. Aviation in the Labrador-Newfoundland-Canada region to the air officer commanding Eastern air command coincide with the date on which the commander in Chief Canadian Northwest Atlantic Command takes complete charge of trade convoys in his area."
(R.C.A.F. Ottawa 091902Z to Air Min. (R) Admty., Royceaire.)

P.512. C.E.S.F. sailing P.512 Philadelphia to New London when ready about April 15th for about 1 week working up period. Furnish escort and coverage as practicable. Cinclant direct Comdr. S/M Atlantic Fleet sail onward to Halifax upon completion working up, arranging for escort and coverage as available. Action addressees advise time of departure. Route. S.O.A. Commandant 4th U.S. Nav. Dist. Philadelphia informs ship. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 092119Z to C.E.S.F. Cinclant, (R) C'dant 1st U.S. Nav. Dist. Boston, Comdr. S/M Atlantic Fleet, Commandant 4th U.S. Navy. Dist. Philadelphia, Commandant 3rd U.S. Nav. Dist. N.Y. Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. C.O.A.C. C.T. 24.) See Cominch 132026Z to C. in C.Lant.)

ROXBOROUGH. Sail ROXBOROUGH when ready about April 13th Charleston to Halifax direct. Advise time of departure, route, S.O.A. C.T. 24 and C.O.A.C. also have by other means for information. C.E.S.F. has for action. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet 092120Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Cmdt. 6th U.S.N.D. Charleston, Cmdt. 5th U.S.N.D. Hampton Roads, etc.)

B.Y.M.S. & Y.M.S. assignments. Lorsa 8469. The following ships have been firmly assigned to the U.K. B.Y.M.S. 35,40,41,76 - 79. Y.M.S. 149, 161, 194, 232. 2. The following ships have been firmly assigned to the U.S. Navy. Y.M.S. 138 - 140, 151, 158 - 160, 161, 170, 176 - 180, 192, 193, 198 - 201, 215, 218, 220, 224, 231, 235, 245, 262, 263, 267, 268, 273, 376, 283. (B.A.D. 092159Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack & sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. P.B.M. sighted sub on surface 20.22 N. 62.03 W. 011620. Para. C. P.B.Y. sights sub 11.04 N. 61.03 W. 091110.

/C.G.R...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Sub attack & Sighting Summary. (Contd.) C.G.R. 1989 sights periscope 40.10 N. 71.46 W. 091239.
P.B.M. Radar contact 36.10 N. 73.55 W. 091200.
P.C. 577 counter attacks sub 06.12 N. 52.47 W. 090630.
Sub sighted 08.20 N. 59.12 W. 081922.
Action to Admiralty for B.I.C. From Cominch.
Para.D. U.S.S. THRUSH sights wake 10.57 N. 60.29 W. 091200.
Navy plane Radar contact 35.20 N. 74.20 W. 081913.
(Cominch, 092125Z to Admty)

NASSA. SS. NASSA has not arrived Halifax from H.X.231. (N.S.H.Q. 072133Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

French African Naval Forces and Bases re-equipment. Further to J.S.M. 857. While concurring in principle with Admiral King's proposed policy we feel that following amendments to the text would make for clarity in method in which the proposals are to be implemented.
2. Propose that in Para. 2c of J.S.M. 857 "in current British or American use" be substituted for "of its own manufacture". This makes clear for example that Cerlikons of American manufacture but assigned to us may be fitted in French ships in our yards.
3. Propose that in para. 2d, e, f, g, h, i, and j, "arrange for the necessary supply" be substituted for "supply" or "provide". This will make clear that although it is our commitment to supply certain stores at Dakar for example they need not come from U.K. Stocks but can come direct from U.S.A. out of the British assignment.
4. Because present system of control and command of various ports is somewhat complicated it is proposed that "immediate" be inserted before "control" in paras. 2, d, e, and f.
5. To obviate present tendency for unilateral action without consultation propose the following para. 2k be added "The questions arising out of the above arrangement for supplies will be referred to the appropriate Munitions Assignment Board for decision."
(J.S.M. Washington 092201Z to War Cabinet Offices, London.)

A.T. 41 (PASTEUR.) My 081412Z April. A.T. 41 sailed 1½ hours late. (C. in C.C.N.W.A. 092227 To Admty. Connav, (R) N.S. H.Q. Cinclant, C.T.F. 24, F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A.)

Solops 15. April 7th. 1 light cruiser, 6 destroyers and 2 merchant vessels observed in Buin/Faisi area. (B.A.D. 092241Z to Admty. C.O.I.S.E.F. (R) Concentric, Colombo C.O.S. Kilindini, F.L.O. India.)

/U.C.2...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U.C.2. Com Task Group 21.6 in MADISON plus WANSDALE
C.F. HUGHES, H.P. JONES, UPSHUR (HFDF) BABBITT,
sailed to meet U.C.2. Comcaribseafon, please
pass to C.A.F.A.C., F.F.
(Comtask Unit 21.2.3., 092253 to Cinclant (R)
Admty., etc.)

O.N. 176 U-Boat believed in your vicinity has made
U/B. sighting report at 2221Z/9th on 4600 kcs.
(N.S.H.Q., 092308Z to Ships escorting O.N.176
C. in C.W.A., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., C. in C.U.S.
Fleet, S.B.N.O., W.At.)

Australia and New Zealand.

ALSEY Departure Wellington ALSEY for Melbourne E.T.A.
180200Z - A. 40.23 S. 166.07 B. 40.30, 157.23,
C. 40.37, 150.32, thence Banks Strait. S. of A.
7 knots.
(D.N.I., Wellington, 090005Z/9 to Admty.,
A.C.N.B., Comsoupac, (R) ATREUS.)

Movements. Arrival Noumea 1930Z/8. U.S.S. SKYLARK
escorting H.T. WAHINE. Departure ESPIRIT SANTO.
1900Z/7. U.S.S. KOPARA for Auckland E.T.A.
0600Z/14 W. 19° 30' S. 173° 40' E. S. of A. 10
knots. Departure Noumea 2200Z/8. U.S.S. DASH for Suva E.T.A.
2300Z/11.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 09045Z to Admty.)

Arrival Milne Bay 8th PIRIE Sydney 8th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT
departure Port Moresby 7th BALLARAT for Milne Bay Townsville
7th WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B. 091448Z, to Admty.)

Arrival 8th SYDNEY hired transport KATOOMBA. Fall river
R.A.A.F. Store ship SANAKA. 9th Brisbane U.S. transport VAN
DER LIJN. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA arrived and departed Townsville
8th due Brisbane 11th. Hospital ship CENTAUR departs Brisbane
8th due Port Moresby 12th. Hired transport EKATERINI
COUMANTAROV departs Fremantle 7th due Whyalla 16th. My
071227Z hired transport DUNTROON and U.S. Transport PRESIDENT
GRANT now due Sydney 9th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F., 091557Z to Admty.) Amended See 101219Z.

Arrival Wellington U.S.S. SOLUCE.

(D.N.I. Wellington, 091833Z to Admty.)

/Digest...

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
Serial
No.443
April
8th.

Noon R/C. Liberator sighted five ship Convoy including light cruiser, destroyer, cargo vessel, 2 transports 40 miles North-West Kavieng, course 358° at 10 knots. 1 cargo vessel was only ship seen in Kavieng anchorages. Bombs dropped at New Panapai Strip which appeared serviceable with blast pens completed. Later saw 1 medium cargo vessel at jetty S.W. Coast New Ireland opposite Namatanai. 2. Evening search reported 2 destroyers, 1 cargo ship, 1 transport in Kavieng Harbour. 7th. 5. Midday photos Wewak show 1 destroyer, 2 merchant ships of 1000 tons each, 1 coaster of 400 tons and 33 barges. 6. Before noon 1 Hudson bombed and strafed a motor patrol vessel and 12 barges carrying 1 motor truck and equipment, toward Kaukenau from North West. Patrol craft and 3 barges set afire and rest damaged. 7. Two Hudsons sighted nil shipping Aroe-Tanibar-Kai Islands area excepting 7 Prauws. 8. One medium merchantman at Koepang early morning.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 090918.)

LE
TRIUMPHANT.

Following from F.S.LE TRIUMPHANT (begins) On mission 0830K April 5th. Sydney (N.S.W.) 1500 April 8th 090045Z. (Ends.)
(Capt. Supt. Sydney, 091005 to F.N.F.L.London.(R) H.C.P.)

Solops 15. (B.A.D. 092241Z to Admty. etc.) See America and W. Indies.

MOA
sunk by
Enemy A/C

Regret to report MOA lost by enemy aircraft attack when fuelling at Tulagi 8th. 5 ratings missing, 7 serious, 9 minor casualties.
(N.Z.N.B., 092255Z to Admty., (R) H.C.N.Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 091400B, 091423B)

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Search for
HIMALAYA.

1. UGANDA, BERMUDA, ADVENTURE (proceeding from Gibraltar to Milford Haven) CHARYBDIS and METEOR were informed at 0005B of the sailing of HIMALAYA. SICKLE is also in the area and was informed of the operation of our forces. Aircraft continued to shadow the enemy, and a strike of 5 torpedocarrying Wellingtons was sent to attack the ship at light. At 0935B the enemy was reported to be in 45.25 N. 07.40 W. steering 60° accompanied by 3 Junkers. At 1101B the course was 110°. As the enemy had turned back, METEOR turned for Plymouth at 1121B, C. in C. Plymouth, however, instructed CHARYBDIS to continue to search west of 11° W. At 2005B a vessel believed to be HIMALAYA escorted by 4 destroyers was sighted by A/C steering East in 45° 57' N., 05° 02' W. and was apparently bombed by A/C at 2045, and at 2205B CHARYBDIS was ordered to return to Plymouth and UGANDA to turn to the southward to relieve BERMUDA as cover for Convoy U.C.2. HIMALAYA returned to the Gironde.

SILVAPLANA
intercepted.

2. Meanwhile at 1702A the German (ex-Norwegian) SILVAPLANA, 4793 tons, inward bound from Saigon, was intercepted by ADVENTURE in 43° 18' N., 14° 26' W. (about 220 miles west of C. Finisterre) scuttled herself, and sank heavily on fire at 1731A, all her survivors being picked up by ADVENTURE.

3. The crew of a Whitley of 10 O.T.U. report sighting 6 surfaced U-boats in the Bay of Biscay simultaneously.

Coastal
force
operations.

4. At 0223 this morning M.T.Bs. 38, 219, and 24 with M.G.Bs. 114 and 117 intercepted 2 Enemy Trawlers and 4 R-boats southbound off Berck-sur-Mer and withdrew at high speed sustaining superficial damage and no casualties. G.B. 6 and M.T.Bs. 89, 81, 242 were engaged with accurate fire during last night by shore batteries off Dieppe, the enemy fire being apparently controlled by R.D.F. They sustained no damage.

Combined
services A/S
W. Training
centre
advocated.

5. C. in C. W.A. reports that the F.A.A. squadrons for BITER and MAC ships have derived great benefit from a ten-day course, resulting in improved liaison and understanding between the officers of the surface escorts, F.A.A. and R.A.F. He considers that the setting up of a Combined Services A/S Warfare Training Centre should in time ensure a big concerted advance in A/S killing efficiency.

War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

6. The Chilian Navy has instituted a system of inspection of vessels transiting the Straits of Magellan.

Mediterranean.

Air attack
on Maddalena:
TRIESTE
reported
sunk.

7. 84 B.17s of 12th A.F. bombed Maddalena today, dropping over 224 tons of H.E. Three hundred and sixty 1000 lb. bombs were dropped on the 10,000 ton cruisers TRIESTE and GORIZIA; a number of direct hits and numerous near misses are reported on both ships. P.R.U. subsequently showed that TRIESTE was sunk and GORIZIA had received superficial damage. Several merchant ships are reported to have been left on fire and direct hits are reported on the munition depot and submarine base. Capt. S.8. on 12th April warned S/Ms on patrol in the area that the damaged cruiser may leave shortly northbound. 287 500 lb. bombs were dropped on the submarine base and installations at Maddalena: four merchant vessels, 3 of them small, were left on fire and fires were seen in the dock area.

8. B.24s bombed shipping in Naples harbour at 1655Z today. Preliminary reports state that 3 merchant vessels were hit.

9. Allied aircraft intercepted large formations of enemy transport aircraft and destroyed 40 of them today.

Sfax
occupied.

10. The 8th Army occupied Sfax early today and a naval party entered.

SAFARI

11. S/M SAFARI, in the approaches to Cagliari, at 1719 attacked a convoy of a 3500 ton tanker, a 5000 ton A.M.C. and a 3000 ton merchant vessel. Torpedoes were fired at the two former; counter attack prevented direct observation, but breaking up noises were heard, on return to the scene next day the third vessel was found hard aground and so was destroyed by torpedo.

War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

12. It is reported that French SS. SAINT DOMINGUE was seized at Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, p.m. today, by the San Domingo military authorities who imprisoned the master and crew. B.R.L.O. Ciudad Trujillo states that the U.S. authorities have no details which they can divulge.

13. SS. EDWARD B. DUDLEY was attacked by one or two U-boats in 53 N. 39 W. at 1244 G.M.T. today, but survived the attack.

O.N. 176

14. Ten or 12 U-boats were in contact with Convoy O.N. 176 from midday today until daylight 12th April. Excessive smoke by 3 ships of the convoy hampered the convoy in taking evasive action.

Australia & New Zealand.

15. At dawn today 10 Fortresses and 7 Liberators bombed the town and shipping at Wewdy and the seaplane base at Kairiru Island, a 1,000 ton cargo vessel was hit and destroyed, and one smaller vessel was damaged.

10.4.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

*Pages 355 + 356
misplaced + / added 357*

Operation "Regulation". SILVAPLANA (Norwegian, 4793 tons) scuttled. Contd. SICKLE's estimated P.C.S. at 100100B 48.10 N. 13.22 W., 180° 13 knots. (C. in C. Plymouth, 100035B to METEOR.) METEOR P.C.S. at 2200/9, 046° 10', 014° 01' 020° 15 knots. (F.O.S. 100059B to SICKLE) Position of 4 enemy ships is 45° 27' N. 08° 38' W. (A/C F.4172 Sqdn. 100105B to 19 Group.) Am returning to base. Position of enemy is 45° (?00') N. 09° (?54')W. (A/C 100200B to 19 Group.)

My 100005B. Strike of 5 torpedo-carrying Wellingtons is being sent now to attack enemy merchant ship at light.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 100213B to CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, ADVENTURE)

Enemy course and speed are 250°, 15 knots.

(A/C 100230B to 19 Group.)

A second aircraft reports at 0105B/10th. P.C.S. enemy vessel was 045° 27' N. 008° 38' W., 250° 15 knots.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 100237B to UGANDA, ADVENTURE, CHARYBDIS)

P.C.S. of enemy merchant vessel and 3 escorts 45° 25' N. 09° 00' W. 265°.

(A/C 100320B to 19 Group.)

10. P.C.S. of enemy 0430 TLWV 45° 34' N. 09° 08' W. 250° speed Am returning to Portreath.

(A/C 10051B to 19 Group)

My 100029. P.C.S. this ship and 3 escorts at 0320B, 45° N. 25' N. 09° 01' W., 265° about 12½ knots.

(F.O.S. 100601B to SICKLE).

Position course and speed of enemy at 0320 (?latitude) 09° 00' W., 165°.

(A/C 100700B to 19 Group)

P.C.S. of enemy 45.25 N. 07.40 W., 060° 10 knots. Enemy accompanied by three Junkers.

(A/C 100935B to 19 Group.)

My 100831B. Have sufficient fuel to R/V in 044° 50' N. 013° 40' at 1800B/10th and give action providing risk of subsequent oiling at sea can be accepted. Have altered to 185° pending further orders and set watch fleet wave. Weather 8172 3051.

(METEOR, 101001B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Am still in touch with enemy. No change in the situation.

(A/C 10103B/ to 19 Group.)

Enemy's course is 070°.

(A/C 101050B to 19 Group.)

My P.C.S. at 100 45.03 N. 07.18 W., 110 10 knots.

(A/C 101101B to 19 Group)

In view of A/C report cancel my 101001B. Am returning to Plymouth.

(METEOR, 101121B to C. in C. Plymouth, (R) CHARYBDIS)

A/C report one merchant ship and three destroyers in (045°) 25' N. 007° 40' W. at 0910B, course 70° speed 10 knots. Consider enemy has turned back but CHARYBDIS is to continue search for possible outward-bound ship and is to keep west of 011° W.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101127B to CHARYBDIS, (R) UGANDA, ADVENTURE, FOS. SICKLE.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Proposed
A/S
Training
Centres.

Great benefit has been derived by the F.A.A. Squadrons for BITER and M.A.C. Ships undergoing a ten-day course at Bally Kelly resulting in improved liaison and understanding between the Officers of the Surface Escorts, F.A.A. and R.A.F. In my view many advantages would be gained by setting up a combined services A/S

Warfare Training Centre in Northern Ireland... the tactical table now at Londonderry could be made available and also the part time services of my training Captain. I want the surface Escorts to take every opportunity of exercising with the Aircraft. Co-ordination of the practice programmes could most easily be arranged if the aerodromes at Eglinton and Bally Kelly were used by the Aircraft taking part. I see no reason why full scale exercises could not be arranged with Convoys on passage in the vicinity of the North Channel. Should such a training centre be set up, it is for consideration also whether the projected F.A.A. A/S School at Machrihanish should be incorporated in the centre as well. Ultimately I would like to see U.S.A. and Canadian Officers associated in the training centre. With the free interchange of experience in tactics and weapons we may reasonably look forward to a big concerted advance in A/S killing efficiency.
(C.in C. W.A., 100016B to Admty.)

GRIFFIN
OTTAWA.

H.M.C.S. GRIFFIN has been renamed OTTAWA as from a.m. 10th.
(OTTAWA, 101025B)

Biscay
S/M
Routes
"Gold" and
"Rose.

Your 091009B April concur.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101337B to F.O.S.)

Movements.

ADVENTURE.

ADVENTURE is to come under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth whilst on passage.
(D.O.D. H. 100120B)

S/M
movements.

My 091654 add new para. - URSULA escorted by KIHNA leaves Plymouth 100900 for Clyde, 9 knots.
(F.O.S., 10052.)
My 091931B. Sailed. E.T.A. 121200B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101101B, 101615B)

Request you sail TEMPLAR for Gib. about 29th April.
(F.O.S. 101309B to Capt. S.3.)

Request you sail UNIVERSAL for (?Lerwick) on 13th April.
(F.O.S., 101311B to A.C.O.S.)

/Capt...

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M movements. (Contd.)
Capt. (S) 3 is requested to sail USURPER for Lerwick on 21st April. N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail SATYR on completion of 14 days A/S training on 21st April for Lerwick. USURPER and SATYR will leave Lerwick for patrol on 23rd and 25th April respectively.
(F.O.S., 101313B)
My 091540B. Sailed. (UNTAMED)
(Capt. S.6 101410)
My 081041 and 091927 and F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 081848. Sailed. (TALLY HO).
(N.O.I.C. Barrow, 101620B)
Position of submarines at 0800B/11th and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 101742B.)
My 101742 correct para. (H) to read SICKLE on patrol on longitude 013° 24' W. between latitudes 43° and 44°
(F.O.S., 101841B.)
Diving for one hour in 054° 019' N. 003° 049' W.
(TALLY HO, 102000B)
HERRING estimated 49.30 N. 09.00 W. SHAD estimated 49.10 N 09.00 W. at 2000B/10. Both submarines steering to R/V 000° Round Island 7 at 0800B/11.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 102031B to METEOR)
Surfaced.
(TALLY HO, 102108B to Capt. S.5.)
Cancel my 101841B and my 101742B para. (H) 2. My 091654 para. (L) amend to read 43° 01' N. at 0500B/11.
(F.O.S. 102226B)

BERMUDA. Scapa departure 1215/9th. BERMUDA.
(A.C.O.S. 101147 to C. in C. Plymouth.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. F.O.C.W.A.F. 011826Z April. From (X) 052° 02' N. 021° 50' W. alter course for (Y) 055° 00' N. 013° 20' W. omitting (e), thence Clyde.
(C. in C.W.A. 101739B, 111706B, to QUEEN OF BERMUDA.)

Operations.

Operation "Regulation". Aircraft report merchant ship and 3 escorts in 45.25 N. 07.45 W., course 230°, 10 knots at 2310B/9.
SILVAPLANA (Norwegian, 4793 tons) scuttled. (C. in C. Plymouth, 100005B to UGANDA, BERMUDA, ADVENTURE, CHARYBDIS, METEOR.)
My 100005B. Proceed with all despatch to intercept. A/C 19 Group are co-operating. (C. in C. Plymouth, 100021B to UGANDA.)
Aircraft reported P.C.S of 1 Merchant ship, 3 Destroyers, at 2310B/9, 045° 25' N. 007° 48' W., 030° 10 knots. (2) Proceed en route "Brown" with all despatch. 3. Total bombing restriction arranged. (4) Own surface force and aircraft are taking part in operation.
(F.O.S., 100029B to SICKLE)

/SICKLE's...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Regulation",
SILVAPLANA
(Norwegian,
4793 tons)
scuttled.
(Contd.)

Convoy "Gremlin" being shadowed by F.W.190.
Height 4,000 feet?. My Position 42° 21' N.
14° 30' W. Course 000° Speed 18 knots.
(ADVENTURE 101128Z)
Am still in touch with enemy. No change in the
situation.
(A/C J. of 119 Sqdn. 101150B to 19 Group.)
3 Destroyers, 2 M.T.Bs., 1 M/V., (Position
undecypherable), 2 Junkers 88, 2 Arodo's 1 Heinkel
115.
(A/C 101222 to 19 Group.)
Merchant vessel of 5,000 tons. Full details not observed
due to fighter interference.
(A/C 101345B to 19 Group.)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 081709A. Route from (L) 042° 59' N.
014° 29' W. through (M) 049° 15' N. 014° 30' W. 180° Fastnet
Rock 10, by Q.Z.L.18 to Milford Haven.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 10551B to ADVENTURE)
Your 082232A and F.O.S. 100029B. Will now cross 043° 01' N
at 0500B/11.
(SICKLE, 101631B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
Have intercepted inward blockade-runner in 043° 18' N.
014° 26' W. Crew abandoned. Ship now heavily on fire.
(ADVENTURE, 101702A to Admty.)
Own aircraft report submarine in 47° 45' N. 14° 00' W. at
1242B/10. Course 135°, 8 knots. Submarine dived when sighted.
(D.O.D.H. 101708B to CHARYBDIS, ADVENTURE.)
My 101702A. Ship ex-Norwegian HOEGH SILVER STAR identified
as SILVAPLANA scuttled and sank at 1731A. All survivors
numbering 146 picked up. Am proceeding. Weather 9181 2202.
(ADVENTURE, 101815A to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth.)
At 101719B D/F fix of an unknown unit, probably enemy
blockade-breaker, in approx 43° 30' N. 14° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 101818B, to CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, ADVENTURE.)
Your 101631. Patrol between 044° 01' and 043° 01' on route
"Brown". Total bombing restriction arranged.
(F.O.S. 101836B to SICKLE.)
SICKLE has been ordered to patrol on latitude 013° 22' W.
between latitude 043° and 44°.
(F.O.S., 101854B to ADVENTURE, CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, BERMUDA.)
My 101708. Amend latitude to read 45° 47' N.
(D.O.D.H. 101958B to CHARYBDIS, ADVENTURE)
P.C.S. of enemy, 4 destroyers, one merchant vessel, 45° 57' N.
5° 2' W., 090 10.
(A/C 102005B to 19 Group.)
By D/F at 1832Z/10 U-Boat was in approx 43° 30' N. 14° 00' W.
unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 102125B. to ADVENTURE, SICKLE, CHARYBDIS)
Have attacked enemy merchant ship with bombs, one hit,
position, 46° 00' N. 04° 25' W. at 2045.
(A/C V 80 H. 102135B to 19 Group.)
Inward-bound blockade-runner intercepted by ADVENTURE at
1802B in 043° 18' N. 014° 26' W. and scuttled. 2. Vessels believed
HIMALAYA attempting to break out turned back early today and was
sighted by A/C in 045° 57' N. 005° 02' W., course 90° 10 knots,
at 2005B escorted by four destroyers. 3. CHARYBDIS return to
Plymouth pass through position (R) 049° 05' N. 012° 15' W.
(S) 180° Bishop Rock 10 and (T) 180° Lizard 3.

/SICKLE...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Operation "Regulation", SILVAPLANA (Norwegian, 4793 tons) scuttled. (Contd.)

SICKLE estimated in vicinity $044^{\circ} 01' N. 013^{\circ} 22' W.$ at 2000, steering 180° . 4. UGANDA to pass through position (A) $042^{\circ} 50' N. 015^{\circ} 45' W.$, thence 000° UGANDA will relieve H.M.S. BERMUDA as cover for U.C.2 as signal later. (C. in C. Plymouth, 102205B to CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, BERMUDA, ADVENTURE, SICKLE.)

Cancel my 101854B. SICKLE passing $043^{\circ} 01' N. 013^{\circ} 22' W.$ southbound at 0500B/11, shifting to G.S. routine at 0700B/11, thence as ordered by

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

(F.O.S., 102236B to ADVENTURE, CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, BERMUDA.)

Cancel my 101836. Proceed as in your 101631, shift to

G.S. routine at 110700B, thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Total bombing restrictions north of $043^{\circ} N.$ arranged.

(F.O.S. 102237B to SICKLE.)

E.T.A. 111330B. My position $049^{\circ} 15' N. 009^{\circ} 44' W.$, course 090° , S.O.A. 15 knots, altering at 110200B to pass through position P.

(METEOR, 102301B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

2 Merchant vessels with lights $48^{\circ} 25' N. 9^{\circ} 21' W.$ 305° 8 knots.

(A/C C.1 M.F. 102345B to 19 Group.)

Coastal
Patrols.

Your 091349B "Obstacle" arrived.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 100705B).

My 091145B "Device" returned.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 100806B).

Intend M.Ls 208 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight on latitude $50^{\circ} 20' N.$ between $01^{\circ} 45' W.$ and $02^{\circ} 25' W.$

2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/11th. 3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Code word "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 101101B)

1 M.T.Bs. 94, 96, 227, and 239 are to patrol between 000° . Triagoz Light 5 miles and $48^{\circ} 53' N. 4^{\circ} W.$ 2. Object to intercept enemy shipping. 3. Execution M.T.Bs. are to leave Dartmouth 2100B/10 and proceed to patrol at speed not exceeding 20 knots. Leave patrol to pass through $50^{\circ} N. 4^{\circ} W.$ at 0700B/11 and thence to Dartmouth. 4. Information. Own. 2 M.G.Bs. and 4 M.Ls. will be passing through position 155° . Start 7' at 2100B on S.E. course. LIMBOURNE and MELBREAK leave Plymouth at 2130B to S.E. at 20 knots. Above forces will be approaching English Coast on reverse courses A.M. 11th, the destroyers are expected to be North of $50^{\circ} N.$ and the M.G.Bs. and M.Ls. South of $50^{\circ} N.$ by first light. Enemy E-Boats at Cherbourg. 6. Codeword "Stencil".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 101417B.)

1. M.T.B. 89, 243, 81 to patrol tonight to intercept shipping leaving Dieppe Northward. 2. Leave Newhaven so as to pass through passage one not before 2100. 3. Hastings - Treport Line not to be crossed. 4. If nothing sighted leave patrol at 0300 and return Newhaven. In any case to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight. 5. Codeword "Advent".

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 101425B).

/My...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) My 1011B. "Device". Sailed at 102048. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 102053B).

North Russia. Russian S/M K.21 now at sea has been ordered to operate as far west as 016° E. (S.B.N.O., North Russia, 100902B to F.O.S.) (F.O.S. 101244B to S/MS.)

Engagement with R-Boats. At 0223 today M.T.Bs. 38, (S.O.) 219, and 24 with M.G.Bs. 114 and 117 in company intercepted two enemy trawlers and four R-Boats southbound in approx. 250° Berck-Sur-Mer 4 point 5 miles. On establishing that no torpedo target was present our forces retired at high speed. During withdrawal, enemy opened heavy but inaccurate fire causing superficial damage to M.T.B. 38 and 24 and to M.G.B.114. Our forces sustained no casualties. Fire was returned by M.T.B. 38 and by both M.G.Bs. who claim hits on enemy with pom-pom and oerlikon. (V.A. Dover, 101243B)

Operation VP - R. ("Carey"). My 061900B. M.T.Bs 627 (S.O.) 620, 625, 653 sailed at 1400/10th. (A.C.O.S. 101414B)
My 101414. Returning to base owing to weather. 2. Weather permitting will sail as ordered in my 061900B at 1200 tomorrow. (A.C.O.S., 101702.)

Operation "Outward". Operation terminated at 1800 owing to local conditions. (A.B.O., Oldstairs, 101800B, to V.A. Dover.)

Coastal Force shelled. G.B. 6, M.T.B. 89, 81, 242 were engaged with accurate fire from shore batteries during the night of 9/10th April in approx. 028° Dieppe 9½ miles and 023° Dieppe 12½ mile. Control apparently by R.D.F. as fire was opened when force was both stationary and under way. No damage or casualties. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 101940B).

210 Sqdn. Allied Air Activity.
Withdrawal of 210 Sqdn. detachment from Gibraltar approved. All aircraft and squadron personnel are to return to Pembroke Dock forthwith. (H.Q.C.C. 101113B to A.H.Q. Gibraltar.)

/A/C...

War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

A/C
for
W/A
Command.

Your 081446B/April. Trials with Pumpkin are being carried out by No. 778 (S.T.U.) Squadron and are expected to be completed in about a fortnight. On completion aircraft will be loaned to you as requested. Please report where it is proposed aircraft should be based. (D.A.W.T., 101227B/ to C. in C.W.A.)

Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

My 050107 para A. will be flown p.m. today. (A.C.I.C., 101419B to C. in C.H.F.)
My 050107 para. A was flown from 1630B. A/C returned at 1845B because of weather. Negative report. (A.C.I.C., 102323B to C.S.10.)

Harwich.

C.G. Orfordness reports Thunderbolt plane flying low from N. to S. at about 1620 today fired machine gun tracer bullets at N.E. Whiting Buoy and appeared to have scored hits. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 101748B)

Mining.

Operation
Q.U.8.

1. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.(8) tonight with 51st M.L. Flotilla.
2. Supporting force, available M.T.Bs to reach the vicinity of Hook of Holland as early as practicable.
(C. in C. Nore, 101120B to BEEHIVE.)

Lyme
Bay.

Request you sail 4th M.S.F. on April 12th to Plymouth sweeping direct route between Portland and Start and Q.Z.S. 390 and 278. (C. in C. Plymouth, 101725B. F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Liverpool.

Detonated red mine approx. 6 miles 312° from Bar Light Vessel 101345. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 101812)

S.N.123.

Your 091830 is concurred in. (A.C.N.S.H., 102024B to R.A.M.)

Harwich.

101446 one Mine exploded by Sweepers in 51° 48.2'N. 01° 33.2' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 102208B.)

/U-Boats...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.Unknown
Ship
Torpedoed.At 2341 G.M.T. Gallon Head Radio reports:-
Following intercepted at 092327Z SSSS (Unread)
Torpedoed 340 remainder unread T.S.A. 1/2 ends.
(Wick Radio 100143.)U-Boats
reported.Am over enemy submarine in 45.47 N. 14.00 W.
Believed hostile. No attack.
(A/C 101242 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 46° 48' N. 9° 00' W.
(A/C 102250B to 19 Group.)Casualties and Defects.

CAMPBELL.

My 081601B. Defects have arisen on trials of
auxiliary machinery. Further delay necessary.
E.T.A. Sheerness 1300. Following programme
proposed.
(F.O.I.C. London, 101305B.)

BARCOCK.

Sailing of BARCOCK delayed by steering defect.
Temporary repairs will be completed about 23rd
April.
(A.C.O.S. 10154 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)EMPIRE
SPRITE.Tug EMPIRE SPRITE requires boiler repairs beyond
local resources. Vessel can proceed to
selected port under her own power.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 101530B.)

HARRIER.

Cancel my 101540. Sailing delayed by engine
room defects.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 101654 to A.C.O.S.)Shipping and Convoys.

MAURETANIA.

My 080155. Sailing date of MAURETANIA now
postponed to 24/4.
(D.S.T., 100250B.)

O.N.176.

C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 0142Z/10. No bearings obtained
by HIGHLANDER and convoy in thick fog at these
times, consider U-boat report.
(M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18., 100325Z to C. in C.W.A.)EMPIRE
JACK.
EMPIRE
JILL.Your 091707B. COVERLEY reports that EMPIRE JACK
exceeded COVERLEY's speed and went ahead of her
in spite of orders to follow COVERLEY at about
0100/9th and did not answer signal. COVERLEY
could not catch up and as COVERLEY approached
Tobermory, EMPIRE JACK was out of sight ahead,
last sighted 0800.

/COVERLEY...

War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

EMPIRE JACK, EMPIRE JILL.
(Contd.)

COVERLEY passed Tobermory but, EMPIRE JACK still out of sight, considered that to proceed further to Oban was useless, turned back, and entered Tobermory 1040.
(Cdre., WESTERN ISLES, 100922B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Commodore WESTERN ISLES' 100922 is passed for information. EMPIRE JILL in E.N.99 on 27th February broke convoy in Moray Firth. If the escort, albeit inadequate, but best available which can be given to these most valuable cargoes is to be in any effective, it is essential that some measure of discipline be instilled into the masters of these ships.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 101715B to Admty.)

M.K.F.11A. Arrived GOATHLAND, KRAKOWIAK.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 100925B.)

H.X.231. Chief Officers boat from BLITAR in 059° 03' N. 019° 05' W. at 0630Z. Number four boat two hours later. Ship left H.X convoy after attack p.m. April 3rd. Torpedoed 052200Z. position 57.45 N. 27.30 W. A.C.I.42(A) One boat which capsized, no survivors. (B) 36 and 47
(C) Nil. (D) Sunk.
(C.T.24.1.14, 101000Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 100731. Before proceeding Hvalfiord close Reykjavik Harbour entrance where drifter for survivors will meet you.
(A.C.I.C., 101155B, to ECLIPSE)
Search between 055° 45' and 056° 45' N. to Westward from 020° 00' W. My 090151B refers.
(C. in C.W.A., 101316B to DEVERON.)
Arrival Reykjavik, 1515B ECLIPSE.
(A.C.I.C., 101649B to E.G.4.)
Was either boat sighted by aircraft at 072040 and bags of rations dropped. Your 101000Z refers.
(C. in C.W.A., 101716Z to C.T.U.24.1.14)
Found abandoned life boat apparently from Dutch ULYSSES in 56.27 N. 22.23 W. at 1605A. My P.C.S 56.44 N. 21.43 W., 270° 14 knots.
(DEVERON, 102003A to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 101716Z. Yes, Chief Officer's boat.
(C.T.U. 24.1.14, 102052Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Proceed to Reykjavik at best speed consistent with weather conditions. Two boats have been picked up by CHURCHILL.
(C. in C.W.A., 102137B to DEVERON)

W.S.29 and K.M.F.13. Cancel my 091733B.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 101037B to N.C.S.O. Mersey)

/Convoy...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

Convoy H.X.231
BLITAR. Further to my 082356. Senior survivor Mr. Schrender second mate states BLITAR lost touch with convoy during night of 4th to 5th April. At 1330/5 U-boat was sighted on surface 2 miles astern and engaged with gunfire. U-boat crash dived. Nothing else seen until ship torpedoed starboard side amidships about 2350/5th. Second torpedo was fired and ship sank within half an hour. Master got away in boat. Probable that confidential books went down in ship U-boat was seen to close one of the boats after the torpedoing, total complement was 61.
(ECLIPSE, 101201B)

Escort Forces procedure. A.F.O. 1417/43. I consider it essential that escort forces should, when zig-zagging, bear the responsibility of keeping clear of convoy vessels in view of the impossibility of Masters of M/Vs anticipating the escorts' movements. Request re-consideration of the A.F.O. In anticipation of their Lordships' agreement I am not taking action as laid down. (C. in C. Rosyth, 101220B to Admty.)

O.N.178. Intend sailing OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE from Lough Foyle at 112200B to Clyde, arriving 120700B for conference with BITER.
(Cdre. Londonderry 101240B)
A.M. 141728/March and 042030/April. NORVINN is only vessel available for carriage of spare depth-charges in this convoy and will carry 32 with flotation gear.
(D.T.D., 10230B)
My 081800A/March and 071942B/April. Following tankers are to sail as escort oilers in O.N.178. SAN AMBROSIO, SAN ADOLFO.
(D.T.D., 102114B.)

ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER. It is estimated that ATTACKER, HUNTER, and STALKER will be in dockyard hands for about 5 weeks.
2. On completion of work up under V.A.A. it is intended that these three ships shall be operated in the North Atlantic by C. in C.W.A.
(D.O.D. H. 101339B to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.124. Arrived SHIKARI, MAYFLOWER, DEXTEROUS, 101530B.
(Cdre., Londonderry, 101430B)

S.C.123. Average speed 7.02 knots. Off Oversay at 020400Z. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 101615B to Connav.)

/H.X.232...

War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

H.X.232B. Request you will sail escort group 4 as soon as ready at best speed to reinforce H.X.232 B, join during daylight 12th if possible.

(2) Estimated position of convoy at 0800B/12,
054°43' N. 029° 14' W. •

(C. in C. W.A., 101625Z to A.C.I.C.)

Hvalfjord arrival INGLEFIELD, ICARUS, FURY at 2140B.

(A.C.I.C., 102343B to C. in C.W.A.)

Escort Your 071643Z para. (A) concur. Para. (B) concur
Carrier in principle, specific instructions will be
procedure. issued shortly. Para. (C) (I) risk referred to is
purely informatory and discretion is left to
the carrier. Para. (C)(II) Concur. Article
204 of A.C.I.'s lays down this procedure for
searching aircraft. It will be amplified to agree with your
proposal. 2. Provisional instructions now in force for
British escort carriers will be amended by signal to comply with
your proposals.

(C. in C.W.A. 101704Z to C.T.F.24.)

O.N.S.3. O.N.S.3. returned. NORTHERN PRIDE defective.

(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 101759B to C. in C.W.A.)

If an escort of not less than two trawlers is
available, ships for Canada and U.S. ports

should be sailed to rendezvous with O.N.S.3.

(D.T.D., 101911B to A.C.I.C.)

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

UGANDA. My 091024A (Situation 091959.) add new para. (10).
UGANDA sailed 100500 through 36.36 09.25 thence
333° 22.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 100231A to A.I.G.55, 100234A to
A.I.G.63.)

Your 092013, not to C. in C. Med. UGANDA sailed 0530A/10th
routed through Q.K.A.87, (M) 36.36 N. 09.25 W. thence direct to
(N) 45.01 N. 14.59 W. S. of A. 30 knots.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 100537A to C. in C. Plymouth (R) C. in C.
Med. Admty. CHARYBDIS, BERMUDA, ADVENTURE, UGANDA. C. in C.
W.A., F.O.S.)

SICKLE. Add 24 hours to all times given in my 082243.
(F.O.C. Gib. 101001A to P.224 (SICKLE) (R)
F.O. S/Ms. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.
Capt. (S) 8, STURGEON, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 3.)
? Cancelled, see 110928.

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/10th. ARGONAUT 036° 14' 036° 50'
to 35.50 40.01 10. 2. U.G.S.7. C.T.F. 69. 029°
57' 036° 25' thence 091° 9.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 101046A.)

My 101046A. Add new para. (3) HERO left ARGONAUT after dark
9th to proceed to either Plymouth or Gibraltar.

(F.O. Gib. 101205A.)

Situation 1955A/10th.

P. 312 (TRESPASSER) 036° 48' (2008°) 47' thence 36 (231) 07 (224)
at 110430A thence on the surface to 35.53 06.15 at 111100A to
35° 49' 06" 06' 30" at 111150A thence Gibraltar, E.T.A. 111530A.
(2) P.229 (SPORTSMAN) 37.38 (209).37 thence 36.51 (209).13 at
0340A thence 099° diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night 7.
(3) K.M.S.12, EGRET 35.24 07.54 through 35.45 06.30 thence
through Straits 7½. (4) S.C. convoy HALCYON 36.21 08.36 to Gib.
6½. (5) THALASSA sails 110900 to patrol in Huelva (?area).
(6) CLARE 2 merchant ships 38.08 08.54 to Tagus 7½ where
merchant ships enter. CLARE to R/V with one merchant ship off
Tagus at 110100 and escort coastwise to Huelva 8. (7) S.C.
(?convoy) (?RHODODENDRON) 39.35 11.59 through (236).40.10.02
thence (2105).10. (8) U.G.S.6.A, C.T.F.60 (235).09 09.53 through
35.10 09.51 thence through Straits of Gibraltar 9.
(9) FANTOME 3 destroyers 3 minesweepers sailed 101900 to R/V
U.G.S.6.A in 35.32 07.46 at 110800 and act as additional escort.
(10) G.U.S.6. (Med.) pass Europa Point 110900 to R/V Casablanca
section which leaves Casablanca 110800 in 34.01 08.01 at 120800.
(11) U.S. escorts leave Casablanca to R/V U.G.S.6.A. in 35.32
07.46 at 110800 and escorts Casablanca section to Casablanca.
(F.O. Gib. 101040.)

Situation 101959A.

T.O.3. U.S. Destroyer ELLIS 34.30 11.08 through 35.01 16.01 thence
245,13½. 2. U.G.F.7. C.F. 66, 35.54 20.52 through 35.45 18.40
thence 101, 13½. 4. S.L.127, ROCHESTER, (E) 28.26 13.19 24.7.
5. UGANDA 39.48 11.27 to 45.01 14.59 S. of A. 30.
(F.O. Gib. 101126.) Para 6. See 110456A.

/HERO...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- HERO. My P.C. and S. at 101301Z/April 040° 06' N. 027° 19' W. 046° 18 knots to position (S) 049° 01' N. 013° 58' W. thence in accordance with C. in C. Plymouth 081713B/April. E.T.A. Lizard Head 130600Z/April. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to arrange group 2 and 4 lights between 130230Z and daylight. ARGONAUT P.C. and S. at 092300Z 036° 50' N. 031° 43' W. 261° 6 knots westerly swell. ARGONAUT's state, ship side plating 10 to 13 station carried away from keel to lower deck starboard and from 6 to 13 port and plating stripping outboard from 15 station each side. Securely shored from 16 to 24 bulkhead. C. in C. Plymouth acknowledge E.T.A. Weather report. (HERO 101312Z to F.O.C. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty. S.B.N.O. W. At. ARGONAUT, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.S.)
- Convoy T.O.3. T.O.3. sailed as in my 082315, Incon 354 issued. (Moroccan Sea Frontier Forces 101615Z to C.A.F.A.C. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., Admty., C. in C. Med., C.C.S.F.R. Connav, Connavnaw.)
- German A/C. German aircraft sighted off Cape Roca at 091100 G.M.T. April steering South. (N.A. Lisbon 101746A to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib.)
- S.L.127. A.M. 081917B. S.L.127 gear has been diverted in accordance with my 101258A in order to sail Gibraltar portion so as to clear other convoys passing through Strait on 11th April. (F.O.C. Gib. 101801A to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.)
- K.M.S.12. U.G.S.6.A. K.M.S.12 is estimated to pass Europa Point 1330A/11 April, U.G.S.6.A. at 2200A/11th April. (2) U.G.S.6.A. is estimated to be in 036° 19' N. 003° 50' W. at 0900A/12th April. Manoeuvre K.M.S.12 as necessary to join U.G.S.6.A. at that time. My 082301 para. 4 refers. (?F.O. Gib. 101855A to Escorts of K.M.S.12 for Cdre. (R) Escorts of U.G.S.6.A, FANTOME.)
- STURGEON. T.C.A.O.16. A. Total. B. STURGEON. C. 1800/12 35.49 06.06½ 1850/12 35.53 06.15 0230/13 36.46½ 07.20. D. 10 knots until 0630/13 and 8 knots thereafter (2) T.C.A.O.16. A. Submerged. B. STURGEON. C. 0230/13 36.46½ 07.20 2330/13 36.56 09.16 1300/17 42.59 12.26*. D. 10 knots until 0630/13 and 8 knots thereafter. (3) All times zone minus 1 positions N. and W. (F.O. Gib. 101912Z to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. etc.) * Amended by 112204, q.v.

/Intend...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

STURGEON. Intend to sail STURGEON p.m. 12th April for U.K.
(Contd.) (2) H.M.S. STURGEON passes through
(3) 50.49 06.06½ at 121800 (R) 35.53 06.15 at
121850. (T) 36.46½ 07.20 at 130230.
(P) 36.56 09.16 at 132330 (C) 42.59 12.26 at
171300. Shifting wireless watch at 171300 thence as ordered by
F.O.S. (3) Wireless watch. (4) STURGEON is painted grey.
(5) F.O.S. 1149 8 Jan. 1942. (A) 4 mark 8. (B) 10 knots until
130630 thereafter 8 knots 108 miles per day. (C) Ready for patrol
100 (?Admiralty) fuel. (D) (1) Nil (2) Nil.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 101914A to Admty. F.O.S. (R) Capt. (S) 3,
Capt. (S) 7, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 8, LOCHINVAR, C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, STURGEON.)

Movements, Arrived Casablanca S.C. 525 from Gib., P.C. 482,
Casablanca. French ASPIRANT BRUN and COMMANDANT DELAGE with
D. 70 to Comnavaw.
(Commorseafron 101945Z to C. in C. Med. (W) (R)
Comnavaw, Admty. Cominch, F.O.C. Gib.)

SATURNIA, (Repatriation voyages.) Instructions to be given
VULCANIA, to S.B.N.O's in each of these liners. (Head of
DUILIO, M.I, 101950B to F.O. Gibraltar etc.) See Lion
GIULIO CESARE. Copy. A.M. 061242B. Following are communications
arrangements for liners. (Head of M.I, 102058B
to F.O. Gibraltar, etc.)

LEZARDRIEUX LEZARDRIEUX sail Valencia tonight 10th for
(French). Marseilles Orange.
(F.O. Gib. 102121A to P. 53 (ULTOR) P.49 (UNRULY).
P.52, (?TRIDENT.)).

Movements, Arrivals QUEEN EMMA, ILEA, HAYDON from Oran.
Gibraltar. Departures NEWFOUNDLAND, ESKIMO for Mers el Kebir
FANTOME, POLRUAN, CLACTON, BROCKLESBY, ATHERSTONE
to R/V U.G.S.6A.
(F.O.C.Gib. 102220A to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

QUANTOCK, Sailed QUANTOCK to overtake and join U.G.S.6A.
U.G.S.6A. (F.O.C. Gib. 102335 to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

Gibraltar, Presume next trooper for Gibraltar will be
Personnel DUNNOTTAR CASTLE ex K.M.F.13. Military personnel
Congestion. for embarkation U.K. will fill vessel to capacity.
Request additional vessel ex M.K.F. 12 be allocated
for R.A.F. Navy and M.N. survivors. Owing
shortage of accommodation ashore it is impossible
to accept any more survivors until personnel at present here have
been embarked for U.K. Request all N.A. ports be advised to
send survivors to Algiers. Presumable Algiers would have
ample accommodation available in balance of convoy for M.N.
survivors.
(S.T.O. C/C Gib. No. T.O.O./10 to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) D. of S.T.)

MOST SECRET

368A

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

101950B/April

OUT

Date 10.4.43

To F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
C.in C. South Atlantic,
Repeated F.O.C. West Africa
C.in C. Eastern Fleet
C.in C. Mediterranean
C.in C. Levant
F.O.R.S.C.A.

Naval Cypher Flag Out

*Italian Repatriation
Voyage.*

From Admiralty

TURKIA

LCANIA

ILIO

110 CESARE

Admiralty Message 061242B. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to furnish S.B.N.O.'s of each of those liners with following instructions.

2. S.B.N.O. is in complete control of navigation and communications.

3. Italian Government have given undertaking that vessels will not be boarded, molested or diverted from their course by Axis Armed Forces.

4. Vessels will refrain from all saluting procedure.

5. Both in British controlled ports and at St Vincent (C.V.) no contact is to be made with the shore other than through S.B.N.O.'s and no contact is to be allowed with the tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE should they be in port. In addition, under no circumstances must Italian Consul St Vincent, be permitted to contact Masters or crews of liners, and care should be taken to prevent bags or documents being passed between ships and shore. Any messages which Italian Consul wishes to convey are to be given to S.B.N.O.'s who should only pass them on if satisfied that they are harmless. In case of doubt, reference should be made to British Consul, St. Vincent. S.B.N.O.'s should inform Masters that any attempt to communicate with shore will have serious consequences.

6. Italian Government are despatching medical stores for their nationals in East Africa, also mail and packages for Italian and German prisoners of war. Instructions regarding this will be signalled separately.

7./...

7. The Italian Government have agreed that W/T messages of a private nature shall not be permitted except in cases of serious illness.

8. The Italian personnel on board will be granted collective safe-conduct at Gibraltar. Lists are being sent to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar by Embassy, Lisbon. Any alterations to lists will be communicated at Gibraltar by Italian Commanders.

9. No arms or photographic apparatus or equipment of any kind or cinema projectors are to be carried. Ships are to be searched at Gibraltar, and anything of this nature found is to be confiscated. In addition, no packages, letters, or communications are to be carried by Italian crew. Crews should therefore be searched at Gibraltar and any matter found handed to Imperial Censorship, Gibraltar. Any matter found later hand to any British Chief Censor.

10. All but essential W/T receiving and transmitting apparatus under control of S.B.N.O.'s to be dismantled and offices sealed.

11. Communications arrangements will be signalled separately. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is to provide a safe for each ship in order to secure safety of codes and documents, and also supply eyeletted and weighted bags for disposal of S.P.'s and C.B.'s in event of emergency.

12. Censorship instructions will be issued separately.

13. Italian Commanders must approach S.B.N.O.'s regarding all supplies at ports of call. Liners are to be sufficiently bunkered on leaving Italy to reach St Vincent and no fuel or water supplied at Gibraltar. Vessels are to water and bunker to full capacity at St. Vincent and will take on lubricants, water and provisions at Port Elizabeth. All four liners are to proceed to Massawa for fuel and water. Immediately after loading supplies VULCANIA will leave for Mogadishu to embark repatriates and will be joined there by SATURNIA after SATURNIA has embarked repatriates at Massawa. On return voyage vessels will again replenish at Port Elizabeth, and quantities of fuel to be supplied at St. Vincent will be signalled later. At St. Vincent the British Consul and at other ports Sea Transport or Naval Authorities will be instructed regarding amounts required.

MOST SECRET

368B

-3-

14. Commanders of ships are to furnish to S.B.N.O.'s on board a simple receipt for quantities of fuel etc. received and port dues demanded, noting thereon the local prices charged and dues demanded in local currency. These receipts are to be handed to British Authorities ashore for onward transmission to Ministry of Fuel and Power.

15. (a) The position, course, and speed of the liners to be reported to all concerned at noon daily, and any unusual occurrence at any time.

(b) Expected time of arrival at British ports and those under British control are to be reported in ample time to allow, if necessary, for diversion.

(c) The sighting of any hostile ships or raiders is to be reported in code, care being taken that this is not done until well clear.

16. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar should arrange that the Masters of each of the liners sign a statement that they will at all times during the period of the repatriation voyage carry out without question the instructions of the British Officers and guards on board and of the various British authorities concerned with the repatriation.

17. In the unlikely event of vessels being stopped by an enemy warship, character of vessels should be emphasised, but if insisted on, visit and search should be permitted, in which case confidential books and codes must be thrown overboard in good time. Enemy orders for diversion should be ignored as safe conducts only apply to routes agreed by all belligerents. Enemy are not entitled to interrogate the guard, passengers or crew about shipping movements etc. and any such attempt should be prevented if possible and, in any case, reported immediately.

18. The possibility of these ships being fitted to lay mines and discharge other devices cannot be dismissed. C.in C. South Atlantic is requested to arrange for a thorough inspection of double bottoms, hulls below water lines and sterns of liners at Port Elizabeth. Nevertheless, the berths occupied outside Gibraltar Harbour and approaches thereto should be regarded with suspicion on the outward, and particularly on the return voyage, and search made for mines after departure of liners.

19./....

19. War Office are instructing Military Authorities to provide increased shore guards in British and British-controlled ports and strict look-out should be kept in all ports for members of crews of liners or enemy agents endeavouring to get ashore or for prisoners of war attempting to stow away. Such occurrences should be signalled immediately.

101950B

for Head of Military Branch I

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

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)

4th S.L.

5th S.L.

V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S.(F)(2)

A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)

Secretary

Naval Secretary

U.W.R.

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

Duty Capt.(2)

D.T.D.(2)

D.T.D.(M)

D.T.D.(C)

D.E.W.D.(3)

D.M.S.

Hd. of M. (10) for F.O.(Mr.MacKereth) D.O.(Mr.Costar)
C.O.(Mr.Lambert) Min.of War Transport
(Mr.N.B.Fuller) (Mr.N.L.Dawson),
Min.of Fuel & Power (Mr.R.C.Mitchell)
(Mr.T.G.Wade) M.E.W. (Mr.J.W.Nicholls)

Capt.Pim

P.A.S.(S)

D.N.I.(4)

D.D.I.C.(2)

D.of P.(Q)

D.of S.

D.S.D.

A.L.O.

D.of P.(3) and for Col. Spraggett.

I.P.(2)

W.D.

Admiral Blake (4)

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

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

GLOIRE. E.T.A. 1330Z/10th my position 052° Point Baker
170 speed 30 knots.
(F.S. GLOIRE 10001Z to Comar, Dakar, F.O.C. W.Af.)

DOMINION MONARCH. A.M. 091945 April (N.T. in W.D.) Request you
will send DOMINION MONARCH back to Durban.
(D.O.D. (F) 100140B to C. in C. S.A. P.S.T.O.
Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban.)

QUEEN MARY. My 081603 sailed 2100Z/9th, no change in E.T.A.
My 091315Z refers.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 100645Z to Admty. etc.)

WITCH, WOLVERINE. Sailed 100700Z April WITCH, WOLVERINE Freetown
through "Dog" 004° 20' N. 002° 02' W.
"Queen" 003° 20' N. 008° 24' W.
"Sugar" 007° 40' N. 014° 11' W. Speed 15 knots.
E.T.A. 121800 April.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 100730Z to F.O.C. W.Af., Admty.)

U-Boat. Following fix has been obtained by D/F bearings
at 0227Z/10th on 8520 k/cs. An Italian S/M
within 120 miles of 008° 30' S. 028° 29' W.
(F.O.C.W.A.F. 100825Z to Commander 4th Fleet.)

Convoy D.N. 32. Sailing telegram.
(2) 100800Z. (4) 8 knots.
(5) (?Z) 033° 00' S. 036° 00' E. COMMOX,
JASMINE, ST. LOMAN, LADY ROSEMARY. Code word
"Pasture".
(N.C.S.O. Durban 100857Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Freetown. Arrivals 090650Z BURDOCK, INKPEN, ORFASY, M.L. Nos.
302, 287 with D.B.F.1. 091048Z BIRDLIP escorting.
(S.O. (I) Freetown (SL) 101029 to Admty. Comar,
Dakar, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (Gambia), C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation at 102002Z. BLACK SWAN with O.S.45 018°
03' 017° 58' (?240°) (Alternatives 077° 196° 180°)
8½. (?CORINTHIAN), INKPEN, WASTWATER, DUNKERY,
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, 2 M.Ls. with S.R.4, 009° 35'
015° 26' 300° 5½. CILICIA on patrol about 009° 40' 027° 30' 14.
F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 005° 01' 022° 29' 20.
BIRMINGHAM 009° 14' 014° 33' to U.K. 18½. M.L. 296, M.L. 256,
009° 45' N. 015° 22' W. escorting to Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 101109Z.)

Weekly state South Atlantic Station 10th April.
Cape Area GENISTA, KENYA, (?RACEHORSE) (?REDOUBT) (?RELENTLESS)
QUADRANT, BULOLO, NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, BETTY BODIE, ULSTER
MONARCH, LARGS, KEREN.

/Durban...

War Diary.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Durban to Capetown FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM, FRITILLARY, (Contd.) LE TIGER. Capetown to Durban CHALLENGER (?STELLA POLARIS) DRANGEY. Durban Area JASMINE, NAPIER, CATTERICK, NIGELLA, QUALITY, NORWICH CITY, ST. LOMAN, LADY ROSEMARY. (?Walvis Bay) Area, SARABANDE. Kilindini to Durban DEVONSHIRE.

Durban to Kilindini EREBUS, INTEGRITY. Walvis Bay NORTHERN ISLES. Saldanha Bay SPINDRIFT, FERNSMOOR, MANCHESTER CITY. Capetown QUILLIAM, ROCKROSE, COVENTRY CITY, NORTHERN CHIEF, ARCTIC EXPLORER, INDIAN STAR, CAPE WARWICK, NORTHERN DAWN, ST. ZENO, VIVIANA. Simonstown M.L. 830 P. 552 P. 614 M.L. (?381) NORMAN, QUAIL, BLACKMOOR, QUEENBOROUGH, M.L. 1150 COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE, D'ORVES F.S. Port Elizabeth CECILE MAPLESON, KHETI, (A.S.I.S.) PACHECO (A.S.I.S.) East London, SATSA, STORMWRACK, KIRRIEMOOR. Durban WARSPITE, SUSSEX, RAIDER, FREESIA, ETHIOPIAN, PRUDENT, (?LADY ELSA) HERTFORDSHIRE, CORSICA (A.S.I.S.) SONDRRA, MEAD. (C. in C. S.A. 101138B.)

SARABANDE 021° 10' 012° 22' to Walvis Bay 5 knots. NORTHERN ISLES 024° 30' (?014°) 20' coastal to Capetown 9. GENISTA, NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, WELLARD with C.N.16 032° (?20) 008° 50' to 032° 20' 005° 00' 8½. KENYA, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, QUADRANT with W.S.28 031° 55' 016° 45' to Capetown 13. FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM with D.C.17 B. 034° 55' 019° 45' to Capetown 13. CHALLENGER, STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY with C.D.13 034° 30' 023° 20' coastal to Durban 8 knots. FRITILLARY, LE TIGER, VEREENIGING with D.C.18 033° 30' 027° 25' coastal to Capetown 8. JASMINE, ST.LOMAN, LADY ROSEMARY with D.N. (?32) 031° 00' 032° 30' to 033° 00' 9 knots. EREBUS, NAPIER, QUALITY, CATTERICK, NIGELLA, INTEGRITY, 026° 50' 034° 45' to 021° 01' 038° 01' 7½. DEVONSHIRE with M.C.6 022° 50' 039° 30' to 032° 50' 037° 00' 11½. (C. in C. S.A. 101335B.)

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 003° 50' N. 018° 30' W. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol 005° 01' 022° 29'. WITCH and WOLVERINE off Cape Palmas to Freetown 18. MALCOLM 000° 57' S. 003° 11' E. to Freetown 17. SNOWDROP 004° 42' N. 009° 34' W. 123. (?) 10. 2 M.Ls. off Accra, ARRAN off Marshall, one M.L. off Assinie.

(F.O.C.W.A. 101657Z.)

Convoy List, destinations.
S.R.4. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 101127Z to Admty.) Sailed, see 101422Z.

STRATHAIRD, Your 071953. (Re escort for STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE.) Para 2. Local escort will be arranged. (C. in C. S.A. 101148B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

M.M.S. A.M. 071825 April 1942 and Pink list dated 2nd March 1943, request allocation of M.M.S. 102, 103, 105, 106 and 107. (F.O.C.W.A. 101215 to Admty.) Reply: 131343.

Arrival 10th April SARABANDE escorting BEN ALDER in tow of tug MASTER.

(N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 101241B to Admty. etc.)

/Floating...

War Diary.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Floating
Dock, ex-
Montevideo.

Your telegram No. 61. (request for independent opinion on dock's return to Montevideo.)
I share view of my Naval Attache that Captain of CHESHIRE had no option but to recommend return to Montevideo when faced with opinion of dock master Manuay that in view of damage already suffered in moderate weather continuation of voyage would probably lead to loss of dock. 2. Discrepancy of views between Lloyds surveyors on one hand and Manuay and tug masters on the other is comprehensible. Former's view is based on mathematical calculation of stresses and strains to which dock would normally be subject on voyage. Latter's view is based on how dock actually behaved at sea in reasonably good weather. 3. State of both portions of the dock proved on examination to be more or less similar after 12 days' voyage. Manuay's opinion therefore should be not rated above that of the other dock master who disagreed with him. Tug masters however have experience of dock towing, one of them in these waters, and I do not think their opinion could be disregarded even though docks they have towed in the past were built specifically for ocean voyages and had deeper draught. 4. Conclusions seems to be that dock master Manuay had no previous experience of floating docks and was unduly apprehensive and that tug master's opinion was based on assumption that dock would cross South Atlantic direct from Montevideo to Capetown. Forward end of the dock has been stiffened and it should be able to make the passage by route which is to be followed. (Montevideo to Foreign Office, T.O.D. 101248.)

ARCTURUS,
VICTORIA.Arrived 100945 ARCTURUS escorted by VICTORIA.
(Comar, Dakar, 101302Z to Admty. etc.)

GLOIRE.

Arrived.
(Comar, Dakar, 101330Z to Admty. etc.)Movements,
Freetown.

Arrivals 072200. KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, SNOWDROP,
F.F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, with R.S.3.
2. Admty. pass to F.N.F.L. London.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 101340Z to Admty. etc.)
Departure 1725Z/9th CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, DUNKERY, INKPEN,
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE M.L.244 and 281 with S.R.4.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 101422Z to Admty. etc.)

DOMINION
MONARCH,
NIEUW
AMSTERDAM.

DOMINION MONARCH should sail Durban as soon as possible for New Zealand where she will (a) load frozen cargo for U.K. (b) embark 3,000 New Zealand personnel for Middle East.
2. She will sail New Zealand as soon as can be arranged for Suez. 3. After disembarkation at Suez she will return to U.K. via South Africa.
4. Space in NIEUW AMSTERDAM previously allotted to New Zealand personnel, not now be required, will presumably be used for U.S. personnel to Middle East. 5. P.S.T.O. Capetown should report E.T.A. of DOMINION MONARCH at New Zealand. German P.O.W. and any other passengers now on board DOMINION MONARCH should be disembarked at Durban to await onward conveyance by other means.
6. B.A.D. inform B.M.W.T. New York.
(D. of S.T. 101414B to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) C. in C. S.A.
C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., P.S.T.O. M.E., B.A.D.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

T.S.35. Sailed (?10) 1730Z. CROCUS, S.O. of Escort, DUNCTON (corrupt group) PORTSDOWN, M.L.265, 266, escorting T.S.35, route (?northwards) S. of A. (?7) knots. Estimated speed (?10) (?Freetown) 161800.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 101715Z to F.O.C. W.Af., Admty. (?N.O.I.C. Lagos)).

EMPIRE MIGHT. EMPIRE MIGHT arrived 9th. Speed 14 knots. As no onward escort available intend to include in W.S.29. F.O.C. W.Af. agrees.
(D.S.T.O. West Africa 101726Z to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.C. W.Af.)

Convoy S.R.4. My 101127. ARCHANGELOS and W.R. CHAMBERLANE JUNIOR did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 101754Z to Admty.)

BLACK SWAN (O.S.45) A/S Patrol Ahead. Patrol craft AIR FRANCE III M.L. 1141 and F.S. LA GRACIEUSE will carry out A/S patrol ahead of your track between 015° 32' N. and 013° 52' N. (2) Ships disposed from North to South in that order. They have instructions to keep a distance ahead of convoy not less than maximum visibility distance. (3) M.L. 1141 keeps 2 operator periods. All ships receive on 375 kc/s transmit on 500 kc/s.
LA GRACIEUSE holds Anglo French Cypher. Both French Ships hold Loxo 22 and 24.
(Comar, Dakar, 101754Z to BLACK SWAN (R) R.A. W.Af., M.L. 1141.)

Movement, Walvis Bay. Departure 10th April NORTHERN ISLES escorting EMPIRE ROACH E.T.A. Capetown 0700B/15th April.
(N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 101759B to C. in C. S.A. N.L.O. Capetown, Admty.)

SALVIKING, CITY OF BARODA. Your 061605B. Understood that you are holding SALVIKING for service with CITY OF BARODA. What is the position.
(Dep., Director of Salvage (F) 101824B to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Durban.) Reply: C. in C. S.A. 121619B.

Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 10th April CROCUS, FANDANGO, M.L.266. Departure CROCUS, PORTSDOWN, DUNCTON, M.L.266.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 101900Z to F.O.C.W.A. Admty, R.N.O. Lagos.)

Convoy S.R.4. My 080117. Detach M.Ls. 281 and 290 with Dakar ships as escort. 2. Comar, Dakar, is requested to sail BUTSER with vessels referred to in para. No.6. BUTSER to join escort of S.R.4.
(F.O.C. W.Af. 101913Z to CORINTHIAN, Comar, Dakar, (R) Capt. (D) BUTSER, F.O.C. Gib.)

/Departure...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy S.R.4. (Contd.) Departure 1905Z/9 April INKPEN to join escort S.R.4. (S.O. (I) Freetown 102113Z to Admty. etc.)

Series of French Warships. B.A.D. 041655 to Admty. (Re release of information of work done by French Warships in W. Africa.) I could provide suitable details and stories and could send Publicity Officer to sea in French ships. It seems desirable, however, to publish similar information about Free French, but there is little Free French Copy obtainable here. Suggest therefore I send stories etc., to Admty.) (F.O.C.W.A. 101936Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

CILICIA A.F.D. 1. Admty. 061734 has been passed to Com. 4th Fleet and CILICIA. 2. Intend CILICIA to proceed from patrol to arrive Bahia about 23rd April to complete with fuel and await dock. 3. Com. 4th Fleet is requested to provide all possible A/S protection on voyage to Montevideo-Bahia and Bahia-Walvis Bay and to say eastern limit to which this can extend on latter voyage. 4. C. in C. S.A. is requested to say what other escort arrangements he intends and route to Bahia onwards. Commitments within F.O.C. W. Africa's area will not permit of West African A/S escort being lent to assist in this duty. (F.O.C.W.A. 102011Z to C. in C. S.A., Com. 4th Fleet. (R) Admty. CILICIA, CHESHIRE, N.A. Montevideo.)

CASTILLO MONTEALEGRE (torpedoed 8 April.) Have picked up 29 survivors from Spanish ship CASTILLO MONTEALEGRE. Ship was torpedoed at 081200Z in 009° 46' N. 016° 50' W. Survivors include Captain, 2 Officers, 3 Engineers and Radio Operator. Am searching for raft said to be in vicinity with 12 men. (INKPEN 102022Z to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) CORINTHIAN.) (Freetown 102317Z to Admty.)

BIRMINGHAM. Departure 101505Z April. (S.O. (I) Freetown S.L. 102026Z to Admty. etc.)

ARGO. Departure 0900Z/10th M.L. 289 escorting French? S/M ARGO. (S.O. (I) Freetown 102111Z to Comar, Dakar (R) Admty etc.)

Italian Reptatriations. repeat. Your 081720Z. Request you will verify, check and (Hd. of M. Branch 102028B to F.O.C.W.A.)

* Sunk by U. 123, Oct. 3. See Horst von Schroeter. German position approx. 09° 25' N, 16° 00' W. German CO. alleged no neutrality markings visible, no name on ship's side or bridge, and no flag flying. (German Documents)

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

THUNDERBOLT Your 021557 (Proposing date S/M THUNDERBOLT should be paid off 28 March). Approved. (Head of M. Branch II 100007B to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Shuttle service. Sailed B.D.V. QUANNETT and Bougie. EMPIRE BAIRN. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 100516A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) Admty. etc). Shuttle service. Arrived CAP PINEDE. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 101722A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) Admty. etc).

PAKENHAM, Intend operating PAKENHAM, NUBIAN, PALADIN and NUBIAN, PETARD north of Narrows tonight passing Pantellaria about 2330B and sweeping North to 037° 44' 012° 03' about 0300B/11th then returning to Malta by route in your 082247 (not to all para. 2 (A). (V.A. Malta, 100758B to C. in C. Med., (R) S.O. Force "Q" F.O.I.S. TARTAR, H.Q., R.A.F. Med. East. C. in C. Levant, Pass to Admty. for information by Gibraltar).

Movements, Arrivals AETOS, ARMAGILLO, departure BURRA. Beirut. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 100843C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

G.U.S.6 Sailing 0800A/10th ships as in my 061122 as amended by my 070615 less BENJAMIN BOURNE plus WEST NILUS escorted by ACUTE, ALBACORE, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS. (N.O.I.C. Oran, 100855A to A.I.G. 259 (R) Comor-seafron. N.S.H. Q.)

Movements Arrivals 9th April BELVOIR, WOLBOROUGH, Alexandria. MIAOULES, PINDOS. Departures 9th April WOLBOROUGH, QUEEN OLGA, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 100910C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

UNSHAKEN Surface forces all operating North and West of Pantellaria tonight. Keep South of 036° 50' N., from dusk to dawn. (Capt. S.10, 101020 to UNSHAKEN (P.54)).

UNISON P.43 (UNISON) sailing at 100B for exercise then proceeding through R and R to position P. at 1200B April 12th and thence to patrol as ordered by you. (Capt. (S) 10, 101021B to Capt. (S) 8 (R) S/Ms on Patrol, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1).

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

Bi-weekly
Opsum No.
115 Part 3. Night 8/9 April. 5 Halifax 50 Wellingtons bombed Sousse town and scattered M.T. on El Djem - Sousse Road. Bursts seen near station in Sousse but damage unobserved. A P.40 formation despatched to attack ship reported off Sfax harbour did not locate and returned.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 101043Z to Air Min).

Damaged
M/Vs. Your 091328 (Damaged Merchant ships in "Torch" Area) HADLEIGH, NATHANIEL GREENE, CITY OF PERTH, EMPIRE STANDARD, OCEAN SEAMAN, EMPIRE ROWAN, OCEAN VANQUISHER, ST. MERRIEL.
(C. in C. Med., 101105Z to Admty).

ALBA JULIA
(Roumanian). My 301143 March, ALBA JULIA sailed 2000 G.M.T. April 9th for Panderma to load chrome. Will return Istanbul to complete loading general cargo.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 101107C to S.O.(I) Levant
(R) D. of N.I.)

K.M.S.12 Destination as follows: (list).
EGRET pass to Commodore and ships concerned.
(C. in C. Med., 101107A to EGRET, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.12, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.S. etc).

REGENT Adjust your route to your patrol area to include the enemy coastline between Cape Spartivento and Cape Colonne. Keep east of 016° E. and cover this stretch at normal passage speed.
(Capt. S.10., 101131 to REGENT (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S)1).

P.L.M.16
(French -
German
control). My 091107. Reported B.3 P.L.M. 16 will sail for Bourgas. N.L.O. Balck Sea informed.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 101159C to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I.)

SAFARI (?Leave) patrol through 038° 31' 010° 01' at 2015/11 038° 28' 004° 23' at 2015/13th and R/V with escort for Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 06' at 0615/14th.
2. You may meet P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) and RORQUAL.
(Capt. S.8., 101216A to P.211 (SAFARI) (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M F).

P.R.U. P.R.U. 10th April Visuals 1105 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers. 1220 Messina no major naval units.
(V.A. Malta, 101332B/4 to C. in C. Med., etc).

/KATSONIS...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

KATSONIS 10th April arrival G.S. KATSONIS.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 101350C, to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Levant).

TAURUS, (1) P.339 (TAURUS) proceed after dark tonight
TRIDENT. Saturday, to established patrol between
vicinity Giglio Island and east coast Corsica.
(2) TRIDENT operating north of 042° 30' when
east of Corsica after 0600 tomorrow Sunday.
(Capt. S.8., 101520A, to TRIDENT, P.339
(TAURUS) (R) 8th S/M Capt. (S) 10, C. in C.Med).

Movements, Sailed UNISON, NUBIAN, PALADIN, PAKENHAM,
Malta. PETARD.
(V.A. Malta, 101619Z to Admty. etc).

Officers 1. A.M.1927/5th. Regret I did not state in
for Turkey. para. 6 of my 1033/5th March that I made it
clear to Turkish General Staff that appointment
of gunnery and torpedo specialists would be
dependent on suitable officers being available.
2. Your 092031. Visit of Cdr. Smith is most welcome.
3. Please repeat as necessary to Admty. and other authorities
concerned.
(B.N.A. Ankara, 101647C to C. in C. Levant).

Enemy Units. Nr. 1. P.C. and S. of enemy 37° 25' N. 10°
50' E. 045° 15 knots.
(A/C 25 F/A Via Alex, 101700 to C/S 22 L).

CONAKRIAN Your 091212 (E.T.17 arrived less CONAKRIAN)
CONAKRIAN at Algiers.
(C. in C. Med., 101707A to F.O. Gibraltar).

P.R.U. April 10th visuals. 1510 Taranto (?2 battle-
ships) 3 cruisers. 1600 Messina no major
naval units.
(V.A. Malta, 101718B to C. in C. Med., etc).

Movements, 10th April Port Said arrivals QUEEN OLGA,
Port Said. COUNDOURIOTIS, departure COUNDOURIOTIS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 101727C to Admty. etc).

COMMANDANT Cancel my 091221. Admiral Michelier now
BORY, requests that COMMANDANT BORY may sail from
G.U.S.6. Casablanca to Bermuda with G.U.S.6.
2. Commorseafon is requested to arrange
accordingly.
3. She should embark A/S set ex DUMONT D'URVILLE
but will have no Oerlikons.
(C. in C. Med., 101734A to Commorseafon S.N.O.
Gibraltar, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty).

/Cancel...

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10.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.COMMANDANT
BORY,
G.U.S. 6.
(Contd.)

Cancel my 091221. COMMANDANT BORY will now sail with G.U.S.6. She will embark A/S set type 127A but no Oerlikons M.
 (2) Request F.O.C. Gibraltar confirm to S.B.N.O. W.At. any known deficiencies in A/S set.
 (3) If Oerlikons not available in Bermuda request positions may be prepared and guns will be supplied on return.
 (C. in C. Med., 101919A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty., S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Commorseafron.)

BURRA.

Arrived and left 10th April, BURRA.
 (N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 101749C to Admty., etc.)

M.L.
Hunting
Groups.

Five M.L. Huntings Groups are being formed for A/S operations on North African coast. Fighter protection codewords are allocated as follows and are not to be used for other forces. 22nd Flotilla - "Knout". 25th Flotilla - "Paddington". 28th Flotilla - "Groat". 29th Flotilla - "Flail". 31st Flotilla - "Rackham".
 (C. in C. Med., 101809A to Med. Stn. 367K.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I.536, 10th April, C.S.R. Malta.
 (A) Part 1 Offensive.
 Night 9th/10th April. 5 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed over Catania aerodrome and 1 vessel 2000 tons was attacked off Trapani, numerous strikes being scored. No shipping target was found.
 Day 10th April. 4 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily found no enemy aircraft. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep Pantellaria area intercepted and destroyed 1 Ju.88, course north-east, 12 miles North (? east or west) of Pantellaria. Navigation and bombing exercise was carried out against Lampedusa aerodrome by 8 Beaufighters with bombs and a fighter escort of 12 Spitfires.
 Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 9th/10th April 1 Beaufighter on interception patrol N.W. of Malta found no enemy aircraft.
 (A.H.Q. Malta, 101811Z.)

DIDO,
refit.

C. in C. Med. 081644 (re DIDO, fitting of R.D.F., changing ratings and giving leave) concur. (2) Para. 4, alternative (b) preferred.
 (C. in C. Levant, 101836C to Admty.)
 Reply: Admty. 131454B.

/French ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

French Request for Patrol Craft and Mine-sweepers. Adm. Michelieu has repeated request for small A/S patrol craft and mineweeppers for French North Africa and states French Navy could produce 1,000 seamen to man them in next six months. Training classes for Oropesa sweeping and A/S are proceeding at Algiers and Bone. 2. In view of future commitments I do not recommend any offer of transfer of British craft at present allocated to Mediterranean with exception of one flotilla of Harbour Defence Motor Launches about end of May.
(C. in C. Med., 101916A to Admty., (R) Cominch, Comnavnaw.)

Movements, Libya. Arrived KLO, FAVOURITE, HAILSTORM.
(N.O.I.C. Libya, 101929B to Admty.)

Movements, Bone. Bone departures CARLISLE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY, WHADDON, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, BACHAQUERO, HENGIST, MISOA L.C.Is 106, 240, 111, 104, 256, 119, 248, 174.
(S.O.I.S., 102012A to C. in C. Med., Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals submarine DOLFIJN, SHIANT, INCHMARNOCK, M.L.280. Departures L.C.T.135, French ships COLONEL CASSE, ANGELI, PEREZ, Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE.
(Cdre. Algiers, 102021 to Admty.)

M.K.S. 11. My 091905B, destination of RHEA (fr.) should be New York for orders.
(D.T.D., 102026B to Cdre. Algiers.)

EMPIRE MINNOW. A.M. 291619 March.
Request early despatch of tug EMPIRE MINNOW to Capetown to await orders.
(D. of S.T., 102100B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

PARTHIAN. My position at 102001C 034° 34' 032° 22' 115° 12½ knots altering course to 101° at 2300 to arrive Beirut searched channel 110901C.
(PARTHIAN, 102107C to Capt. (S) 1, (R) 201 N.C. Group Middle East, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Syrian Ports (Beirut).)

/Movements ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals NEWFOUNDLAND, ESKIMO, MINNA.
Oran. Departures ALBACORE, CADMUS, ACUTE, COLVOLVULUS,
SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON, SALVESTOR, LOOKOUT,
FARNDALE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 102122 to Admty., etc.)
Amended by 111857, q.v.

Enemy Following read. 3 enemy medium sized M/Vs in
Units. 35° 00' N. 11° 35' E., course 000°, speed 6
knots.
(A/C FCT/K via Malta W/T, 102235A.)
Following read. My 2230 (2235 intended) P.C.
and S. of 3 medium enemy merchant ships and 4 small enemy
merchant ships 35.07 N. 11.35 E., 000°, 6.
(A/C FCT/K, 102330B.)
Following read. P.C. and S. of 3 medium sized M/Vs
and 4 small M/Vs are 35.07 N. 11.25 E., 000°, 6 knots.
(Malta W/T, 102340.)
Following read. One small enemy M/V and 1 medium M/V
in 37° 18' N. 11° 46' E., 000°, 8 knots.
(A/C CYK/X via Alexandria W/T, 102350.)

LEZARDRIEUX. Arrival 10th from Gandia LEZARDRIEUX will sail
tonight 10th for Marseilles, oranges.
(Valencia, 102323 to Gibraltar, (R) M.E.W. Bank
Block.)

M.K.S. 11. Philippeville section sailed less WILLIAM
MCKINLEY. S.O. Escort pass to Cdre.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 102331A to Escorts
of Convoy M.K.S.11, etc.)

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements
Addu
Atoll.Dep. 0136Z April 10th MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE
escorting APPLELEAF (II).
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 100152Z to Admty.)AMERICAN
BUILDER
"S"
Report.Intercept 2354Z de unknown station SSSS WHJJ
(doubtful) (unread) 60 N. 73.03 E. sighted (unread)
RPEDO NRA (unread) 2240/9 T.O.R. 09 (unread)
G.M.T. GZ.Q 23 (unread DE VPQ (unread)
(P.P. Radio, 100154 to Navy Charge Greenock.)
W.D. Note: Latitude should be 16° N. (see Colombo
W/T 101040)Following has been read SSSS DE WHJJ (WIAP AMERICAN BUILDER
U.S.) 16.04 N. 73.03 E. sighted torpedo track.
(Colombo W/T 101040 to Admty.) ? Code time wrong.Convoy
M.B.31.Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 100306Z to Admty.)

P.B.35.

Sailing telegram (15 ships) (2) 0300Z/10th.
(4) 7 knots. (5) (Route) (6) GERALDTON, SUTLEJ.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz, 100335Z/April, to F.O.R.S.C.A.,
Admty., etc.

Movements.

Departure 0050Z. RUKHMAVATI has no W/T.
Arrivals 0330Z KONKAN with M.B.31 0530Z FALMOUTH,
CESSNOCK, with P.B.34.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 10060Z to Admty.)
Today CERES and SHAPINSAY left.
(F.O.E.Af., 101411Z to Admty.)

P.B.34.

Bombay portion arrived less KOSCIUSZKO diverting
to Karachi.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 100625Z to Admty., etc.)

B.A.42.

Signal 1. Sailing telegram. (2) 0730Z/10th.
(3) E.T. crossing 055° 1530Z/14th. (3a) E.T.A.
Aden 0530/17th. (4) Ten knots to 055° thence best
speed. (5) (R) 018° 57' 065° 04' (S) 017° 31'
057° 35'. (T) 014° 56' 052° 35'. (W) 012° 48' 046° 02' thence
Aden. (6) CANTON to 055° E. where convoy disperses.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 100739Z to Admty.) Amended N.C.S.O. Bombay
120836Z.Enemy
Air
Force
Intelligence.Agree that it is essential to have combined staff
for purposes described in Armindias 26 1145 March
para. 2.
(C. in C.E.F., 100847Z to Admty.)M.Ls. 436,
437.M.Ls. 436, 437 not yet completed. Your 08140
(081409 intended) refers.
(F.O.C.R.I.N., 101040Z to Admty.)

/B.A.42...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.- Contd.

B.A. 42. Departure CANTON with B.A.42. S. of A. 10 knots.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 101051Z to Admty.)

ESPERANCE. Following service cargo shipped transport ESPERANCE sailed from Bombay 10th April for Suez. (Details).
(4) Embarked for Suez. (Details of personnel).
(5) Due Aden 17th April draft 22 feet. Requirements.
(6) Vessel to be returned Bombay soon as possible after discharge.
(P.S.T.O. India, 101111Z to D.S.T.O. Suez, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E., D.S.T.O. Aden, G.H.Q.Mideast, D.S.T.)

KEDAH. Further to my 040534 (N.T. in W.D.) estimate KEDAH's speed after repairs outlined in para. 4 of my 041011 Dec. should be 18 to 19 knots and will meet requirements in C. in C. E.F.

031201 February.

2. If considered that extent of repairs is not justified at this stage of war and in view of dockyard man-hours involved, your 291430 Dec. refers, suggest a very good use could be made of her as a mobile depot ship for A/S M/S and coastal forces in this area.

3. This need will first become marked when Fleet and its Flotillas move in Trincomalee and will increase when coastal forces are operating further to eastwards.

4. Vessel has accommodation for about 50 officers and 250 men but would require fitting of adequate refrigerated space.
(F.O. Ceylon, 101206Z to Admty.)

India Air Report.

(C) R/C 9th April. (Thali ?) Wellington Arakan coast attacked coastal shippings, of (?Taungup ?)
(A.H.Q. India, 101240Z to Air Min.)

Ptongwe N.A. Depot Jetty.

I support A/S Kilindini's proposal that the contractors resources should be diverted to the Armament Depot Pier. A.M. 317/1727 refers. The Armament Depot in its present state without satisfactory loading facilities is unable to fulfil its functions of rapid replenishment of ships or A.S.I.S. and rapid unloading of ships carrying ammunition. Delays to the latter are already occurring.

2. The present five deep water berths alongside Kilindini are not continuously fully occupied and it is estimated that the use of these berths is only forty per cent of what it was a year ago.

3. Imports have fallen considerably in recent months though exports have remained at their previous level. Recent reduction of shipping tonnage allocated to the Indian Ocean however is bound to result in reduced handling at Kilindini.

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War Diary.

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ptongwe
N.A. Depot
Jetty.
(Contd.)

4. Unless a substantial increase in the shipping using the port is to be expected two months' delay in completion of new deep water bays? should in my opinion be accepted.
(C. in C.E.F. 101302Z to Admty. (R) F.O.E.Af. A.S. Kilindini, D.D.A.S. E.F.)

DOMINION
MONARCH,
SUSSEX.

Propose SUSSEX as ocean escort to DOMINION MONARCH for Indian Ocean passage. Your 091945 refers.
2. If DOMINION MONARCH requires to replenish with water consider this should be done at Fremantle to avoid special arrangements for provisions of water at Addu Atoll.
(C. in C.E.F. 101331Z to Admty. (R) A.C.N.B. N.Z.N.B. C.S.4.)

VARSOVA.

Transport VARSOVA sailed today requirements at Aden.
(D.S.T.O. P.G. 101448Z to S.S.T.O. Suez (R) D.S.T.O. Aden, P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. India, D. of S.D. London.)

L.L. Mine-
sweepers
allocation.

A.M. 041554. (Re reduction of L.L. Minesweepers originally allocated to the Persian Gulf.)
Request your proposals regarding BUSHWOOD, whose primary function was maintenance of D.G. of minesweepers including deperming. 2. Range staff should be capable of servicing the reduced numbers using sweep batteries.
(D.M.S. 101648B to C. in C.E.F. (R) S.N.O. P.G.)

V.H.F.
in F.A.A.

Your 161506/March. Final decision to fit V.H/F in F.A.A. fighter aircraft awaits clearance of technical difficulties in the operation of multi-channel V.H/F in ships. 2. Other obstacles are:
1. Supply of equipment for aircraft, ship and air station use. (ii) Allocation of suitable frequency bands agreeable to all users. (iii) Necessity of common policy with U.S. Navy. 3. Every effort being made to clear these difficulties and indications are favourable. Probable that provision of equipment, most of which must come from U.S.A. will be factor deciding target date for a general change. 4. Naval fighters will use V.H/F from time of their operational appearance.
(Head of Air Branch, 101756B to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A. R.A.N.A.S. I.O. Com. N.A.S. Ceylon.)

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.BAYNTUN,
BAZELY.

This is Navrout Norfolk 091742Z passed for action. S.B.N.O.W.At. pass to N.A.B. Bermuda. Expected departure 1500Z/10 April, BAYNTUN and BAZELY routed Londonderry via Bermuda.

(A) 34.59 N. 69.50 W. (B) 32.27 N. 64.31 W. thence Bermuda. Thence through (L) 36.02 N. 54.58 W. (M) 36.03 N. 44.02 W. (N) 40.30 N. 34.25 W. (O) 43.25 N. 22.30 W. (P) 52.25 N. 20.15 W. (Q) 55.20 N. 9.10 W. thence destination. S. of A. 15 knots. S.O. in BAYNTUN.

(Radio Washington, 100005Z to Admty., C. in C. W.A., S.B.N. O.W.At., N.S.H.Q., V.A. Gibraltar.)

Refer my 1742/9. Departed Cape Henry 1717Z/10th April. Both vessels hold Q.J.C.134, Q.B.6, Z.H.996, Z.X.950, Z.L.52, Z.Y.376, Z.S.407 and 2 lettered messages Q.Z.561.

(R.O. Norfolk, 101846Z to Connav, C. in C. Lant, C.E.S.F., Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., N.O.B. Bermuda, V.A. Gibraltar.)

Movements.

St. Johns N.F. April 9th arrivals - HAVELOCK, SWALE, BUTTERCUP, GODETIA, PIMPERNEL, LAVENDER, BRYONY, BERGAMOT ex U.K. SHERBROOKE, DIANTHUS, TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN ex O.N.175. ST. CLAIR, TIMMINS, TRAIL, NORANDA ex H.X.230. SKEENA ex Halifax. Departures - SARNIA, FORT WILLIAM escorting J.H.47. BUXTON to Halifax.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 100429Z to Admty.)

Arrival HEPATICA, MEDICINE HAT, DUNVEGAN ex H.X.233. M.L. 085 from Boston.

(C. Halifax, 101314Z to N.S.H.Q.)

C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13 in JED plus BURNHAM, LA MALBAIE, BITTERSWEET, MAYFLOWER, EYEBRIGHT arrived from S.C.124.

(C.T.G. 24.7, 101600Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Departure 10th U.S.A.T. DRENNAN.

(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 101645QR to Admty.)

Kingston departures M.Ls 379 and 378 via Mona passage, E.T.A. San Juan Puerto Rico 1000Q/13th April.

(N.O.I.C. Kingston, 101702Q to Admty.)

San Francisco arrival April 9th A.T. LURLINE (U.S.)

Departure April 9th A.T. TABINTA (Dutch) Noumea.

(N.S.H.Q., 101927Z to Admty.)

Kingston April 9th CUBA (U.S.A.T.) San Aran 11th.

(N.S.H.Q., 101934Z to Admty.)

Departures SWIFT CURRENT, HALIFAX, NEW WESTMINSTER to escort O.N.175.

(C. Halifax, 102034Z to Admty.)

Arrival 10th NORSEMAN.

(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 102245Q to Admty.)

O.N. 176,
U/Bs.

N.S.H.Q. 2308Z/9. U.K. bearings indicate transmission was not from vicinity of O.N.176.

(D.D.I.C., 100440B to Escorts O.N.176, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

/BUTLER ...

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

BUTLER,
ARGONAUT. When ready at about daylight proceed at 20 knots to meet and escort ARGONAUT towards Bermuda. ARGONAUT route from Azores 35° 50' N. 40° 01' W. then 33° 01', 60° 01'. Speed 10. (Corrupt group) Azores 081100Z April. Further orders after departure. Fuel arrives tonight. (U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, 100715 to BUTLER, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty., ARGONAUT, C.T.F.68, Comdesron 17.)

U.C. 2,
C.T.G.
21.6. Following is 091803 from C.T.U. 21.2.3 addressed Cinclant. MADISON with C.T.G. 21.6 on board departed to meet U.C.2 accompanied by BABBITT, H.P. JONES, UPSHUR, CHARLES F. HUGHES and LANSDALE. UPSHUR equipped H/F direction finder. (Comnaveu, 100746 to Admty.)

COVENTRY
CITY,
CAPE
WARWICK,
U/B attacked
20th May '42. Your 061401. Body was too decomposed to identify. (CAPE WARWICK, 100900B to B.A.D., (R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

BEVERLEY
in collision. C.T.U. 24.1.18 100928Z.
See Home Commands.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 10th.	ARGONAUT	36½° N. 36½° W.	261°	10
	QUEEN OF BERMUDA)	44° N. 27° W.	024°	16
	CILICIA	09° 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	F.S. GEORGES)	Believed to be		
	LEYGUES)	14° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	19 L.C.I.(L)s	32° N. 42° W.	109°	10
	MILFORD with Floating Dock)	01° N. 41° W.	087°	4½
	CARNARVON)	03° N. 20° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE)			
	CHESHIRE with Floating Dock)	34° S. 53½° W.	037°	4½
	T.A. 39	39½° N. 46° W.	267°	19
	T.A. 40	40½° N. 43½° W.	274°	26
	A.T.41	42½° N. 57° W.	086°	19½
	(D.O.D. (F) 101041Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).			

Bearings not obtained by HIGHLANDER and convoy. Cominch's 100142 and C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18's 100325. Bearings obtained at 2222 and 0026 transmissions 060° and 000° respectively both 4th Class and outside 50 miles. Were not thought to be report of H.X. 232 particularly as southerly gale blowing at time.

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Bearings not
obtained by
HIGHLANDER
and convoy.
(Contd.)2. Positions of other mid ocean convoys not
received.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17, 101115 to C. in C. W.A.,
(R) C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 24.7, Connav, Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., C. in C. C.N.W.A., H.Q.C.C.,
C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18.)

SKEENA.

In view of your 092018 intend sailing SKEENA
with T.U. 24.1.3 to H.X.233 detaching from
convoy in time to arrive Londonderry April 19th.
This cancels my 091813.
(F.O.N.F., 101228Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) C.T.U.
24.1.3, C.T.G. 24.7, Admty., C. in C. C.N.W.A.,
N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, Com. Londonderry, SKEENA.)EDWARD B.
DUDLEY
"S" Report.Following read from EDWARD B. DUDLEY. SSSS
SSSS SSSS de KGXS attacked latitude 53° N. Long.
39° W. at 1244 G.M.T./10 de GCK. Controlling
Station Valentia Radio. R.A.F. informed.
(Burnham Radio, T.O.R. 1251 G.M.T./10 to
Admty., C. in C. W.A.)Following received from EDWARD B. DUDLEY. My 101244 S/M
attack message. Survived position now 50° 03' N. 38° 50'
course 065° speed 10½ knots. Believe (?2) S/Ms are following
us.
(Gallon Head Radio, 101620 G.M.T. to A.C.O.S., (R) Admty.)

HOLLYWOOD.

HOLLYWOOD (U.S.) ice damage ex O.N.175.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 101325Z to Admty.)

CHASER.

Cominch's 2117/09 informs as follows:
When ready about 16th sail CHASER from
Pascagoula for Mobile for fuel thence onward
about 17th to Norfolk for completion fitting
out. Advise time of departures, speed of advance and route.
(Comnaveu, 101306 to Admty.)

X.B. 43.

Arrived Cape Cod Canal 101100Z.
(Com. 1st U.S.N. Dis. Boston, 101330Z to
Cominch C. & R., Admty., etc.)MELBOURNE
STAR.Your 091451Z no evidence confirming claim other
than vessel overdue D.F. 030229 28° 05' N. 57°
30' W. may be indication of attack. Bermuda
has been requested to search for survivors.
(Cominch C. & R., 101403 to Admty.)

/ARROWHEAD ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

ARROWHEAD. Your 091602. If time permits request you sail ARROWHEAD to New York for additional escort H.X.235 to H.O.M.P. otherwise order ship direct to Halifax.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 101457Z to B.A.M.R. Washington, (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., N.M.C.J.S., S.B.N.O.W.At., C.E.S.F., Cominch.)

S/M Estimate 10th April. U.S. S/M Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 101458Z, 101459Z, 101530Z, 101531Z, 101532Z.)

H.X.232, U/Bs. Two submarines sighted 15 and 22 miles on port beam being hunted by VIMY, CLOVER, PENNYWORT. O.N.176, 53° 24' N. 30° 09' W.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 101500Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Admty., C.O.A.C., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., Escorts H.X.232, C. in C. C.N.W.A.)

W.S.C.126. Sailing telegram. 5 ships. (2) 101430Z. (3) 121000Z in 268° 56' N. 262° 42' W. (sic). (4) 8. (5) as per C. in C. C.N.W.A's 041856. (6) BUTTERCUP, PIMPERNEL.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns, 101520Z, 101521Z to Admty., as amended 111535Z.)

N. Atlantic Trade Convoys, "Chop". The establishment of "Chop" for North Atlantic trade convoys as agreed upon by N.S.H.Q. and Admty. will be satisfactory to Cominch C. & R. Suggest a definite "Chop" be promulgated to all concerned and in ample time for appropriate action to be taken by the authority about to assume control, C. in C. C.N.W.A. and C.T.F.24 have by other means.
(Cominch C. & R., 101555Z to Admty., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.W.C., C.T.F.24.)

J.I.V. accommo- dation. Further to our 62498 cipher 20th March. Admty. propose agree but stipulate you vacate camp if required at three months notice. Consider this too short and have suggested six months. Cable your views.
(W.O., 101650B to Cdr. North Caribbean Area.)

Situation Reports. Section East. W.S.C.126, PIMPERNEL, BUTTERCUP 046° 55' 052° 45' 193°, 7 altering to 135° in 052° 55' W. MONTGOMERY due St. Johns N.F. p.m./10th.

/J.H.47A ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Situation J.H.47A, ESQUIMALT departs St. Johns N.F.
 Reports. 102200Z, 9 knots.
 (Contd.) O.N.175, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2 (E) 042° 11' 054°
 52' 231°, 7.5 altering to 270° in 055° (?37') W.
 H.X.233, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.7, 042° 50' 054° 38'
 087°, 9.5.

S.C.126, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1, 043° 38' 055° 12', 087°, 7.5.
 J.H.47, SARNIA, FORT WILLIAM, WESTMOUNT 040° 15' 055° 10', 205°
 7 altering to 231° in 044° 29' N. and to 280° in 044° 20' W.
 BEXTON 044° 21' 058° 21', 274°, 15.
 H.J.45, MALPEQUE, THREE RIVERS 044° 19' 058° 54', 115°, 7.5
 altering to 055° in 057° 13' W.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 101650Z to Admty.)
 My 101650Z add A.T.41, 41.45 N. 56.27 W., 141°, 19.5
 altering to 087° in 41.20 N. 56.00 W.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 101656Z to Admty.)
 Section South-west.

U.S. Ships ALATOK ARVEK, ALBATROSS, TRAVIS 43.02 68.45, 115°,
 8 altering to 085° in 68.10 W. and to 046° in 65.15 W.
 U.S. Ship BARNEGAT 42.54 69.12 en route Boston 16.5.
 H.F.47, KENTVILLE, GRANDMERE, SUMMERSIDE 44.13 66.32, 020°, 9.
 B.Y.M.S.65, 66, 67, 185 vicinity 43.11 65.30 en route Halifax 11.
 U.S. Ship TERRY 43.12 65.08, 266°, 20 altering to 280° in 66.10
 W.

Western L. Escort Task Unit 24.18.8, 43.58 62.33, 129° 12
 to join O.N.175.
 CHILLIWACK 44.30 59.51, 270°, 12.
 IZARRA (Auxiliary Schooner) (?41).31 60.45, 049°, 5.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 101720Z to Admty.)

M.M.S. My 032029. Intend sailing M.M.S.99, 100, 101,
 104, 108 at 1200Z/13 coastwise through (G) 43.03
 N. 69.25 W. (H) 42.12 N. 70.17 W. (J) 41.55 N.
 70.19 W. thence New York via Cape Cod Canal and
 Long Island Sound speed 9 knots, E.T.A. 1200Z/16. W/T watch
 105 k/cs guarding 414 k/cs W. 67° W. and 355 in New York area.
 2. Request minesweepers be sailed to Miami for onward routing
 to destination in accordance with A.M. 071825 April 1942.
 (C. in C.N.W.A., 101939Z to N.M.C.J.S., C.E.S.F., (R) Admty.,
 N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M., Cominch, B.A.D., F.O.I.C.W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At.,
 Capt. i/c Jamaica.)
 See C. in C. C.N.W.A. 121509Z.

Shipping Chilean Navy has instituted system of inspection
 inspection, of vessels transiting Straits of Magellan.
 Straits of Allied and Neutral vessels are to display by day
 Magellan. their international signal letters and by night
 their signal letters by blinker light at Ponta
 Delgada Lighthouse for vessels coming from the
 Atlantic, at San Isidro Lighthouse for vessels
 coming from the Pacific or Patagonian Canals. Request above be
 communicated to R.Os. concerned your area.
 (Cominch C. & R., 102016Z to Admty.)

/Sub. ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.
 Para. B. Surface craft sight two subs. area 53.24 N. 38.50 W., 101440.
 Para. C. B.18 Radar contact 36.43 N. 73.11 W. 100020. P.B.M. Radar contact 36.47 N. 74.24 W. 101230. P.B.M. Radar contact 34.56 N. 73.17 W. 091610.
 Para. D. S.G.672 sound contact 40.41 N. 71.11 W. 101300.
 U.S.S. (PUGET ?) Migrg T sound contact 42.18 N. 69.58 W. 091809. C.G.R.3080 and C.G.R.3083 sound contacts area 39.25 N. 71.50 W. 8th and 9th.
 (Cominch, 102020Z to Admty.)

Italian Repatriations. A.M. 071621B. In view of B.R.O. Aruba's 082111Z not to all addressees, Italian Government are being requested to agree to ARCOLA and TAIGETE sailing on 14th April. You should therefore sail tankers on 14th April unless you receive instructions to contrary.
 (Hd. of M.Branch (I), 102025B to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Cominch C. & R., U.S.R.O. Aruba, B.R.O.Aruba, ARCOLA, TAIGETE.)

A.F.D. 24, MILFORD and Tugs. A.F.D.24 will soon pass into your area and I would like to express my appreciation of the excellent work of Lt.-Cdr. G.M. MacClelland C.O. of MILFORD and his group during his period of service here in connection with the towage of A.F.D.24. He has had to carry out an unusual task calling for considerable organisation and seamanship and he has created most favourable impression on all U.S. and British Officers with whom he has come in contact. See Cominch 191630 March.
 (B.A.D., 102053?Z to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

Information for Russia. Re disclosure of information to the Russians.
 1. The following corrections have been made to the lists set out in C.I.C.23/D sent forward by air bag.
 (a) There have been added to military list No.1 the items mentioned in para. 2 (a) of C.O.S.(W) 549.
 (b) The last 6 items in military list No.2 have been deleted and are now included in military list No.1 except that the words "G.L.2., S.L.C. and I.F.F. Mark 3 and G.L.3 have been, or are being released" have been omitted.
 (J.S.M.826, para. 6 refers.)
 2. Please confirm that all items listed in Radio (43) (19 with exception of those referred to in paras 2 and 3 of C.O.S.(W) 518) are now to be disclosed and should be so listed.
 3. We are not clear as regards the supplementary lists, i.e. Admiralty List 2, War Office List 1, items 25 to 28, and M.A.P. List No.2. We thought Tizard was to have free hand except as regards items not to be disclosed. Please clarify.

/4. We ...

War Diary.10.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Information
for Russians.
(Contd.)

4. We are doing our best to get a quick answer, but suggest that it might be embarrassing if Tizard set sail before we reach agreement with Americans.
(J.S.M. Washington, 102217Z to W.C.O. London.)

ITCHEN,
U/Bs.

2 U-Boats fixed by H/F D/F at 102120Z 206° ZZ 30 217° ZZ 40. P.C. and S. 055° 07' N. 037° 59' W., 194°, 7 at 102130Z. Weather report.
(ITCHEN, 102230Z to Admty., (R) Cominch, C.T.F. 24, C. in C. W.A., Ships escorting Convoy O.N.176, Ships escorting Convoy H.X.232.)

French
Escort
Vessels.

The proposal in your 061604, which has been repeated to C. in C. Med. is approved, but the following proviso should be borne in mind. Both we and the U.S. have had a certain amount of trouble over the question of deserters from Giraud to de Gaulle. While it is hoped that the French Escort Vessels at Bermuda will give no trouble, you should ensure that Verpilleaux will use his influence in favour of keeping the men serving in their ships should the need arise, since it is obviously desirable that Frenchmen, of whatever political sympathies shall continue to do duty in the vessels in which they now serve.
(Dep. 1st S.L., 102321B to S.B.N.O.W.At., (R) Cdre. i/c Bermuda, C. in C. Med.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements.

Arrivals Melbourne 9th ATREUS. Townsville 9th BROOME. Thursday Island 9th ECHUCA.
Departures Melbourne 9th NEPAL for Sydney. Darwin 9th CASTLEMAINE for Thursday Island.
Milne Bay 8th WHYALLA for Survey Grounds. Townsville 9th (corrupt group) PIRIE for Port Moresby. ARUNTA for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B., 100634Z to Admty.)
Arrival 8th Oro Bay U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER. (? 9th) Sydney Hired Transport DUNTROON, U.S. Transport PRESIDENT GRANT. Townsville U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ 10, Hired Transport TAROCNA. Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed Sydney 10th due Townsville 14th. My 091557Z* EKATERINI COUMANTAROU amend destination to read Adelaide.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 101219Z to Admty.)
* Arrival Sydney KATOOMBA.

/Digest ...

10.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
Serial
No.444
April 9th.

Revised report from two evening search Fortresses Kavieng April 8th, refer Digest 443, para. 2, one large destroyer, another destroyer or small cargo ship and 1 medium cargo vessel in Kavieng anchorages plus 1 escort vessel, 1 hospital ship S.E. of Steffen Strait.

2. R/C afternoon 9th reported 6 ships Kavieng harbour of which 3 appeared beached. One Zero unsuccessfully attempted interception.

4. Three small ships seen Wewak harbour evening, also 8 loaded barges Boqia harbour.

5. Morning strike Madang aerodrome waterfront and coast to Alexishafen by 13 B.25s, 10 Beaufighters with Lightning cover. Six aircraft burned on drome also fuel truck and huge petrol fire started wharf area all at Madang. Minimum 9 barges seen near runway Madang. One launch, 5 barges strafed at Alexishafen and 3 destroyed, rest damaged. Same barges again strafed later by Fortress which subsequently attacked two trucks Lorengau aerodrome.

8. Two morning search Hudsons found nil shipping Kaukenaa vicinity and attacked airfield area.

10. Single enemy float-plane ineffectually attacked small convoy 200 miles north-east of Darwin during morning.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 100746Z.)

MONOWAI.

Your 060334. MONOWAI E.T.D. 24th April arriving Balboa via Bora Bora 13th May for onward routing. Both dates local dates?
(N.Z.N.B., 102252Z to Admty. for D. of S.T.,
(R) B.A.D., Cdr. 3rd Fleet.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 101359B, 101409B.)

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2261

War Diary.

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

M.T.B.
Operations
off Norway.

1. M.T.B. 626 sailed from Lerwick at 0932 for operation V.P.X. and M.T.Bs. 627 (S.O.), 620, 623 and 653 at 1150 for Operation "Carey". A.C.O.S. reported the former patrol successfully completed at 121630 and the latter mission at 1620, 8 men being brought back.

2. GLASGOW sailed from Hvalfjord tonight, to join BELFAST on Patrol "White".

3. SEVERN is withdrawing from N.W. Norway patrol with weather damage.

4. OBDURATE and OPPORTUNE sailed from Londonderry for Greenock at 2208B. With BITER, they are to sail with convoy O.N. 178 for 48 hours, to gain operational experience.

5. C. in C. Plymouth reports that Force Hostile IV X completed their (minelaying) operation successfully. Force Hostile IV Y were detected by patrol craft and withdrew without achieving their object or being engaged.

6. SS. FRODE was mined and sunk at 1740 today in 50° 45' 32" N. 00° 29' 10" W. Portsmouth inshore route "A" between the Looe and Shoreham was closed at 1836B on account of suspected mining. Evidence obtained later pointed to the mine having been a drifting mine.

Convoy
O.N.S. 2.

7. SS. INGERFIRE, a romper from Convoy O.N.S. 2 was torpedoed at 2130Z in 51.48 N. 22.30 W. and sunk.

42

North Atlantic.

Mines off
Casablanca.

8. During entry of U.G.S. 6 A into Casablanca, at 1437A today U.S. MATT W. RANSON (7177 tons) was mined in 33.56 N. 07.54 W. but proceeded into harbour under her own power.

9. A convoy of 21 landing craft and some coastal craft and tugs arrived at Gibraltar today from the U.K.

War Diary.

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

10. SS. EMPIRE WHIMBREL (Rio de Janeiro for Freetown) reported being torpedoed at 0359Z today in 02.10 N. 15.55 W. (about 420 miles S.W. of Freetown). The ship sank.

Mediterranean.

11. C. in C. Med., is concerned over the loss of merchant vessels subsequent to torpedoings, when there should be a reasonable prospect of salvage. In three out of four recent torpedoings the ships remained afloat for some time but the predominant idea of the Master and crew was to abandon the ship as quickly as possible and no effort to return was made when it was seen that the ships remained afloat.

S/M
Operations.

12. TORBAY reports sinking a 2,000 ton south-bound merchant vessel off Cape Scalea (39.50 N. 15.46 E) at 1038/28 and DOLFIJN a south-east bound 4,500 ton merchant ship in the approaches to Cagliari at 0912/29. PARTHIAN sank caiques off Doro Straits and in 39.19 N. 25.18 E. on 28th March. At 1300B on 30th March she bombarded and put out of action an Axis resin refinery in Kannavitsa Bay (Athos Peninsula) and destroyed several caiques, and she destroyed another caique on 31st March.

13. A Convoy of 2 troopships, one tanker and 10 storeships arrived at Tripoli (L) today.

Sfax

14. The Naval party which entered Sfax yesterday found the channel blocked and quays blown up at intervals of 40 yards, but by p.m. today the channel had been partially cleared and 3 berths were available in the harbour.

15. The small cased petrol carrier SS. RUNO was sunk in 32.15 N. 23.55 E. (about 20 miles N.W. of Tobruk) at 0129 today, either by a U-boat or mine.

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

16. Malta Albacores last night bombed and set on fire a 3,000 ton merchant ship in a scattered convoy of three 10 miles S.E. of Ras Kabondia and torpedoed another merchant ship in an unspecified position.
6 Liberators bombed Palermo harbour last night: bombs were seen to burst on the south side of the harbour and a fire was seen at the main railway station.
22 B. 24s bombed Naples harbour today and made hits on several moles; 198 x 500 lbs. H.E. were dropped.
U.S. Fortresses attacked Tunis harbour today: hits or near misses were seen on one large ship.
U.S. Fortresses also attacked Marsala and Trapani: one ship was sunk and 3 others were hit.
Malta aircraft tonight made successful attacks on enemy shipping in the Palermo area and Sicilian Narrows. A merchant ship was torpedoed and sunk at 2055/11 in 38.18 N. 13.15 E. At 2315/11 5 merchant ships were bombed in 37.48 N. 12.32 E: one of the ships was hit and was left sinking and 2 bombs scored near misses.
17. Large formations of enemy transport aircraft were encountered by Allied bombers and fighters today and 29 of them were destroyed.

America & West Indies.

H.X. 232

18. Convoy H.X. 232 was attacked by U-boats at 2219Z but no damage was caused. The escorts made several attacks on U-boats today in approx. 54.30 N. 30.30 W; at least four attacks were considered to be good, but no results were seen other than a violent underwater explosion.

U/B attack on
O.N. 176
BEVERLEY
and one ship
sunk.

(part 405)
19. The destroyer BEVERLEY, escorting convoy O.N. 176, who was damaged in collision on 9th April, was torpedoed by a U-boat and sunk at 0400Z today in 52.19 N. 40.28 W. (about 450 miles S. by E. of Cape Farewell) There were very few survivors. ABELIA, CLOVER and ASPHODEL intercepted and attacked 3 U-boats.

/The...

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

U/B attack
on O.N. 176
BEVERLEY and
one ship
sunk
(contd).

The convoy was attacked at 2345 Z in 50.18 N. 42.48 W. (about 400 miles N.E. of St. Johns N.F.) and LANCASTRIAN PRINCE was torpedoed and sunk by the only U-boat that succeeded in penetrating the screen out of 7 that attacked. The warding off of the remaining 6 was rendered possible through the excellence of the H/F D/F information passed by MELROSE ABBEY and CAIRNVALONA.

Australia & New Zealand.

20. SS. REGINA was sunk, apparently torpedoed, whilst in convoy in 37.24 S. 150.19 E. (21 miles E.N.E. of Gabo I., Victoria) at 0400Z.

21. SS. HANYANG was attacked by enemy aircraft at 0200Z today 15 miles East of Oro Bay and was badly holed by a direct hit. The ship was escorted to Oro Bay New Guinea and will probably remain afloat.

R.A.N.minesweeper PIRIE was damaged by air attack today at Oro Bay.

11.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Crews of chartered French ships. / North African French Ships FORMALHAUT (Leith) FORT DE DOUAUMONT (Middlesbrough) ILE DE BREHAT (Tyne) and ST. MAXIME (Swansea) have been chartered from North African French by the C. in C. Allied Forces and have been assigned for operation by U.S. Authorities.

2. In several North African French ships, numbers of the crew have expressed a wish to join de Gaulle. H.M.G.'s policy is that every effort should be made to persuade crews to remain with their ships. If the men persist in enrolling with the Free French, they are not to be treated as deserters. Free French themselves, however, recognize the necessity for the men to continue to serve on the North African ships.

3. Almost the entire complement of SS. JAMAIQUE, operated by the U.S. authorities, recently were enrolled by the Free French and the men then demanded that the Lorraine Cross flag should be hoisted. Free French officers also claimed that control of ship and crew ought to be transferred to the French National Committee.

4. Under the terms of Charter, the only flag to be hoisted is the Tricolour. The Free French have been informed in connection with ships operated by the Ministry of War Transport that Free French flag is not to be hoisted. The U.S. Govt. protested strongly to de Gaulle, both against hoisting the Free French flag and also against Free French interference with the authority of the Master and control of the crew.

5. A U.S. Naval Officer is being sent to impress wishes of U.S. authorities on Masters and Officers of all ships operated by them. He will report results of his interviews to you.

6. Every effort is being made to persuade Free French to avoid any repetition of incidents on SS. JAMAIQUE. The cross of Lorraine is not to be hoisted and you are requested to keep careful watch for Free French attempts to interfere on board the particular ship at your port and to report any such attempt at once to Admiralty. If you consider the step necessary, whether or not the U.S. Naval authorities have requested it, you are authorised to maintain a British police or Naval Guard at gangway head to prevent entry of any unauthorised persons on board.

(1st Lord, 111411B to F.O.I.C. Tyne, N.O.I.Cs Swansea, Leith and Granton, Tees, (R) C. in C. Rosyth., C. in C. W.A.)

VITEN,
SANDFLY.

Your 0046A/25/3 and 042007B. Propose VITEN be renamed SANDFLY.
(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 111836B to Admty.)

Operational control at Argentia.

My 031658 April. In discussion with Admiral Kauffman U.S.N., the following points have arisen. The channels of communications from Halifax are more direct and efficient at Argentia than they would be via the R.C.N. Authorities at St. Johns. The U.S.N. at Argentia

/will ...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Operational control at Argentia. (Contd.) will remain the operating authority for U.S. escorts on Greenland convoys. For this reason and the fact that it is hoped the U.S.N. will continue maintenance work on British escorts close co-operation with the operating authority for British escorts will be necessary on the spot at Argentia. In addition to BOGUE and her support group operating from Argentia under my control and the normal British escorts, there will also be escort carriers and British support groups using this base. In these circumstances it is considered that more work must devolve on to the Commander (D) at Argentia and it is desirable that the whole method of operational control should be clarified with Canadian and American Authorities at the earliest convenient date prior to 30th April.
(C. in C. W.A., 112312B to Admty.)

Routes "Gold", "Rose". F.O.(S) charge document F.S.A.6 dated 4th Dec. 1942. Add following route to appendix 1, route "Gold" - (L) 049° 00', 006° 00' W. (M) 044° 00', 006° 00' W. (N) 044° 00', 010° 00' W. (O) 043° 00', 010° 00' W. Route "Rose" - (P) 049° 00', 006° 30' W. (Q) 044° 20', 006° 30' W. (R) 044° 20', 010° 28' W. (S) 043° 00', 010° 28' W.
(2) Standard bombing restrictions. 20 miles either side of each route. Area one from latitude 049° to 045° area 2 from latitude 045° to 043°.
(3) Route to be brought into force on receipt of this signal.
(4) Capt. (S) Home to pass to holders of F.S.A.6 in company.
(F.O.(S), 101604B.)

Movements.

NEWFOUNDLAND. Sailed Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 1025B/11th E.T.A. Lisbon 0600Z/16th.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 111051B, 111173B.)

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. Area Iceland (C) - HOWE, CUMBERLAND, BELFAST, GLASGOW, 1 Destroyer.
Area Scapa - ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, KING GEORGE V, FURIOUS, BERWICK, JAMAICA, KENT, SCYLLA, 4 Destroyers.
Area Clyde - INDOMITABLE, 1 Destroyer.
Area Londonderry - 8 Destroyers.
Area Plymouth - CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, 4 Destroyers.
Passage to U.K. - ADVENTURE.
Area Gibraltar - MALAYA, NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 7 Destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H), 111155B.)

/SIMOON ...

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11.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

SIMOON,
SIBYL. Request you will sail P.225 (SIMOON) and P.219 (SIBYL) for Gibraltar on 17th and 19th April respectively both on route "Rose". (F.O.(S), 111213B to Capt. (S) 3.)

HERO. Your 101312Z. E.T.A. The Lizard 0600Z/13th acknowledged. (C. in C. Plymouth, 111323B to HERO.)

SURF,
O. 14. (1) Capt. (S) 3rd is requested to sail P.239 (SURF) for Scapa on 17th April, Capt. (S) 3rd 102312 refers.
(2) A.C.O.S. is requested to sail D.S. O.14 for Lerwick on relief by P.239 (SURF).
(3) D.S. O.14 will sail for patrol about 24th April returning to Lerwick on 7th May. (F.O.(S), 111521B.)

BERMUDA. My 111343B. BERMUDA will be taken up harbour if she can pass the Gate at 1800B/12th. BERMUDA is in any case not to be East of 06° W. during dark hours. Codeword "Porter". (C. in C. Plymouth, 111611B to BERMUDA, (R) N.O.I.C. Falmouth, Adnty.)
Weather report 3872 2554 at 2001B.
(2) My position at 2001B is 047° 56' N. 015° 12' W. E.T.A. 1645B, Gate 1745B.
(3) Reference A.S. Devonport's 101250B to BERMUDA only. Ship will arrive with about 940 tons fuel and 2500 gallons aviation spirit. Request he may arrange for disembarkation and confirm by signal that except for cordite in "A" magazine remaining cordite and shells on board need not be disembarked. (BERMUDA, 112303B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

TEMPLAR,
TRUCULENT,
SEA NYMPH. My 091007 as amended by my 092111 sailed. (S.O. S/Ms. Lerwick, 111611B.)

SYRTIS. J.3068 (SYRTIS (P.241)). Request escort may be provided for passage Birkenhead - Clyde leaving a.m./21st. Escort should arrive not later than 1200B/20th. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 111626B to S.3.)

COLOMBO. Intend sailing COLOMBO at 1330/12 to Greenock escorted by MATCHLESS to North Coast of Cornwall, MATCHLESS returning to Plymouth passing The Lizard at 0500/13th. Codeword COLOMBO "Scent", MATCHLESS returning "Scent one". (C. in C. Plymouth, 111722B.)

/ S/Ms ...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/Ms. Positions at 120800B and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 111809B.)

Information for SHAD, HERRING & URSULA. Situation 2000B/11th.
Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 52.02 05.27 to North Channel 14.
WHITEHALL sailed Liverpool 2100B/11th to Londonderry, 17.
OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE sailed Lough Foyle 2200B/11 to Clyde, 12.
URSULA, KIHNA 53.41 04.55 to Clyde, 10.
SHAD, HERRING, HONEYSUCKLE 51.30 05.01 to Clyde, 10.
O.N.M.178 ROSEMARY two A/S trawlers sailed Milford Haven 1930B/11th to North Channel, 8.
HESPERUS 55.19 05.09 to Liverpool 15.
(Capt. (S) 3, 111815B to SHAD, HERRING, URSULA.)

Coastal Craft Group (e). A.M. 102203 M/S March and 271057 M/S March.
A. It is desired to sail a further Coastal Craft Group (1) to be referred to as Coastal Craft Group (e). (2) From Milford Haven. (3) Escort two trawlers or above from W.A. Command. (4) Approx. sailing date 1st May.
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), 111910B.)

4th M/S.F. Cancel my 101725.
Request you sail 4th M/S to Plymouth without sweeping as they are required for a clearance. (C. in C. Plymouth, 111953B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)
Your 112120B and C. in C. Plymouth's 111953B amended E.T.A. 1600.
(PANGBOURNE, 112324B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

Operations.

Biscay Patrol. D/F at 102026Z indicates U-Boat in approx. 45° 20' N. 12° 20' W.
(D.D.I.C., 110002B to ADVENTURE, CHARYBDIS, SICKLE, UGANDA (Immediate to all above), (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)
My 102205B not to all addressees.
CHARYBDIS is not to be east of 006° W. during dark hours.
(2) Estimate U.C.2 in vicinity position (TF) 049° 02' N. 015° 58' W. at 2000B today 11th steering for (TG) 043° 05' N. 016° 01' W. at 13½ knots. Escorts 6 U.S. Destroyers, S.O. in U.S. Destroyer MADISON.

/(3) ...

War Diary.

11.4.1943.

Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Biscay Patrol. (Contd.)
- (3) At 2200B today 11th April UGANDA is to assume cover duty for U.C.2 against surface attack and BERMUDA is to proceed Plymouth passing position (U) 49.20 N. 12.15 W. (V) 180 Bishop Rock 10. (W) 180 The Lizard 3 and thence by Q.Z.S.347, 390 and 278 to Plymouth. Paravanes to be streamed when east 007° W.
- (4) HERO reaches 49.01 N. 13.58 W. from South-west about 121100B bound Plymouth.
- (C. in C. Plymouth, 111343B to UGANDA, BERMUDA, CHARYBDIS,
(R) Escorts U.C.2, C. in C. W.A., C. in C. H.F., F.O. Gibraltar, F.O.(S), Admty., N.O.I.C. Falmouth, HERO.)
Arrived METEOR.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111413B.)
- Coastal Force patrols. My 101101B. * "Device" returned 0820/11.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 110823B.)
Your 101417 "Stencil" arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 110826 to C. in C. Plymouth.)
1. Intend R.M.L.521 (S.O.) and M.L.122 to patrol tonight Sunday April 11th on 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
 2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol line at dawn/12th.
 3. Object - anti E-Boat patrol.
 4. Constant W/T watch on 2300 k/cs. Usual books will be landed.
 5. Codeword "Device".
 6. Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 110943B to C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Plymouth, (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
1. S.G.B.6, M.T.B.243, M.G.B.615, 608 to patrol tonight 11th/12th April object to destroy enemy shipping.
 2. Leave Newhaven so as to pass through passage one not before 2115.
 3. Not to proceed east of 1° E., or cross the Hastings - Treport line. Not to proceed west of 0° 30' W.
 4. Patrol enemy route south-westwards from off St. Valery En Caux, returning by passage one or two to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight.
 5. Codeword "Advent".
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111127B to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, S.O. 1st S.G.B.F., S.O. 24th M.T.B.F., S.O. 18th M.G.B.F., (R) Admty., V.A. Dover.)
Patrol 11th April.
1. M.G.B.324 is to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from position 210° Start 10 miles.
 2. Object to intercept E-Boats attacking convoys.
 3. Execution leave Dartmouth 2100B for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0700B.
 4. Information enemy E-Boats at Cherbourg own P.W.322 S.O. Escort TANATSIDE expected time of arrival Start 1900B. W.P. 322 S.O. Escort GLAISDALE E.T.A. Start 0700B.
- *re intended sailing M.Ls. 208 and 233 on anti E-boat patrol, codeword "Device".

11.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force patrols. (Contd.)

5. Constant watch on 2300 k/cs.
6. Codeword "Arena".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111357B to M.G.B. 324, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, (R) Escorts P.W. 322, Escorts W.P. 322, GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, MELBREAK, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admty., 10 and 19 Groups.)

At. 2000. R.M.L. 521, M.L. 122 on patrol 10' South of St. Albans. Coastal craft exercising between Portland Bill and St. Albans 2145 - 2345.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111544B to A.I.G. 31, Cdr. A/P Plymouth, 10 Group.)
Cancel my 111357B not to M.G.B. 330. M.G.Bs 324 and 330 are to remain in harbour at short notice during night 11th/12th April.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 111535B to as former.)
Situation at 1958.

M.Ls 208 and 233 on patrol 10 miles south of St. Albans Head. M.T.Bs 94, 96, 227, 239 sail Dartmouth 2100 on patrol to southward returning daylight.
Coastal craft exercising in area A B C 800 S off Portland 2115 to 2359.
M.G.Bs 312, 317, M.Ls 181, 184, 183, 488 sail Plymouth on patrol to south-eastward returning daylight.
TAKU, AMROISE PARE exercising in area C 2130 to 0030/11th. LIMBOURNE, MELBREAK sail Plymouth 2130 on patrol to south-eastward returning daylight.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101609B to S. and A. Plymouth Command Area, Group 10, Capt. (S) 3)
Harwich 11th April departures M.G.Bs 67, 111, 74.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 112004B.)
My 110943B "Device" sailed at 2040.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 112045B.)
My 110943B "Device" returned owing to weather,
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 112315B.)

Operation V.P.-X. My 031615. M.T.B. 626 sailed at 110720B April. (A.C.O.S., 110932 to Admty. and for N.I.D.(C) and N.I.D.(Q), (R) C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S), H.Q.C.C., No. 18 Group Sunburgh, Wick, N.O.I.C. Lerwick, (S) 9, C.C.O.)

Biscay S/M Patrol, 2 or 3 destroyers sunk. F.O.(S) 311122A*March. At 0342A April 1st in 44.37 N. 02.18 W. made 5 to 6 hits sinking 2 destroyers, 2 hits on merchant ship, probably 1 on third destroyer. Latter 2 vessels probably also sinking. Extreme darkness and pursuit by fourth destroyer prevented observation of total damage. No damage received.
(SHAD, 111111B.)
*(Enemy Vessels sighted by aircraft.)

/Operation ...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Operation "Carey". My 061900B and 101702B. M.T.B. 627 (S.O.), 620, 625 and 653 sailed 111150.
(A.C.O.S., 111210 to as 110932.)

Re SILVA-PLANA (sunk 10th April) survivors. My position 048° 54' N. 014° 30' W. E.T.A. Boom 1315B/12. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven acknowledge.
(2) My 101702A* and 101815A* not to all addressees. Prisoners consist of 4 officers 97 men Naval service. 14 officers 41 men Merchant service of which one is cot case diabetes. Ship ex-Norwegian SILVAPLANA sailed Saigon about 10th Feb. Cargo totalling about 8000 tons principally raw rubber with zinc and general. States that Tanker (ROSSBACH?) sailed Yokohama about 17th Jan. possibly calling Batavia.
(3) 1865 2155.
(ADVENTURE, 111357B to Admty., C. in C. Plymouth, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, (R) C. in C. W.A.)
* re ex Nor. ship HOEGH SILVER STAR identified as SILVAPLANA.

Patrol "White". F.O. C.S.10 061422* not to all addressees. BELFAST is to remain on patrol with GLASGOW when later ship joins a.m./12th.
2. CUMBERLAND is to relieve BELFAST a.m./13th.
3. CUMBERLAND signal R/V in patrol area before sailing.

4. A.C.I.C. pass to A.O.C. Iceland (C).
(C. in C. H.F., 111401B to F.O. C.S.10, BELFAST, GLASGOW, CUMBERLAND, (R) HOWE, INTREPID, BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON, A.C.I.C., Admty., F.O. C.S.1, R.A.(D) H.F., H.Q.C.C.)
* Intended movements for Patrol "White".
Estimated position at 2158 tonight Sunday BELFAST patrol "White". GLASGOW departs Hvalfiord for patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 111944B.)

N.W.Norway S/M Patrol. SEVERN. After plane of hunting gear damaged beyond repairs by (? swell). Consider telemotor control only unacceptable for patrol except in emergency. Withdrawing. P.C.S. by dead reckoning 070° 40' N. 009° 29' E., 210°, 13 knots.
(SEVERN, 111924Z to Capt. (S) 9.)

Allied Air Activity.

F.A.A. in Iceland. Ref. A.M. 091420B Air Min. and C.C. have already agreed the provision of facilities for 12 erected Swordfish aircraft with accommodation for small number of officers and from fifty to a hundred ratings at R.A.F. Station Kaldadarnes.
(Air Min., 111528B.)

/Northern ...

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11.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity - Contd.

- Northern Patrol. My 050107, para. A. Patrol cannot be flown today Sunday because of weather. (A.C.I.C., 111429B to C.S.10.)
- Biscay Patrol. From 2200B/11th till dawn/12th Patrol X will be flown by Swordfish aircraft as in my 081411A March.* P.W.322 codeword "Nation", call sign BHX. W.P.322 codeword "Multiple", call sign BIR. Call signs of aircraft Drawbridge using VH/F R/T 10 Group Guard One. (C. in C. Plymouth, 111747B to GLAISDALE, ESKDALE, MELBREAK, Escorts P.W.322, Escorts W.P.322, (R) F.O.I.C. Portland, F.O.I.C. Falmouth, Admty., 10 and 19 groups.)* Re Swordfish and Sunderland N/C Patrols.
- U.C. 2. U.C.2. Air escort from 1700Z to 2025Z has been cancelled on account of weather. (C. in C., W.A., 111245Z to Escorts.)
- 6 surfaced U/Bs in Bay of Biscay. Day 10th April. 7 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S patrols. The crew of one of these sighted six surfaced U-Boats in the N. of the Bay of Biscay, the Whitley, which was 4/5 miles away immediately dived to attack, but the U-Boats submerged too quickly. A sea marker was dropped and the Whitley continued to circle the area. On two separate occasions a U-Boat surfaced, but dived again before an attack could be delivered. Immediately after these sightings, suspicious unidentified T/E A/C, which appeared to be attempting to intercept the Whitleys were sighted and avoiding action into cloud had to be taken. Minelaying. 7 Stirlings of 3 Group successfully laid mines in their allotted areas. (H.Q.B.C., 111415B.)
- Procedure by F.A.A. Swordfish aircraft of F.A.A. may close any inward bound escorted convoy when East of 10 W. for exercise purposes. Silence on convoy R/T may be relaxed. Aircraft will use R/T call sign "Reindeer". Followed by aircraft letter.
2. Aircraft have been warned to delay approach subsequent to recognition in order to give time for the black ball procedure to be carried out. (C. in C. W.A., 111914B to W.A.G.M. (604N), (R) 15 Group, R.A.F. Bally Kelly.)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Yarmouth. S.A. sweepers detonated acoustic mine 250° $\frac{3}{4}$ mile 6A Buoy at 1056.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 111147B and 121445B.)
- Operation H.S. A.M. 071547 and C. in C. Nore 081051.
Propose PLOVER shall proceed to Milford Haven to complete Operation H.S. and for further operations of which details will be sent by letter.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 111810B to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)
- BOY BILLY. Fishing vessel BOY BILLY R.X.61 struck mine about 1345/10 in 6 miles 235° from Dungeness approx. and was lost with entire crew of three.
(V.A. Dover, 111742B.)
- Sheerness. One ground mine detonated 1058/8 by M.M.S.268 in 056° 1.5 miles B.7 Buoy. (H) Probably laid 3rd or 4th April 1943. (K) no damage.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness, 111831B.)
- Portsmouth. Portsmouth inshore route 'A' between the Looe and Shoreham is closed till further orders due to suspected mining.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111836B.)
- Operation "Hostile IV". Force "Hostile IV X" completed operation successfully. Force "Hostile IV Y" were detected by patrol craft and withdrew without achieving object and without being engaged.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111941B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- GNEISENAU. Cancel my 1747/8. Read as follows:
Warship GNEISENAU.
1. Two triple turrets of eleven-inch guns from GNEISENAU are to be mounted at Haaoen Orltext (?) Orlandet near Trondheim. Turrets and guns now lying on quay near customs house Trondheim obscured by huts and camouflage. Graded B.2.
2. Reported that GNEISENAU is to be fitted with heavier main armament. Graded A.2.
(N.A. Stockholm, 111617.)
Comment by N.I.D.
Para. 1. There is at present no evidence to support this statement, but GNEISENAU's guns and turrets have been removed.

/Para. 2. ...

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU.
(Contd.)

Para. 2. There have been a number of reports, graded B.3 from various sources that GNEISENAU is to be fitted with 15 or 16 inch guns and is to be lengthened for that purpose. It is known that the ship's bows have been cut away and it is possible that she is awaiting some form of modification.

U-Boats.

U/B
attacked.

My E.T.A. 0815 I have fuel remaining sufficient for 10 hours at 70144B. Position 46° 59' N. 10° 15' W. Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges. Result of attack unobserved. Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Course 090°, speed 14 knots.
(A/C F7AZ, 110710B to 19 Group.)

U/B
reported.

By D/F on 7770 k/cs at 0736Z/11 U-Boat estimated to be in approx. 43° 00' N. 16° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 111034B to UGANDA.)

Technical.

M.V.
ATHELPRINCE.

I request that a thorough test may be given to the equipment during voyage.
(D.T.D., 111814B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.11.4.1945.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.BEVERLEY
in
collision.BEVERLEY in collision with SS. CAIRNVALONA at
092206Z in dense fog. Holed at 19 station
starboard, fore store, P.O's mess and one oil
fuel tank flooded. A/S and D/G out of action.
Bulkhead forward of 12 and aft of 26 intact,
remaining with convoy. O.N.176 at 100800ZP.C. and S. 54.07 N. 38.39 W. (corrupt group) 194 9 knots.
Straggler MARGARET LYKES. Your 051050Z does "Chop" remain as
in your 021106Z. Weather report 4872 9344.
(C.T.U.24.1.18, 100928Z to C. in C. W.A.)Unknown
S/M.*Remains 5/54*My 081235* (not to D.N.I.). Consequent on
damage by fire to switch gear and cables dockyard
states it will be necessary to extend completion
date to 27th April.

(Capt. (S) 5, 101705B)

* Not received in Admty, but refers to 090909B
from Capt. (S) 5 re report from C.O.S.54 of fire
caused by short circuit. (This message was
circulated to D.N.I. only)Following from Tیره Radio.
One grade 159° S.O.S. unknown ship.
(Port Patrick Radio, 110406Z)

M.G.B.321.

Great Yarmouth 11th April departure Rescue Tug
DIVERSION and M.G.B.313 - proceeding via Cockle
Gateway to assist M.G.B. 321 reported holed and
making water in the vicinity of 60 Buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 111115B)

My 11115B returned.

(F.O.I.C. Great Yarmouth, 111545B)

TEVIOTBANK.

Ref. to A.L. M.052873/43 dated 2nd April 1943
para. 9 (b) and 10, it is possible that knowledge
of alterations considered necessary to fit
TEVIOTBANK for service in Far East may assist me
to formulate my proposals for equipment of heavy minelayers of
1st M.L.S. if required for similar service.(2) Request this information may be forwarded at an early date.
(R.A.(M), 111230B to Admty.)

BITER.

Your 081851B and my 101108B BITER has developed
gunmounting and sighting defect necessitating a
new gunmounting. C.O. BITER has reported
this replacement is vital to seagoing efficiency,
consequently as N.O.I.C. Glasgow informs me work cannot be under-
taken till morning 13th, BITER will not be able to sail with
O.N.178.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 111457B to C. in C. W.A.)

Re: sailing of BITER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE for operational
experience.

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War Diary.11.4.1945.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects (Contd.)

FAME,
KINGCUP. If steering still defective ship requires docking F.O. N.F.'s 031325Z refers. Request service of TULIP on arrival. E.T.A. 0800/14.
KINGCUP requires new Asdic Dome.
(FAME, 112200Z)

M.T.B.71. Harwich April 11th Arrival M.T.B.71 with Engine trouble.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 112209B)

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.29. A.M.021850 para. 2. Delete CLAN LAMONT and NIGERSTROOM.
(D.O.D.(H), 110015B)

O.N.176 attacked by U/B's, BEVERLEY sunk. O.N.176. One U-Boat sighted 52.47 N. 40.35 W. at 2317Z. ABELIA attacked with depth charges. ABELIA and CLOVER recalled at 0015Z more U-Boats (? in the vicinity)
(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, 110046Z 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.)
O.N.176 BEVERLEY torpedoed and sunk at 0400Z/11th in (52°) (?19') N. 40° 28' W, 3 survivors in CLOVER still searching with ABELIA but explosions very heavy and fear chances small. 3 U-Boats intercepted and attacked by ABELIA, CLOVER and ASPHODEL. Convoy not yet attacked but still shadowed. SS. FORT WALSH ex H.X.232 met ordered to remain in company and return to St. Johns, N.F.
My P.C. and S. (51) N. 40° 21' W. 224° 9 knots.
(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, 110801Z 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.24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., Cmdre. Londonderry.)

O.N.S.3. Your 101911. Intend to sail at least 2 (two) merchant ships escorted by TRONDRA and EARRAID to Icomp with O.N.S.3 during daylight 13th.
(A.C.I.C. 110146B to Admty)

H.X.232. Hvalfiord departures INGLEFIELD with ECLIPSE, ICARUS, FURY at 0616B to join you.
(A.C.I.C. 110654 to Escorts H.X.232, (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. R.A.D. H.F.)
D/F bearings at 1115Z/10, 1213Z/10, and 2323Z/10 indicate probable patrol line of U/Bs. from approx. 55° 59' N 34° 01' W. to approx. 50° 58' N 32° 02' W.
(D.D.I.C. 110959B to Escorts of H.X. 232, C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C. (R) C. in C. H.F.)

Close / ...

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X.232. (Contd.) Close H/F D/F bearing 334° first class from 053° 37' N. 034° 25' W. at 0927Z on 9420 K/cs long naval Enigma message. (2) Convoy altered to North from 340° and fruitless search carried out to depth of 25 miles. (3) ^{Consider} ~~convoy~~ not sighted yet but intend altering for (B) as we are presumably already in S/M line given in Admty 110959. (S.O. of Escort B.3, 111120Z 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. A.C.I.C. E.G.4. Ships escorting H.X. 232) D/F bearings at 1313Z/11 indicate U-Boat in your vicinity. Probably reporting you. (D.D.I.C. 111555B to Escorts of H.X. 232, (R) C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., Cominch, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.) ESCAPADE attacked U-Boat one pattern 355° Z.Z. 25 at 1930Z. Contact lost after attack. Searched until dark rejoining 23.59 Z. (2) H.X. 232 first attacked at 2219Z. Counter attack on at least 3 S/Ms by RENONCULE, WITHERINGTON, NARCISSUS. Score nil so far. (3) All attacks from the van up moon. (4) No further attack since 2310Z but from H/F D/F at least 3 U-Boats are (?shadowing) ahead and 2 to Starboard of convoy. Further attacks expected shortly. (5) P.C.S. 054° 30' N. 030° 30' W. 087° (?9.5) knots. (6) Weather 6480 0323. (B.3, 112345Z to C. in C. W.A.)

D.S.39. Escort for D.S. 39 SABRE S.O. SALADIN. (N.O.I.C.Londonderry, 111049B)

SS. EMPIRE JACK. SS. EMPIRE JACK sailed from Clyde for Barry Roads p.m./April 10th. (2) COVERLEY escorted her from Methil to Oban and was instructed to proceed to Tobermory on completion. (3) N.O.I.C.Oban had been requested to provide onward escort for EMPIRE JACK to Clyde. (4) COVERLEY reports that on April 9th EMPIRE JACK exceeded COVERLEY's speed and would not reply to signals. When COVERLEY passed Tobermory, EMPIRE JACK was out of sight ahead and COVERLEY therefore proceeded to Tobermory while EMPIRE JACK proceeded direct to Clyde unescorted. (5) On arrival Clyde EMPIRE JACK was onward routed to Barry Roads and sailed before above information was available. (6) Request you will investigate matters referred to in para. 4 and impress on Master necessity for strict compliance with instructions. C. in C. Rosyth's 101715B*(which is being passed to you) refers. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 111128B to N.O.I.C.Barry) (* Re. EMPIRE JILL Breaking Convoy)

22nd Trawler Group. A.M.1532/23. Not to C. in C. W.A. When ready for service request you will sail ships of 22nd Trawler Group to act as required by C. in C. W.A. for use as escorts in accordance with A.M.2203/10/3 and 2006/19/3. (D.O.D.(H), 111146B to C. in C. Plymouth)

BOGUE / ...

11.4.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

BOGUE
Group.

Admiralty 091920. Request information of type of ships and endurances that will constitute escort with BOGUE.
(C. in C. W.A. 112107Z to Comnavu)

O.N.178,
BITER,
OBDURATE,
OPPORTUNE.

Sailed OBDURATE, OPPORTUNE.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 112208B)
Your 111457. BITER and Escort are to sail in accordance with my 081851. Further signal about repairs will be made.
(C. in C. W.A. 112223B to N.O.I.C.Greenock)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ARGONAUT. In view of unsettled weather conditions in 35° N. between 40° W. and American coast suggest routing ARGONAUT further south.
(D.O.D. (F) 110128B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) ARGONAUT.)
A.T. 110128 April, received corrupt and not to all addressees Estimate ARGONAUT position 1200Z 36.20 N. 36.17 W. Weather conditions western Atlantic not known here. (2) To obtain better weather conditions suggest ARGONAUT proceed to about latitude 30 N. and thence Bermuda. (3) S.B.N.O. W.A. is requested to pass weather forecasts to ARGONAUT and re route if necessary.
(F.O. Gib. 110906Z to S.B.N.O. W.At., ARGONAUT, (R) Admty, N.S.H.Q. Connav.)

SICKLE. My 101126. (Situation 101959). Add new para 6. S/M SICKLE passes 043° 01' 013° 22' at 0400A/11th 152° 8½.
(F.O. Gib. 110456A.)

T.G.A.Q.16.

(A) Total. (B) SICKLE. (C) 0400/11 43.01 13.22 2130/12 36.51 09.13 0630/13 36.37 07.24 1330/13 35.53 06.15 1420/13 35.49 06.06½ to arrival Gibraltar 1815/13. (D) Ten knots. All times zone minus 1, positions N. and W. Cancel my 082241 and 101003. (101001 intended).

(F.O.C. Gib. 110928 to R.A.F. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)
Cancel my 10(10701).

My 082243, amended times as follows. (P) At (217) 30 12th. (Q) At 0630/13th. (R) At 1330/13th (S) At 1420/13th. Para (2) Speed 10. Do not cross Meridian 007° W. before 0630/13th. Para. (4) Amend time to read 0400/11th. All times zone minus 1.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 110939A to P. 224 (SICKLE) (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 8, STURGEON.)

G.U.S.6. Gibraltar section sailed as in my 051733 and 061137 plus RANGITATA less WEARPOOL, WASHINGTON, IRVING.
(F.O. Gib. 110852A to Comnab, Oran, etc.)

RANGITATA embarked (numbers).
(S.T.O.i/c Gib. 111635 to B.A.D. (R) B.M.W.T. New York D. of S.T.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/11th.
P. 229 (SPORTSMAN), 36.44 08.18 through 36.37 07.24 at 0220/12th 35.53 06.15 at 1100A/12th 35.49 06.20½ at 1150A/12th thence Gib.
(2) THALASSA patrolling Horn Bight. (3) Small craft convoy RHODODENDRON 36.29 09.13 to Gib. 10. (4) CLARE leaving Gib. swept channel about 1600A/11th to R/V 2 merchant ships off Horn at 0200A/12th thence through 35.56 06.20 to Gib. 8½. (5) STURGEON sails Gibraltar 1400A/12th through 35.49 06.06½ at 1800A/12th 35.53 06.15 at 1850A/12th thence 315 on the surface 10 knots. (6) G.U.S.6. C.T.F.63, 35.11 06.59 to R/V Casablanca Section in 34.01 08.01 at 0800A/12th thence 280.9. After R/V VELOX, TYNEDEALE, ALBACORE, CADMUS, proceed to join U.G.F.7 (Mediterranean Section) in 034° 36' 009° 36 at 1420/12th. ACUTE, SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON, CONVULVULUS proceed to Gibraltar, 13. (7) U.G.F.7, C.T.F.66, 35.03 14.25 through 34.20 09.48 to 33.50 08.03 thence Casablanca 13½. (8) HOLCOMBE 2 destroyers 1 corvette 35.44 06.31

/to...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. to R/V Mediterranean Section of U.G.F.7 in 34.23
(Contd.) 10.12 at 1200A/12th and escort 66.13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(9) Small craft convoy HALCYON 35.52 06.18 to
arrive seaward end of Q.K.A.87 after 2130A/11th
thence Gib. (10) S.L.127 (G) VETCH sailed Gib.
0600A/12th to R/V S.L.127 in position 35.11 N. 09.18 W. at
1200A/13th. (11) C.G.25 F.S. DUMONT D'ORVILLE sailed Casablanca
0700A/12th through 34.17 06.45 thence 12.7.
(F.O. Gib. 111034A, 111842A.)
Situation 111959A. H.M.S. P.224 40.37 11.44 152 on surface
10 knots. (3) T.O. 3 C.T.G. 61.1, 34.26 17.26 244.13 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(6) S.L.127, ROCHESTER, (E) 30.56 11.40 30.7.
(F.O. Gib. 111106A.)
Situation 112004A. ARGONAUT 36.12 37.07 261° 6.
(2) U.G.S.7. C.T.F. 69, 29.57 34.43 91° 9.
(F.O. Gib. 111152A.)

MAUMEE. MAUMEE arrived 0900A/11 from U.G.S.6A.
Comeastseafroon pass to Port Director New York.
(Commorseafroon, 111050 to Cominch (R) Port
Director, New York. Connav, Comeastseafroonier,
Admty. etc.)

U/B. Am over enemy submarine in 35° 53' N. 2° 49' W.
attacked. sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
Course 000 speed 10.
(Aircraft T. of 48 Sqdn., via Gib. 111110A.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C.T. of 48 Sqdn. via Gib. 111330A.)

STURGEON. Your 101914A not to H.Q.C.C.
Request you will route STURGEON on route Gold,
my 101604B refers. (2) Destination of STURGEON
is Portsmouth. (3) Request E.T.A. at new position
(0) 043° 00' 010° 01' W. which is southern point of route Gold.
(F.O.S. 111204B to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.
Portsmouth, Admty, Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 5, Capt. (S) 7, H.Q.C.C.)

HALCYON. E.T.A. Gib. 0900A/12th.
(HALCYON 111441A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

MATT. W. While convoy U.G.S.6A was entering Casablanca,
RANSOM MATT. W. RANSOM (U.S. 7177 tons) was mined at
mined. 3.37 p.m. 11th. Ship is proceeding to harbour
under her own power. (D.O.R.1333, 13/April)
See M.S.F.F. 120855.

/TRESPASSER...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- TRESPASSER. Arrival 3/M TRESPASSER.
(F.O.C. Gib. 111605A to Admty. etc.)
- K.M.S.12. Gibraltar Section sailed as in My 090959 plus SELVIK for Algiers. Commodore Owens R.N.V.R. and staff in CEFN-Y-BRYN.
(F.O. Gib. 111700A to S.O. Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.12 for Cdre. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty, Connav, etc.)
- Italian Repatriations. Ref. A.M. 061242B, regarding third flight of Italian repatriation liners, general arrangements detailed in my 2215/18/10/42 will again apply. No advance information of requirements for foodstuffs yet received from Italians.
(D. of S.T. 111805B to F.O.C. Gib. P.S.T.O. South Africa, P.S.T.O. Egypt, N.O.I.C. Aden, S.T.O. Berbera. D.S.T.O. Kilindini.)
- G.U.S.6. My 081625 Casablanca section sailed. Less HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, MAUMEE. Fr. Dest. TEMPETE, LA GAZELLE and Fr. Sl. M/S COMMANDANT BORY to sail to R/V later.
(C.M.S.F.F. 111817 to Port Director New York (R) Connav, C. in C. Lant, Admty, Commander 8th U.S.Fl. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F.)
- K.M.S.12. Arrivals COWSLIP, FORT YORK, PARRSBORO, QUALICUM, WEDGEPORT ex K.M.S.12.
(F.O.C. Gib. 111823A to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals M.Ls. 443, 341 with one M/V from Almeria. Departures QUEEN EMMA, ILEX, HAYDON for Oran. VELOX, TYNE DALE to join G.U.S.6. thence U.G.F. 7. MAN O WAR, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA. Tugs EMPIRE FRED, EMPIRE NED, to join K.M.S.12. ANTELOPE, HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, ESPIEGLE, to join U.G.F. 7.
(F.O. Gib. 111953A to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
- G.U.S.6. Departed today D.Ds. WAINWRIGHT, ROWAN BROOKE, SIMPSON, TRIPPE and MAYRANT plus AUK, CHICKADEE and MORENO, all with G.U.S.6.
(C.M.S.F.112100Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Connavnaw, Admty, Cominch, F.O.C. Gib.)
See C.M.S.F. 121110Z.
- STURGEON. My 101912 para. 2 (C) cancel 1300/17 42.59 12.26 and substitute the following in order named:
0030/15 38.50 10.01 0445/17 43.01 10.01.
(F.O. Gib. 112204 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty, etc.)

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

STURGEON
(Contd.)

My 101914 para. 2 cancel position C. 42.59 12.26
1300/17. Substitute position Q.38 50° 50 N. 10°
W. at 0030/15 and position (O) 43° N. 10° W. at
0445/17 shifting W/T Watch at 0445/17 thence
as ordered by F.O.S.
(F.O. Gib. 112206A to Admty. F.O.S. (R) S.3, S.7,
S.5, S.8, C. in C. Med. STURGEON, C. in C.Plymouth,
C. in C. Portsmouth.

G.U.S.6.
ship
torpedoed.

Commorseafron reports S/M attack in 33.56 N.
07.54 W. Ship torpedoed.
(F.O. Gib. 112224A to Escorts of G.U.S.6.
Escorts of U.G.F.7. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Convoy T.S.35. My 101730Z. (N.T. in W.D.) M.L. 265 returned with engine trouble. M.L. 279 sails at 110001 at 14 knots overtaking T.S. 35 about 110800Z. (N.C.I.C. Takoradi No.T.O.O. Recd. 0155/11 to F.O.C. W.Af., CROCUS, Escort T.S.35 (R) Admty.)
- A.F.D.24. Following from Commander 4th ? Fleet (begins) Cominch Cdr. 2000Z P.C. and S. A.F.D.24, 01.01 N. 42.23 W. 085° 4.5 knots T.O.O. 102011Z. (Ends). (F.O.C.W.A. 110316Z to MORRIS DANCE.)
- EMPIRE WHIMBREL. Following has been read. SSSS 2° 10' N. 15° 55' W. torpedoed. Z.T.4.A.D. torpedoed. (Sierra Leone T.O.R. 110510 to Admty.)
Following received from Lands End Radio. Intercept 0528 G.M.T. 500 kc/s. G.B.3 D.E.V.P.U. O.P.X.329 SSSS de unread 15.10 N. 15.55 W. CZNB L.C.I (L) torpedoed 0510 D.E.V.P.U. (C.C.O. Plymouth 110730 to Admiral Plymouth) (Wick Radio, No.T.O.O./11 to Adm. Lyness.)
Following has been read. SSSS. D.E.X.331. 2° 10' N. 15° 55' W. Z.T.4.A.D. (CSNB L.C.I. (L)) torpedoed. T.O.R. 0510 V. V.P.U. (Freetown W/T, No. T.O.O. to Admty. Recd. 0732 (11)).
Unknown ship torpedoed in 002° 10' 015° 55' W. at 110359Z. (F.O.C.W.A. 110844Z to Ships in Area P.2 (R) Admty.)
Ref. A.M. A.F. 02° 10' N. 15° 55' W. at 110359. (F.O.C.W.A. 111030 to B.A.M.S.3A.) W.D. Note: Ships was EMPIRE WHIMBREL, see South Atlantic 131225Z.
- STORMWRACK, SATSA. Sailed 0732Z/11 STORMWRACK, SATSA, for Durban inshore route, S. of A. 8 knots, E.T.A. 1400Z/12. (N.L.O. East London 110736Z to Admty. etc.)
- C.N.17. Sailing telegram. (1) Escorted group C.N.17. (2) Sailing date 0730Z/11th. (3) Point of dispersal ASTRIDA for Luderitz, remainder for Walvis Bay. (4) S. of A. 8 knots. (5) Ocean route coastal through positions. (F) 031° 46' S. 017° 36' E. (G) 030° 00' S. 016° 50' E. (6) Escorts VIVIANA, NORTHERN DAWN. (12) E.T.A. Walvis Bay a.m. 15th April. (15) Convoy Wireless call sign X.A.D. 1 to 9. Code word "Conflict" M.J.K. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 110805Z to Admty. etc.)
- ?CARNARVON CASTLE. Continue patrol in new area S, 04.30 N. 20.01 W. T. Equator 23.59 W. U Equator 20.01 W. (F.O.W.A. 110858Z to(?CARNARVON CASTLE) (R) CILICIA GEORGES LEYGUES, Admty. Com. 4th Fleet, Comar, Dakar.)
- BAMAKO (torpedoed 9 April.) My 090205Z April. Confirm BAMAKO torpedoed and not mined. (F.O.C.W.A. 111002Z to Admty.)

/U-Boat...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

U-Boat Positions, Estimates. Your 041431B. (Daily U-Boat Situation Report to A.I.G. 332.) It would be of assistance if you could in future include positions of U-Boats in American area S. of 10° 01' N. (F.O.C.W.A. 111225 to Admty.) Reply: Admty.131707 B.

Dispositions. NORTHERN ISLES 027° 20' 015° 10' escorting one M/V to Capetown 8 knots VIVIANA, NORTHERN DAWN with C.N.17. 031° 50' 017° 40' coastal to Walvis Bay 8. NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, WELLARD, H.M.S. GENISTA 035° 00' 007° 20' to Capetown 10. FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM, QUILLIAM with W.S. 28 Durban portion 034° 55' 020° 45' to Durban 13. FRITILLARY, LE TIGER, VEREENIGING with D.C.18 034° 25' 023° 30' coastal to Capetown 9. CHALLENGER (5 groups missing) D.13 033° 40' 027° (? 20') coastal to Durban 9. SATSA, STORMWRACK 032° 00' 029° 25' coastal to Durban 8. JASMINE, ST. LOMAN, LADY ROSEMARY, with D.N.32. 032° 45' 035° 40' to 033° 036° and return Durban 9. EREBUS, NAPIER, NIGELLA, INTEGRITY, 024° 40' 036° to 021° 01' 038° 01' 7½. DEVONSHIRE, QUALITY, CATTERICK with M.C.6. 027° 20' 037° to Durban 11½. (C. in C. S.A. 111246B.)

BAMAKO (sunk 9 April.) French merchant ship BAMAKO escorted by F.S. LA GRACIEUSE sailed Dakar 071902Z sunk by S/M by two torpedoes at 090045Z April in 014° 57' N. 017° 15' W. F.S. LA GRACIEUSE attacked contact. Result not yet known. (S.O. (I) Freetown 111301Z/4 to Admty. (R) Comar, Dakar.)

Your 111301 no result claimed.
(Comar, Dakar 111906Z to N.O.I.C. W.Af. (R) Admty.)

U-Boat. U.S. Ferry aircraft report S/M on surface in 013° 08' N. 018° 21' W. at 1050Z. (R.A.W.A. 11324Z to Ships in area P.1 and P.2. (R) Admty.)

QUEEN MARY, diversion. Alter forthwith to pass through new position X 015° 00' S. 008° 30' E. and Y. 006° 00' S. 003° 30' E. thence to position P. 002° 37' N. 007° 34' W. (C. in C. S.A. 111720B to Admty. to pass via Rugby. QUEEN MARY, B.A.M.S.3B.) Passing action being taken by War Reg.

U-Boat Positions. Your 111225. Estimates for area mentioned are not included in Admiralty daily U-Boat signal in order to avoid conflict of opinion with Cominch estimates and resultant confusion particularly in Trinidad and Guiana areas. If you wish a separate signal will be made to you when any change is estimated in this area. At present only one Italian is thought to be in the area. This U-Boat has not been fixed recently but may be within 250 miles of 03° 00' N. 32° 00' W. homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 131707B to F.O.C.W.A.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Convoy T.S. 35. 101700Z April. T.S. 35 route O, S. of A. 7 knots E.T.A. Freetown 161800Z April. Stragglers route G. 03.32 N. 03.48 W. J. 02.56 N. 07.42 W. L. 07.40 N. 14.11 W. (List) (18 ships). Convoy codeword "Jingo". (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 111730Z to Admty. Connav, etc.)

Weekly State. West Africa Station 10th April, Cape Blanco Area BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION. Dakar BRIDGEWATER. Freetown Area CORINTHIAN, BIRMINGHAM. Freetown PETUNIA, P. 614, BELLWORT, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR. Palmas Area. WITCH, WOLVERINE, SNOWDROP. Takoradi CROCUS, Lagos ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN. Pointe Noire Area MALCOLM. Mid-ocean patrol, CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE. (F.O.C.W.A. 111800Z to Admty. etc.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrival 11th April. B.Y.M.S. Numbers 5,6,7,8. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 111807Z to F.O.I.C. W.Af., Admty. R.N.O. Lagos.)

Magellan Straits, Chilean Inspection. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Following received from Cominch C. & R. (begins). Chilean Navy has instituted system of inspection of vessels transiting Straits of Magellan. Allied and Neutral vessels are to display by day their international signal letters and by night their signal letters by blinker light at Punta Delgada Lighthouse for vessels coming from the Atlantic, at San Isidro Lighthouse for vessels coming from the Pacific or Patagonian Canals. Request above be communicated to Routeing Officers concerned your area 102016Z. (Ends.) (D.T.D. 111912B to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

AQUITANIA route. In view of U-Boat threat in Freetown area it may prove necessary to divert AQUITANIA via Rio de Janeiro and New York. 2. Request you will take this into account when A. Providing route. B. Embarking passengers. (D.O.D. (F) 111945B to C. in C.S.A. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown, F.O.C. W.Af. Connav, Com. 4th Fleet. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

U-Boat. U.S. Army aircraft reports sighting S/M 013° 01' N. 018° 58' W. at 111840. (F.O.C.W.A. 112201 to Ships in Area P.1 and P.2. (R) Admty.)

ALOE. Overdue shipping due Durban 9th April from Bunbury ALOE not arrived. (C. in C. S.A. 112239B to Admty.)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy use of Red Cross, Bizerta. 60223 cipher (Air Co-ord) 11 April. Your 2877 April 9. Communication in terms of your para.2 passed through diplomatic channels to Italian Gov. 1930 hours Rome time April 10. To German Gov. at 1900 hours Berlin time April 10th. (W.O.110215B to A.F.H.Q. Algiers)

Enemy Units. Following read. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy (unknown type) vessels 35.21 N. 11.34 E. 000° 5 knots. (A/C. FCT/L, 110420 via Malta W/T)

Convoy A.P.28 (1) A.P.28 (2) 0400Z/11th April (3) longitude 055° 0800Z/14th April latitude 022°. 1600Z/16th April, Khor Kuwait 1200Z/18th April (4) 9 knots (5) Gan (0) 022° 16' 060° 42' P.G.W. (6) LAUNCESTON. E.T.A. Rooka, 20th April. (N.C.S.O.Aden, 110422Z, 110425Z to Admty)

Movements, Aden. Departures 0408Z LAUNCESTON, RAINSTORM. (N.O.I.C.Aden, 110646Z to Admty etc.)

PARTHIAN. 11th April arrival. (S.O.I. Beirut, 110755?C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

A/A Defences Mid-East and Persia-Iraq. For Chiefs of Staff (R) P.A.I.C. from C. in C. Review of Mideast A/A situation and possibility of getting A/A reinforcements from P.A.I.C. Suggesting scale of attack can now be reduced. There will always be a possibility of a one way "suicide" raid and it is just possible for enemy to reach Abadan from Rhodes with his longest range aircraft. But chances of this seem to us remote. Proposals. (Mideast, 110755Z to Air Min.)

Movements, Beirut. 10th April departures JENNET M.L.384, 385. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 110805C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.K.F.13. Your 090608 and D.S.T.O. Gibraltar 091144 (N.T. in W.D.) It is intended that M.K.F.13 should call at Gibraltar. Agreed. (P.S.T.O.Med. 110830A to D. of S.T. (R) C. in C. Med., D.S.T.O. Gibraltar.)

Bi-weekly / ...

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

- Bi-Weekly Opsum No.116 Part 1. / April 10. 24 B.24's bombed shipping in Naples Harbour. Preliminary details received indicate hits on three merchant vessels 2 enemy aircraft shot down without loss. Amplifying report awaited.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 110841Z to Air Min)
Addition see 121109Z.
- F.F.M.L's. Departures 10th April Free French M.L's 1143, 1164.
(S.O.(I) Levant, 110914C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- UNSHAKEN, information. Destroyer and M.T.B. sweeping to-night in Gulf Hammamet. Keep North of 036° 45' after 2000B to-night until (? 04) OOB. Leave patrol to arrive Malta 140830B routed through 036° 03' N. 011° 59' E. and 035° 43' N. 012° 30' E. Indication that Sousse is being evacuated by enemy.
(Capt. (S) 10, 111007B to P.54 (UNSHAKEN))
Your 11/1007B para. 2. Unable to comply. Will remain South of Kuriat Island and East of 011° 30'.
One 4,000 ton merchant ship sunk.
(P.54 (UNSHAKEN), 111402A to Capt. (S) 10)
- NUBIAN, PALADIN M.T.B's. Intend operating NUBIAN and PALADIN and 7 M.T.B's in Gulf of Hammamet tonight 11th/12th.
(2) Destroyers going out North of Q.K.43 at about 2300B and coming in South of it.
(V.A.Malta, 111021B to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F., H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. S.O. Force Q (Corrupt Group) F.O.I.S. etc.)
- M.T.B. Sweep. Intend sailing M.T.B.307, 335, 311, 315 and 316 at 111730A for sweep between Plane Island and Zembretta. Route there North 282° Canirock returning Inshore. 636° 25 knots. E.T.A. Bone, 120700A. Fighter protection "Tottenham" 3.
(F.O.I.S.111041A to C. in C. Med. V.A.Malta (R) C.C.F., C.S.12, H.Q.N.W. Africa, Coastal Air Force, N.O.I.C. Bone, C.F.B. Bone, 826 Sqdn. Bone, TARTAR)
- OXFORD SHIRE. Sailed Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE at 1800A/10th. (Route). E.T.A. Oran 1100A/11th.
(Cdre. Algiers, 111103A to Com. N.O.B.Oran, (R) Admty, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav.)
- K.M.S.12. For Bone MAMMY and AUDUN.
(N.O.I.C.Bougie, 111106A to F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bone.)

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Algiers
Air
Report. From: Spaatz. For: Eaker and Brereton,
C.G. 8th A.F. C.G. 9th A.F. Adv. H.Q. N.A.A.F.
(4) Night 8/9 April, Wellingtons and Albacores
attacked Sfax installations and M.T. convoys
entering town.
(Algiers, No.T.O.O. to Etousa etc, Read 111115)
Recd. in W.R. at 111920 April.

BRITTANY. Your 061257Z and 061514Z.
If BRITTANY is to be of value here she must reach
Alexandria by about 1st July. Can this be
achieved?
(C. in C. Med. 111120A to C. in C. E.F. (R)
Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Destroyer
Sweep. 2 Fleet and 2 Hunt destroyers leave Bone 1300
today through 038° 10' 011° 05' at 1700, thence
towards Marittimo, returning to Bone or possibly
Malta. (2) Force has orders not to attack S/MS
(Capt. (S) 8, 111126A to 8 S/M F. (R) C. in C.
Med. Capt. (S) 10).

RORQUAL. Capt. (S) 8th S.F.'s 081216. Proceed through
P.Q. and R to arrive Malta searched channel at
0830B April 15th. You may meet UNBENDING
Northbound and UNISON may have been delayed by
bad weather.
(Capt. (S) 10, 111132B to RORQUAL (R) Capt. (S)
8 etc.)

UNBENDING. Admty. 191740 of February P.37 (UNBENDING) sails
from Malta at 1600B April 12th for Algiers and
subsequent passage to U.K. for refit, by usual
route P. but keeps 5 miles to North and Eastward
after passing present position. She will pass position P. at
1600B/14th at which time she will shift to Algiers broadcast.
Capt. (S) 8 is requested to route her onwards from P.
(Capt. (S) 10, 111140B to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8, (R) Capt.
S.I, C. in C. Levant, Admty, 8th S.M.F. S.O.S/M Gibraltar,
F.O.(S), F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

Movements,
Malta. Arrived REGENT, PAKENHAM, PETARD, NUBIAN and
PALADIN.
(V.A. Malta, 111146 to Admty etc.)

Enemy
Units. P.C. and S. of 5 enemy medium vessels and 2 escort
vessels at 1217, 38.30 N. 13.40 E.
Course 180° Speed 8.
(A/C 25F/B via Malta, 111200Z to A/C Call sign
22L)

Situation / ...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Situation Report No.78. (1) Bad weather has prevented projected operations by light craft, both from Bone and Malta. Sailing on convoy M.K.S.11 from Bone also delayed 24 hours by weather. (2) TORBAY reports sank 2000 ton southbound M/V off Cape Scalea (39° 50' N. 15° 46' E.) at 1038/28 and sank motor fishing vessel by gunfire at 1006/1 off Licosa Point (40.15 N. 14.54 E.) (3) D.S. DOLFIJN reports at 0912/29 sank 4500 tons south east bound M/V in approaches to Cagliari. (C. in C. Med. 111210A to Admty)

PARTHIAN, R. of P. Following is summary of PARTHIAN patrol. 0800B/28th March sank 30 tons Caique off Doro Straits. 0930B/28th March, 038° 17' 024° 55' examined small Caique bound for Turkish coast with Greek escapees. 1715B/28th March sank 20 tons Caique by gunfire in 039° 20' 025° 30'. 1900B/28th March ramméd and sank 120 tons Caique in 039° 19' 025° 18'. 0925B/29th March in 040° 00' 025° 43' attacked 2000 tons merchant ship steering 67 with 7 escorts. Fired 2 stern torpedoes at 1 escort which ran under and 4 bow torpedoes at merchant ship missed. Prolonged hunt but no counter attack. 1300B/30th March bombarded Axis Resin Refinery in Kannavitsa Bay fired 78 rounds 4 inch. Destroyed one Caique of 140 tons one of 80 tons and two of 50 tons all afloat and five more on beach. Refinery considered out of action after about 50 direct hits. 0730B/31st March destroyed 15 ton Caique by gunfire in 039° 16' 023° 48'. 1530C/9th April left area. (Capt. (S) 1, 111231C to C. in C. Levant (R) C.O.I.S. F.O.(S) Capt. (S) 10)

P.R.U. April 11th. (Corrupt Group) Taranto and Messina aircraft returned engine trouble. No sightings. (V.A. Malta, 111236B) P.R.U. April 11th Visuals. 1140 Castellamare one cruiser 1147 Naples no major naval unit. (V.A. Malta, 111534B to C. in C. Med. etc.) P.R.U. April 11th visuals. 1720 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. 1810 Messina no major naval unit. (V.A. Malta, 111930B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Torpedoed M/V's, lack of salvage effort. I am concerned over loss of M/Vs subsequent to torpedoings when there should be a reasonable prospect of salvage. During the last period of heavy convoy traffic four ships were torpedoed which remained afloat for some time, but in only one case was a real attempt made by Master and crew to save the ship. In the other cases the predominant idea was to abandon ship as quickly as possible, nor was any energetic effort made to return to salve her when it was seen that ship remained afloat. I have taken all possible steps here to instruct H.M. Ships that vigorous action must be taken to keep damaged ships afloat and to tow them towards base pending arrival of salvage assistance,

but / ...

420

11.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Torpedoed
M/V's
lack of
salvage
effort.
(Contd.)

(cid)

but I feel that remedy lies with Board of Trade or M.W.T. to take action to increase their responsibilities on Masters of M/Vs. I suggest this matter should be taken up urgently with appropriate Authorities.
(C. in C. Med. 111245A to Admty)

M.K.S.11.

VILLE DE DJIJELLI sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 111300A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, Commob, Oran (R) Admty etc.)

Tripoli,
Haifa,
Indicator
Loops.

In view of forthcoming importance of Tripoli as a convoy assembly port request whether a complete indicator loop and H.D.A. system can be supplied. Failing this it is for consideration whether gear for Haifa should be re-allocated. At Haifa only 2 H.D.A's have so far been laid, shore station is almost (?complete) but laying of entire loops and remaining H.D.A's must await return of BULLFINCH from Suez.
(C. in C. Levant, 111350C to Admty (R)C.in C.Med)

12th A.F.
Report.

To: C.G.8th A.F. Rept: C.G.9th A.F.
From: H.Q., N.A.A.F. ADV. From: Spaatz.
For: Eaker and Brereton.

(1) From 18,000 to 19,000 feet, 84 B.17's bombed La Moddaleja (? Maddalena) 360 1000 pound bombs were dropped on 2 10000 ton cruisers, TRIESTE and GORIZIA, registering a number of direct hits on each as well as numerous near misses. Photographs show severe damage. (2) 287 500 pound bombs were dropped on submarine base and installations. One M/V and three small M/Vs were left burning. Five fires were observed in dock areas.
(12th A.F.(Comd.Post, 111437Z to Etousa)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. at 1405 of 1 enemy destroyer
2 medium vessels 1 escort vessel 2 aeroplanes
39.43 N. 13.18 E. course 265° speed 8.
(A/C 25 F/A via Malta, 111440 to Air H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. at 1430 of 1 medium vessel 1 E-Boat
38.31 N. 13.23 E. Course 360° speed 5.
(A/C 25FA via Alex. 111445A to Air H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. of 1 small vessel 1 aeroplane 38.32 N.
13.03 E, course 175° speed 5.
(A/C 25^F/A via Alex, 111448A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
My 1440, enemy previously reported are 2 M/Vs 3000.
My 1445, one M/V 2,000. My 1448, one M/V 1,000.
(A/C 25 F/A via Alex, 111505A to Air H.Q. Malta)

RUNO
sunk.

Following received from C. in C. Levant
(Begins) British SS. RUNO sunk in 0 32°15' N.
0 23°55' E. at 0129 today 11th, not known
whether U-Boats or mines. 21 survivors.
(P.S.T.O.Middle East, 111711C to D.S.T.)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

NUBIAN,
PALADIN. Sailed NUBIAN and PALADIN on operations.
(V.A. Malta, 111716 to Admty etc.)

SARACEN. Intend sailing P.247 (SARACEN) 1900/15th routed
through 038° 33' 003° 45' at 0515/14th 040°
50' 008° at 0300/16th 042° 00' 008° 24' at
2300/16th thence round Cape Corse to patrol East
Corsica between latitude 42° and 45°.
(Capt. (S) 8, 111828A to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre.
Algiers, Capt. (S) 10th, 8th S.F.)

ABDIEL
PETARD. Sailed ABDIEL PETARD.
(V.A. Malta, 111847 to Admty etc.)

Movements,
Oran. My 102122. Cancel SALVESTOR, LOOKOUT, FARNDALE,
Arrivals today. QUEEN EMMA, ILEX, HAYDON, OX-
FORDSHIRE. Departures today SALVESTOR.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 111857 to Admty etc.)

NEWFOUND-
LAND. NEWFOUNDLAND is to form part of C.S.(12).
(2) T.O.O. of 362K was 101102A to Med. Station
367K, (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.).

Movements,
Philippeville. Departure: L.S.T. 361, 363, 403 and 304,
M.M.S.184.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 112003A to Admty)

Movements,
Algiers. Algiers Arrivals FELIXSTOWE, CIRCE. Departures
L.C.I.(L's) 116, 105, 170, L.C.T.160.
(Cdre. Algiers, 112003 A to Admty etc.)

201 N.C.
Group
inadequacy. My 0710 (757). Request action may be deferred
until I have had a further discussion with Air
Officer C. in C.
(C. in C. Levant, 112029C to Admty)
A.O.C. in C.'s opinion see 191811C.

MAGNET. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 112158C to Admty.)

Movements,
Port Said. 11th April, Port Said arrival WOLBOROUGH,
departure PANTHER.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 112220C to Admty etc.)

Malta / ...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta AI 548 11 April C.S.R. 11th April.
 Air Part 1. Offensive. Night 10th/11th April.
 Report. 1 special equipment and 4 bomb carrying Albacores made search for enemy shipping in Gulf of Hammamet. At 2030 hours special Albacore sighted scattered convoy of three M/Vs 3000 tons approx. 10 miles E.S.E. of Ras Kaboudia course North speed 5 knots. 1 of these M/Vs at 2135 hours was bombed by one Albacore which scored hits on stern. M/V was later seen to be smoking. 1 Albacore failing to find any shipping bombed Mahdia Harbour. 1 special equipment and 3 torpedo carrying Albacores were then despatched to attack and torpedo from from 1 of them scored hit on M/V causing bows to rise out of water and ship to reel over. Albacore later circling area saw no trace of vessel. Three torpedo carrying Beauforts made shipping search in Cape Bon-Marrittimo area but found no target. 6 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily. No suitable target was found. Day 11 April. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires with 4 fighter Spitfires as high cover bombed Biscari aerodrome scoring hits in Southern dispersal area. 10 Spitfire sorties were made in offensive sweeps in Pantellaria Lampedusa and Licata areas.
 Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Night 10-11 April. 1 Beaufighter was airborne for raid which turned back before reaching Malta. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol N.W. of Malta.
 Day 11th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
 Night 10/11th April. 1 special equipment Wellington co-operating with naval units between Marittimo and Pantellaria and 2 special equipment Wellingtons on searches for enemy shipping between Palermo and Naples and the west coast of Italy and from Cape Spartivento to Gulf of Taranto experienced ASV jamming and made no significant sightings. 3 special equipment Wellingtons made armed searches in Gulf of Taranto. 2 of them are missing.
 (A.H.Q. Malta, 112225Z)

Movements, Arrived and sailed HURSLEY, HURWORTH, CROOME,
 Libya. KANARIS, sailed HEKTOR VII.
 (N.O.I.C.Libya, 112228 to Admty.)

Enemy P.C. and S. of one medium merchant ship
 M/V. CZMK 1815* 170° 15 knots.
 (A/C ANL/S, 112255B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
 * W.D. Note: Indecypherable by Decode in Force from 1/4/1943, but previous Decode would give 38.18 N. 13.15 E.

Torpedoed / A case has recently occurred in which a destroyer
 Ships to was torpedoed forward by an E-Boat. Engines
 keep were stopped in order to avoid further damage
 moving. to ship due to her speed through the water.

Shortly / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Torpedoed
Ships to
Keep
Moving
(Contd.)

Shortly after she had lost steerage way she was torpedoed amidships and sank. In similar circumstances when E-Boats are known to be in the vicinity it is better to keep way on ship if at all possible, if necessary going astern, accepting the risk of damage due to ship's motion.

354K to 367K were Bgrms.

(C. in C. Med. 112300A to Med. Station 368K)

SAFARI,
Enemy
Intelligence.

Capt. (S) 8 pass P.221 (SHAKESPEARE.) Enemy A/S (? has) taken umbrage and may show improvement. Beware E-Boat Cagliari Gulf. Request sailing orders. 7 victims.
(P.211 SAFARI, 112345A to Capt. (S) 8 (R) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE)).

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure HASHEMI.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 110116Z to Admty.)
Departure tug ZERANG for Vizagapatam direct
route coast wise S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 110755Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 11th. 0239Z SCOUT 0330Z INVESTIGATOR.
Departures 1030Z TAMWORTH 1430Z Dutch Sub. 0.21.
(F.O. Ceylon, 111605Z to Admty.)
DEVON CITY arrived.
(F.O. East Africa, 111211Z to Admty.)

Convoy Arrival CAPETOWN, MARGUERITE with A.B.6.
A.B.6. (S.O.I. Bombay, 110319Z to Admty.)

Dispositions. E.F. disposition signal No.51 (A) and (C) no
change (D) FROBISHER and MAURITIUS at Kilindini
CARADOC on passage Aden to Kilindini. DURBAN
at Aden, others no change. (E) available units
training off Kilindini.
(C. in C.E.F., 110814Z to C. in C. South Atlantic, C. in C.
Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., C. in C. Med. A.C.N.B., F.O. Ceylon, Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 1030Z/11th. 4. 9 knots
M.B.32. 5. T. 07° 52' N. 78° 18' U. 08° 01' N.
77° 18' E. Keeping 10 miles off shore.
6. TAMWORTH.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 111041Z, 111051Z to Admty.)

India / (B) Offensive R/C 10 April. 2 Hurricanes attacked
Air oil installations and damaged barges Yenangyat
Report. and large barge Dibyubin 20° 47' N. 94° 40' E.
6 Hurricanes villages and river boats Mayu
Peninsula. 2 Beaufighters Irrawaddy West of
Mandalay. Sampans and small steamer attacked.
(A.H.Q. India, 111228Z to Air Min.)

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 10th.
 Arrivals WETASKIWAN, ARVIDA ex Halifax.
 MONTGOMERY ex O.N.175. DUANE ex Argentina.
 ESQUIMALT ex Halifax. Departures PIMPERNEL,
 BUTTERCUP to S.C.126. ESQUIMALT to J.H.47 A.
 (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 110101Z to Admty).
 Arrival 11th April THORVARD and THOMAS J. CARROLL from
 Trinidad.
 (Harbour Master Barbados, 111120Q to Admty).
 Departure April 11th U.S.A.T. T.W. DRENNEN in T.A.G.53
 for Guayanila via Kingston.
 (N.C.S.O. Curacao, 111425Z to Admty).
 MONTEREY U.S.A.T. sailed Port of Spain 9th due Natal
 Brazil 15th.
 (N.S.H.Q., 112142Z to S.O.(I) Recife, F.O.C.W. Af.
 C. in C. S.A., S.O.(I) Jamaica, Admty).
 Kingston arrival U.S.C.G. LOTUS.
 (S.O.(I) Kingston, 112251Q to Admty).

ARGONAUT ARGONAUT reported a latitude 36° 50' longitude
 31° 43' at 2300Z 9th course 261° 72 261 speed
 reduced to 6 knots. Desirable you increase speed
 to effect R/V as early as practicable on 12th.
 (N.O.B. Bermuda, 110130 to BUTLER (R) Admty.
 ARGONAUT).

ARGONAUT unescorted and in crippled condition proceeding
 to Bermuda from Azores through point C latitude 35° 50'
 longitude 40° 01' and D latitude 33° 01' longitude 60° 01'.
 Position at 2300Z/9th latitude 36° 50' longitude 31° 43' course
 261° speed 6 knots. BUTLER expecting to join ARGONAUT on 12th.
 BAYNTUN, BAZELY proceeding by shortest route at best speed
 to relieve BUTLER at earliest practicable time and escort
 ARGONAUT to Bermuda. Report position and estimated time R/V.
 (N.O.B. Bermuda, 111620 to BAYNTUN, BAZELY (R) C. in C.
 Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O.W.A., U.S.S. BUTLER, ARGONAUT, C.T.F.
 68, Commander 17 Destroyer Squadron).

N.O.B. Bermuda's 111620 being passed. Have informed N.O.B.
 Bermuda that BAYNTUN and BAZELY are available to escort
 ARGONAUT to Bermuda as BUTLER is required to rejoin convoy
 U.G.L.2 due to leave Bermuda 13th April.

(S.B.N.O.W.At., 111232P to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D.)

BAYNTUN,
BAZELY.

Norfolk departed 101700 for Londonderry via
 Bermuda.
 (N.S.H.Q., 110520 to Admty).

H. F. 47

Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 110502Z to Admty).

/Movements...

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Sunday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 11th.	ARGONAUT	35½° N. 41½° W.	260°	10
	CILICIA	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	Flight 6, (L.C.(I) Ls)	32½° N. 51° W.	085°	10
	Flight 7, (L.C.(I) Ls)	33° N. 65° W.	120°	12
	F.S. GEORGE LEYGUES	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARNARVON CASTLE	03° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	MILFORD with Floating Dock	} 01° N. 41° W.	087°	4½
	CESHIRE with Floating Dock			
	A.T. 41	41½° N. 48½° W.	087°	19½
	T.A. 40	37½° N. 55½° W.	270°	26
	T.A. 39	39° N. 55½° W.	264°	19
	(D.O.D. (F) 110940Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu).			

G. Z. 28 Kingston Portion arrived.
(B.R.O. Kingston, 111103 to Admty).

Submarine estimate 11th April.
U.S. Submarine Notice. (Cominch, 111153Z, 111531Z, 111600Z, 111601Z, 111602Z, 111850Z).

DILWORTH Tanker DILWORTH sighted in 43.47 57.17 at 1030Z 11th straggler from O.N. 175 proceeding Halifax, E.T.A. 1900Z/12th. (MALPEQUE, 111257Z to Connv, (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. F.O.N.F., C. in C. N.W.A., H.Q.C.C. Comtask 24, Comtask 24.7., N.S.H.Q.)

B.Y.M.S. Arrival B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185 from New York. (C. Halifax, 111320Z to Admty etc).

U.G.F. 7 No information has been received regarding R/V with (?British) escorts or regarding routing for Mediterranean section U.(?G) (?F)7. Unless otherwise directed this section will (?break) off (?at) Point J about 0700Z/12th escorted by 5 U.S. destroyers. (Comtask (?66) 111355Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

/QUEEN...

War Diary.11.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

QUEEN Your 021616 Jan. and your 201608 Feb. and
ELIZABETH. A.M. 201748 Jan. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be taken
in hand at Devonport for completion. Estimated
time 6 to 8 weeks.

2. Request firm date of completion and
estimated date of sailing may be communicated.
(D.O.D. (H) 111409B to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q., B.A.D., C. in C.
Plymouth, A.S. Devonport, QUEEN ELIZABETH).

Survivor My 090944. Forwarding immediately interrogating
from Officer's preliminary report. Prisoner reports
DOGGERBANK. inter alia (1) Captain of DOGGERBANK was Paul
Schneidewind (2) DOGGERBANK met Raider No.28
three times last time in company with Tanker

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN June 21st 1942 name of Raider's Captain
Rukdeschel.

(3) When DOGGERBANK sighted submarine she fired three pistol
lights red, white, white, then hoisted red fire hoses to main
mast also six pieces tarpaulin and three square flags blue,
green, yellow. Submarine replied with one white Verrey light.
DOGGERBANK then turned towards submarine and received three
torpedoes on starboard side. Although some of report not
entirely convincing story of third meeting see (2) above is
confirmed by report from U.S. Office of Chief Naval Operations
OP-16-B-5 28th Feb. statement by survivor ex Norwegian KATTEGAT
rescued ex German RAMSES to which previously transferred from
DOGGERBANK.

(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 111454Q to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D.
N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Gib). Comment:- From information received
from survivors of RAMSES and RHAKOTIS Para 2. is known to be
correct. Para. 3. U-boats are known to have been in the area
of reported sinking.

U/Bs, convoys Activity up to 1237Z/11th on series 8 producing
O.N.176, scattered bearing indicates one or more convoys
O.N.S.2, being shadowed in general area 050° to 055°
H.X.232. N. 035° to 042° W. estimated up to 10 U-boats in
area with probably most near O.N. 176.
(N.S.H.Q. 111523Z to Ships escorting O.N.176,
O.N.S.2, H.X.232, C. in C. C.N.W.A. F.O.N.F. (R)
Admty. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At., A.C.I.C.)

Iceland
Aircraft
needed for
Biscay.

Personal for 1st S.L. from Adm. King. A.M.
091636B to B.A.D. No additional P.B.Y. airplanes
are available for dispatch to Iceland nor has
augmentation of the 21 P.B.Ys. now in Iceland
been contemplated. Any radical change in allo-
cation would only delay readiness of equipment
with A.S.V. (Cominch 111555Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D)

LADY NELSON

My 111912 March Canadian Army Authorities report
Canadian Government hospital ship LADY NELSON
will be ready to sail Halifax 21st April for
Avonmouth 11th will be routed by C. in C. N.W.A.
(N.S.H.Q., 111605Z to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D.,
C. in C. C.N.W.A., N. Member Joint Staff
Washington, Connav).

War Diary.

11.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- B.X.42 Arrived B.X.42 between 1840Z and 2030Z/10.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 101608Z to Admty).
- P.553, My 271610A March, Cominch 092118Z. As P.553
P.512. will not make good defects until April 22nd, and
P.512 will sail April 15th from Philadelphia,
recommend P.512 be sailed to Bermuda and P.553
be retained at Halifax as she is familiar with
training problems and will not require long refit for 12
months.
(N.S.H.Q., 111806Z to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) C. in C. Lant,
F.O.C. S/MS, B.A.D., N.O.I.C. Bermuda, C. in C. C.N.A.C.
Halifax).
- Bermuda ^{NT.C.W.D} My 1230/29 March. ^{?Close} Class Contraband Control
C.C. Base Base Bermuda forthwith.
closed. 2. Personnel to be disposed of as follows:
(a) Cdr. Knight to remain at Bermuda until
further orders about one month to deal with any
matters arising.
(b) Lieut. Farrer to be discharged to U.K.
(c) Transfer Ratings to BENBOW for Contraband Control Base,
Trinidad, to relieve equivalent number of ratings for return
to U.K.
(D.E.W.D., 111837B to S.B.N.O.W.At., S.B.N.O. Trinidad)
- J.H.47 Louisburg Section. Sailing Telegram.
(ii) Louisburg 120800Z. (iii) R/V position (S)
with J.H.47 at 122100Z. (iv) 7 knots.
(v) (S) 044° 55' N., 022° 22' W. (T) 044° 36' N.
062° 17' W. (vi) MISCOU approx. half way to R/V.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 111847Z, 111849Z to Admty).
As amended 121328Z).
- U/B Following has been read. One submarine on
surface bearing 328° 2 miles from position
54° 37' N., 32° 20' W.
(ESCAPADE, 112000Z to A.I.G.303).
- B.X.43 Sailing telegram part 1. 8 knots U.W. Route
(J) 42.23 N. 70.42 W. (K) 42.31 N. 70.28 W.
(L) 42.44 N. 65.09 W. (M) 44.07 N. 63.24 W.
12th (0400?)Z at position J. E.T.A. Halifax
2200Z/14th. Task Unit 24.18.11. Master
EMPIRE TOILER is Commodore, DUNDAS (S.O.) TRURO and MULGRAVE.
2145Z April 13th.
(Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. Boston, 112010 Cominch C. and R.etc)

/Sub...

429

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

All times Z para. B. P.B.Y. sights sub. course
050° 20.30 N. 58.07 W. 102315. ABELIA attacks
sub. 52.47 N. 40.35 W. 102317. Para. C. B.24
Radar contact 36.50 N. 74.15 W. 110600. Para.
D. VP 203 sights sub. 36.55 N. 75.55 W. 111345.
B.34 Radar contact 32.01 N. 80.05 W. 111500 PY 20
attacks sound contact 31.49 N. 79.41 W. 102215.
(Cominch, 112114Z to Admty).

T.A.40
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH).

E.T.A. Ambrose 0500Z/13th.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH, 112115Z to Connav, (R) C.E.S.F.
Port Director New York).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Departure Vila U.S.S. TRYON for Auckland E.T.A.
0200Z/14. A. 20.42 S. 172.52 E. B.23.52 S.
174.28 E. S. of A. 17.7 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 110001Z to Admty).

Arrival Port Phillip 10th BUNGAREE, Sydney (N.S.W.) 9th
SHEPPARTON, 10th NEPAL. Brisbane 10th U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT.
Maryborough 10th ROCKHAMPTON. Townsville 9th WARREGO. Cairns
10th WARREGO. Port Moresby 10th WARRAMUNGA. Milne Bay 10th
VENDETTA, BALLARAT.

Departure Melbourne 9th D.S. VAN GALEN for Sydney (N.S.W.)
Sydney (N.S.W.) 9th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT on escort duty, MILDURA
for Brisbane. 10th D.S. HEEMSKERCK for Melbourne. Brisbane 9th
WARRNAMBOOL for Sydney N.S.W. 10th U.S.S. TULSA for Townsville,
Townsville 10th WARREGO for Cairns. SWAN for Milne Bay.
Cairns 9th BOWEN for Port Moresby. MILNE Bay 10th BALLARAT
for Cairns. PIRIE for Orobay. RAPUNDA for Port Moresby.
WAGGA for Goodenough Island. VENDETTA for Townsville. Port
Moresby 10th WARRAMUNGA for Townsville.
(A.C.N.B., 112358C to Admty).

Digest Serial
No. 445
April 10th.

Two destroyers sighted off Cape Orford afternoon
on Southerly course and again 5 hours later 20
miles South West Gasmata heading West
(W) At dawn 10 Fortresses, 7 Liberators bombed
town and shipping Wewdy, also seaplane base
Kairiru Island. One cargo vessel of 1,000 tons
and 2 of 500 tons seen off Wharf area. Largest hit and destroyed
while 1 other damaged. Another 500 tonner off Borampk (2
miles East of Wewak) and a 1,500 ton ship 5 miles off shore.
Straffing set last vessel afire. Three searchlights put out
and 1 A/A silenced, while some fires started in town and camp.

/(4)...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest
Serial No.
445 April
10th (contd).

(4) After daybreak Beaufighters attacked buildings at Fin?shhafen and swept coast to Madang, while 9 B.25s struck positions Hansa Bay and Bogia Harbour where machine gun battery demolished and fuel truck fired. 12 Lightnings covered those operations.

(7) Two camouflaged barges sighted on beach eighteen miles West of Gasmata mid morning.

(8) Afternoon search Fortress bombed old landing strip Arawe.

(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 110948Z).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 111402B, 111417B).

12.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Number of ships in Atlantic Convoys.

1. A. A/S. S.B. considers that the small number of ships sailed recently in S.C. and O.N. convoys results in uneconomical use of escorts. It is recommended that from 1st May (A) 6 H.X. and O.N. fast convoys limited to 80 ships, and (B) 2 slow S.C. and O.N.S. convoys limited to 60 ships should be sailed monthly. This would make a further 3 groups available as support groups in the North Atlantic.

The Admiralty do not consider that this number of slow convoys will suffice for the number of presenters. They are prepared during the summer months to accept up to 80 ship convoys and to agree to the existing cycles of 6 days for H.X./O.N. and 8 days for S.C./O.N.S. convoys to continue as at present. This will release one group.

Home Commands.

2. C. in C. Western Approaches today issued instructions regarding the rescue of survivors of torpedoed ships by escorts or rescue vessels in convoys.

Coastal craft at Portsmouth.

3. The withdrawal of the 24th M.T.B. Flotilla, which is to be shipped to the Mediterranean, leaves the Portsmouth Command with insufficient coastal torpedo craft operationally fitted to maintain an adequate torpedo striking force, until 23rd May.

4. M.G.Bs. 606, 603 and 610 attacked an escorted enemy convoy anchored off Ymuiden in the early hours of today and torpedoed one ship. M.G.B. 603 received slight damage.

5. Comnaveu reports that it is considered HERRING sank a 530 ton U-Boat at 0040A/21st March in 44.13 N. 08.23 W.

U/B attacks on H.X. 232 3 ships torpedoed.

6. H.X. 232, 48 ships escorted by ESCAPADE, (S.O.) WITHERINGTON, NARCISSUS, AZALEA, GARLAND, ROSELYS and RENONCULE, was attacked again in the early hours of this morning by about 6 submarines, one of which penetrated the screen. ULYSSES, PACIFIC GROVE, and FRESNO CITY were torpedoed and sunk. There

/ was...

12.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/B attacks /
on H.X. 232,
3 ships
torpedoed.
(Contd.)

was no rescue ship with the convoy. The attacks appeared to be co-ordinated. CLOVER attacked a U-Boat in 49.46 N. 43.04 W. and believes she probably damaged it. WITHERINGTON at 0031Z was ordered by C.T.F. 24 to be detached from H.X. 232 to join O.N.S.2 but the ship has developed cracks in plating at the break of the forecastle which renders her unsafe if heavy weather is met and she is remaining with H.X. 232 as long as fuel permits, afterwards proceeding to the U.K. (WITHERINGTON was detached at 131702Z.) KEPPEL left Greenock this evening to join B.3 group escorting H.X. 232. Air cover (Liberators from Aldergrove) arrived at 0730Z, and a support group p.m. today.

7. BERMUDA arrived at Plymouth this evening from Biscay patrol.

Biscay A/S /
air patrols.
(?Operation
"Enclose".)

8. An A/S air patrol was carried out in the approaches in the Bay of Biscay from dark 5th April to dusk today. Fourteen U-Boats were sighted, 4 of which were attacked.

9. There was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary in the early hours of today, and minelaying is suspected. Knock John Fort and Tongue Sand Fort each claim to have shot down an enemy aircraft in the early hours of today.

10. 41 aircraft of Bomber Command laid 131 mines last night off N.W. Germany and Biscay ports.

South Atlantic.

12. C. in C.S.A. reports that SS. ALOE (Bunbury for Durban) was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat at 1400/5 in 32.37 S. 37.50 E. (380 miles S.E. of Durban.)

/11...

12.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic - Contd.

11. To meet an urgent requirement for more A/S escort vessels in West African waters the Admiralty today directed C. in C. South Atlantic to detach FOXHOUND, CATTERICK and BLACKMOOR (on completion of refit) to Freetown, to act under the orders of F.O.C.W. Africa.

Mediterranean.

Dock
situation.

13. C. in C. Med. inquires whether there is any possibility of relieving his acute dock situation by sending some of his damaged merchant ships to Portuguese or Spanish yards for temporary repair.

The Spanish authorities had no objections, but most of their yards are very full. The Portuguese in 1941 refused facilities for repairs in Lisbon of merchant vessels then at Gibraltar, on the grounds that it would ease the dockyard situation at Gibraltar and expose Portuguese shipping to reprisals by the Germans. They have, however, always agreed to repair damaged merchant ships arriving direct from the high seas. They now (22nd April) state that they would like to assist in the repairs to Allied merchant ships but owing to repair requirements of Portuguese vessels they are unable to accord facilities at present.

14. A convoy consisting of a tanker and 3 store ships, (another report says one tanker, 2 store ships and a personnel ship) arrived at Malta today and a personnel convoy of 4 ships and one tanker has left Alexandria for Tripoli (L) (arrived 16th April without incidents.)

Sousse
occupied.

15. The 8th Army occupied Sousse at 0830A today.

Destroyers
and M.T.B.
Sweeps.

16. Last night, destroyers, of Force Q from Bone carried out a sweep to Marittimo and destroyers of Force K operated in the Gulf of Hammamet, M.T.Bs. from Bone proceeded to search in the neighbourhood of Bizerta roads. There was no result from the above operations..

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

- / 17. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 6 fighters attacked Pozzallo today. 20 B.24s were despatched to make a dusk attack on Naples Harbour today; they found the harbour completely obscured by low cloud but 6 of them bombed the estimated position. 28 Fortresses of U.S. 12th Air Force escorted by 37 U.S. Lightnings attacked Bizerta harbour today, dropping nearly 72 tons of H.E. One medium merchant vessel was hit and bursts were seen on the North Quay. 16 U.S. Fortresses attacked Trapani today, obtaining hits on a large tanker and among other shipping and starting fires.

Sevastopol
bombed.

- / 18. N.L.O. Black Sea reports that Russian aircraft have successfully bombed Sevastopol and report sinking 3 merchant vessels, a 2500 ton tanker, 3 E-Boats and 2 F. barges, besides damaging several other vessels and harbour installations.

America & West Indies.Losses of
Stragglers.

- / 19. B.A.D. Washington reports that Admiral King has become much concerned at the losses of stragglers from convoys and has directed that all incoming merchantmen are to be inspected and defects are to be discovered and reported.

O.N. 176.

- / 20. CLOVER, one of the escorts of Convoy O.N. 176 attacked a U-Boat in 49.46 N. 43.04 W. at 0445Z today and considers it probably damaged. CLOVER suggested to C. in C.W.A. that aircraft should be sent to investigate, and might find the U-Boat on the surface. MONTGOMERY sailed from St. Johns (N.F.) at 1430Z today, to reinforce the escort of O.N. 176.

21. The frigate BAZELY, en route from Norfolk to Londonderry via Bermuda, has been damaged by explosion and fire in No. 1 engine room.

/22...

12.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia & New Zealand.

- 2 Auxiliary A/C carriers torpedoes. / 22. C.W.R. Wellington reports that U.S. S/M TUNNY is reported to have obtained 7 torpedo hits on two Japanese auxiliary aircraft carriers south of Truk. No further details are known.
- U/B reported sunk. / 23. A Fortress aircraft attacked a U-Boat in St. George's Channel (between New Ireland and New Britain) and reports having sunk it.
- Attack on Hansa Bay. / 24. A convoy of 4 cargo vessels escorted by 2 destroyers was attacked by 6 Liberator aircraft in Hansa Bay, New Guinea, this afternoon and 2 large cargo vessels were hit, and set on fire. Six Fortresses were despatched to attack the same target after dark tonight and near missed or hit a destroyer and a 2000 ton cargo ship.
- Attack on Port Moresby. / 25. 50 medium bombers escorted by 50 fighters attacked Port Moresby this forenoon, destroying and damaging grounded aircraft and starting fires in a fuel dump. Intercepting Allied Fighters shot down 24 or more and A/A fire also destroyed some. Two Allied Fighters were lost, but one pilot is safe.

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Portsmouth Torpedo Force. Your 092237. The withdrawal of the 24th M.T.B. Flotilla leaves the Portsmouth Command in the following situation with regard to coastal torpedo craft operationally fitted. Up to 26th April one steam gunboat, one M.T.B. 26th April to 6th May two steam gunboats, one M.T.B.

There will not be five M.T.Bs. available until 23rd May and no more steam gunboats until mid June. Portsmouth Command is therefore unable to maintain an adequate torpedo striking force for the present.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121850B to Admty).

BIRMINGHAM BIRMINGHAM is to come under the orders of C. in C. Plymouth on reaching latitude 35° N.
(D.O.D. H., 121901B).

Movements.

S/M Movements. My 111809B para. (A). Cancel reference to SEVERN. Add new para. (H) SEVERN very approx. 68° 16' N. 06° 32' E, probably on surface, speed 13 knots, for Lerwick.
(F.O.S., 120332B).

Your 111924. Proceed through 069° 01', 007° 050' thence Lerwick by route "Grey".

(Capt. S.9., 120341B to SEVERN).

Positions of submarines at 0800B/13 and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) BLACKFISH, BARB and STUBBORN in Zones K. 194, K. 193, and K. 190 respectively.

(B) TUNA on patrol between 69° N. 04° W. and Jan Mayen Island.

(C) SEVERN approx. 63° 33' N., 00° 20' E. probably on surface through 62° 00' N., 01° 26' W, to Lerwick, speed 13 knots.

(D) TRUCULENT, TEMPLAR and SEA NYMPH escorted by ALECTO vicinity North Channel for Holy Loch.

(E) UNTAMED escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Ailsa Craig for Holy Loch.

(F.O.S., 121707B).

TAKU will be exercising in area D South of Plymouth from 1100/13th till 0300/14.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121803B).

P.58 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE arrived and sailed.

E.T.A. 1200B/13th.

(WESTERN ISLES, 122136B).

BERMUDA BERMUDA will pass through position "V" at 1201B. 2 Walrus will proceed to St. Merryn passing over Wolf Rock about 1330 thence by north coast.

(BERMUDA, 121016B to C. in C. Plymouth).

My 111343B. Cancel position W. From "V" pass X 180° The Lizard 10, Y 050° 03' 30" N. 004° 14' 36" W. thence Gate.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121043B to BERMUDA).

Arrived BERMUDA.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121819B).

/KING...

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. - Contd.

KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V. proceeding to pass (?South) Gate 141845B. April to carry out firings in CF. Practice areas and thence Rosyth, passing Swona at 150001B. April.
(2) Route via War Channel. Speed to be adjusted to pass Bell Rock at 150845B. April at which time an A.L.T. by A/C of 16 Group has been arranged. Thence arrive May Is. 0930B.
(3) R.A.(D) is requested to detail 3 destroyers to screen. Destroyers to be detached at Eyebroughy Buoy and to return Scapa or as ordered by R.A.(D).
(C. in C. H.F., 121056B).

ADVENTURE F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 081709A. Arrived ADVENTURE.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 121325B).

CHARYBDIS Arrived CHARYBDIS.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 121439B).

UGANDA At 0200B/13 UGANDA is to discontinue covering-duty ordered in my 111343B and is to proceed Plymouth passing through following positions.
2. UGANDA is to arrive Plymouth before dark 14th and is to run paravane when East of 007° W.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 122203B to UGANDA).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.L. 247 (S.O.) and M.L. 269 to patrol tonight, on latitude 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn 13th.
3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 121126B).
Tonight ESKDALE immediate notice at Yarmouth Isle of Wight. P.W. sailing orders will be sent.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 121500B to ESKDALE).
M.Ls. 140 and 143 patrolling at Inner Lade Buoy. M.T.Bs. 38, 235, 219 and M.G.Bs. 114, and 117 patrolling at Berck Buoy. E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R. 0630/13.
M.G.Bs. 41.40 and 43 at V Buoy. E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R. 0630/13.
(V.A. Dover, 121747B).
My 121126B. "Device" sailed 2045.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 122057B).

Denmark Straits Patrol. C. in C. H.F., 111401A. Intend to pass through 066° 30' N., 025° 45' W. on course (?50°) at 0730Z/13th.
(CUMBERLAND, 121150B to C.S.10).
Estimated position 2202 tonight BELFAST, GLASGOW Patrol "White". CUMBERLAND 64.55 24.30 to patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 121442B to Ships).
CUMBERLAND sailed at 1725B in accordance with C. in C. H.F. 111401. (A.C.I.C., 121827B).

/Operation...

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations - Contd.

Operation "Carey". Inform Admiral M.T.Bs. 626, 344 Lerwick 1540. Mission successfully completed. 8 men brought back.
(A.C.O.S., 121620 to CHIDDINGFOLD).
My 110932B. M.T.B. 626 returned 121540.
Patrol successfully completed.
(A.C.O.S., 121630 to Admty).

? 12018 B

Coastal Force Operations. Preliminary report of C/F activity night 11/12th.
(1) M.G.Bs. 606 (S.O.) 603, and 610 on offensive patrol off Ymuiden made contact at 110118B with northbound enemy convoy in 335° Ymuiden 6 miles. Unit closed and was challenged by large escort vessel of Sperrbrecher type. Unit withdrew to shadow by R.D.F. but temporarily lost contact, regaining it 4 miles off Ymuiden, convoy having altered course to southward and anchored off Ymuiden. Unit closed again at 0236B sighting two large escort-vessels at a range of 3 cables with the convoy inshore of them. Unit engaged the nearest at a range of 1 cable at which range it was impossible to miss owing to size of target. Enemy fire was mostly overhead. Unit withdrew to S.W. under cover of smoke and was pursued by 2 other E/Vs of "F" class which abandoned chase at 0335B. Damage:- M.G.B. 603 piping for power worked turrets hit, one engine defective, no other damage or casualties reported.
(2) M.T.B. 234 with M.T.B. 241 on patrol off Walcheren Island sighted two trawlers, not torpedo targets, in 51° 37' N., 03° 16' E. at 0118B. Trawlers fired Star Shell but no action ensued. M.T.Bs. report a considerable number of Aircraft flying N.W. when off Thornton Ridge at 2330B.
(C. in C. Nore, 121624B).

Biscay Area. This is a paraphrase of Comsubron Fifty 121615 addressed to F.O.(S) and Admiralty.
One U-boat claimed sunk, on 21st March by HERRING. A. Refer SWM 14 at 0040A/21 March.
2 destroyers or Escort ships claimed sunk, 1 destroyer or Escort Ship probably sunk, and one 10,000 ton M/V probably sunk by SHAD on 1st April. B. HERRING attacked U-boat in 44.13 N. 8.23 W. on course 080°, speed 10 knots, range 2500 yards.
C. Estimate 2 hits based on 2 loud explosions 2½ minutes after firing followed by crackling noises. Screws stopped after explosion.
D. U-boat fired green flare as emergency identification signal. Identified as 530 ton U-boat with one gun forward.
E. Credit for sinking is believed to be warranted.
F. Aircraft homing procedure on 395 k/cs was heard on nights of March 28, 29 and 30th.
G. At 0342A/1 April on surface in 44.37 N. 2.18 W. SHAD made night running attack on German convoy consisting one AK and four destroyers. Fired 8 torpedoes. Obtained 5 or 6 hits.
H. Observations and times of explosions indicate following damage was inflicted:
2 Destroyers or escort vessels sunk.
1 destroyer or escort vessel damaged and probably sunk. 1 AK of about 10,000 tons damaged and probably sunk. I. Positive information by radar during approach and attack substantiated claims. J. Positive observation of damage was prevented by darkness and A/S pursuit by fourth destroyer or escort. (Comnaveu, 121954 to Admty).

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12.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Biscay
Area Air
R/C.

Coastal Command wish to reduce frequency of R/C of Bay Ports and suggest that following ports be covered once instead of three times weekly as at present:- St. Nazaire, La Pallice, Le Verdon, Pauillac, Bordeaux, Nantes, Donges.

2. It is considered that once a week will meet requirements except at special periods when activity is expected by blockade breakers. etc.

3. Further it is considered that the NARVIK class destroyers should be covered daily.

4. Request your remarks.

(D.O.D. H., 121545B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Enemy Air Activity.Two Enemy
A/C shot
down.

KNOCK JOHN FORT claims to have brought down an enemy aircraft seen to crash in flames in approx. 51° 35' N., 01° 16' E. at 0017B today. This claim is fully substantiated by a report from SKIDDAW anchored in the vicinity. TONGUE SAND FORT claims another at 0034B today.

A/C was hit at close range with Bofors and 3.7 inch and set on fire. Immediately afterwards a fire was seen on the sea in approx. 51° 35' N., 01° 37' E. which burnt for seven minutes. (C. in C. Nore, 120510B).

My 120510B. German wreckage and equipment has been recovered from KNOCK JOHN FORT's claim. Glow of fire from TONGUE SAN FORT's claim also observed from Sunk Head.

(C. in C. Nore, 121843B).

Thames
Estuary.

During night 11/21th April there was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary. Between 0010 and 0100 some 20 hostile planes appear to have been operating chiefly over the Queens Channel and Margate Roads Areas with

some plots also over the Kentish Flats, and one at least in each of the Knock Deep, Princes Channel and KNOCK JOHN Areas respectively. No bombs were dropped and it seems certain that the planes were minelayers. A splash - probably a mine - was seen and heard bearing about 100° 3,000 yards from TONGUE FORT. KNOCK JOHN FORT engaged the only two aircraft picked up near her and at 0017 definitely shot down one which fell into the sea.

At 0021 TONGUE SAND FORT opened fire on a plane and from the evidence of her own observers it would appear that it may have come down and burst into flames in approx. 51° 32' 30" N, 01° 31' E. TONGUE SAND FORT also engaged two other planes. (S.O.T.L.D.F., 121806B to C. in C. Nore).

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

German "Desa" gear. (DSEA)
Following from Commodore Roseneath. German type "Desa" has been picked up off Roseneath Point at 1910 today. Apparatus is now in possession of C.O. U.S. Ship BEAVER 112030 April ends. This apparatus has been inspected by Captain (S) 3 S.O. who states it is German and appears to have been used recently. Arrangements are being made for diver to inspect bottoms of all large ships in the Port. Necessary shore authorities have been instructed to lookout for a possible intruder.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 120208B to C. in C. W.A.)

My 120208B. Following received, begins. One German Submarine escape apparatus in bad condition was thrown overboard Sunday morning. Regret inconvenience caused. T.O.O.121230B. To prevent recurrence of this inconvenience request that general instructions may be issued that such apparatus should never be thrown overboard in harbour.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 121508B to C. in C. W.A.)

Lizard Area. Mine contact encountered 095° The Lizard 2.3 miles. Steer through 180° The Lizard 5, thence as previously routed so as to avoid area as in my 120335.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 120827B to CHARYBDIS).

My 120829B. TANATSIDE reports further contact 088° Lizard Head 41 at 0815B.

(C. in C. Plymouth 120921B to CHARYBDIS).

My 120921B. MELBREAK reports further contact 101° Lizard Head 4 miles at 0903.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 120931B to CHARYBDIS).

My 111953B. On arrival in 050° 03' 30" N., 004° 14' 36" W. in A.M. Q.Z.S. 409 make searching sweep to D.3 buoy in A.M. Q.Z.S. 347.

2. On completion proceed Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121135B to M.S.4).

Sail first light tomorrow and carry out searching sweep of Q.Z.S. 347. One M/S on West side of centre line, remainder on Eastward side. Thence search to Plymouth proceeding by Q.Z.S. 410 and 409. Use double Oropesa sweep at maximum depth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 121746B to M.S.4).

SCOTT Q.H. Trials. Request Northern Chain may be manned and locked for continuous operations between 1200B to morrow and 1200B/19th for further Q.H. trials by SCOTT.

(R.A.M. 121044B to Admty).

Intend to sail SCOTT at 0930B tomorrow carry out further independent trials between Orkneys and Shetlands and Faeroes, returning Port ZA on completion 18th. My 121044B refers.

(R.A.M. 121046B to A.C.O.S.)

My 121046B. Proceed as requisite to comply.

(R.A.M., 121047B to SCOTT).

Nore Command. Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command week ended 10th April. Two British MK VIX mines. Thirteen German explosive conical floats. Twelve Type II and

/one...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- Nore Command. (contd). one Type I rendered safe and countermined. These floats were washed ashore in Cley next the sea district and appear to have been laid at least two years ago. (R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 121049B).
- Q.U.8 A. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.8 A tonight with M.L. Flotilla 51. Position of laying centre 052° 14' N., 004° 14' E. directionally East and West irregular. Close escort of one unit M.G.B. Flotilla 8th, clockwise delay between 8 and 50 hours. (C. in C. Nore, 121157B to BEEHIVE).
- FRODE sunk. SS. FRODE (Norwegian) mined and sunk 111740 in 50° 45' 32" N. 00° 29' 10" W. Ten survivors including six injured landed at Portsmouth three at Littlehampton. One body at Newhaven and one at Littlehampton so far unidentified. Three Merchant Seamen and one Maritime Artillery Gunner missing believed killed. Total nineteen. Master died in Haslar soon after admission. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 121256B).
- Tyne At 120845B one Mine detonated by Sweepers in 55° 8' N., 1° 28' W. Details. (N.O.I.C. North Shields. 121502B). At 120922B two mines detonated by Sweepers in 55° 13' N., 01° 29' W. Details. (N.O.I.C. North Shields. 121650B).
- Yarmouth C.M.F. Result of attempt to fire controlled minefield No. 3 loop today negative. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 121540B).
- Q.Z.X. 962. 1. Following reports of mines accounted for in Q.Z.X.962 have been received:-
(A) From R.N.O. Fowey. Belgian Trawler 272 reports that at 1730 on 9th April in 176° 12½ miles from Fowey Lighthouse, there was one small and one large explosion close astern. Vessel slipped trawl.
(B) From SALTASH. At approx. 1751 on 11th April one mine detonated in sweep in 50° 06' N., 04° 33' 42" W.
(C) From K.H.M. Plymouth. Fishing Trawler ATLANTIC reported that on 11th April, mine exploded in trawl just clear of seabed in approx. 250° Eddystone 12½ miles.
2. Whilst fishing on 11th April, in 242° Eddystone 5½ miles, INCHGOWER sighted mine in trawl which from C.O.'s description appears to have been Type T. Mine slipped and re-moored itself in approx. same position. (C. in C. Plymouth, 121940 to Admty).

12.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

HALLINGDAL

Norwegian HALLINGDAL 5500 tons due to leave Frederikstad northbound fully loaded with munitions p.m./14th. Graded B.3. (N.A. Stockholm, 121801 to Admty).

U-boats.

U-boat reported.

Am over enemy S/M in 54° 34' N., 29° 10' W. (A/C 3 MLM 121145B to 15 Group).

U-boat attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 55° 30' N., 25° 55' W. (A/C 3 MLB 122140B to 15 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 3 MLB 122148A to 15 Group).

Casualties & Defects.

BARCOCK

My 101514. Further examination of steering defects in BARCOCK reveal they cannot be made good without extensive docking not possible locally. Request tug to tow her to Liverpool. (A.C.O.S., 121847 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.176. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 120125Z, 121158Z to G.B.7A.)
 U/B. attack, See America and West Indies.
 BEVERLEY (A) 2345Z/11th, 50° 18' N. 42° 48' W.
 sunk. (B) 1. (C) Starboard Beam. (D) LANCASTRIAN PRINCE
 (E) 79 (F) ABELIA.
 (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 120213Z to C. in C. W.A. (R)
 Connav, Admty, C.T.F.24., C.T.G.24.7 N.S.H.Q.
 C.C.N.F., C.O.A.C., H.Q.C.C.)
 U-Boat attacked by CLOVER (?observed) 49.46 N. 43.04 W.
 at 0445Z/12th. Probably damaged. Suggest if A/C available to
 investigate may locate on the surface today.
 (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 120715Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.178. Arrived OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE.
 (F.O.I.C. Greenock 120804B.)

S.C.125. Your 051143. Arrived. (DEVERON).
 (A.C.I.C. 120845B to C. in C. W.A.)
 Sailed DEVERON at 1415B to join S.C.125.
 (A.C.I.C. 121434B.)

HX. 232. My 112345Z. 2nd attack period between 0215Z and
 ULYSSES, 0447Z by about 6 submarines of which 1 penetrated
 PACIFIC screen. Torpedoed (A) ULYSSES (104) at 0247.
 GROVE, All crew saved in AZALEA. (B) PACIFIC GROVE (121)
 FRESNO CITY, at (0243Z.) All crew except 4 in AZALEA.
 torpedoed. (C) (?FRESNO) CITY (122) at (0243Z.) afloat but
 Master considers unsalvageable. AZALEA rejoining.
 (2) All attacks from van and up-moon. Attacks
 appeared to be co-ordinated, 2 or 3 S/Ms. following
 one another closely along same track. (3) Many good counter-attacks
 but no visible results. (4) Short of depth-charges GARLAND,
 RENONCULE. (5) My position course and speed at 0800Z, 054° 36' N.
 (0297) 00' W. (7060°) 9.5. (6) Weather 9480 0873.
 (Escort B.3. 120930Z and 131329Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Last U-Boat transmission from your area in Series 1 was at
 0244Z. Signals on Series 7 at 0625 and 0642 may have come from
 your area and preliminary D/F bearings at 0727 indicate U-Boat
 in 54° 40' N. 30° W. Not yet certain that shadowing frequencies
 have changed.

(D.D.I.C. 121007B to Escorts HX. 232.)

D/F bearings at 1203Z indicate U/B shadowing convoy.
 Inconclusive bearings at 0932Z and 1156Z indicate Series 1 and 8
 are also being used from your general vicinity.

(D.D.I.C. 121503B to Escorts HX. 232.)

Intend proceed 1700B to comply with C. in C. W.A. 112302.
 Speed 20 knots. Expect to be in vicinity HX. 232 at 2000B/13.
 (KEPPEL 121641B.)

KEPPEL sailed to comply with your 112302.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock 121718B to C. in C. W.A.)

Your 120830, Comtask 24 121549. Concur WITHERINGTON remain
 with HX. 232 to U.K. communication repairs.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 121739Z to M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17.)

D/F at 1929Z from U/B in close vicinity of convoy may indicate
 that series 1 will now be used.

(D.D.I.C. 122231B to Escorts HX.232.)

/Atlantic...

12.4.1943.

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

Atlantic Convoy Rescue work. Escorts are not to stop to rescue survivors until a thorough search for the U-Boat has been carried out. Rescue work should be done by special Rescue Ship, Tug or Trawler if present. Hunt for U-Boat should not be prejudiced by affording A/S protection to rescuing vessel and not more than one escort should normally be absent from the convoy for this duty. 2. If no rescue measures are provided, after a thorough search for U-Boat escorts may proceed to pick up survivors. Work should be carried out expeditiously as absence of escorts from Convoy may endanger other ships. 3. A.C.I. Article 123 is being amended.
(C. in C. W.A. 121055Z to Ships.)

W.S.29. Intend sailing Bristol Channel portion from
GLOUCESTER. (?Irish) Sea light vessels at 150800B to R/V
Oversay 161400 escorted by SHIKARI.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff 121159B.)
GLOUCESTER is to be sailed in convoy WS.29.
Ship is to be given full convoy instructions, and provided with a "Gold" route to Buenos Aires and warned that she may be ordered to leave convoy and proceed independently.
(D.T.D. 121210B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

EMPIRE F.O.I.C. Greenock's 111128 para. 6. Request
JACK. you will forward report direct to D.T.D, Admty.
(D.T.D. 121227B to N.O.I.C. Barry.)
Your 111128B. Master of EMPIRE JACK states he has made full report to N.C.S.O. Ardrossan and has nothing to add to his report. He has been informed of purport of para. 6. is reporting to Admiralty this afternoon.
(N.O.I.C. Barry 121330B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Request you will forward report regarding EMPIRE JACK direct to D.T.D. Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 121811B to N.C.S.O. Ardrossan.)

H.X.231. If situation permits detach one escort to search
SHILLONG for lifeboat reported by A/C in 58° 20' N. 34°
survivors. 19' W. at 121425B. Vessel detached is to rejoin
convoy by dark 13th.
(C. in C. W.A. 121736B to CHURCHILL.)

HX.231. Preliminary report of convoy HX.231 escorted by
B7 Group TAY S.O., ALISMA, PINK, SNOWFLAKE,
LOOSESTRIFE, VIDETTE.
Convoy 61 ships in 13 Columns. No rescue ship.
General co-operation with aircraft from both Iceland and Aldergrove was excellent and numerous attacks on U-Boat were made by them on sweep given by S.O. 2. HF/DF proved most valuable. Signals ceased when aircraft were in the vicinity

/but...

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12.4.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

HX.231.
 Attacked
 by
 U-Boats on
 4th and 5th
 April.
 (Contd.)

but were resumed directly the aircraft left.
 The first sighting report made was not heard by
 the HF/DF ship but control was heard acknowledging
 which appears, that U-Boat must have made her
 report in the H.F. Skip distance.

3. U-Boats maintained contact in spite of low
 visibility and air coverage between the 6th and
 8th. This must have been done by keeping contact
 with H.E. or by some form of R.D.F. as it was
 impossible for them to have the convoy in sight.

4. All but one of the attacks or attempted attacks came from
 ahead or on the bow. In Daylight U-Boats appeared to be ahead
 of the convoy and fired from very close range. 5. First attack
 2208 April 4th. HF/DF bearings showed convoy was being shadowed
 from all quarters. Weather at time of attack was strong wind,
 heavy swell from N.N.W. bright Northern Lights. Port side of
 convoy was strengthened as attack was anticipated from that
 direction. At 2208 SHILLONG number 121 was torpedoed from
 Starboard Bow. Half Raspberry was carried out but U-Boat was
 not detected. Ship sank in half a minute and no boats were
 launched. Casualties might have been less heavy had a rescue
 ship been present. 6. Second attack 2303 April 4th. WAROGA
 number 44 was torpedoed on the starboard quarter of the convoy.
 Raspberry was not ordered as escorts were not in station.
 Starshell was fired but nothing was sighted. WAROGA continued
 in convoy for 2 days before sinking. 7. VAALAREN, THOMAS SUMPTER,
 and (BLITAR) broke convoy the second ship rejoining but BLITAR
 was torpedoed later. SUN OIL a straggler was torpedoed next day.
 This should bring home to Masters the danger of straggling or
 breaking convoy with numerous U-Boats in the vicinity as in each
 case ships doing so were sunk. 8. Third attack at 1213 April
 5th. BRITISH ARDOUR number 62 was torpedoed on the Port Side
 escort from position A. being absent. From evidence available
 it is known that the U-Boat dived visibility distance ahead of
 the convoy and fired from a position between the second and third
 columns as a torpedo on a course of 140 at the end of its run was
 seen to pass close ahead of number 71. Convoys course at the
 time was 087°. 9. Nights of the 4th and 5th April. Escorts
 N.E.6. Heavy concentration of U-Boats around convoy. Orders
 were issued to escorts to counter attack any contacts but to
 resume station immediately they were no longer a danger to the
 convoy. 12 attempted attacks by U-Boats were beaten off in the
 course of the night by these tactics and 5 U-Boats were actually
 sighted. No U-Boat getting home a successful attack. Little
 evidence as to results of attacks on U-Boats is available.
 10. Attempted day attack. At 0655 April 5th H.M.S. TAY in
 position A. obtained A/S contact and counter attacked at once
 the stern of the U-Boat being sighted just before charges were
 dropped. Convoy passed over U-Boat and contact was not regained.
 (C. in C. W.A. 121827B to Admt.)

Your 121736B. Survivors from boat containing 38 of crew
 SS. SHILLONG picked up by rescue ship ZAMALEK in 058° 28' N. 034°
 35' W. Ship torpedoed on 4th April, position unknown. No
 further information. O.N.177 in 58.28 N. 35.02 W. 243° 5 knots.
 (C.T.U.24.1.14. 122220Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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12.4.1943.

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

B.4. and PLYM and RIBBLE are allocated to Londonderry.
 B.7. Groups. Allocation to groups will be made later.
 2. BAYNTUN and BERRY are allocated to Londonderry
 for B.4. and B.7. groups in place of BEVERLEY and
 RIPLEY respectively. 3. Allocation of BAYNTUN
 to 44th Group is cancelled.
 (C. in C. W.A. 121819B to Cdre. Londonderry.) / as amended 172201B.

New OFFA, IMPULSIVE, PANTHER, PENN are required to
 Support Group. sail from Londonderry PN/14 as support group.
 OFFA, IMPULSIVE are to be sailed to Londonderry
 when ready.
 (C. in C. W.A. 121822B.)

O.N.S.2. My 121145Z. Ship was INGERFIRE, from
 INGERFIRE O.N.S.2. Torpedoed at 2130Z/11 051° 48' N. 022°
 sunk. 30' W. (A) None (B) 28 nil (C) 1900Z/12 to until
 U-Boat down. (D) Sunk. O.N.S.2, P.C.S. 051° 20' N.
 022° 21' W. 231° 7.
 (ITCHEN 121900Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Atlantic 1. The small number of ships sailed recently in
 Convoys. slow S.C. and O.N. convoys results in uneconomical
 use of escorts. 2. It is recommended that as
 from May 1st. (A) 6 H.X. and O.N. fast convoys
 limited to 80 ships, and (B) 2 slow S.C. and O.N.S.
 convoys limited to 60 ships should be sailed monthly. This
 schedule would provide for a movement of 600 ships per month and
 make a further three groups available as support groups in the
 North Atlantic. 3. Reduction of number of convoys will also
 result in the more effective use of the small number of V.L.R.
 aircraft available in the immediate future. 4. C. in C. W.A.
 concurs in principle provided the total numbers of escorts are
 not reduced holding the view that experience alone can show
 what proportion of the escorts saved by above proposal should
 be used in support groups or alternatively to strengthen the
 weaker groups retained on the cycle.
 (A.A/S.S.B. 122114Z to 1st S.L.)

Depth Greenock 261732 March.
 charges Investigation shows that transfer of depth charges
 in outside will be assisted by fitting of Welwyn
 Atlantic davits in place of swinging davits. This will be
 Convoy done. At the best however the process will be
 Ships. cumbersome. 2. It is proposed that the accepted
 standard method of transferring D.Cs. shall be by
 derrick and double whip direct from ship to
 escort vessel, the flotation method being held in
 reserve for use when weather is unfavourable. 3. It is proposed
 to fit all suitable tankers and a number of dry cargo vessels
 with improvised stowage for a maximum of 60 depth charges per
 ship, and in addition to fit suitable tankers with flotation
 gear racks for a maximum of 30 depth charges per tanker.
 4. Request your remarks.
 (D.T.D.122156B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.General.Blockade
Runners.

No Priority. Of potential blockade runners in the Far East or on passage to Europe the following are at present unaccounted for and could be on passage to German ports.

Merchant Vessels. ERMLAND, BURGENLAND, RIO GRANDE, and possibly HAVELLAND and EUGENIE LIVANOS.

Tankers. MADRONO, BRAKE, CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN, WINNETOU.

2. The following reports regarding these ships have been obtained from prisoners from ships recently sunk:-

A. ERMLAND was in the Sunda Strait on 7th Feb. on passage to Europe.

B. MADRONO left Yokohama about 17th Jan. destination unknown.

C. BURGENLAND was at Saigon on 27th Dec, 1942, probably loading rubber.

3. PORTLAND and OSORNO are at present probably on passage to the Far East. In addition ALSTERUFER is either blockade running or acting as a supply ship.

(D.D.I.C. 121925B to Various.)

North Atlantic.Convoy
S.L.127.

List, destinations.

(F.O.Gibraltar 120714A to Admty.)

My 111303 (re sailing of Escort S.L. 127)

(N.T. in W.D.) para. 2 convoy hailed 0700.

(F.O.C.Gibraltar 120926A to Admty. Comnorseafon,
H.Q.C.C. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Med.)

U.G.S.6A.

(?Casablanca) Section U.G.S.6A arrived 2200A/11th (list).

(M.S.F.F., 120846 to Comnav.)

TEMPETE,
LA GAZELLE,
COMMANDANT
BORY.

My 120430 (N.T. in W.D.) TEMPETE, LA GAZELLE, and COMMANDANT BORY sailed 0700A/12.

(C.M.S.F.F., 120487 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.
Gib. A.H.Q. Gib.)MATT W.
RANSON,
mined.

During entry U.G.S.6A Casablanca 0437A/11th MATT W.RANSON was torpedoed or (?mined), 33.55 N.

07.(?52) W. Convoy escorted by 4 P.C. plus air coverage. Minor injuries to personnel.

Ship proceeding to harbour under own power. No evidence of U-Boats but surface and aerial hunt continues.

(M.S.F.F. 120855 to Comnavaw, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C.Med. Cominch, C. in C.Lant, C.T.F. 63, C.T.F. 60.)

/My...

12.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.MATT W.
RANSON
mined.
(Contd.)

My 120855. Investigation of MATT WILLIAM RANSON developed that damage to H.M.C.S. vessel undoubtedly caused by mine. Refuse material from explosive agent light metal similar to aluminium recovered from deck RANSON. Full sweeping operations end Channel in progress.
(C.M.S.F. 121622 to Comnavnav, (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C.Med. Cominch, C. in C.Lant.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001A/12th.

- STURGEON sails 121400 through Q.K.A. 87 on the surface 10 knots until 130630 thence diving by day 8/2. Through 35.49 06 at 121800, 35.53 06.15 at 121850, 36.46 07.20 at 130230 thence 276.
2. P.224 (SICKLE) 37.04 09.21 to 36.51 09.13 at 122130, 36.37 89.24 at 130638, 35.53 06.15 at 131330, 35.40 06.06 at 131420 thence by Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar on the surface throughout 10 kts.
 3. U.G.F.7 Mediterranean Section JETCOMBE (?HOLCOMBE) 35.47 06.21 through Q.K.A. 87, 13½.
 4. S.L. 127 ROCHESTER (E) 33.26 09.58 through 33.49 09.41, 35.11 09.(?18) at 031200 thence 329 7.
 5. HYDRANGEA, French Ship LA GRANDIERE, 2 Merchant Ships 33.11 08.59 to Casablanca 8.
 6. S.L. 127 (G) VETCH 35.33 07.29 to R/V S.L. 127 Halifax 35.11 09.18 at 131200 escort (?to) return Gibraltar.
 7. C.G. 25 F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE 034° 23' 6" (?43') through 34.46 06.22 to Gibraltar 7 on arrival escort return to Casablanca.
 8. THALASSA patrolling Huelva Bight.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121009A.)
Situation 2359A/12th.
- T.O.3., C.T.G. 61.1, 32.09 23.12 through 31.01 26.01 thence 240° 13½.
2. U.G.S. 7, C.T.G. 69, 29.52 30.41 through 29.52 30.22 thence 021° 9.
 3. BIRMINGHAM 21.23 18.30 through 22.01 18.29 and 25.59 21.00 thence 000° 18½.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121032A as amended 122242A.)
Situation 2000A/12th.
 2. ARGONAUT vicinity 35.12 39.21 proceeding to lat. 30° north thence westward 6.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121044A, 122248A.)

G.U.S.6.

My 112100 add D.D. RHIND departed with G.U.S.6.
(C.M.S.F.F. 121110 to C. in C.Med.)

STURGEON,
THALASSA.

STURGEON sailed 1400/12th routed 35.53 06.15 at 1850/12th 36.46½ 07.20 at 0230/13th and 36.56 09.16 at 2330/13th thence 342° estimate you pass (?00) to southward of STURGEON at 0430/13th.
2. THALASSA on patrol may be met on 36.20 N.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121152 to P.224 (SICKLE).)

/CADMUS...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

CADMUS,
U.G.F.7. CADMUS is to part company and enter Gibraltar on
convoy passing Carnero.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121240A to Escorts of Convoy
U.G.F.7 (R) C. in C.Med.)

STURGEON. STURGEON sailed 1420 Q.Z. 298 S 407 X 961 less
959 Y 385. Only such Q messages affecting passage
to port of destination held.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 121525 to F.O.S. Admty. (R)
C. in C.Med. C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.Portsmouth,
S.3., S.5., S.7., S.8.,)

ARAPHO. Arrival U.S. tug ARAPHO.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 121555A to Commorseafron (R)
Admty. etc.)

SPORTSMAN. Arrival.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 121606 to Admty. F.O.S. (R)
C. in C.Med. C. in C.Plymouth, S.3., S.8.)

U.G.F.7. Casablanca Section U.G.F. 7 arrived. MONTEREY,
LAKEHURST, Task Force 66, U.S.B. Ships ARKANSAS,
destroyers KNIGHT, COWIE, BEATTY, DORAN.
(C.M.S.F.F. 121610 to Cominch C. and R. (R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Admty. C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet U.S., N.S.H.Q. N.O.B. Oban, Port
Director New York, Comnavnaw.)

K.M.S.12. Arrivals EGRET, ERNE, CLARE, FISHGUARD, TEST,
TEVIOT, ex K.M.S.12.
(F.O.Gibraltar 121703A to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Gibraltar. Arrivals HALCYON, SALAMANDER, L.C.T. (4) 556, 557,
572, 586, 615, 553, 570, 583, 603, 850, 537, 560,
561, 616, 619, 620, 621, 622, 633. L.C.F.7, 9,
tugs EMPIRE MINNOW, Dutch SCHELDE, RHODODEMDRON,
VIRGINIA with M.T.Bs. 633, 636, 637, 639, M.G.B.
641, M.L. 574.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 121843A to Admty. etc.)

HYDRANGEA. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/12th 033° 09' N. 010° 08'
W. 065° 8., FINISTERRE and MEDIE II in company.
E.T.A. swept channel 1100Z/13th. Requirements.
(HYDRANGEA 122000Z to N.O.I.C. Casablanca, (R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.S. LA GRANDIERE.)

Movements,
Casablanca. April 12th. Arrivals T.F. 66, B.B. ARKANSAS,
D.D's KNIGHT, COWIE, BEATTY DORAN with Casa. Section
U.G.F.7 departures Fr. TEMPETE, LA GAZELLE,
COMMANDANT BORY, P.Cs. 471, 480 with U.S.S. LAUME
to join G.U.S.6. P.C. 471 and 480 return to Casa.
from R/V. Fr. LA GRASKIERE to join BREAKOFF S.L.
127. SOMME Fr. Chasseur II ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ,
DUMONT D'URVILLE, P.C. 472, with C.G. 25.
(C.M.S.F. 122207 to C. in C.Med.)

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

DOMINION MONARCH. Cancel my 091301 and 091441. (N.T. in W.R.) (D.S.T.O. Durban 120841 to B.A.D. etc.)

O.S.45. Departure p.m. 11th SS. MATANG to R/V with convoy O.S.45. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 120912Z to Admty.)

W.S.28. Escorts. Capetown departures 0800B/11th. FOXHOUND, QUILLIAM, ROTHERHAM for escort of W.S. 28 Durban portion. Escort shifts to W/T organization J. at 1400B/13th. (C. in C. S.A. 120920B to Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, N.O.I.C. East London.)

Movements. Sailed 11th April Simonstown KENYA, QUADRANT, RACEHORSE, ULSTER MONARCH, LARGS. Capetown, RELENTLESS, REDOUBT. (C. in C.S.A. 120933B to Admty. etc.)

BIRMINGHAM. Amend route from position B proceed. F. 24.52 N. 16.47 W. G. 29.21 12.13 H. 32.46 12.08 I. 40.01 20.59 thence Position D. 2. E.T.A. position E. 171600Z. 3. Shift to home station W/T 160800Z. (F.O.C.W.A. 121004Z to BIRMINGHAM (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Comar, Dakar.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/12/4. NORTHERN DAWN, VIVIANA, with C.N.17 029° 015' 50' coastal to Walvis Bay 8. NORTHERN ISLES escorting one M/V 029° 45' 016' 30' to Capetown 8. GENISTA, NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, WELLARD, 035° 012' to Capetown 10. FRITILLARY, LE TIGER, VEREENIGING, with D.C.18, 034° 50' 019' 15' to Capetown 9. FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM, QUILLIAM with W.S.28 Durban portion 034° (710') 026° 30' coastal to Durban 13. CHALLENGER, STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY with C.D.13 031° 20' 030° 20' coastal to Durban 9. JASMINE 032° 40' 033° 20' to Durban 12. ST. LOMAN, LADY ROSEMARY 030° 40' 032° to Durban 10. DEVONSHIRE, QUALITY, CATTERICK with M.C.6. 028° 50' 033° 25' to Durban 11½. NAPIER, NIGELLA 025° 00' 035° 40' to Durban 15. EREBUS 022° 00' 037° 25' to Kilindini 7½. Rescue tug INTEGRITY 021° 25' 037° 40' E. to Kilindini 12. (C. in C. S.A. 121125B.)

SNOWDROP, CROCUS, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN and two M.Ls with O.S. 35.03 30.07 28 to 03.30 07.40 thence 302° 7. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 02.00 21.15.15½. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 05.22 N. 22.50 W. WITCH, WOLVERINE, searching in area 02.10 N. 15.55 W. ARRAN off (?Marsh)all. One M.L. off Accra, one M.L. off Assini, ARMERIA and CYCLAMEN escorting off Lagos (Nigeria) to Takoradi 12½. (F.O.C.W.A. 121415Z).

/situation...

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 121957Z.
(Contd.) BIRMINGHAM 21.48 18.29 to 24.52 (? 16) 47 thence
42.18 $\frac{1}{2}$. F.S. AIR FRANCE IV in vicinity Cape Blanc
CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, INKPEN, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE 2 M.Ls. with S.R.4, 12.53 17.25 355.5.5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
BLACK SWAN, MALLOW, MYOSOTIS F.S. LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION
with O.S.45, 11.22 (? 17) 10 to Freetown 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. CILICIA on patrol
about 09.30 27.30.14.
(F.O.C.W.A. 121459Z.)

Convoy Arrived BUTSER 112000Z. Intend to sail with M.L.
S.R.4. 1141 and LA GRACIEUSE onward escorting RUTENFJELL
to join S.R.4. Your 080117 refers. Also your
111121 and my 111207 para. 2.
(Comar, Dakar, 121131Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
CORINTHIAN, BLACK SWAN, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, F.O.C.
Gib. S.N.O. Casablanca, C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F.
Capt. (D) Freetown, GAMBIA.)
My 121131. BUTSER after RUTENFJELL has made R/V will part
company and proceed Bathurst.
(Comar, Dakar 121739Z to R.A.W.Af. etc.)

E.T.18. E.T.18. intend to sail. (list).
Cdre. Master of 71. (LAMBROOK).
(F.O.I.S. 121246A to F.Os.i/c. etc.)

WEST POINT. Proceed to Rio de Janeiro. (Route).
Zigzagging is not necessary between positions L and
C. Shift to W/T organisation for area Q at 1200
G.M.T. 13th and for area F at 1200 G.M.T. 20th.
Chop C. in C. S.A. to Opanav 1200 G.M.T. 20th April. Acknowledge
and report your position.
(C. in C. S.A. 121250B to U.S.S. WEST POINT (R) Admty. C. in C.
E.F., Opanav. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

Lagos Departures 12th ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, Takoradi
Movements. 131530Z.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 121400Z to Admty.)

Weekly Cruiser F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol. F.C. GLOIRE
statement Dakar. S/M F. Sub. LE CENTAURE Dakar. F. S/M ARGO
10th April. Freetown. Escort vessels French Sloop DUMONT
D'URVILLE, French Sloop M/S GAZELLE. French Sloop
M/S COMMANDANT BORY, MOUCHEZ, ASPIRANT BRUN,
Casablanca area. ?French Sloop M/S LA GRACIEUSE,
French Despatch Vessel CALAIS, VICTORIA Dakar area.
(Comar, Dakar, 121434Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

BIRMINGHAM. My 10/2026Z BIRMINGHAM holds:-
Q.K.47. Q.K.A. 96. Q.G.A. 142. Q.L.A. 165 W.G.A.18
Q.Z.S.407. Q.Z.X. 959. Q.Z.Y. 385 Q.Z.H. 306.
Q.Z.L.52.
(S.O.I. Freetown 121450Z to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth
(R) V.A. Gib. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Comar, Dakar.)

/Suitability...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Suitability of Pointe Noire as flying boat base. Your 1555/30. Main considerations are that Flying Boats can alight and take off under all conditions of load swell and light and that base shall be as far to south as possible so as to cover most economically the marked draught alongside the neutral coast. The advantages of "Banana" would definitely outweigh the disadvantages. A.O.C. W.Af. agrees. (F.O. W.Af. 121521Z to B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.I.C. Lagos. A.O.C. W.Af.)

AQUITANIA. Sailing telegram. Intend sailing H.M. transport AQUITANIA at 1000Z/13 escorted by QUEENBOROUGH to 023° S. route to Freetown D. 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. E. 023° 00' S. 010° 00' E. F. 023° 00' S. (2005°) 20' W. G. (2020°) 00' S. 007° 00' W. H. 010° 00' S. 007° 00' W. J. 003° 00' N. 008° 20' W. K. 007° (212') N. 014° 12' W. Alternative route to Rio de Janeiro from position F to L. 023° 20' S. 020° 00' W. M. 023° 40' S. 029° 50' W. N. 023° 50' S. 040° 00' W. Speed (A) 19 knots (B) 21 E.T.A. Freetown (217)00Z 21st. E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 1600Z/21st. Books held (23) (24) one ship (33) repetition (33) Q.G.A. 143 Q.L.A. 166 Q.J.G. 5 "Chop" F.O.C. W.Af. 18th April Connav 19th endurance 11 days requirements. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 121553Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. W.At. Opnav, S.O. (I) Pernambuco.)

C.M.41. My 251410. Proposed that convoy C.M.41 for India consisting of DUNERA, ARUNDA, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS and possibly CITY OF PARIS should be ready to leave Durban on first day after Sunday 25th April when ocean escort can be made available. Request escort may be arranged accordingly. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 121609B to C. in C. E.F. (R) D.S.T. etc.)

WITCH, WOLVERINE, MALCOLM. After completing escort of W.S.29 and returning to Freetown about 11th May WITCH, WOLVERINE and MALCOLM will all be some 900 hours over their boiler hours. They should then have at least ten days in harbour to clean boilers and make good defects so that they will not be ready for service before 22nd May. (F.O.C.W.Af. 121611Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)

SALVIKING, CITY OF BARODA. Your 101824, SALVIKING is waiting Walvis Bay for oil fuel, expected time of sailing for Capetown with Trawler Escort April 16th. 2. Present reports on CITY OF BARODA indicate possibility of salvaging part cargo only and that services of SALVIKING not required. (C. in C. S.A. 121619B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. Com. Durban.)

/ALCE...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- ALOE** (sunk 5 April.) South Government owned ship ALOE torpedoed and sunk by U-Boat on 5th April at 1400 in 32° 37' S. 37° 50' E. Two torpedoes. (2) Master taken prisoner by U-Boat. Remainder of crew picked up on 8th April by U/S Ship ALEXANDER RAMSEY and landed at Capetown today 12th. (C. in C. S.A. 121630 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., Com.1/c Durban.)
- A/S Escorts W. Africa.** To meet an urgent requirement of more A/S escorts in W. African waters, request you will detach following ships to Freetown to act under F.O.C.W.Af's orders. (1) FOXHOUND (2) CATTERICK for about six weeks if that postponement of her refit can be accepted. (3) BLACKMOOR on completion of her refit. (D.O.D. (F) 121646B to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.Af.) Reply: 131456B.
- RACEHORSE.** Simonstown departure 1400B/April 12th RACEHORSE for Port Elizabeth. E.T.A. 1400B/April 13th, thence to escort ASIS, KHETI, and PACHECC to Durban. Route coastal, E.T.A. Durban will be signalled from Port Elizabeth. (C. in C. S.A. 121659B to Admty. etc.)
- LE CENTAURE.** Intend sailing F.S. LE CENTAURE escorted by M.L.244 0900Z/16 for Freetown. French air cover until last light 16th. Request British air cover thereafter. (2) Speed made good 10 knots (route). (3) Request total bombing restrictions 30 miles ahead 60 astern and 10 miles either side of estimated position. (4) Should convoy pass outside T.B.R. zone or should F.S. LE CENTAURE become separated then P.C. and S. would be signalled initially. Subsequent signal would be made if passing outside modified T.B.R. zone. (5) F.S. LE CENTAURE will proceed on surface to Togoland passage, but may dive if attacked. (6) Communications. (7) F.S. LE CENTAURE holds Anglo-French cypher LOXO 22 and 24. A.R.M.O. Allied Minor War vessels recognition signal, no flares. (Comar, Dakar, 121716Z to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Fire, Kiss.** As a result of a bush fire an explosion occurred this afternoon at Kiss involving depth charges and American dynamite. Small amount of Naval Gear damaged also some American stores and machinery. No Naval casualties. Operation of port and shipping entirely unaffected. (F.O.C.W.A. 121721Z/4 to Admty.) Add to my 121821. Considerable quantity of fabricated oil tank sections damaged. (F.O.C.W.A. 121900Z to Admty.)

/U/Boat...

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

U-Boat.

U.S. Ferry Aircraft report S/M in 009° 30' N.
015° 40' W. at 1015/12, crash dived and headed
towards (?coast).
(F.O.C.W.A. 121727Z to Ships in Area P.1 and P.2
(R) Admty.)

NORTUN
overdue.

NORTUN (Panama) Capetown 18th March for Bahia
5th April not arrived.
(Ass. S.O. (I) Recife 121935Z to Admty. etc.)
Sunk 20 March. See 151120B.

Movements,
Takoradi.

Arrival M.L. 1016 departure B D/M BARFOSS escorted
by M.L. 305 Accra 131200Z April.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 122203Z to F.O.C. W.Af. Admty,
R.N.O. Lagos.)

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War Diary.

12.4.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. 14 B.G (? barges) course 190° speed 4 knots bearing 210° position 115° 38' N. 11° E. 40. (A/C FAH/A, 120040B to Air H.Q. Malta.) Position course and speed of three unknown 38.00 N. 11.45 E. 260° 15 knots. Have lost touch with enemy. Am returning to Base. (Aircraft ANL/T, 120350B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Vessels ex W.S.27. My 031153C/4. Following are embarkations Suez returning vessels W.S. 27. (D.S.T.O. Suez, 120844 C. to P.S.T.O.M.E.)

Blue warnings to H.M. Ships. As from 0001Z/16 April Blue warnings passed to H.M. Ships off North African Coast will be broadcast on port wave from Sector Operations room. (2) Call signs are Oran 98 G., Maison Blanche CIG Djidjelli 98 P. Phillippeville 30K, Bone 39G. (3) Approx. strength of enemy aircraft known to be active will be indicated as follows; Blue 1-1 aircraft, blue 2-2 to 5 aircraft, blue 3-6 to 10 aircraft, blue 4-11 or over. Thus a message originating from Djidjelli indicating air attack imminent on convoy codeword "Gladstone" by 2 enemy aircraft would be broadcast in the form-Blue 2 "Gladstone". (4) Negative warnings remain in force for 1 hour. (C. in C. Med. Fleet, 120900A to Med. Station 376 K.)

U.S. Tankers. Usfor pass to Comnaveu, Agwar pass to Cominch and Bupers. From Eisenhower, to Marshall. Ref. Agwar 060415. Ref. 3404. That U.S. Commercial Tankers not be placed in the hands of a separate agency at Gibraltar is recommended, but that they be handled by W.S.A. in same general manner as dry cargo vessels as follows: (a) That they be routed to discharge ports as specified by A.F.H.Q. Petroleum Board. (b) That after discharge they be released to W.S.A. who will inform C. in C. Med. of return destination. (c) That C. in C. Med. who has operational control of all convoys synchronize them with convoy escorts. Assistant to W.S.A. (Algiers, 120922Z to Etousa.) See also 201930Z from Cominch A.W.I)

E.T.18. E.T.18. F.O. Inshore is requested to sail E.T.18 at 1900 April 15th. Speed of ships 7½ knots S. of A. 7 knots. (2) Routed through 96,99,51 letter P. to R. to Algiers. From Algiers through 100,39,93,32,22,16 letter S to X to Gibraltar. Stragglers route as convoy. (3) Sections joining and detaching with localescort as follows - Philippeville in 037° 10' N. 006° 55' E. at 0200 April 16th. Bougie in 99 at 1400 April 16th. Algiers E.T.A. 0500 April 17th anchoring in Bay sailing 1400 April 17th. Oran in 035° 58' N. 000° 42' W. at 1700 April 18th.

/Gibraltar...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

E.T.18 Gibraltar E.T.A. 0300 April 20th.
(Contd.) (4) 1st 2 letters of wireless call sign L.H.
(5) Fighter priority 2 codeword "Lotus".
(6) Escorts CARLISLE, FANTOME, POLRUAN, CLACTON, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA, MAN O' WAR.
(7) All times A. (8) EMPIRE MINOTAUR and NIMBLE are to sail in this convoy to Algiers.
(C. in C. Med. 121007 to A.I.G.260.)
E.T.18 intend sailing, 51 to 54 4 L.S.Ts., 41 Gibraltar for U.S.A., 42 CAUDEBEC. for Oran, WILLIAM MCKINLEY.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 121713A to F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bougie Cmdre., Algiers, A.I.G. 259, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

Schedule for U.G. convoys. Your 1825/16 March. Request you will inform me whether "Voyage duration 19 days" refers to time on passage to Casablanca or to Algiers this information required for planning schedule of convoys inside Mediterranean.
(C. in C. Med., 121015 to Cominch, Admty.)
Reply - Cominch C. and R. 131428Z/13.

G.U.F.7. Request ocean route for convoy G.U.F. 7 sailing Casablanca p.m. April 18th.
(C. in C. Med. G.U.F.7, 121035A to Admty., (R) Com.N.O.B. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, C.M.S.F.)

G.U.F.7. Request you will sail convoy G.U.F.7 at 1000 April 17th S. of A. 13½ knots. All times A.
(2) Route through 68 73 3 57 letters B. to E. Thence through Q.K.A.87 to R/V with Casablanca section in position (F) 034° 09' N 008° 26' W. at 1800 April 18th. Stragglers route as convoy.
(3) Gibraltar Section join with local escort in position 57 at 0300 April 18th. (4) Ocean route and ocean stragglers route as ordered by Admiralty. (5) 1st 2 letters of W/T call Sign X H. In CON 352. (6) Escort out to R/V HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, ANTELOPE, VELOX, ESPIEGLE and ALBACORE. (7) Fighter priority 3, codeword "Irving".
(C. in C. Med. 121613A to Comnobout, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., S.O. Force H., C.M.S.F., Connav.)

Black Sea. (1) Sea. (a) No activity of Black Sea Fleet to report. (b) More enemy S/Ms reported off Caucasus Coast, apparently activity confined to R/C as Russians report no attacks on their shipping.
(2) Air. (a) Russian Aircraft successfully bombed Sevastopol and report sinking 3 M/Vs. of total displacement 13,000 tons one 2500 ton tanker, 3 E-Boats, and 2 F Barges, also damaged several other vessels and harbour installations.
(b) Daily R/C coastal area by enemy aircraft, and transport activity on Taman peninsula. (3) Land. (c) Russians endeavouring to cut off enemy's retreat to Taman peninsula with drive from Azov coast across to Black Sea in neighbourhood of Anapa, considerably hampered by terrain, marsh land at present completely under water.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 121050C to Admty., etc.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- P.54
(UNSHAKEN) M.T.Bs. are carrying out a sweep tonight in area from north to south. Keep south of 035° 25' after 2200 cancel route given in my 111007 and return to Malta by reverse of outward route to arrive at 0830 14th. 2. Your 111402 acknowledged, nice work.
(Capt. S.10, 121108B to P.54 (UNSHAKEN))
- Bi-weekly Opsum No.116 Part 2. 10th April. At dusk 18 B.25s bombed Enfidaville landing ground and M.T. in vicinity. Night 10/11 April. 6 Liberators bombed Palermo Harbour, bursts observed on quay in S.W. corner of harbour, in warehouse and customs Depot Area, fire seen at main railway station. 72 by 500 lb. H.E. at 2211Z hours. 11th April. Fighter protection provided for 2 Wellington sweeping off Sfax, no details, a Spitfire damaged 1 Me. 210 off Tripoli Harbour, 16 Hurricanes shipping protection 1 Baltimore Strategic R/C 3 Bisleys, 1 Baltimore, 4 Hudsons, 5 Beauforts A/S patrols and convoy escorts. Ref. Part 1 this opsum (110841Z) 13 B.24s bombed Naples harbour April 10th. Bombs burst on Cesarion Console Mole and Calata Pollena.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 121109Z)
- M/V repairs in Spain or Portugal. Is there any possibility of relieving our acute dock situation by sending some of our damaged merchant ships to Portuguese or Spanish Yards for temporary repair?
(C. in C. Med. 121151A to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Madrid.) Replies: 141739A, 151155A.
Admty Decision 312049 May, page 1197 May. (p.534) (p.574)
- Movements, Malta. Returned from operations NUBIAN and PALADIN. Arrivals Convoy M.W.25 and HURWORTH, CROOME, HURSLEY, EASTON, KANARIS, ROCKWOOD, HECTOR VII, UNRUFFLED.
(V.A. Malta, 121152B to Admty., S.L., S18. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
Sailed. M.T.Bs. 82, 61, 65, 75, 95, 200, 61 and 313.
(V.A. Malta, 121507 to Admty., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
Departure submarines REGENT, UNBENDING.
(V.A. Malta, 121721, to Admty., C. in C. Med. S.I.S.8., (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Turkey, Policy. Following from Adm. Kelly. Saw Gen. Asim Gunduz who, in spite of recent Turkish Foreign Office (corrupt group) sees no reason to alter present system of discussion of common subjects direct with General Staff in first place, official application through Foreign Office to be required after agreement where such may be necessary. 2. He still maintains Turkey's primary policy is to remain out of war to the end but to prepare against sudden attack. 3. Asked if he saw possibility of this, he

/replied...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Turkey, Policy. (Contd.)
replied only if Turkey became so strong as to become a menace, in which case Germany if held on short line in Russia might attack Turkey as a preventative. 4. He said new Clodius agreement has been signed, principally factory outfits and machines for Turkey Armament under new agreements is arriving. (Figures). 5. Talking of Chrome, if Germany had none she would not be able to fight the Russians, which would be against Turkey and our interests! 6. Bulgaria afraid of invasion. Fear of Turkey will always immobilize at least 6 Bulgarian divisions. 7. Asked effect of visits of British High Command to Turkey, said Axis are frightened and worried, adding "I suppose that is why you make these visits." 8. What Bulgaria does not get out of Axis she hopes to get out of victorious Russia so as to make a Slavonic wedge in a Balkan Federation.
(N.A. Angora, 121232C to Admty.)

Maddalena S/M Patrols. P.R.U. Maddalena after air attack one cruiser probably sunk, second cruiser badly damaged and may therefore leave shortly northbound. 2. P.339 (TAURUS) patrol off east coast Corsica between latitudes 041° 40' and 042° 20'. 3. TRIDENT patrol at your discretion between Cape Corse and Elba. 4. TRIDENT and P.339 (TAURUS) will be ordered to leave patrol P.M.15th. 5. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) is to patrol in northern-most portion Zone J. ready to relieve P.339 (TAURUS) if necessary.
(Capt. (S) 8 121244A to 8th S/M Flot. (R) C. in C. Med. Captain (S) 10.)

P.37 (UNBENDING) Onward routeing through 038° 15' 011° 18' at 142100A. 037° 59' 004° 29' at 172102A. Thence proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 18' at 180700A.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121252A to P.37 - (UNBENDING). (R) 8th S/M Flot. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers.

Aden Movements. Departure CARTHAGE.
(Cdre. Aden, 121359Z to Admty. etc.)

M.K.S.11. Sailing telegram.
(2) and (3) 1200A/12. (4) 7½ knots. (5)(6) and (8) As in C. in C. Med.'s 041227A and 02221A.
(15) T.Y. codeword "Cockatoo".
(Cdre., Algiers, 121537A 121655A, to Admty.)
M.K.S.11 sailed BRUSE JARL, NATHANIEL MACON, MEROPE, VILLE DE DIDJELLI for Oran.
(Cdre., Algiers, 121539A to Commob. Oran (R) Admty., etc.)

/M.K.S.11...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.K.S.11 (Contd.) M.K.S.11 Algiers Section arrived (8 ships) (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 121541A to N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, (R) F.O. I.S., A.I.G.259)

P.52 (DZIK), P.53 (ULTOR) P.52 (DZIK) and P.53 (ULTOR) patrol at your discretion off coast of France. P.52 (DZIK) in vicinity of longitude 005° 36' East from p.m. 14th until after dark 14th. P.53 (ULTOR) in vicinity of longitude 006° 54' East from dusk 14th until 150200A thereafter both Submarines withdraw to seaward as necessary.
(Capt. (S) 8 121648A to P.52 (DZIK), P.53 (ULTOR) (R) P.49 (UNRULY) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

P.49 (UNRULY) P.53 (ULTOR) Leave patrol P.49 (UNRULY) through 042° 19' 004° 34' at 0230/16th 039° 54' 004° 38' at 1500/17th 038° 14' 003° 18' at 2030/18th and P.53 (ULTOR) through 042° 19' 006° 25' at 0100/16th. 037° 58' 004° 15' at 2030/18th thence both S/Ms proceed on surface at discretion to R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 12' at 0615/19th. (2) P.52 will be ordered to leave patrol P.M.17th. (3) All positions North and East all times A.
(Capt. (S) 8 121704A to P.49 (UNRULY), P.53 (ULTOR). (R) 8th S/M Flot. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdre., Algiers.)

RANPURA, Convoy. Convoy hopes to arrive 0300Z/14th April.
(RANPURA, 121718Z to Cdre., (R) C. in C. E.F.)

P.L.M.16 (French-German Control) My 09110C and 101159C. P.L.M. 16 loading day and night: ship may sail at short notice: reported destination may be Trieste. B.T.
(S.O.I., Istanbul, 121735C to S.O.(I) Levant (R) D. of N.I. S.I. S.10)

DIDO refit and R.D.F. My 081644. Request reply at a very early date, otherwise requirement expressed in paras. 3 and 5 will be incapable of fulfilment.
(C. in C. Med. 121824A to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. AI 564 12 April. (A) Air part 1, offensive. Night 11/12 April successful attacks were made on enemy shipping in Palermo area and in Sicilian narrows. 4 Beauforts and 5 Wellingtons all carrying torpedoes searched for shipping in Palermo area and at 2055 hours 38° 18' N. 13° 15' E. 1 M/V 3/4000 tons and 1 escort vessel were sighted on southerly course speed 15 knots. Wellington attacked with 1 torpedo scoring direct hit on M/V which blew up and sank 10 minutes later.

/Twin...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta
Air
Report.
(Contd.)

Twin engined night fighters were encountered and 1 Beaufort is missing. 2 special equipment and 4 bomb carrying Albacores searched for shipping in Sicilian narrows. At 2250 hours 14 probable F boats were sighted 37° 42' N. 11° 48' E. course S.W. 2 Albacores attacked with bombs without observed results and then machine gunned vessels scoring numerous strikes. At 2315 hours 5 M/Vs 2000 tons were sighted 37° 48' N. 12° 32' E. course S.W. and were attacked with bombs. 2 bombs scored near misses and another 2 bombs hit 1 M/V which was left sinking. To cover these shipping strikes 7 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicilian aerodromes and 1 enemy aircraft over Borrozzo was attacked and damaged. Day 12th April. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 6 fighter Spitfires attacked Pozzallo scoring 4 hits on railway sidings 4 hits on factory buildings and 1 hit on harbour building. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 11th/12th April 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol between Pantellaria and Cape Bon. Another Beaufighter on interception patrol north of Malta had inconclusive combat with twin-engined night fighter. Day 12th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 4 Spitfires provided escort to convoy approaching from south until its safe arrival in harbour at 0840 hours. Part 5. operations by aircraft of other commands. Night 11th/12th. 4 Liberators 343 Sqdn airborne from Lete to bomb Naples landed at Malta. 2 of them (had engine?) trouble and jettisoned bombs straddling bridge near San Stefano Sicily. The other 2 bombed target causing grey smoke from gas works buildings and were attacked by 10 single engine fighters patrolling in pairs and making simultaneous attacks 1 Fighter on each beam. 1 Liberator destroyed 1 Macchi 200 and 1 other fighter. (H.Q., R.A.F., Malta, 121955Z, 122007Z, 122027Z, 122038Z, 122044Z, 122110Z.)

Effect of British Naval Shellfire. Your 1936/31. Report of F.A.A. Attack on DUNKERQUE in July 1942 obtained from C.O. being forwarded. Request early dispatch of report of damage to RESOLUTION. (C. in C. Med., 122002A to Admty.) Reply 151952B.

Situation report No. 22. Eastern Tunisia. Sfax. Channel clear for 60 feet 18 feet depth. Three berths available in harbour. Mine clearance force and initial convoy have left Tripoli Libya. 2 Convoys of two troopships one tanker and ten storeships have arrived Tripoli Libya 11 April and a tanker and 3 storeships at Malta 12th April. 3. British S.S. DALTON HALL aground on Kaliyusha Reef (Tripoli Libya) cargo being discharged by Lighter. 4. Personnel convoy of four ships and 1 tanker has left Alexandria for Tripoli Libya. 5. Small cased petrol carrier RUNO in Eastbound convoy sunk at 0129 11th April in position 32.15 N. 23.55 E. 21 survivors. Not known yet whether submarine or mine. 6. Submarines. PARTHIAN from Aegean

/reports...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 22. (Contd.) reports. At 0900/28th March sank 30 ton Caique Off Doro Strait. At 1817/28th March gunned and sank 20 ton Caique in position 39.20 N. 25.30 E. At 2000/28th March in position 39.19 N. 25.18 E. rammed and sank 120 ton Caique. 7. At 1400/30th March PARTHIAN bombarded Axis Resin Factory in Gulf of Kassandra (3957.5 N. 23.42 E.) 78 rounds of 4 inch fired 9 Caiques destroyed. Refinery considered out of action after about 50 direct hits. 8. At 0830 31st March in position 39.16 N. 23.48 E. gunned and sank 15 ton Caique. (C. in C. Levant, 122006 to Admty.)

Torpedoed M/Vs lack of Salvage effort. My 111245. Report on loss of WINDSOR CASTLE forwarded under 887/Med. (W) /00214 of 10th April is an example of the occurrences in question. (C. in C. Med., 122008A to Admty.)

Libya Movements. Arrived and sailed SEAHAM, PRIMULA. Sailed WHITENAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, POOLE, APHIS, GLOXINIA, SKUDD, KAI M.L. 459, 462, 126, 121, 134, 135, BARFORD, FALK, KLO L.C.T. 111, 113, 154 (327?) AGIOS GEORGIOS, AGIOS NICHOLAS. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 122010A to Admty.)

Movements Algiers. Arrived CARLISLE, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY, WHADDON, ROTHESAY, BRIXHAM, HENGIST, M.M.S.184 L.S.Ts. 361, 363, 304, 403, MISOA, BACHAQUERO, ESKIMO, SALVESTOR, M.L.444, 295 M.M.S.92. Departures CARLISLE, OAKLEY, WHADDON, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE, CIRCE, BRIXHAM, SHIANT, INCHMARNOCK, M.M.S.9, M.L.449, 460. (Com. Algiers, 122017 to Admty.)

MINNA. MINNA departed. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 122024A to Admty., C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Comnavnaw.)

Bone Movements. Bone. Departure L.C.I. 108, 109, 110, 103, 182, on 11th. L.C.I. 161 on 12th. Arrival QUANNET on 11th. (F.O.I.C., 122236A to C. in C. Med. Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

TRIDENT. Your 121244 all torpedoes expended possible hit on 2000 ton supply ship off Cape Noli 1415 today. Patrol orders para. 2(b) successful, para. 2(c) none to be seen. My Position 043° 57' 008° 48' 5360 0851. (TRIDENT, 122314Z to Capt. (S) 8. (R) C. in C. Med.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

DEVON CITY. Following is a repetition of my 080841Z (N.T. in W.R.) sailed DEVON CITY for Kilindini.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 121041Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Hospital Ship requirements. 1. Hospital ship requirements of Eastern Fleet at its present strength and of East Indies Station can be met by hospital ships TJITJALENGKA and VASNA and carrier ? OPHIR.
2. H.S. VITA ? is refitting at Bombay and is expected to complete mid May. Propose that she should then be lent temporarily to Levant Station.
(C. in C. E.F. 120846Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
As amended C. in C. E.F. 130928Z. Concur D.O.D.(F) 141339B.

J.C. 10. Sailing Telegram.
(II) 1130Z 12th. (IV) 10.5 knots. (Route.)
(VI) BENGAL.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 121221, 121222Z to Admty.)

Convoy Escorts. Arrival for escort. ORISSA P.A. 33 sailing 0500Z 13th. BOMBAY P.B. 36 sailing 16th, CARNATIC B. 37, LAUNCESTON P.A. 34 sailing 0600Z/22nd April ocean route No.2. Long run ships of P.B. 36 will be sailed independently from Hormuz.
(S.N.O. P.G. 121237 to N.O.I.C. Hormuz, C. in C. E.F., C. in C. S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. Comdre. 1/c Aden, N.O.I.C. Karachi)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 12 April 0002Z SONAVATI. 0300Z MARYBOROUGH. 0300Z LISMORE. Departures 1030Z BENGAL.
(F.O. Ceylon 121405Z to Admty.)
Arrival CLIVE 1231Z/10th KARACHI 1305Z/11th BARODA with I.W.T. Paddle Steamer 1340Z/12th.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 121534Z to Admty.)

M.N.B.D.O.I. Your 44840 April 2nd and C.O.S. (India) 145 April 5th, para 2.
1. We agree to concentration of A.A. Brigade of M.N.B.D.O.I. at Bombay in relief of H.A.A. Bty., moving to Assam, but in order to fit M.N.B.D.O.I. for future operations in Eastern theatre essential that A.A. personnel should be provided with, and trained on, mobile equipments.
2. As Units of M.N.B.D.O.I. have been scattered for many months you are requested to arrange their early concentration in India in order that the organisation can work as an efficient entity as soon as possible.
(Air Min., 122237Z to C. in C. India, (R) C. in C. E.F. (by Admty.)).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

H.X.232. Circumstances permitting detach WITHERINGTON
WITHERINGTON. to proceed to join O.N.S.2 at daylight 12th.
Estimated P.C. and S. 052° 05' N. 041° 55' W.
242° 6.5 knots at 121200Z.

(C.T.24, 120031Z to C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.117, (R)
WITHERINGTON, F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N. W.A.
C. in C. W.A. C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.11.)

Your 120031Z WITHERINGTON has developed cracks in plating at
break of fore-castle which he considers makes ship unsafe if heavy
weather met. Propose he remain with H.X.232 as long as fuel
permits and then proceed to U.K. for repair.

(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.17, 120830Z to C.T.F. 24 (R) Connav. Admty,
C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7,
H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.(16th) WITHERINGTON, E.G.4, Ships escorting
H.X.232)

N.S. C. in C. C.N.W.At. requested reply C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.17
dispatch 120830Z.

(C.T.24, 121549Z to N.S. C. in C. C.N.W.A.(R) Admty, F.O.N.F.,
C. in C. W.A. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17)

Convoy Following is re-encipherment of N.O.B.Trinidad
T.B.11. 1117/30 passed by Cominch C. and R (Begins)
L.S.T's. Cominch 080341 suggests L.S.T's leave convoy
T.B.11 at (M) 5° 21' S. 34° 36' W. E.T.A.
1600Z/24 April. Request you confirm and provide
originator and B.R.O.Georgetown with onward
route and R/V. Convoy conference tomorrow (Ends) Com Fourth
Fleet has this for action.
(Cominch C. & R 120100Z to (For information) S.B.N.O.W.A.T.
Admty F.O.C.W.A.F.)

ARGONAUT, Your 111620. My P.C. and S. 33.38 N. 66.50 W.
BAZELY, 096° 20 knots. Am proceeding independently
BAYNTUN. for position D thence 093°? to R/V ARGONAUT in
35.10 N. 44.55 W. daylight 14th. Request
confirmation ARGONAUT P.C. and S.
(BAZELY, 120102Z to N.O.B. Bermuda. (R) C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet, S.B.N.O.W.A., Commander 17 Dest.
Squad., C.T.F. 68, BAYNTUN.)

My 120102Z. Have been delayed 5 hours by explosion and fire
in number 1 engine room. Am now proceeding as previously
signalled at maximum speed. Hope to maintain 16 knots. Extent
of damage will be signalled later.

(BAZELY, 121341Z to N.O.B. Bermuda (R) C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O.
W.A., ARGONAUT, C.T.F.68, Cdr. U.S. (D) Sqdn. 17 U.S.S. BUTLER,
BAYNTUN.)

Take appropriate action N.O.B. Bermuda 111620. BAYNTUN,
BAZELY not available for this duty as they are urgently required
for U.K. connection. My 251505.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 121415Z to C. in C. A. Fleet (R)
Cdre. U.S. Dest. Squad.17, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, S.B.N.O.
W.A., C.T.F.68, BUTLER, BAYNTUN, ARGONAUT)

My / ...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

ARGONAUT, My P.C. and S. at 1430Z/12th 35.39 N. 40.50 W. 261
 BAZELY, 9½ knots. Special weather report. Speed very
 BAYNTUN. susceptible weather conditions.
 (Contd.) (ARGONAUT, 121515Z to BUTLER, BAYNTUN, BAZELY,
 (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., N.O.I.C. Bermuda, Admty.
 C.T.F. (?68), COMRON (corrupt group)
 Report forthwith whether your fuel etc. sufficient
 to reach Las Palmas with adequate margin if present (corrupt
 group) navigation cancelled.
 (S.B.N.O. W. A. 121552P to BAZELY (R) BAYNTUN, B.A.D. Admty.)
 Your 111232. Cominch has told Cinclant that BAYNTUN and
 BAZELY are not available for escort of ARGONAUT for reasons
 given in my 292309*. Other arrangements are being made by
 Cinclant.

(B.A.D. 121651Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., S.B.N.O.W.A.)
 Note *? S.B.N.O. W.A. 111232 intended no trace of A.M. of that
 T.O.O. re BAYNTUN and BAZELY available to escort ARGONAUT.

My 121541Z. Extent of damage as follows: (details)
 For major items above require dockyard assistance.
 (2) Am able to proceed 16 knots maximum accepting risk of losing
 starboard main propulsion entirely. (3) In view of this and
 unlikelihood of obtaining necessary spares at final destination
 and shortage fuel due to extra high speed it is submitted
 BAZELY should return to nearest dockyard capable of carrying out
 repairs.

(BAZELY, 122258Z to Cominch. B.A.D. N.O.B. Bermuda, (R)
 C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O. W.A. ARGONAUT, C.T.F.68, CMD 17
 U.S. Dest. Squadron. U.S.S. BUTLER, BAYNTUN.)

O.N.176. S/M attack in 52° 19' N. 40° 28' W at 110400
 U/B attack. 25 U-Boats counter attacked in this area.
 BEVERLEY (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 120125Z to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24,
 sunk. Connav, Admty, C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
 C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7, H.Q.C.C.)
 My 120125. Ship attacked and sunk.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 121158Z to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24
 Connav, Admty, C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.
 C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)

U-Boat counter attack in vicinity 49.46 43.04 at 120445Z.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 121107Z to GB 7A, 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.)

MONTGOMERY sailed St. John's 121430Z to augment southbound
 O.N.176 joining a.m. 13th C. in C. C.N.W.A. requested to detach
 MONTGOMERY as required.

(F.O.N.F. 121138Z to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, C.W.L.E.T.U.
 24.18.6 (R) Comtask 24. C. in C. C.N.W.A., N.S.H.Q.
 Cominch, Admty.)

When relieved by Western Local Escort and if circumstances
 permit proceed with your unit to St. John's N.F. Detail one
 escort of your unit to remain with convoy until ST.CLAIR joins.
 (C.T.24, 121145Z to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18 (R) C.C.N.F.
 C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.W.A., C.W.L.E.T.U.24.18.6)

TIMMINS/ ...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.O.N.176,
U/B attack.
BEVERLEY
sunk.
(Contd.)TIMMINS, TRAIL, NORANDA at 1830Z/12th P.C. and S.
048° 05' N. 045° (?42') W. 222° 10 knots. Mutual
R.D.F. transmission bearing 197° TRAIL's R.D.F.
not working. Dense fog.
(TIMMINS, 121845Z to C.T.U., M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18)
O.N.176 at 2300Z/12th P.C. and S. 47.38 N. 45.28 W.
222° 8.5 knots.VIMY short of fuel detached at 2100Z for St. Johns,
N.F. W.L.E.T.U.24.18.6 in the vicinity not met dense fog,
given R/V 46.41 N. 46.45 W. for 0800Z/13th when ANEMONE, ABELIA,
PENNYWORT, CLOVER will detach and escort VISTULA and FORT WALSH
to St. Johns N.F. ASPHODEL detailed in accordance with your
121145Z.(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, 122350Z 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.
W.L.E.T.U.24.18.6, ST.CLAIR, MONTGOMERY, A.C.I.C.)H.X.233,
DIANTHUS.H.X.233 DIANTHUS sailed to overtake.
(F.O.N.F.120509Z to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3 (R)
C.W.L.E.T.U.24.18.7, Comtask 24, C. in C. C.N.W.A.
N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Admty.)Movements.St. John's N.F. 11th, Departures HAVELOCK, SWALE,
GODETIA, LAVENDER to S.C.126. SPENCER DUANE,
ARVIDA, WETASKIWIN, SKEENA, BRYONY, BERGAMOT to
H.X.233. TIMMINS, TRAIL, NORANDA to O.N.176.
(N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 120603Z to Admty)

B.Y.M.S.13 and 28 arrived 2100 G.M.T. 11th.

(B.R.L.O.Balboa, 120846R to Admty.)
Departure 12th U.S.A. (?T) ENGLEMAN.
(B.R.O.Aurba, 121510Z to Admty.)Convoy
O.T.4,
Escort,
T.G.21.5.Cinclant 120209 addressed for action to Commander,
Task Group 21.5 informs as follows:
Task Group 21.5, Lt. Com. Gragg in ROPER, BAINBRIDGE
and DECATUR, escort convoy O.T.4 from Aruba (ready
about 17th April) to Gibraltar or North Africa
following route prescribed by Cominch (C. & R.)
At 40° W. operational control shifts from Cinclant
to Admty. "Chop" for diversion purposes shifts to Admty at
some point to westward thereof which Cominch (C. & R.) will
include in route despatch. SEAKAY and ESSO HARRISBURG are
included in this convoy; fuel destroyers at sea from them.
Destroyers will not enter Mediterranean.
When directed by Cr.M.S.F. return to Aruba on route prescribed
by Admty. escorting convoy T.O.4. W.T.guards instructions.
(Comnaveu, 120851 to Admty)

Movements / ...

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
Summary	ARGONAUT	36° N. 40½° W.	261°	6
1800	CILICIA	09° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
G.M.T. 12th.	CARNARVON	02° N. 21° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	F.S. GEORGES	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	LEYGUES			
	Flight 6	32½° N. 46½° W.	091°	10
	(L.C.I.L's)			
	MILFORD with	01½° N. 39° W.	087°	4½
	Floating Dock			
	CHESHIRE with	31½° S. 51° W.	037°	4½
	Floating Dock			
	A.T.41.	42° N. 37½° W.	087°	19½
	T.A.40.	39° N. 68° W.	288°	26
	T.A. 39.	38½° N. 65½° W.	275°	19
	(D.O.D.(F), 120955Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu)			

O.N.S.2.
O.N.176,
U/B's.

W/T activity indicates 3 or 4 U-Boats within 60 miles of O.N.176 although no clear indication of contact and up to 9 within 100 miles of O.N.S.2 of which several considered in contact. Main activity on series 8. Although on series 7 at 1155Z/12th.
(N.S.H.Q. 121426Z to Ships escorting O.N.S.2, and O.N.176, C. in C. C.N.W.A., F.O.N.F. (R) Admty Cominch, S.B.N.O. W.A.)

SAINT
DOMINGUE.

B.R.L.O. Cuidad Trujillo reports French ship SAINT DOMINGUE siezed at Puerto Plata p.m. 10th by San Domingo Military who imprisoned Master and crew.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 121458Q to Admty, S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D., S.B.N.O.Trinidad)

M.M.S.

My 101939 sailing delayed 24 hours.
(2) For 355° read 355 K/cs.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 121509Z to Admty etc.)

S/M Estimate
12th April.
U.S.S/M
Notice.

(Cominch, 121510Z, 121511Z, 121556Z, 121557Z, 121558Z, 121905Z)

LADY
NELSON.

My 111605, (Canadian Government Hospital ship LADY NELSON ready to sail Halifax 21st April) No personnel will be carried as passengers on this voyage.
(N.S.H.Q., 121602Z to D.S.T.)

Escort
Groups.

Your 310152. Concur that 2 U.S. Cutters in A 3 group should be relived by GRIFFIN and DECOY.
(2) Two Commanders will be appointed to FORTUNE and EXPRESS as S.O's of C.1 and C.2 Groups.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 121722B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.W.A C. in C. C.N.W.A., F.O.N.F.)

U/B / ...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. (Contd.)

U/B. Submarine sighted in 019° 46' N. 075° 12' W. at 121355Z.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 121755Q to Admty.)

P.512, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 111806Z and Cominch 092118Z
P.553. P.512 is re-allocated to Bermuda instead of P.553.
(2) Request P.512 may be sailed to Bermuda on completion of short working up period. P.512 is required at Bermuda as soon as possible for working up of BERRY. (3) P.553 is to remain at Halifax.
(D.A/S.W.121931 to N.S.H.Q., B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.A.
(R) C. in C. Lant, Cominch, F.O.(S). N.O.I.C. Bermuda, C. in C. C.N.W.A. SOMERS ISLES, Capt. (D) Halifax.)

Stragglers / Adml. King has become much concerned of losses of
Lost from stragglers from Convoys. He has directed.
Convoy. (1) That all incoming merchant ships be inspected to determine their material condition.
(2) That any defects so discovered are to be reported to Agencies concerned, with a view to their being made good. Request that analysis of stragglers recently repaired by the Trade Division for A. Unit. Committee may be forwarded.
(B.A.D.122007Z to Admty)

Shipping Connav Serials 9 to 12. MATT WILLIAM RANSON
Casualties. torpedoed or hit mine April 11 position 34.10 N. 07.50 W. proceedin with convoy U.G.S.6A.
JOHN SEVIER serial 8 sunk. Request information SUNCIL your serial 6.
(Cominch C. & R, 122040 to Comnaveu.)

BAYNTUN. Bermuda arrival BAYNTUN.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 122113P to Admty)

FORT E.T.A. 0830Z/13. Boiler hours 1. In company
WILLIAM, WESTMOUNT. 2 SARNIA. SARNIA has diluted
WESTMOUNT, condenser and boiler 157 valve.
SARNIA. (FORT WILLIAM 122115Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A.,(R)
D. Halifax.)

Sub attack All times Z.
and A. LANCASTRIAN PRINCE torpedoed sunk 50.18 N. 42.
sighting 48 W. 2345/11. R.A.F. plane sights sub course
summary. 030°, 54.34 N. 29.10 W. 0945/12. CLOVER attacks
sub area 49.46 N. 43.04 W. 0445/12. Three subs
attacked area 52.19 N. 40.28 W. 0400/11.
Sub sighted on surface course 328 54.37 N. 33.40
W. 2000/11.

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Sub attack and sighting summary. (Contd.)

B. ESCAPADE attacks sub area 53.59 N. 32.00 W. 1930/11. WITHERINGTON and NARCISSUS and RENONCULE attack three subs area 54.00 N. 31.10 W. 2230/11. C. O.S.2U. plane attacks swirl 40.08 N. 71.12 W. 1123/12. Sound contact 19.46 N. 75.17 W. 1315/12. (Cominch, 122134Z to Admty)

Survivor from DOGGERBANK.

Furtherto S.O.(I) Jamaica's 111454 preliminary report of interrogation shows that (1) Raider mentioned in para.2 was probably No.21A. (2) DOGGERBANK sailed as supply ship from Bordeaux in Jan.1942. About March 13th she mined waters off Capetown. She arrived Batavia in August 1942 and was in Yokohama December 1942. (3) In Dec.1942 NANKIN UCKERMARK and possibly Raider ten were sunk by internal explosion in Yokohama. Comment: Large number of survivors from SILVA PLANA may include survivors from these ships. (B.A.D.122147Z to Admty (R) N.S.H.Q.) O.I.C.Comment: (1) Raider was more probably Raider 28 as originally suggested. (2) Para. 2 probably correct. (3) Para. 3 has been reported by other prisoners as having occurred on 30th Nov.1942.

B.Y.M.S.37. Sail B.Y.M.S.37 Norfolk to Charleston when ready about 17th. Speed on route should not exceed 1000 R.P.M. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 122155Z to C.E.S.F.)

U.G.S.7A. Departure convoy U.G.S.7A delayed until 14th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 122156Z to C. in C. Lant (R) F.O.Gibraltar, U.S. N.O.B.Bermuda, Port Dir. N.Y., C. in C. Allied Forces C.E.S.F. Commandant 3rd U.S.Nav.Dist.N.Y., B.A.D., C.M.S.F.F., C. in C. Med.)

Australia and New Zealand.

DOMINION MONARCH.

101414. Request ship be routed to Auckland. (N.Z.N.B.120251Z to P.S.T.O.Capetown, (R) D. of S. T., C. in C. E.F. A.C.N.B. P.S.T.O. M.E.) Your 101331 A.M.091945. Ship will require water at Fremantle. Escort arrangements to this port under consideration. (N.Z.N.B. 120325Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. A.C.N.B., C.S.4.)

Movements / ...

War Diary.12.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand (Contd.)

Movements. Departure Noumea U.S.S. ZANE U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY for Auckland direct route E.T.A. 0400Z/15.
U.S.S. MAURY, U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT for Wellington route direct E.T.A. 2300Z/15.
(D.N.I. Wellington 120500Z to Admty.)
Departure 11th Sydney (N.S.W.). U.S.S. NASHVILLE for Espiritu Santo. (U.S.S. ? CRAVEN) for Noumea Brisbane.
U.S.S. HELM for Palm Island Area, Thursday Island, ECHUCA for Merauker.
(A.C.N.B. 121054Z to Admty)
Arrival Sydney 11th U.S. HENRY T. ALLEN.
(A.C.N.B. 121104Z to Admty)

QUIBERON, Your 170947Z March. Propose following programme
NEPAL. for QUIBERON and NEPAL. 26th May high angle and low angle firing Port Phillip (?leave for) Fremantle. 31st May A/S exercise Fremantle. 1st June arriving and leaving Geraldton. 9th June arriving and leaving Diego Garcia. 14th June arriving Kilindini. (2) Manoeuvres carried out QUIBERON could sail independently and arrive about one week (?returning from) (?Indian Ocean)
(A.C.N.B. 120620Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty)

REGINA SS. REGINA (4732 tons) torpedoed 110400Z in
torpedoed 037° 24' S. 150° 19' E. when in convoy. Vessel
and sunk. sank immediately. 10 survivors.
(Yugoslav) (A.C.N.B. 120816Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F. Navy Office Wellington.)

Digest Approx. 45 enemy aircraft including dive bombers
Serial and fighters attacked shipping off Bay at noon.
No. 446 Two small freighters hit and subsequently
April 11th. beached. DIESSEL also hit and damaged. Fifty
Lightnings and Kittyhawks intercepted over sea
destroying five dive bombers twelve zeros certain
plus one dive bomber five zeros probably. One
Lightning crash landed otherwise slight damage only suffered by
our aircraft. (2) Yugoslav ship REGINA in convoy probably
torpedoed 37° 24' S. 150° 19' E. at 0400Z/11. Ship sank within
2 minutes but 10 survivors picked up. D/F Jap submarine in
approx. 38° S. 151° E. at 1808Z/11. (3) Forenoon R/C Fortress
intercepted over Kavieng by 10 Zeros whereof 2 shot down
another probably plus 3 damaged. 2 small cargo ships seen in
anchorage but observation interrupted. Evening search reported
1 cargo vessel Kavieng vicinity. (5) Ref. Digest 445 para.1,
2 destroyers located before midnight 10th approx. 35 miles
South-west Gasmata and in same vicinity 2 hours later course
east. 12 Beauforts 6 Fortresses 1 Liberator ordered to shadow
and strike destroyers vicinity Finschhafen during night did not
locate target. 3 Beauforts and Liberator bombed Finschhafen.
Fortresses bombed Lae and strafed Finschhafen.

War Diary.

12.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest (6) Lightning over Wewak at noon sighted 18
Serial Zeros mostly grounded and 2 small ships in harbour.
No.446 (8) Photos Hansa Bay 10 April show 26 barges
April 11th 3 A/A batteries 2 of 8 guns 1 of 4 also 19
(Contd.) machine gun posts. Intense activity noticeable.
(9) 2 medium merchantmen sighted Humboldt Bay
(Hollandia) afternoon. (10) 3 Catalinas
conducted night patrol over south-west Dutch
New Guinea. Babo bombed and seaplane base strafed. 2 small
ships and 4 float-planes at Kaimara strafed.
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 120925Z)

MIZAR. Departures Sydney (N.S.W.) 11th U.S. Navy
Transport MIZAR for San Francisco via following
point (d) 052° 29' S. 155° 00' E. (e) 052° 00' S.
160° 00' E. (f) 021° 00' S. 165° 00' W.
(1) 037° 39' N. 123° 04' W. thence destination. E.T.A.
0200/29th. "Chop" 12th. Time Zed.
(A.C.N.B.121504Z to Admty, Connnav, etc.)

KIWI 8. / Unidentified propellor boats picked up by
Sono Buoys off Navula Passage Fiji 110940M.
Searchlight activity reported off Niutao (Ellice
Islands) evening 11th. Enemy aircraft attacked
patrolling Catalina 08° 45' S. 170° 54' E. at 111030M.
MOA (A/S M/S Vessel) sunk by enemy air attack Tulagi area 7th
(?8th intended). Enemy aircraft destroyed in this raid now
39. Munda raided 11th fires started and ammunition exploded.
U.S. Submarine TUNNY reported to have obtained seven torpedo
hits on two Japanese Auxiliary Aircraft Carriers south of
Truk.
(C.W.R.Wellington, 121258M to C. in C. E.F. Admty. (for D.N.I)
A.C.N.B., G.H.Q. New Delhi, India.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.121349B, 121405B)

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Atlantic
Convoys.

1. At the recent Atlantic Convoy Conference in Washington it was decided that the Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board would assume complete responsibility eastwards and westwards of Westomp, respectively, for the protection and routeing of trade convoys between U.K. and New York and ports north of New York. The U.S. remain responsible for convoys to Greenland and for those between U.S.A. and North-west Africa. The Iceland (C) Shuttle Service is discontinued.

The U.S. retain strategic authority and responsibility throughout Western Atlantic area and are to be kept informed of all routeing and diversions in that area.

The size and cycle of convoys will be determined by the Admiralty. Changes in cycle will be subject to the concurrence of Cominch and the Canadian Naval Board.

Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board are responsible for rescue and salvage on North Atlantic convoy routes.

The "Chop" line is still under consideration. Independent merchant ships and troop transports between U.K. and Canada or the U.S. will be routed from the country of departure but will be controlled for diversion purposes by the country responsible for diversion on that side of the "Chop" in which the ship is at the time the diversion signal is made.

2. The Admiralty today issued instructions that ships are not to stop to pick up survivors of blockade runners or raiders, as it is known that such ships have been provided with both close and distant screens of U-boats in certain areas.

Home Commands.

Northern
Patrol.

3. At 1657B C.S.10 inquired of C. in C. Home Fleet as to the situation in Northern waters and the intended duration of the two-cruiser patrol: C.S.10 considered that one cruiser and one destroyer were sufficient. C.S.10 in BELFAST arrived at Hvalfjord at 1917B, having been relieved on patrol by CUMBERLAND. INTREPID was detached to join CUMBERLAND and GLASGOW on conclusion of HOWE's exercises p.m. today. GLASGOW was withdrawn from patrol at 152206B.

/Operation...

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Operation
Q.J.8 A.

4. M.G.Bs. escorting M.Ls. on a minelaying operation off the Dutch coast last night attacked a small merchant ship with a trawler at 0400B in 52° 12' N., 04° 12' E. and report that both vessels were damaged. An Oerlikon shell hit the bridge of M.G.B.112, killing the S.O. of the Unit Lieut. Comdr. R.P. Hichens. The operation was carried out as ordered.

Tanker
U-boats.

5. It has been credibly reported that U-boats operating in the north Atlantic are supplied with fuel after bursts of activity against convoys by special tanker U-boats. F.O.S. considers that the most probable area for R/V between U/Bs and tanker U/Bs is between latitudes 47° 20' N., and 50° 00' N., and longitudes 34° 00' W. and 31° 00' W, outside the range of aircraft based in either Ireland, Iceland (C) or Newfoundland.

South Atlantic.

German SS.
PORTLAND
sunk.

6. The French cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol sank the German SS. PORTLAND at 0220Z today in 06.12 N. 24.45 W. (about 500 miles W.S.W. of Freetown). The ship is reported to have left the Gironde on 28th March.

Walvis Bay.

7. The use of Walvis Bay as a convoy assembly port has been temporarily suspended owing to the presence of enemy submarines and the complete absence of A/S protection. C. in C. S.A. considers that if defended, Walvis would provide a useful alternative to Capetown and Saldanha Bay and a port of call for west coast shipping.

Mediterranean.

8. Last night, destroyers of Force K carried out a sweep to Marittimo and M.T.Bs. from Malta operated in the Gulf of Hammamet.

/Raid...

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Raid on
Tunis coast.

9. During last night M.T.Bs. from Bone landed a small commando party on the North coast of Tunisia. The party re-embarked on completion of their task, without casualties.

Air
Operations.

10. Another air attack on Maddalena took place this morning. The 10,000 ton cruiser GORIZIA, was sighted p.m. today by P.R.U. off Leghorn steering N.N.E. Five U.S. Lightnings, each carrying one 1000 lb. bomb were despatched. Three attacked the cruiser and one hit was scored on the stern of the vessel. Two near misses were also obtained.

5 Heavy bombers of the R.A.F. attacked Messina harbour last night.

Out of 20 B.24s despatched to make a dusk attack on shipping in Catania harbour only one bombed the estimated position through complete cloud cover.

11. About 13 enemy aircraft made an abortive attack on Tripoli (L) harbour last night, 12 plus enemy aircraft raided the harbour from 2130 to 2300 today with circling torpedoes; no damage was caused.

12. One German and one Italian mine were destroyed to the westward of Tripoli (L) today.

America & West Indies.

St. Johns
N.F.

13. A proposal is put forward from Newfoundland to double the naval repair facilities of the port.

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Rescue of Enemy Survivors. Two cases have recently occurred in which H.M. Ships have stopped to rescue survivors from enemy blockade runners which have scuttled on being intercepted. (2) From P.O.W. statements it is known that such ships have been provided with both close and distant screens of U/Boats in certain areas. (3) The attention of Commanding Officers of cruisers and above is drawn to the need for maintaining high speed when in contact or in the vicinity of enemy blockade runners or raiders and that they are not to stop to pick up survivors.
(V.C.N.S. 130135B: A.M.657A)

EDDYSTONE, DUNDEE. The SS. EDDYSTONE and SS. DUNDEE have been requisitioned for duties as Rescue Ships.
(D.T.D.131238B to C. in C. W.A.)

RIBBLE, JOHAN MAURITS. RIBBLE is being turned over to Royal Netherlands Navy and renamed JOHAN MAURITS. (3) JOHAN MAURITS is allocated to Liverpool for 37th Group.
(C. in C. W.A. 131456B)

Proposed A/S.W. Training Centre. Admiralty Letter M.03429/43 dated 26th March, 1943. Proposed use of EGLINTON and MAYDOWN for F.A.A. Fighter training will conflict with the proposals put forward in my 100016B. It is requested that my signal quoted may be fully considered before any decision regarding F.A.A. Fighter training is reached. (2) To obtain the essential co-operation between R.A.F. Coastal Command, surface escorts and F.A.A. engaged on trade protection, it is necessary that the proposed combined service A/S Warfare Training Centre should be in the close proximity of Londonderry. This does not appear to be an essential requirement for F.A.A. Fighter Training Establishments.
(C. in C. W.A. 131604B to Admty)

Movements.

S/M Movements. Clyde arrival UNTAMED escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 131038B)
Intend sailing H.33 escorted by COTILLION from Rothesay at 2000B/13 to Lough Foyle buoy E.T.A. 0800B/14, thence as ordered by Comdre. Londonderry.
(Capt. (S) 7, 131049B)
Intend sailing UNIVERSAL escorted by MACBETH for Lerwick at 2000B/14th. (2) Routed 5 miles east of Fair Isle and 5 miles east of Sumburgh Head. E.T.A. Lerwick boom 1000B/15th.
(A.C.O.S.131150B)
Positions of submarines at 0800B/14th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) BLACKFISH, BARB, STUBBORN in zones K.194, K.193, and K.190 respectively. (B) TUNA on patrol between 69° N. 04° W. and Jan Mayen Island.

(C) / ...

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M (C) UNIVERSAL escorted by MACBETH sails Scapa
Movements 2000B/14 for Lerwick. (D) H.33 escorted by
(Contd.) COTILLION arriving Lough Foyle Buoy from
Rothesay.
Add new para to my 121707B. H.33 escorted by
COTILLION leave Rothesay at 2000B/13th arriving
Lough Foyle Buoy 0800B/14th.
(F.O.S.131609B)

Cominch pass to HADDO, HAKE and Comsublant.
(1) HADDO and HAKE read Rugby 16 K/cs as in table 3 (3) A.F.O.
S. 2/43 from time of passing through position (E) "Chop".
(2) Patrol areas will be assigned later. (3) Submarines are
advised to patrol at periscope depth by day. (4) It has been
credibly reported that U/Bs operating in North Atlantic are
supplied with fuel after bursts of activity against convoys
by special tanker U/Bs which are likely to wait in areas outside
range of aircraft based in either Ireland (R) Iceland (C) or
Newfoundland. Most probable area for R/V is between latitudes
47° 20' N. and 50° 00' N. and longitudes 34° 00' W. and 31°
00' W. U/Bs are likely to use homing procedure on medium
frequency. (5) You are reminded that no bombing restrictions
are in force by day but that total restrictions are in force
at night. (6) Report by signal to Admiralty, C. in C. W.A.,
F.O.S., and Cominch if you get outside your patrol areas owing
to stress of weather etc.

(F.O.S. 131704 to Cominch)
My 131704. (A) After passing "Chop" submarines proceed
diving by day as follows.
(1) HAKE (f) 47° 01' N. 40° 00' W. (g) 49° 00' N. 36° 59' W.
(h) 50° 40' N. 27° 41' W. (j) 54° 55' N. 20° 30' W.
(2) HADDO (1) 47° 00' N. 39° 59' W. (m) 50° 20' N. 22° 50' W.
(n) 54° 00' N 19° 30' W. (B) Surface vessels are not to be
attacked.

(F.O.S. 131902B to Cominch)
Your 1211. My position 063° 48' N. 000° 34' E, speed
about 10 knots due to engine defect. Intend altering course
184° in 062° 50' N. 000° 29' W.
(SEVERN, 132030Z to S.O.S/M Lerwick)
My 131049B. Sailed.
(Capt. (S) 7, 132204B)

H.F. C. in C. H.F. is requested to sail one Hunt-class
Destroyer. destroyer to arrive Milford Haven a.m. 20th April.
After fuelling, she will be required to join an
escort to Casablanca. (2) During absence of
this destroyer until about 3rd May, R.A.M. is
requested to detail a destroyer for service with Home Fleet
if required.
(D.O.D.(H), 131325 B to C. in C. H.F. R.A.M.).
R.A.(D) is requested to comply with Admiralty 131325.
(2) R.A.(M) is requested to sail one destroyer to arrive
Scapa p.m.18th.
(C. in C. H.F. 131726B)

HERO. HERO arrived and sailed 1348. E.T.A. Needles
1900B. S.O.A.26 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131455B to F.O.C.Gibraltar)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Rescue of SILVAPLANA Survivors. "A" Message 154 of 1st February 1943 and your 101815A. A report is to be forwarded through the administrative authority of the circumstances in which survivors were rescued in dangerous waters. (V.C.N.S.130201B to ADVENTURE)

Coastal Patrols. My 121126B. "Device" arrived 0751. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 130753B)
(1) Intend M.L.208 (S.O) and 233 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at dawn/14th. (3) Object. Anti E-Boat patrol Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C.Portland, 131106B)
(1) Tonight S.G.B.6, M.G.B. 613, 615 to patrol. Object destruction of enemy shipping. (2) Leave Newhaven so as to pass through passage two not before 2130, and carry out search in the Baie de La Seine. (3) Return by passage two or three so as to be within 20 miles of own coast at daylight. (4) Codeword "Advent". (C. in C. Portsmouth, 131212B)
(1) M.G.B's 324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 270° and 090° from 180° Eddystone 7 miles. (2) Object anti E-Boat patrol. (3) Leave Dartmouth 21003 for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0700B. (4) Information enemy E-Boats at Cherbourg. Own attention is drawn to Q.Z.X.962 which may be crossed in pursuit of enemy. Cross over patrol X flying south of convoy route. (6) Codeword "Gibson". (C. in C. Plymouth, 131627B)
M.Ls 138, 141 at Bullock Bank. M.T.B.s 235, 240, 24 M.G.Bs. 114, 116 patrolling Berck Buoy route via number 10 buoy each way. E.T.D.2115. E.T.A. 140630. M.G.Bs. S2 (S.O) S 1 at "V" buoy. E.T.D. 2100. E.T.A.140645. (V.A.Dover, 131727B)
My 131106B. "Device" sailed. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 132046B)

Operation "Carey". My 111210. M.T.B.620 is returning to base. Remaining three boats are being withdrawn from patrol R and may sweep entrances Q and/or N before returning. (A.C.O.S. 131315B)

Denmark Straits Patrol. Estimated position 2201 tonight. CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW patrol "White". (A.C.I.C.131646B to ships)
Request information regarding situation in these waters and intended duration of 2 cruiser patrol. Consider one cruiser and one destroyer sufficient. In view of possibility of U-Boats one destroyer is desirable on the patrol. (C.S.10, 131657B to C. in C. H.F.)
On completion of HOWE's exercises p.m. today INTREPID is being detached to join CUMBERLAND and GLASGOW on patrol "White". (C.S.10, 131757B to C. in C. H.F.)

Hvalfiord / ...

477

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Denmark
Straits
Patrol
(Contd.)Hvalfiord arrivals (1) C.S.10 in BELFAST at 1917B from patrol "White". (2) HOWE with MIDDLETON and BLANKNEY at 2035B from A.L.T. exercise.
(A.C.I.C. 132116B)One
Enemy
Trawler
and One
M/V
damaged.

Following is preliminary report of C/F activity night 12/13th. (1) M.L's 100, 105 and 110 escorted by M.G.B's 112, 111, 75 and 74 on operation Q.U.8 (A) made R.D.F. contact with various small enemy vessels when coming into their lay. On completion M.L's disengaged while M.G.B's investigated and shadowed by R.D.F. Visual contact was made at 0400B in approx. 52° 12' N. 04° 12' E. with one trawler and one small merchant ship steering S.W. Fire was opened at point blank range M.G.B's having been undetected until then. Speed was increased on opening fire and both enemy ships were seen to be on fire and undoubtedly suffered severe damage. Unfortunately an Oerlikon shell hit the bridge of M.G.B.112 killing the S.O. and seriously wounding the C.O., and M.G.B's disengaged. Subsequently observation of results became extremely difficult as other enemy shipping in vicinity opened fire with starshell and tracer. In addition to the casualties reported above one other Officer and two ratings were slightly wounded. BEEHIVE's 13109B and 131425B refer. Damage is very slight. (2) Operation Q.U.8 A carried out as ordered. (C. in C. Nore, 131828B to Admty)

Exercises.

INDOMITABLE.

Sailed V.A.A. in INDOMITABLE with UNICORN to carry out exercises. V.A.A's 121139B refers. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 131028B)

HOWE.

HOWE with INTREPID, MIDDLETON, and BLANKNEY sailed at 1025B for exercise.
(A.C.I.C. 131207B to C. in C. H.F.)
Your 051053A. L.T. exercise successfully completed at 1505B with 11 aircraft. (2) For exercise.
(A) From R.A.F. HOWE sunk. (B) From HOWE all aircraft shot down.
(A.C.I.C. 131751B to C. in C. H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.A/C
attack.Have attacked enemy with torpedoes. Hits probable.
(A/C.F. of 489 Sqdn. 130921B to 18 Group)Western
Channel.Swordfish aircraft will fly patrol X tonight from 2200B/13 till dawn 14th as in my 081411A March.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131447B/4)

Enemy /...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.Enemy
A/C
shot
down.

My 120510B/2. Tongue Sand Fort has recovered German Rubber Dinghy and other salvage from vicinity of site corroborating their claim. (C. in C. Nore, 131539B to Admty)
Add to my 131539B. Tongue Sand Fort also reports having picked up parachute with body of German Officer.
(C. in C. Nore, 132209B)

Mining.Disposal of
captured
Enemy
Gear.

Considerable inconvenience and dislocation of routine has recently been caused by the discovery of a German submarine escape apparatus washed up on the foreshore. Investigation subsequently disclosed that this article had been thrown overboard from a warship. Great care is to be taken that such trophies of foreign origin are not thrown away in conditions where their re-discovery may lead to false deductions of enemy activities.
(C. in C. W.A. 130810Z to A.I.G.32)

Your 121508B. It is assumed that suit referred to is same as German type DSEA referred to in F.O.I.C. Greenock's 120208B. If not request full description of both suits and incidents. (2) Name of ship from which the signal referred to in your 121508B also required.

(D.N.I.132028B to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

SCOTT
Trials.

Sailed R.A.(M)'s 121046B.
(TRELAWNEY, 130935 to A.C.O.S.)

Operation
Q.U.8A.

Carried out as ordered.
(C. in C. Nore, 131828B) See Operations.

Q.U.7B.

Prepare to carry out operation Q.U.7 (B) with 51st M.L. Flotilla on next suitable night. Position between 052° 18' N. 004° 20' E. and 005° 21' N. 004° 23' E, irregular laying between these points.
(C. in C. Nore, 131901B to BEEHIVE)

Sweep of
Q.Z.S.347.

Your 121746B. Operation completed. Negative result.
(PANGBOURNE, 131943B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Enemy Intelligence.Unknown
Ship.

Following received from Tthree Radio.
132° 3 class X XX unknown ship.
(Port Patrick Radio, 130004Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

HALLINGDAL. Following received, graded B.3. Norwegian HALLINGDAL, 5500 tons due to leave Frederikstad northbound fully loaded with munitions p.m. April 14th.
(D.D.I.C. 130150B to C. in C. H.F.)

SIRIUS. Reported reliable source that German ship SIRIUS arrived Oslo April 5th. Cargo included 200 packages 15 kilos each containing 1/100,000 maps whole Sweden. My memorandum 181 also refers.
(Military Attache, Stockholm, No.T.O.O. Recd. from War Office, 0615/14)

Enemy M/V's. Of potential blockade runners in Far East or on passage to Europe the following are at present unaccounted for and could be on passage to German ports.
Merchant ship: ERMLAND, BURGENLAND, RIO GRANDE and possibly HAVELLAND and EUGENIE LIVANOS.
Tanker: MADRONO, BRAKE, CHARLOTTE, SCHLIEMANN, WINNETOUER.
The following report regarding these ships has been obtained from prisoners from ship recently sunk: (A) ERMLAND was in the Suda (?Sunda) Strait on 7th February on passage to Europe.
(B) MADRONO left Yokohama about 17th January destination unknown.
(C) BURGENLAND was at Saigon on 27th December 1942 probably loading rubber. (3) PORTLAND and OSORNO are at present probably on passage to Far East. In addition ALSTERUFER is either blockade running or acting as supply ship.
(C. in C. H.F. 131016B to H.F.)
REGENSBURG and ERMLAND left Batavia 6th February proceeding through Sunda Strait in company.
(C. in C. H.F. 132336B to H.F.)

Raider "E", UCKERMARK, NANKIN, REVENSBURG, ERMLAND, SILVAPLANA, PIETRO ORSEOLO, HIMALAYA, PORTLAND, OSORNO, ALSTERUFER. A.M.071822B. (1) Diary of Survivor from REGENSBURG who previously served in UCKERMARK shows that: (a) Raider E and UCKERMARK and ex-British NANKIN were probably sunk on 30th November 1942, in Yokohama harbour by explosion and resulting fires. (b) REGENSBURG and ERMLAND left Batavia on 6th February proceeding through the Sunda Strait in company. (2) SILVAPLANA from the Far East intercepted and sunk by H.M. Ship at 1730/10th April in 43° 18' N. 14° 30' W. (3) PIETRO ORSEOLO and 4 Destroyers sighted by aircraft at 1100A/31st March off coast of Spain were attacked by U.S. Submarine at 0345A/1st April in 44° 38' N. 02° 18' W. PIETRO ORSEOLO apparently damaged as bales of rubber since washed ashore on Spanish Coast. PIETRO ORSEOLO and the Destroyers since photographed at Bordeaux. (4) HIMALAYA with 3 Destroyers left La Pallice during night 8/9th April. After being sighted by aircraft they returned to the Gironde.

(5) / ...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Raider "E",
UCKERMARK,
NANKIN,
REGENSBURG,
ERMLAND,
SILVAPLANA,
PIETRO ORSEOLO,
HIMALAYA,
PORTLAND,
OSORNO,
ALSTERUFER.
(Contd.)

(5) PORTLAND which left Bordeaux probably during night 28/29th March was intercepted and sunk by French ship GEORGES LEYGUES at 0420/13th April in 06° 12' 21° 45' W. (6) OSORNO and ALSTERUFER which left Bordeaux about same time as PORTLAND could by now have reached Freetown - Recife narrows. OSORNO probably on passage to Far East.
(D.D.I.C. 131215B to A.I.G.13)

Fecamp,
St. Valery.

Photographs taken 131345B show: Fecamp. 1 E/R boat and 3 naval launches present as on 5th April 1943 but the former now on slips. St. Valery En Caux. No shipping of importance present.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 132235B)

SPERRBRECHER,
SP. AA.

Photographs taken 1645B/13th April show: SPERRBRECHER SP.AA followed by one trawler-type auxiliary at 3½ cables reported by the pilot on course west 10 miles south of Ushant. Also three 'M' Class Minesweepers 216 type. Reported by the pilot on course south east at position south of Concarneau. Calculated speed of M/S is 13 knots.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 132305B to Admty.)

Gironde.

PRU at 1230/13 shews four Destroyers in Gironde east of Ile du Nord proceeding upstream towards Bordeaux.
(D.D.I.C. 132356B to A.I.G.21)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported.

SSSS DE ELIZABETH BAKKE. Submarine sighted 55.13 N 13.32 W at 1635. No bearing obtained. (Burnham Radio, 131638) (Port Patrick Radio 131643Z)
Following from ELIZABETH BAKKE S/M on the surface. Steered south in position (? 055°) 13' N. (? 013°) 32' W. At 1635 resumed normal course 15 knots. (Malta W/T 131900)
Inconclusive D/F at 131820Z indicates U-Boat in your general vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 132100B to UGANDA)

U-Boats attacked.

My 221059 July. (1) At 051544 a Sunderland aircraft attacked a U-Boat submerging in 49° 56' N. 23° 30' W. A large patch of oil appeared on the surface and objects resembling bodies or clothing were seen in the explosion area. (2) At 051658 a U-Boat was attacked in 27° 40' N. 15° 20' W. by a Hudson aircraft. That night the crew of a German U-Boat were landed in Oran Canaria and stated they had scuttled their boat after being

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats damaged by air attack. (3) At 060755 TAY, while
 attacked escorting Convoy H.X.231, claims to have severely
 (Contd.) damaged a U-Boat attacked in 58° 12' N. 28° 20' W.
 (4) My 31124 March, para.(3). A similar air-
 patrol was carried out in the same area from dusk
 5th April to dusk 12th April. Hours flown were
 considerably less than during previous operation and resulted
 in 14 sightings and 4 attacks.
 (D.A/S.W.,131913B to Cominch)

Casualties and Defects.

PUFFIN, Intend to take PUFFIN in hand for boiler cleaning
 MALLARD. at Harwich at 0700/15. Ship ready for sea
 2359/19. Intend to take MALLARD in hand for
 boiler cleaning at Ipswich at 0700/17. Ship
 ready for sea 2359/21.
 (F.O.I.C.Harwich,130959B)

STOCK Intend sailing damaged SS. STOCK FORCE to Tyne
 FORCE. in tow of tug DUNUBE (VI) at 0700B/14th by
 standard route. Escorted to 32 Buoy 1730B by
 RIVER ESK speed 8 knots.
 Request relief escort and fighter protection.
 E.T.A. Tyne 1900/15th.
 (N.O.I.C.Invergordon 131044B)

LINDOY. My 121546B. LINDOY has put into Burghead with
 serious engine defects and will be towed back to
 Buckie 14th April.
 (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 131746B)

ACONIT. Cancel my 122100. Ship delayed with defects.
 (Capt. (D) Greenock, 131821)

HONEYSUCKLE. Your 131220. HONEYSUCKLE delayed by engine
 defect. Estimated time of make good 3 days.
 (Capt. (D) Greenock, 132342)

LEWES. Admty.021850 and 021855 and your 091428.
 (1) (A) LEWES has developed bent shaft in turbo
 fan in number one boiler room. Estimated time
 to complete 14 days. (B) Ship can steam 25 knots
 with remaining fans. Estimate full speed 27½ knots.
 (2) Electrical wiring of LEWES is in very poor condition.
 (3) In view of ship's future movements request instructions
 whether ship is to sail with defective fans.
 (Capt. (D) Greenock, 132348B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

PASTEUR. Convoy A.T.41 comprising PASTEUR is due Liverpool 16/4 with following 4532 personnel on board. (2) She is required to be ready to sail again as Convoy T.A. 41 on 20/4. (3) Personnel will embark to her full capacity on 19/4. (D.S.T.130231B)

H.X.232. A.M.122231B. Series 7 still being used from your vicinity. (D.D.I.C.130320B to Escorts H.X.232) FRESNO CITY sunk. Night 12th/13th No attacks. (2) My 120930 para. one (c). Ship again torpedoed and sunk a.m.12th. AZALEA carried out search for submarine. No further details. (3) AZALEA has 159 survivors including 8 women. Have ordered her to proceed U.K. at best speed. (4) Medium frequency transmission heard on 384 K/cs at approx. 1359Z/12 and 1728Z/12. (5) P.C.S. at 0800Z 036° 00' N. 023° 17' W. 094°, 8.75 knots. Weather 4754 0148. (B.3, 131055Z to C. in C. W.A.) WITHERINGTON detached proceeding independently to U.K. at 1300Z. (B.3, 131702Z to C. in C. W.A.) D/F at 131444Z from close vicinity of convoy was on Series 1. (D.D.I.C., 131805B to Escorts H.X.232, KEPPEL)

O.N.178. Sailed BITER, OPPORTUNE, and OBDURATE in accordance with my 121236B April. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 130554B) Anticipate ROCKINGHAM will leave Lough Foyle a.m. 14th to overtake. (Cdre. Londonderry, 131541B to E.G.B.1)

ATHELREGENT. Your 121828. Confirmed that this work is to be carried out. (D.T.D.131025B to F.O.I.C.Liverpool)

BOGUE Your 112107Z. Bogue escorts. Endurance Group. particulars. (Commaveu, 131018 to C. in C. W.A.) Following is Cinclant 131447. OSMAND, INGRAM and GREENE are being ordered to join S.C.126 or H.X.233 as directed by C.T.F.24 or as Admty may direct. BOGUE repairs prevent sailing on 14th April. Earliest readiness date is 16th provided weather permits taking air group aboard and tests of catapult are satisfactory. Admty. 122032 refers. (Commaveu, 131812 to Admty)

Your 221735A/March. This will be arranged but since an export of about 240,000 tons annually will be involved request you will keep the question under continual review with the object of cutting down the off take from U.K. to the minimum which experience shows to be necessary. (D.T.D. 132055B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

E.G.3. C. in C. W.A.'s 121822B/4. Intend sailing OFFA 0200B/14 to Londonderry. E.T.A. 1000B/14. (F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 131128B)
Request you will sail OFFA, PANTHER, PENN, IMPULSIVE as 3rd Escort Group p.m. 14th to proceed best speed to pass through 47° N 24° W at approx. 0800B/17. 3rd Escort Group may be required to support H.X.233 and S.C. 726. (C. in C. W.A. 131315B to N.O.I.C.Londonderry).

Atlantic
Convoys.
Iceland
Shuttle
Service.

At the recent Atlantic Convoy Conference in Washington it was decided that the Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board would assume complete responsibility Eastwards and Westwards of Westomp, respectively, for the protection and routing of trade convoys between the U.K. and New York and ports North of New York. The U.S. remain responsible for convoys to Greenland and for those between U.S.A. and North-West Africa. The Iceland (C) Shuttle Service is discontinued. (2) The U.S. retain strategic authority and responsibility throughout Western Atlantic area and are to be kept informed of all routings and diversions in that area. (3) The size and cycle of convoys will be determined by the Admiralty. Changes in cycle will be subject to the concurrence of Cominch and the Canadian Naval Board. (4) Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board are responsible for rescue and salvage on North Atlantic convoy routes. (5) The "Chop" line from 1200/3 April for all Atlantic shipping is run from the South Pole along 26° N. 47° W. (sic), thence along 47° W. Admiralty have not assumed responsibility East of "Chop". C. in C.C.N.W.A. assumes responsibilities West of "Chop" on April 30th. (6) Independent merchant ships and troop transports between U.K. and Canada or the U.S. will be routed from the country of departure but will be controlled for diversion purposes by the country responsible for diversion on that side of the "Chop" in which the ship is at the time the diversion signal is made. (7) The above is being promulgated in C.A.F.Os. (V.C.N.S.131318B)

It is intended to sail two ocean trawlers as rescue ships with each O.N.S. convoy, returning with the appropriate S.C. convoy. The western terminal point will be St. Johns, and it is requested that arrangements may be made to supply best quality smokeless coal for the return journey.

(C. in C. W.A. 131554Z to F.O.N.F.)

It is intended to sail two trawlers with each slow convoy. Western terminal port is St. Johns. Trawlers are under the orders of the S.O. Escort and their function is to augment the A/S protection of the convoy and carry out rescue duties. S.O. Escort should station these trawlers accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 131936B to W.A.G.M. 609N)

EMPIRE
JACK.

F.O.I.C. Greenock's 111128. Master of EMPIRE JACK states (A) that he was not ordered ashore to attend E.N.13 conference and that he was given no information regarding special escort. (B) that he was obliged to part company with E.N.13 and

enter / ...

para. 5
cancelled.
151702B
page 561.

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

EMPIRE
JACK.
(Contd.)

enter Scapa p.m. on 7th April to secure cargo and that COVERLEY who was one of the Convoy Escorts piloted him to the anchorage. (C) that he reported to COVERLEY that he was ready to sail at 0700/8th April and was instructed by COVERLEY to proceed at 0845/9th April. (D) that he proceeded in accordance with these instructions and was still unaware that COVERLEY was his escort. (E) that he did not receive any signals from COVERLEY subsequent to leaving Scapa. (2) In view of your 031249 and F.O.I.C.Greenock's 051528 request N.O.I.C.Methil be asked to remark. (D.T.D. 131353B to C. in C. Rosyth)

S.L.127B. Admty 121901B. ROCHESTER is estimated to reach position (B C) 042° 01' N. 014° 32' W, steer 329° at 0500B/16 routed thence at 7½ knots through (A G) 045° 01' N. 014° 52' W. (A H) 049° 32' N. 015° 00' W; thence 005°. (2) BIRMINGHAM is to be within 60 miles S.L.127 by time convoy reaches position (B C) and is to cover convoy against surface attack until convoy passes 050° N. when BIRMINGHAM is to proceed Plymouth. Speed of advance not less than 18 knots is to be maintained throughout. (3) Four NARVIK-Class destroyers were in Gironde on 11th April. Inward or outward bound blockade-runner and long-range aircraft may be met. (C. in C. Plymouth 131425B to BIRMINGHAM)

O.N.179. Expect to have 4 fast ships (?ready) for O.N.179. If no objection will sail them escorted by SYMBOL about April 21st. (C.T.G. 26.6, 131640Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Lyme
Bay
Route.

Amend my 031045 April Para. 1 to read as from 0001 April 5th all through shipping sailing by day between Portland Bill and Start Point should be routed from position (A) 50° 27' 30" N. 02° 29' 00" W. to position (B) 180° Start Point 4 miles. (C. in C. Plymouth, 131511B)

H.X.233. 1400Z/13. P.C.S. 045° 32' N. 040° 45', 094° 9.25. 7 ships missing including EASTGATE, GEORGE HANDLEY, and JAMES FENIMORE COOPER with BRYONY. 0900Z/13 P.C.S. 046° 20', 022° 10', 095° 10. ARVIDA and DIANTHUS not joined. Weather 5572 0958. (M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 131530Z to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.124. Average speed not reported. Off Oversay 082000Z. All arrived. (D.T.D. 131630B to Connav)

LETITIA. Sailed 2201B/13. (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 132350B)

War Diary.

13.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.KNIGHT,
escorting
M/V.

D.D. KNIGHT will escort for 24 hours then return to Casablanca. First "Chop" 10 West 1430Z/14th 2nd "Chop" 47 West 1600Z/18th. Will guard B.A.M.S. Holds recoding tables 23 and 24 C.S.P. (?F) 324 one H and 1312 J K I one ship pad 841 and Incon (Table) 263. Details of mail and passengers will be sent later.

(C.M.S.F.F., 130905Z to Admty.)

Dispositions.

Situation at 2001A/13th.

S.L. 127 ROCHESTER 35.59 09.54 329° 7.

(ii) U.C.20 T.U.21.6 41.03 16.02 through 36.59 16.03 thence 251° 13½.

(iii) G.U.S.6 C.T.F. 63, 34.56 14.28 through 35.01 15.01 thence 270° 9. (iv) BIRMINGHAM 27.32 14.08 through 29.21

12.13 and 32.46 12.08 thence 315° 18½.

(v) HYDRANGEA departs Casablanca p.m. 13th to overtake S.L.127 12 knots (see also 131106A)

(F.O., Gib., 131026A)

Add new para.6 to my 131026A. U.S. Destroyer KNIGHT one merchant ship sails Casablanca 0800A/14 through 34.01 11.01 thence 281° 19. Destroyer returns to Malta 0800A/15th.

(F.O., Gib., 132236.)

Situation 132000A, for Area Z.T.O.3, C.T.G.61.1. 029° 38' 028° 43' 240° 13½. 17 L.C.I.(L) S.O. L.C.I. (L) 269, 032° 25' 040° 32' 095° 10.

(F.O. Gib., 131058A.)

Situation report Area X.A. 131959A.

STURGEON, 36.54 08.43 through 36.56 09.16 at 132330A thence 342° diving by day 2 knots surface by night 8 knots.

(2) French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE 2 French escort one P.C. off Cape Spartel through 35.46 06.22 and 43.17 06.45 to Casablanca

10. (3) VETCH French Sloop SAVORNAN BRAZZA, BUDE, 35.36 07.13 to Gib. (4) FOXTROT 4 trawlers 35.28 07.51 to Gib. 9.

(5) R.S.4 (?will) sail 141430 to 35.45 06.30 8.

(6) HYDRANGEA sails from Casablanca p.m. 13th through 35.11 09.18 thence 329° 12.

(F.O. Gib., 131106A.)

My 131106A. Add new para. 10.

U.S. Destroyer KNIGHT, 1 Merchant Ship, sails Casablanca 0800A/14 through 34.01 11.01 thence 281° 19. Destroyer returns to Casablanca 0800A/15th.

(F.O. Gib., 132230A.)

Movements,
Gib.

Arrived U.S. MERVINE, DAVISON, TILLMAN, EARLE, with tanker HDUSATONIC.

(F.O.C. Gib. 131042A to C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. etc.)

Convoy
X.K.4.

6 ships at Gib. S. of A. 6½ knots awaiting convoy to U.K. 2. Propose sailing these ships as

/convoy ...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic Contd.

Convoy X.K.4. convoy X.K.4 escorted by RHODODENDRON, HALYCON, SALAMANDER p.m. 15th.
(F.O. Gib., 131143A, to C. in C. Med.)
Approved (C. in C. Med. 131801A.)
Date revised (F.O. Gib. 151200A).

Convoy C.G.25. Arrived.
(F.O. Gib. 131154A, to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Connav., Admty.)

Axis Shipping, Barcelona. Arrival 12th p.m. MAURO GROCE, Italian, arrival 13 a.m. REY JAIME Spanish, CIUDAD DE PALMA, Spanish.
Departure 121900 CIUDAD DE MAHON Spanish, (corrupt)
(Barcelona, 131331, to Bank Block.)

ST.GOTTHARD. Swiss ST.GOTTHARD 16th April Genoa for Gib.
(D.E.W.D. 131342B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Mediterranean.)

Survivors from U/B Sunk 5/4. Your 091530. If it could be established that U/B entered territorial waters before being abandoned we should have good case for demanding internment. Report any further information on this subject.
2. Every effort is to be made to prevent U/B crew escaping back to Europe and you are to maintain close watch.
(Head of M. Branch I 131523B to H.M. Consul, Las Palmas, (R) S.O.I. Gib. N.A. Madrid.)
Replies: 141945, 192021, 211000.

S.L.127. Sail HYDRANGEA 131900A to rejoin convoy S.L.127.
(? via Gib., W/T 131525 to N.O.B. Casablanca, F.O. C. Gib., Admty., etc.)

Axis Shipping, Bilbao. 62.(NORDFELS) 64(BORDSEE) arrived 12th. 61(BALDUR) completed loading probably sail to-night 13th.
(Consul Bilbao 131545 to Admty., M.E.W. etc.)

Axis Shipping, Cartagena. Departure Cartagena April 12th CONSUELO DE HUIDOD-RO and ISLA (? DE LA) GOMERA for Barcelona Oranges Germany. GOMERA has sunk at dawn off Cape Palos. 9 perished.
(Cartagena 131740 to Gib., (R) B.N.A. Madrid, M.E.W. Admty.)

ALMAACK. Intend to sail ALMAACK towed by U.S.S. ARAFAH escorted by U.S.S. MERVINE EARLE DAVIDSON to Casablanca at 0900/14th April.

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

ALMAACK 2. Route Q.K.A. 87 (A) 35.45 N. 06.30 W. to Q.
K.A. 92. 3. S. of A. 6 to 9 knots.
4. Codeword "Crocodile".
(F.O.C. Gib. 131747A to Commorseafron (R)
Cominch, C. in C. Med., Admty).

SICKLE Arrival.
(F.O. Gib. 131755A to Admty. etc).

Movements Casablanca. April 13th Warships arrived Casablanca U.S.S.
QUICK, TILLMAN from Gib. French LA GRANDIERE and
H.M.S. HYDRANGEA from S.L. 127. Latter departed
to rejoin.
(C.M.S.F.F., 132029).

SEGUNDO From M.E.W. Your 1426/10 (N.T. in W.D.)
EFIGENIA, Spanish SEGUNDO EFIGENIA. Seize ship and cargo.
2. Check and repeat names of owner.
3. What exactly is meant by "operated"?
(D.E.W.D., 132033B to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar)
Ship seized see 151010A.

KAULDI. Spanish vessel KAULDI arrived Pasases from Castro
Urdiales April 12th with minerals now tran-
shipping cargo at Pasases to small German vessels
for transport to occupied ports.
(Vice Consul San Sebastian, 132115 to S.O.(I)
Gibraltar (R) Admty. Madrid).

SOKOL, Intend sailing SOKOL and P.31 (UPROAR) p.m./15th
UPROAR. working up patrol in Gulf of Lyons.
2. Communication with Gibraltar broadcast W. of
Greenwich meridian and Algiers broadcast East of
Greenwich shifting to read M.S. routine.
3. P.31 (UPROAR) routed (S) 180° Cape Calaburra 5 at 2100/15.
(T) 180° Cape de Glance 5 unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S).
(U) 135° Cape Palos 5 at 0001/18th O.R.P. SOKOL routed (P) 180°
Cape Calaburra 15 at 2100/15th. (Q) 180° Cape de Glance 15 at
2000/16th and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 8. (R)
135° Cape Palos 15 at 1800/17th.
4. Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational control of
P.31 (UPROAR) at 2330/16th and of O.R.P. SOKOL at 2000/16th.
S. of A. P.31 (UPROAR) 8 knots until 0630/16th 6 knots thereafter
88 miles per day and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. (S) 8.
increase to 103 miles per day at 0001/18th. S. of A. O.R.P.
SOKOL is 10 knots until 0630/16th 7½ knots thereafter 103 miles
per day. Time Zone minus 1.
(F.O. Gib., 132234A to C. in C. Med., Capt. S.8).

Movements, Arrivals ACUTE, SPEEDWELL, PENTSTEMON,
Gibraltar. CONVOLVULUS from G.U.S. 6, U.S. P.C. 472. U.S.
Tug INTENT French ships DURMONT D'URVILLE,
AMIRAL MOUCHES,

/CHASSEUR...

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Movements
Gibraltar.

CHASSEUR II, THYME with C.G. 25, Cadmus from U.G.F. 7, departures French ship DUMONT D'URVILLE for Casablanca.
(F.O. Gib., 132301, to Admty.)

12th A.F.
Report.

From Spaatz ADV H.Q. N.A.A.F. to Brereton and Eaker C.G. 8th Air Force C.G. 9th. Air Force 26, B-17s.

Escorted by 26 P-38s attacked convoy in Sicilian Straits and 296 600 lb. bombs were dropped from 15,500 ft. 1 merchant vessel possibly hit. 1 near miss on small merchant vessel. The formation was engaged by enemy aircraft of which 1 destroyed, 6 probably destroyed and 5 damaged. 27 B.17s escorted by 33 P.38s and 24 Spitfires dropped 324 500 lb bombs from 25,000 ft. on Bizerta. One medium M/V hit. Numerous hits on quay and in town. 18 B.17s bombed Trapani with 239 300 lb. bombs from 23,000 ft. Hits observed on large tank and among 25 barges. Fire and smoke rose to 1500 ft.
(12th A.F., 132358Z to Etousa Recd. 140800Z.)

War Diary.

13.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

WEST POINT. Position 026° 15' S. 049° 06' E. at 16 hours Z
12th April. Acknowledging C. in C. S.A. 121250.
E.T.A. Rio de Janeiro 14 hours Z 22nd April.
(U.S.S. WEST POINT 130433Z to C. in C. S.A. (R)
Opnav, Admty.)

PORTLAND / German Merchant ship PORTLAND sunk by French
sunk. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES at 130220Z in 06.12 N.
21.45 W. Interrogation of survivors in progress.
(GEORGES LEYGUES 130805Z to Comar, Dakar, (? F.O.C.
W.Af.) (R) Admty.)

My 0805Z/13th. All officers and men of PORTLAND rescued.
20 Officers (?71) Ratings. PORTLAND left Bordeaux 30th March.
The other ships must have left within a few days.

(GEORGES LEYGUES 130930Z to Comar, Dakar, F.O.C.W.A., (R)
Admty.)

Comar Dakar's 130930. (130930 from GEORGES LEYGUES intended).
Do you consider this "other ship" is the last of the blockade
runners for the present?

(F.O.C.W.A. 131813Z to Admty. (R) Comar, Dakar.)

Your 131813Z. PORTLAND, OSORNO, ALSTERUFER and HIMALAYA
sailed at about same time. HIMALAYA has returned to Bordeaux.
A.M. 121925B and 051203B refer.

(D.D.I.C. 132330B to F.O.C.W.A.)

Congratulations on your success, a reward for long and
patient patrolling.

(A.C.N.S. (F) Approved 1st S.L. 132038B to F.S. GEORGES
LEYGUES (R) F.O.C.W.A. Comar, Dakar.)

Movements, Dakar. Sailed RUTENFJELL escorted by LA GRACIEUSE, BUTSER
M.L.1141 as in my 121131 and 121739.

(Comar, Dakar 130925Z to F.O.C.W.A. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

My 130925. RUTENFJELL returned to Dakar owing to engine
trouble.

(Comar, Dakar, 131621Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

DOMINION
MONARCH.

Your 101414 para 5. DOMINION MONARCH will leave
Durban today 13th April. E.T.A. Auckland Thursday
29th April. All passengers for U.S.A. have been
landed at Durban and there were no German P.O.Ws.
on board as none have yet arrived from Middle East.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 131024B to D. of S.T. (R)
C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Dispositions.

Position at 2000Z/13th April.
NORTHERN DAWN, THE BELLE with C.N.17 026° 00' 014°
45' coastal to Walvis Bay 8 knots. NORTHERN ISLES
on passage Luderitz to Capetown. QUEENBOROUGH
escorting AQUITANIA 031° 30' 016° 20' to 023° 00' 010° 00' 19.
GENISTA 3. NORTHERN DUKE, SPHENE, WELLARD 034° 40' 016° 40' to
Capetown 10. RACEHORSE escorting KHETI and RACHECO 033° 40' 027°
20' coastal to Durban 10. FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM, QUILLIAM with W.S.
28 Durban Portion 030° 50' 030° 50' to Durban 13.

/NIGELLA...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions NIGELLA 028° 30' 032° 40' to Durban 14.
(Contd.) CHALLENGER 028° 50' 033° 20' to 020° 00' 039°
00' 10.
(C. in C. S.A. 131136B).

Situation 2001Z 13th April.

H.M.S. SNOWDROP, H.M.S. CROCUS, PORTSDOWN, (?DU)NCTON 2 M.Ls.
with T.S. 35 04.54 09.55 302.7. ARMERIA, H.M.S. CYCLAMEN off
Takoradi to Lagos 12.5. COPLEGSAY (?COPINSAY) about 06.25 11.50
to Marshall 8.5. ARRAN off Marshall. 2 M.Ls off Accra.
French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about (?07) 01.22 (?30)
20. SHEARWATER on patrol about 02.01 21.00 15.5. Allied Naval
units on patrol in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks area.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131140Z.)

Situation 132001.

MALCOLM about 08.30 13.40 to Freetown 15. AIR FRANCE 4 searching
off Cape Blanco. CORINTHIAN, INKPEN, WASTWATER, DUNKERY,
PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, Fr. Lt. Cruiser LYNX, one M.L. with S.R.4,
15.13 17.34 359 6.5. One M.L. escorting about 14.10 17.29 to
Dakar 4.5. BLACK SWAN, STRONGHOLD, MYOSOTIS, SHOREHAM, STONECROP,
CAMPION with O.S.45 09.32 (?15) 02 to Freetown 8. CILICIA on
patrol about 09.30 27.30.14. Fr. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on
patrol 07.00 22 05.20.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131151Z.)

EMPIRE SS. EMPIRE WHIMBREL, sailed Rio de Janeiro for
WHIMBREL Freetown torpedoed and sunk at 110359Z April in
(sunk 002° 10' N. 015° 55' W. All crew rescued and
11 April.) being brought to Freetown.
(S.O. (I) Sierra Leone 131225Z to Admty.)

S.L.128. Advance sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 131254Z to Admty.)

DOMINION Sailed 13 April for Fremantle E.T.A. 22 April.
MONARCH. Personnel embarked. Requirements.
(D.S.T.O. Durban 131301Z to N.O.I.C. Fremantle.
(R) A.C.N.B. etc.)

French Warships, / B.A.D. Washington's 041655 April and my 101736
Publicity. (101936 intended). Intend sending my Naval
Publicity Officer to Dakar to obtain photographs
and stories on arrival F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES
from sinking German ship PORTLAND. This material
will be forwarded to Press Division by Air Mail.
(2) Concurrence and co-operation of French authorities will be
sought through Admiral Collinet.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131322Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

KHETI, Sailed KHETI and PACHECO both armament store
PACHECO. issuing ships for Durban speed (A) 9½ (B) 10½
route close inshore escorted by RACEHORSE, E.T.A.
Durban 150800B April.
(N.L.O. Port Elizabeth 131338B to N.L.O. East London
Admty. etc.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- M.M.S. Your 101215/April. M.M.S.102, 103, 105 and 106 allocated Levant, M.M.S.107 allocated Eastern Fleet. (D.M.S. 131343B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- AQUITANIA. My 121553. (Sailing telegram for AQUITANIA.) Sailed 0845Z/13th no change in E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Capetown, 131452Z to Opnav, etc.)
- FOXHOUND, CATTERICK. Your 121646 April. FOXHOUND and CATTERICK arrive Simonstown April 19th from C.F.12. It is intended to boiler clean both ships before proceeding to Freetown. (C. in C. S.A. 131456B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.W.A.)
- Tugs. FRISKY and ZWARTE ZEE are to be retained temporarily at Freetown after arrival of A.F.D. XXIV when AIMWELL and CHARON may be sailed as convenient to Gibraltar for onward routing to U.K. with any towage available. (Capt.i/c, Rescue Tugs. 131608B to Cdre.i/c Freetown, (R) F.O.C. West Africa, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)
- EMPIRE STRAIT, A.M. 191605A Feb. Sailed in T.S.35 to connect with S.L.129, SS. EMPIRE STRAIT. SS. SOUND FISHER now at Lagos, nothing further known of her movements. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 131615Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.) Reply F.O.C.W.A. 141034.
- ASTURIANO doubtful conduct. Argentine Ship ASTURIANO reported to have taken Station 5 miles on Starboard beam of an 8 knot convoy on night 5th, 6th April and to have increased speed and disappeared at dawn. Whilst this action may not have been deliberate, consider close presence of a fully illuminated Neutral ship might have endangered convoy. (S.O. (I) Capetown 131630B to S.O. (I) Montevideo (R) Admty.)
- SALVIKING. Your 121619B. SALVIKING is to be routed through to her station with all practicable despatch. (Deputy Dir. of Salvage (F) 131640B to C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. Com. Durban, F.O. Ceylon.)
- Walvis Bay, use as convoy port defences. Use of Walvis Bay as Convoy assembly port has been temporarily suspended owing to presence of enemy S/Ms. and complete absence of A/S protection.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Walvis Bay, / (2) Consider if defended Walvis would provide use as alternative to Capetown and Saldanha Bay and port of call for West coast shipping. Anchorage is sheltered and able to accommodate convoys. Port facilities available except oil fuel. (3) Present defences of port are two 6 inch guns two 12 pdrs. (in reserve) and M/S Patrol of two sweepers. Consider satisfactory A/S protection would be provided by installation of two A/T A/S booms each 3,500 yards long one extending from Pelican point in an easterly direction and other from Bird Rock in North westerly direction. Gap between booms of one and three quarter miles could be protected with eight mine loops in 10 to 12 fathoms whilst whole area outside would be covered by guard loops. Outer perimeter of Indicator loops beyond guard loops could be lain if necessary. In addition 72 foot H.D.M.Ls. are recommended as weather conditions are suitable for their employment. In view of fact that port would no doubt come low on list of priorities for fixed defence alternatively suggestion would be employment of sufficient number of 72 foot H.D.M.Ls. (4) G.O.C. C.A. has been asked whether consideration has been given by Union authorities to provision of increased protection at Walvis and has requested to Admiralty's appreciation in view of fact that Union has adopted Chiefs of Staffs recommendations for other S.A. Ports. (5) Request early reply. (C. in C. S.A. 131752B to Admty.)

EMPIRE
BRONZE.

Expected that EMPIRE BRONZE will sail in T.B.12 on 23rd April for Takoradi. Request you will arrange for ship to be met by A/S escort if possible.

(D.T.D. 131902B to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Connav, B.R.L.O. Trinidad. B.R.L.O. Curacao.)

AMERICA
SUN.

AMERICA SUN cargo approx. 5,000 tons Admty. quality Diesel Oil for Admty, balance Marine Diesel Oil for Commercial Account, sailed Curacao 11th April (Tanker Message) for Freetown to discharge.

(Dir. of Stores 131925B to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Cmdre.1/c. Freetown.)

Italian
Repatriations.

Your 081720Z and my 102028B. (Re Italian liners SATURNIA, VULCANIA, DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE on third repatriation voyage.) As first pair of liners will reach Gibraltar p.m. April 24th, request you will signal by return route to be followed from St. Vincent to limit of your Station.

(Admty. 131950B to F.O.C.W.A.)

/Vessels...

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Vessels
Ex W.S.27.

For your guidance it is proposed that BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORBITA, RUYS and SIBAJAK on return from Middle East ex W.S.27 should be turned round at Durban. They will then be available to return to Middle East or India for on-carriage of personnel ex South Africa for those destinations.
2. DUCHESS OF RICHMOND will continue to U.K.
(D.S.T. 132140B to P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

U-Boat.

Aircraft sighted U-Boat at 0910/13th in 02° 22' S. 13° 05' W. course 160°. Considered good sighting.
(F.O.C.W.A. 132314Z to Admty.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of two E-Boats, 1 medium size M/V
 39° 53' N. 14° 17' E. 180° 8.
 (A/C FFL/Q via Alex. 130805 to Air H.Q. Malta)
 P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers, one E-Boat, one
 schooner 37.14 N. 15.42 E. 040° 12 knots.
 (A/C 08W/J 131020A.)

Following read from Algiers addressed 22L, P.C. and S. of two
 destroyers, one E-Boat, one small craft 37° 14' N. 10° 42' E.
 040° 12 knots.
 (A/C 08M/J 131020A.)

Movements, Arrivals 12th April DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN ISLE,
 Alexandria MAGNET, SOUTHERN SEA. Departure 12th April
 PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.
 (S.O.(I) Alexandria 130907C to Admty. C. in C.
 Levant.)

LASSO. My 101206A, intend sailing LASSO in E.T.18 to
 Algiers.
 S.O.I.S. 130916A to C. in C.Med. F. (R) N.O.I.C.
 Bone, F.O.C.Gib., Cdre, Algiers, LASSO.)

French / Following from Ct. Kold-Bernard for C. in C.
 H.D.M.Ls. Levant, No. 89. It would be very much appreciated
 if the two H.D.M.Ls. actually manned by F.N.F.L.
 and due for Tripoli could operate for a time in the
 newly recovered ports of Gabes or Sousse. I
 should be very grateful if this request could be forwarded to
 C. in C.Mediterranean.
 (Comla 131000C to C. in C.Levant, (R) Admty. for F.N.F.L.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. 82, 61, 65, 75, 95, 261, 313, returned
 from operations.
 (V.A.Malta 131049B to Admty. etc.)

Force H. / C. in C.Med. 121825 (N.T. in W.D.) Intend
 sailing ILEX, HAYDEN, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE at
 1600A/13th April to Gibraltar carrying out A/S
 sweep through position (Y) S.O.A. 15 knots.
 2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail MALAYA escorted by
 above four destroyers to R/V with me in 36.15 N. 02.47 W. at
 1830A/14th April. MALAYA repeat back R/V.
 3. Destroyers will not require fuel ILEX will have exercise
 orders for MALAYA.
 4. Intend HOLCOMBE, ANTELOPE, VELOX, LIDDESDALE sail with Force
 H as in my 131043 (N.T. in W.D.)
 (S.O.Force H 131055A to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
 Comnob Oran, MALAYA, ILEX.)

/Destroyer...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyer Sweep. PAKENHAM, PALADIN, NUBIAN, repeat my 100758 tonight 13th/14th. (V.A.Malta 131110B to C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Bone, TARTAR, C. in C.Levant, S.O.Force Q, Admty. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E.)
Sailed PAKENHAM, NUBIAN and PALADIN on Operation "H". (V.A.Malta 131826 to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy M/Vs, one tanker and 3 E-Boats at 1145Z, 39° 30' N. 14° 18' E. 315° 5 kts. (A/C 084/H 131150Z via Alex.)

K.M.S.12. Intend sailing to join (list) for Bone, Philippeville, Bougie, Jijelli. N.O.I.C. Bougie pass to N.O.I.C. Jijelli. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 131217A to N.O.S.I.C. (R) Admty. etc.)

JAN DE WAELE. Arrival. (Aden 131245Z to Admty. etc.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 116 part 3. April 11, 24 B.24s despatched to bomb Naples Harbour, 2 aircraft unable to reach Naples owing to engine trouble jettisoned over Sicily, bombs straddling bridge near San Stefano, 22 aircraft bombed objective scoring hits on Massanello Vittorio Emanuele and Duchessa Elena D'Aosta Moles, smoke seen rising from works buildings. About 15 enemy fighters attacked some dropping small bombs which exploded in mid air. Tail of one B.24 blown off by bomb and aircraft crashed 4 of crew seen to escape by parachute. 3 enemy fighters shot down, 5 probably destroyed by return fire. 198 X 500 lb. H.E. 1320 X 4 lb. incendiary at 1715Z hours. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 131256Z.)

DIDO, Refit. C. in C.Med's. 081644A/4 and C. in C.Levant's 101836C/4. Relief of 289 ratings will mean minimum work up of three weeks at Scapa.
2. In order to be worked up and back in Med. in accordance with para. 5 of your 081644/4 DIDO would, if she were to return to U.K. forthwith, only be in dockyard hands for less than a fortnight. A minimum of 5 weeks is required to effect any improvement.
3. Although A.B.U. is not available, type 272, 284 and a second set of 285 are, and provided DIDO could be spared to arrive back fully worked up by end of June these could be installed. She can be taken in hand at Palmers Hebburn on Tyne.
4. Subject to your agreement to para. 3 above request you will signal programme for DIDO's return to U.K. (D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 131454B to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- S.L. 127. Casablanca Section S.L. 127 arrived, MEDIE II, FINISTERRE, H.M.S. HYDRANGEA.
(Moroccan S.F.F. 131526Z to Comar Dakar, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. F.O.C.W.A.)
- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one tanker 2 small M/Vs and 3 destroyers 40° 08' N. 13° 58' E. 10 knots.
(A/C O8M/A 131526A to Air H.Q. Malta, via Alex.)
- Movements, 13th April Port Said. Arrivals PANTHER, CUMBRAE, Port Said. COUNDOURIOTIS, R.F.A. BARDAPUR. Departure WOLBOROUGH.
(F.O.I.C. Port Said 131721C to Admty. etc.)
- RODURN(?) A. Bulgarian Auxiliary Sailing Vessel RODURN (sic) 40 tons, arrived Istanbul April 13th from Bourgas. Reported B.3 vessel in transit for Cavalla. No indication yet when vessel will continue voyage.
- B. Reported B.4 another Auxiliary Sailing Vessel expected Istanbul from Bourgas April 14th also ? in? transit for Aegean, details not yet known. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.
(S.O.I. Istanbul 131724C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.I., D.N.I.)
* W.D. Note: 141255C gives name as ROPODI and 151025C as RODOPI.
- Convoy Your 131143 approved.
X.K.4. (C. in C. Med. 131801A to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A.)
- Malta Air A.I. 587 13th April C.S.R.
Report. A. Air, part 1, offensive. Night 12/13 April low cloud hampered offensive operations, 4 bomb carrying Albacores searched for enemy shipping in Sicilian Narrows but found no target. One of them on return journey bombed Marsala shipping. 3 bomb carrying Wellingtons searching for shipping between Cape Bon and Cape Gallo found no shipping and attacked alternative target shipping Marsala. Bombs were dropped on harbour but low cloud prevented observation of results. 1 torpedo carrying Wellington searched for shipping in Marittimo - Cape Gallo area but experienced A.S.V. jamming and made no sighting. 8 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols to cover these shipping strikes, 4 patrolling Comiso Area and 4 patrolling between Pantelleria and Trapani. 1 Mosquito is missing. Day 13th April. 8 Spitfires made offensive sweeps in Pantelleria and

/Empedocle...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) Empedocle Area but found no enemy aircraft or shipping. 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 5 Spitfire fighters with 7 fighter Spitfires as rear cover made successful attack on Pantelleria Aerodrome.
(A.H.Q. Malta 131900.)

P.R.U. April 13th visuals. 1415 Naples no major naval unit. 1425 Castellamare one cruiser.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 131921B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Dhows for Assab, Massawa. From Civaffairs. For F.5 from V.C.F.A. I.G.P. recommends strengthening port and marine section Eritrea by provision of two dhows, one based on Assab for Coastal Control and one on Massawa for close shore patrolling and fishing control. Revenue is now lost through inability stop absconding dhows.

2. Launch MEANDER (MACANDER?) purchase of which authorised your un-numbered signal of 18th August, 1942 is used for open sea work based on Massawa.

3. Can procure two suitable dhows at approximately £200 each.
(C. in C.M.E. 131930C to W.O.)

S/M Patrols. My 121244 another air attack (Maddalena) took place this morning.
2. P.R.U. shows second cruiser has either sunk or left.

3. TRIDENT, P.339 (TAURUS) and P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) have freedom of movement in their areas.
(Capt. S.8 131932A to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10.)

Movements, Malta. Sailed HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS and PRINCESS KATHLEEN.
(V.A.Malta 131945B to Admty. etc.)

French Evacuations, Portugal. My 111248 and your 091158. French have rumoured that on account of delay in issue of Visas the 1400 French refugees will not be ready for embarkation before 18th April. Please confirm that 17th remains correct target date.
(C. in C.Med. 132014A to B.N.A.Lisbon, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, B.N.A.Madrid.)

Enemy Units. One (?small) enemy vessel, one medium sized vessel, and one auxiliary vessel in 37° 15' N. 10° 55' E. course 040° speed 8 knots.
(A/C 96J/V 132040A via Malta.)

/Movements...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Bone. Bone arrival SHIANT, INCHMARNOCK, landing craft T 135, departure landing craft T 170. (S.O.I.S. 132112A to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Movements, Oran. Following arrivals EMPIRE MED, EMPIRE FRED, LIDDESDALE, ANTELOPE, HOLCOMBE, TYNEDEALE, VELOX, ALBACORE, ESPIEGLE, British L.S.T. 364, 367, 407, 409 and 413. U.S. L.S.T. 325, 356, 391, 392 and 393. U.S. Y.M.S. 13, 34, 82 and 226. U.S. A.M. STEADY, SUSTAIN, SKILL and STAFF. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 132124A to Admty., etc.)

M.Ls. Sfax. Arrivals M.Ls. 121, 126, 134, 135. (N.O.I.C. Sfax 132204A to Admty.)

?Enemy Ship. Following read by Alexandria W/T. 38.20 N. 13.00 E. lighted ship stationary. (Med. GHS/V 132220Z.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals MINNA, M.L. 449, 460, S/M TACTICIAN, departures LAFOREY, S/M SARACEN for Gulf of Genoa, CYRUS JOSEPH, French ZERAMNA and RAIE. (Cdre. Algiers 132221A to Admty. etc.)

S/Ms, orders 1. Weather permitting 2 tribal destroyers leaving & information Bone 1500/14th proceeding north of Galita Islands thence through 038° 10' 010° 56' at 2200/14th thence sweeping on line 250° from movement turning back at 2359/14th if no target found and returning south of Galita Islands.

2. 2 Hunts carry out sweep between Galita Islands and 038° 10' N. until daylight 15th.

3. P.43 (UNISON) keep clear to N.E. of movements. Surface force inform P.37 (UNBENDING) movements. (Capt. S.8 132228A to 8 S.M.F. P.37 (UNBENDING) (R) C. in C.Med.etc.)

Movements, Tobruk. Arrived TETCOTT. Sailed TETCOTT, PETARD, GENERAL BIRDWOOD, C.307, tug CORONATION. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 132305C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.P. 75 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Departure KONKAN, CARNATIC with B.P. 75 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 130111Z to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival HASHEMI escorting tub Z.X.R.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 130201Z to Admty.)
Arrival AMRITSAR with three I.W.T. craft.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 130203Z to Admty.)

Convoy B.M.48. Arrived 0400Z.

(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 130241Z to Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Following is proposed programme for Devonshire's return to U.K.

Arrive.	Place.	Leave.
13th. (Fuel)	Durban.	17th.
26th. (Fuel)	Freetown	26th.
6th. May.	Scapa (U.K.)	

(2) C. in C. S.A. and R.A.W.Af. are requested to sail DEVONSHIRE to comply with this programme as far as is practicable.

(C. in C. E.F. 130728Z to Admty., C. in C. S.A. R.A.W.Af.
(R) DEVONSHIRE, C.S. 4, Com. i/c Durban.)

"LL"
Minesweeper,
allocation.

Request you will reply to Admty. message 071904 April. No reply can be traced to Admty. Message 060047 Feb. addressed Comrin reference European motor men.

(C. in C. E.F. 130801Z to Comrin. (R) Admty.,
C. in C. Levant.)

BARJORA.

Transport BARJORA sailed today with (?personnel) and stores for Bushire, Bahrein, Sharja, Bandar Abbas, Ras Al Kadd, Masirah and Jiwani. Requirements.
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, 130927Z to S.T.O. Karachi
(R) P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O., M.E. D. of S.T.)

Passengers,
numbers.

Can reply be given to my 051029.
(Com. R.I.N. 130955Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty).

DAVID STONE
and Landing
Craft.

Propose diverting American transport DAVID STONE to Trincomalee with 6 landing craft for Mandapam. To avoid calling at Colombo for fuel and water could vessel take 12 70 tons furnace oil from Admiralty stock and 400 tons water at Trincomalee. E.T.A. 26th April approx.
(S.T.O. Calcutta, 131109Z to F.O.C. Ceylon (R)
S.T.O. Trincomalee P.S.T.O. India D. of S.T.)

/B.P. 75 $\frac{3}{4}$...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.B.P.75 $\frac{3}{4}$

B.P.75 $\frac{3}{4}$ ISLAMI sailed from Bombay 13th. Has on board (details. NARINGA empty. E.T.A. both ships p.m. 20th. (P.S.T.O. India, 131121Z to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf. (R) D.S.T.)

MANCHESTER CITY.

C. in C.E.F.'s 290841 March. MANCHESTER CITY has completed C/M field at Saldanha Bay and cannot usefully be employed in S.A. any longer. Little likelihood of docking ship in South Africa until end of May. As she is urgently required at Diego Suarez and she could be docked there suggest ship be sailed for Diego forthwith. Ship suitable for A.N.D. roller fairleads required foremost gun position preventing use of Sampson posts. If fitting approved propose drawings of layout booms nets and all fittings be sent to whatever port is convenient for work to be done depending on location of ship when gear is due to arrive. (C. in C.S.A., 131218 to Admty., (R) C. in C.E.F., C.S.Simonstown MANCHESTER CITY.)

Supply of boats.

Request boats may be supplied as follows. Your 181735,* March refers. (C. in C.E.F., 131405Z to C.S. Simonstown (R) F.O. East Africa, Admty., C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Mauritius, N.O.I.C. Seychelles, N.O.I.C., Trincomalee, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)* Ref. No. of 32 ft. cutters 27 ft Whalers and 16 ft Trawlers in reserve.

Military Transport.

My 051528B. As STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD will now be escorted from Bombay to Durban they should be able to clear all personnel now in India requiring return to U.K. together with all personnel from P.A.I.C. detailed in C. in C.

P.A.I.C.'s Mov/1/64434 of 1/4. P.S.T.O. India should arrange to move these latter personnel to Bombay in time to embark in STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD. 2. On arrival at Durban personnel in STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD should be disembarked to await onward conveyance to U.K. in ILE DE FRANCE on latter's return from forthcoming voyage to Middle East. ILE DE FRANCE will also have on board personnel for U.K. ex Middle East and should be able to embark in S. Africa (a) any personnel for U.K. who have accumulated since sailing of BRITANNIC etc. and (b) as many Italian P.O.W. as possible. 3. STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD will then be available to return to India or Middle East with W.S. 29 with personnel ex S. Africa for those destinations as priority requires. 4. Agreed. (D. of S.T. 132145B to P.S.T.O., India (R) P.S.T.O. M.E, D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, C. in C. P.A.I.C., P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C.E.F., C. in C. S.A.)

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

BAZELY, Your 121552P (Whether enough fuel aboard to
BAYNTUN, reach Las Palmas.) Reply no. My 122258Z
DERRY. address Cominch B.A.D. N.O.B. Bermuda refers.
(BAZELY 130109Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.
B.A.D. BAYNTUN.)

1. BAZELY 122258 reporting engine room defect which is being passed to you. Propose A. BAZELY transfer special stores to BERRY at Bermuda
- B. BAYNTUN and BERRY proceed in company to Londonderry as soon as transfer complete.
- C. BAZELY return U.S. Port.
2. BAZELY 121341 not yet received.
3. Request immediate reply.

(B.A.D. 130947Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A. BAYNTUN, BAZELY.)

B.A.D. 130947 subject to Admiralty approval BAZELY can be accepted at Navy Yard Boston. Job no. S.292. Request E.T.A.

(B.A.D. 131512Z to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.(R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, BAYNTUN, BAZELY.)

Your 130947. Concur in proposals in para. 1 A, B and C. (D.O.D.(H) 131836B to B.A.D. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. BAYNTUN, BAZELY.)

Direct BAZELY return Bermuda at once. B.A.D. desires special stores transferred to BERRY. Immediately upon completion transfer direct to N.O.B. Bermuda sail BAZELY to Boston for repairs advising times of departure, route, S.O.A. Direct N.O.B. Bermuda sail BAYNTUN and BERRY to Londonderry on route my 031520 not to all addressees. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 132035Z to C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, (R) BAZELY, S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q. Commander 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, C.E.S.F. Admty. N.O.B.Bermuda, C. in C.W.A. V.A.Gibraltar.)

ARCOLA, This is re-encipherment of N.R.O. Aruba 121530 to
TAIGETE. Connav. "Italian Tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE
Repatriation. depart Aruba 1020Z/15 for St. Vincent, Cape
Verde Islands routed C. 11.38 N. 68.30 W. D.
11.38 N. 60.01 W. E. 14.01 N. 45.01 W. F. 15.50
N. 33.01 W. thence direct to destination.

ARCOLA knots 8.5 E.T.A. 28th. TAIGETE knots 9, E.T.A. 27th."
(Connav 130159Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Following from S.B.N.O.Repatriation Parties 404 and 405. Captains of Italian Tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE state
A. Certificate of seaworthiness expired December 1942 re-survey essential, TAIGETE built 1908, last certificate good for 3 months only.

B. Engine and Hull repairs essential to TAIGETE.

C. Both ships require dry docking.

D. ARCOLA tailshaft in bad condition.

2. Above information forwarded in case further voyage necessary.

(B.R.O. Aruba 131131 to Admty.)

/ARCOLA...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ARCOLA, ARCOLA and TAIGETE Italian tankers depart Aruba
TAIGETE, 1020Z/15th for St. Vincent via 11.38 N. 68.30 W.
Repatriation. 11.38 N. 60.01 W. 14.01 N. 45.01 W. 15.50 N.
33.01 W. TAIGETE speed 9, E.T.A. 27th. ARCOLA
speed 8 $\frac{1}{2}$, E.T.A. 28th. This voyage under safe
conduct.
(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 132105Z to U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad,
C. in C.Lant. C.T.F. 24. Cdr. Caribbean S.F. Admty.
S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 12th. Departures ST. CLAIR,
MONTGOMERY, T.O. O.N. 176. DIANTHUS to H.X. 233.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 130434Z to Admty.)
Arrival 12th M.Ls. 1171 and 1172. Arrival 13th
M.Ls. 678, 679 all from Kingston.
(British Consul San Juan 130846Q to Admty.)
My 130846. Arrivals 1st 2 M.L. was 11th instead 12th
and from San Pedro Demacoris instead Kingston.
(San Juan 131538Q to Admty.)
Trinidad departure 13th April B.Y.M.S. 26, 27, 9, 10.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 131222Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.
B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.)
B.Y.M.S. 11, 12 and 20 departure 1200 G.M.T. 13th April
E.T.A. Trinidad 18th April.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 131415R to Admty.)
Arrivals SARNIA, FORT WILLIAM, WESTMOUNT, ex J.H. 47,
ESQUIMALT ex J.H. 47A.
(C.Halifax 131431Z to Admty.)
San Francisco 10th MATSONIA for Espiritu Santo, Pint
Hueneme, Calif. 11th MORMACTERN for Vila and Efate. GEORGE
ABERNATH for Espiritu Santo. All U.S. Army Transports.
(N.S.H.Q. 131854Z to Admty.)
Connav from N.O.B. Trinidad. B.Y.M.S. 9, 10, 26 and 27
departed Port of Spain 131400Z route coastal via Serpents
Mouth to Belem expected time of arrival off Salinas Point
201000Z. Knots 9. Belem advised.
(Radio Washington 132000Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.C.W.Af.
Admty. N.S.H.Q.)
Arrivals LORD MIDDLETON, CAPE MARIATO, CHICOUTIMI, NANAIMO,
MILLTOWN, QUESNEL ex O.N. 175.
(C.Halifax 132211 to Admty.)

BRYONY. Am detached with three merchant ships constituting
port wing column, steering 055°. Efforts to turn
them to convoy course so far unavailing. Two
others in vicinity.
My position at 0600Z 046° 12' N. 042° 50' W. Request
instructions.
(BRYONY 130620Z to U.S.S. SPENSER.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 13th.	ARGONAUT	35° N. 46° W.	260°	9½
	CILICIA	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARMARVON)	02° N. 21° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE)			
	F.S.GEORGES)	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	LEYGUES)			
	Flight 6)	32½° N. 69½° W.	109°	10
	(L.C.I.(L)s.))			
	Flight 7)	35° N. 69½° W.	120°	12
	(L.C.I.(L)s.))			
	MILFORD with)	01½° N. 37½° W.	087°	4½
	Floating Dock)			
	CHESHIRE with)	30° N. 49½° W.	036°	4½
	Floating Dock)			
	A.T.41	44½° N. 27½° W.	064°	19½
	(D.O.D.(F) 130931Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

CAPE WARWICK U/B attacked 20th May, 1942. My 100900Z. No entry in my log no body was sighted on May 20th, 1942. The body referred to in my signal was about 10 days previously. (CAPE WARWICK 130932B to B.A.D. (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A.)

Convoy T.B.11. Sailing telegram. 2. 1400Z/13th April. 4. 8 knots. 5. Convoy route. 6. U.S.S. SOMERS, U.S.S. CARNELIAN, U.S.S. P.C. 495, P.C. 609, P.C. 610, C.S. 55, C.S. 56. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 131002Q to Admty.) T.B.11 (7 ships) List and destinations. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 131004Q to Admty.)

ARROWHEAD. Sailing ARROWHEAD from Charleston to Halifax when ready about 16th. Available as additional escort H.X. 235 to Homp if time permits otherwise sailing direct. (Cominch 131357Z to C.E.S.F.)

DIANTHUS. My P.C. and S. at 1400Z/13th 46.30 N. 44.32 W. 102° 13.7. Weather report. (DIANTHUS 131403Z to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3. C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C. (16).)

Schedule of U.G.convoys. Your 121015, voyage duration is time on passage to Casablanca. Recent convoys have made faster voyages. Expect future U.G.S. to average 18 days. Any stops if necessary at Bermuda for U.G.S. convoys having small miscellaneous craft will increase voyage time correspondingly. (Cominch C. and R. 131428Z to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- J.H.47. Arrived J.H. 47 less STROKE, LIVERPOOL, LOYALIST, DAISY (Tug) DALWARNIC.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 131432Z to Admty.)
- S/M estimate (Connav 131440Z.)
April 13th, (Cominch 131441Z, 131500Z, 131501Z, 131502Z.)
U.S.Sub.
Notice.
- J.H.47A. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 131442Z to Admty.)
- M.M.S. When ready about April 16th sail Canadian M.M.S. 99
100, 101, 104, 108 coastwise to Miami for onward
routing to Freetown via Jamaica, Trinidad, and
Recife.
(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 131456Z to C.E.S.F. (R) C. in
C.C.N.W.A. Cdr. Gulf S.F. Cdr. Caribbean S.F.
Admty. etc.)
- O.N. 176. My 131505Z. (O.N. 176 section east. N.T. in W.D.)
Add U.S. Task Force 22 consisting of 14 ships
045° 39' N. 054° 40' W. 180° 13' to exercise in
area 039° N. to 044° N. and 052° W. to 056° W.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 131510Z to N.A.E.F.)
- BOGUE,
BELKNAP,
LEA. Refer to this as my 131414 BOGUE, BELKNAP, LEA
when ready for sea at Boston on 16th will be
considered as reporting to Comnaveu for duty as
directed by Admiralty in accordance Cominch
071246Z. Admiralty requested issue further
orders to these three ships. Comdes inform
BELKNAP and LEA and direct them report to BOGUE.
(Cinclant 131522Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.
N.S.H.Q. BOGUE, C.T.F. 24. Comnaveu, B.A.D.
Comdeslant, Comair.)
- T.A.40
(QUEEN
ELIZABETH) QUEEN ELIZABETH arrived Ambrose 130450Z.
(U.S. Port Director New York 131522Z to Cominch
C. and R.)
- GEORGE E.
BADGER. Refer to this as my 131443. Inform GEORGE E.
BADGER that upon completion repairs Boston 19th
she will be considered as reporting to Comnaveu
for duty as directed by Admiralty in accordance
Cominch 071246Z. Admiralty requested issue
further orders to GEORGE E. BADGER.
(Cinclant 131529Z to Comdes, (R) Admty. C. in
C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. Comnaveu, BOGUE,
Cominch, C.T.F. 24.)

/GREENE...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.GREENE,
OSMOND
INGRAM.

Refer to this as my 131516. Direct GREENE and OSMOND INGRAM to overtake and reinforce H.X. 233 or S.C. 126 as appropriate depending upon location or as further directed by Admiralty. Delivery of these orders to these ships will be considered as reporting to Comnavu for duty as directed by Admiralty in accordance Cominch 071246Z not to BOGUE.

(Cinclant 131559Z to C.T.F. 24: (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D. Cominch, Comnavu, BOGUE.)

C. in C.Lant 131516. GREENE departing 2200Z/13 to join S.C. 126. OSMOND INGRAM will be sailed when ready after arrival base R April 14.

(C.T.F. 24 131933Z to C. in C.Lant, (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.W.A. F.O.N.F. Cominch, Comnavu.)

Iceland
Aircraft
needed for
Biscay.

Personal for 1st S.L.

Your 091636. Admiral King was pleasant but non committal. He said he wished to consult his staff and then chose to make the reply direct to you vide C. in C.U.S.Fleet 111555.

2. He did not subscribe to idea that it had ever been contemplated to send 12 more P.B.Ys to

Iceland though apparently Dutton received this information in good faith during naval conference of last month. I understand that in fact removal of 12 P.B.Ys already in Iceland had been contemplated presumably to use crew for V.L.R. aircraft. They now do not intend to remove them.

3. Real reason for King's refusal appears to be due to technical difficulties with replacement of aircraft. Air Ministry are being informed and I will keep a watch on situation in case an opportunity should occur to reopen subject with some chance of success.

(B.A.D. 121605Z to Admty.)

Petroleum
Stocks.

Your 051922. As far as can be foreseen operation of tankers in U.K. service will be along the lines of B.M.S.M. proposals in bilge 1829.

(B.A.D. 131645Z to Admty.)

ARVIDA.

Observed position 1800Z/13th 46.53 N. 40.
(corrupt group) W. 120° 13 knots weather report.
(ARVIDA 131836Z to C.T.G.24.1.3 (R) F.O.N.F.)

O.N.S.2
U/B.

D/F at 131453Z indicates U-Boat in vicinity of convoy.

(D.D.I.C. 131855B to Escorts of Convoy O.N.S.2.
(R) C. in C.W.A. A.C.I.C. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.
H.Q.C.C.)

/GREENE...

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

GREENE. When ready (?about) 2200Z/13th U.S. Destroyer GREENE proceed at best practicable speed to overtake S.C. 126 reporting to Comtask 24.1.19 in HAVELOCK to augment escort of that convoy. Routeing and other information concerning convoy and escorts by hand to GREENE.
(C.T. 24, 131911Z to GREENE, (R) Cinclant, F.O.N.F. Cominch, Comtask 24.1.19 Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.W.A. Comnavu.)

St. Johns (F.O.N.F. 131917Z to Admty.)
Naval Base. See Lion Copy.
Development.

QUEEN New York arrived 0600/13 April.
ELIZABETH. (N.S.H.Q. 131954Z to D.S.T.)

U/B report. By ELIZABETH BLAKE. As N.O.B. Iceland 131855.
(Radio Washington 131955Z.)

H.J.45. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 132013Z to Admty.)

P.512. Modify my 092118Z C. in C.Lant direct Comsublant sail P.512 to Bermuda upon completion of working up instead of Halifax.
(Cominch 132026Z to C. in C.Lant, (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q. Admty. Comtask 24, C.E.S.F. C'dant 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, C'dant 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, C. in C.C.N.W.A. Comsublant, Com.4.)

P.512 expected to be ready to leave New London for Bermuda (Admiralty 121931) on 26th.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 132134Z to Admty. (R) F.O.S. N.S.H.Q. Cdr. Subs. Atlantic Fleet, Cinclant, C. in C.C.N.W.A. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.O.I.C. Bermuda, F.O.N.A.S. P.512.)
On passage Philadelphia to New London keep wireless watch on Washington (N.A.A.) broadcast vide A.F.O. "S" 1/42 section U.S. Table 3 (3) shift to read broadcast Love.
2. S.P. held in accordance with form A 2C para. 44 (A) with U.S. British books including S.P. 02346. in addition.
(B.A.D. 132155Z to P.512. (R) C. in C.U.S. Fleet, Cdr. S/M.A.F. C.E.S.F. F.O.S. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.W.A. Admty.)

VIMY. E.T.A. North Head 1030/14th. Defects. Request acknowledgment my position is 46.36 50.41 weather report.
(VIMY 132033Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C.T.F. 24.C.T.U. 24.1.18.)

/Sub...

566
him A.S. 1.

MOST SECRET

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

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 131917Z APR 43 IN
(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.) 14.4.43

From: F.O.N.F.

Recd: 1436

Naval Cypher X. by Cable

St Johns Naval Base -
Development.

Addressed: Admiralty repeated B.A.D. Washington.

Following from Seal. My 132043 gives the result of the conference at St. Johns, so far as the development of the naval base is concerned. In brief, what is proposed is roughly to double the naval repair facilities of the port, to provide additional living accommodation for 1,500 men and 850 women and to build a new 250 bed hospital. The high cost is explained by the expense of building in Newfoundland (which has been amply demonstrated in the past) plus a large number of developments) e.g. a new garage and a shop to handle harbour craft repairs) which the Canadians consider essential, and which total up to an appreciable sum.

(2) As regards the increase in repair facilities, during our visit there have been approximately 32 escort vessels in port on a quick turn round. This is above the average, which in recent months, has been about 25. We are assured that an average of 50, with a maximum for short periods of 60 or more, could be accommodated alongside our wharves and at trols if the harbour is stretched to its utmost, without interfering with merchant shipping. GREENWICH is in harbour, but the dockyard shops are not yet in full use. There is also the factor that we are proposing a naval floating dock, which involves supporting workshop facilities. So far as we can judge, if the figures for ships in harbour are accepted, the increase is justified.

(3) The existing tools on the south side (which are housed in poor improvised accommodation in Bowrings' premises) plus additional tools on a considerable scale, will be housed in a new workshop on the vacant plot at the extreme west end of the south side wharf. Great importance is attached to having it on the south side where a large proportion of the ships are bound to be.

(4) The existing ASDIC, R.D.F. and wireless shops are very small, and their equipments are growing in complexity and importance. The new scheme will provide space for these and other necessary shops in the existing naval store building in the dockyard, which is already overcrowded a new and larger naval store building will be put up on the south side, to which all the naval stores will be removed, except those in the engineers charge. (5) ...

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.

(5) A further signal will be made as to the terms on which it is proposed to acquire the sites for the new workshops on the south side, the shop for harbour craft repairs and the new naval stores. Mr. Hunter is remaining at St. Johns for a few days to put the necessary arrangements in hand. He will act through the Newfoundland Government, without the intermediary of the Canadian real estate advisor, who caused a certain amount of trouble before. No steps will be taken to complete the deals until your approval and that of the Canadian Government is received.

(6) The bulk of the additional living accommodation will be divided between the existing barracks and a new barracks on the Admiralty property and adjacent land on the south side. There will also be living accommodation for Wrens at the two hospitals and for other medical staff at the new one, which will be outside the town.

(7) The Barradus site on the south side is a steep hillside, but there is no alternative. Great importance is attached to having the men near the workshops in this climate.

(8) The total ultimate complement envisaged for the base is now 5,000. The total barracks accommodation proposed is approximately 4,000 leaving 1,000 for lodging compensation, if and when the full complement is attained.

(9) The second hospital is more than justified on the basis we previously adopted of five per cent of the base complement, plus one half the seagoing population. We are told this was proved about right in practice. It is intended to put the hospital on a site adjacent to the Newfoundland Government Sanatorium and Mental hospital, to one of which, after the war, it will provide a valuable annex. Both are very inadequate for local needs at present. We have good reason to hope that the Newfoundland Government will provide the site and services free of charge, if we agree to hand over the Hospital to them when we have ceased to require it. We presume you have no objection to such an arrangement.

(10) On the training side, the scheme includes an attack teacher, in addition to the dome teacher already approved. There is also a schoolroom and signal training building to be provided in the barracks.

(11) As regards merchant ships repairs, we are all, including Mr. Fletcher, in agreement that the bottleneck is docking capacity. In order to break this open, we must

- (A) Get a floating dock suitable for destroyers and below here as soon as possible.
- (B) The Newfoundland Government, must if possible,

procure ...

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.~~
 more staff for the railway dockyard, so that shifts may be worked.
 D.T.P. are excepted from this rule.)

(12) The smaller portion of the Montreal floating dock is not long enough for destroyers or Frigates, is too wide to dock here in the graving dock, and is in use at Montreal. The best alternative is a wooden floating dock from U.S.A. which I will endeavour to procure on return to Washington

(13) As regards para. 11 (B), it may be that after due consideration, particularly as to the effect on local labour, the Newfoundland Government will suggest that a small party of workmen be sent from U.K. If they put this forward will wire giving reasons in support.

14. The present status of the whole scheme is that it will have to go again before the Canadian Cabinet. The expenditure now envisaged is far beyond what has hitherto been represented to them. Whilst it seems probable that they will accept it, items cannot be assured for certain.

131917Z.

1st Lord
 1st S.L.
 D.F.S.L.
 2nd S.L.
 Controller
 4th S.L.
 V.C.N.S.
 A.C.N.S. (H)
 A.C.N.S. (F)
 A.C.N.S. (W)
 A.C.N.S. (UT)
 Civil Lord
 Controller
 M.S.R.
 P.A.S. (F)
 Sec.
 A.S. (C)
 Dep. Sec.
 U.W.R.
 D.O.D. (F)(2)
 D.O.D. (H)(2)
 D.C. (2)
 D. of P. (2)

D.N.I. (4)
 D.D.I.C. (2)
 D.T.S.D.
 M.A.S.
 D. of L.D.
 D.T.D. (3)
 D.T.D. (M)
 D.T.D. (C)
 D.A/S.W.
 C.E. in C.
 D. of L.
 M.D.G.
 D. of N.
 D. of D.
 E. in C.
 D.M.R.
 Hd. of C.L.
 D.E.A.
 Hd. of M. for action
 Hd. of P. Branch (4)
 W.D.
 D. of P. (Q)
 D.S.D.
 D. of S.
 D.S.V.P.
 Hd. of N.

D.P.S.
 N.A. 2 S.L.
 D.C.D.
 D.A/S.M.
 I.P. (2)
 Deputy Contr.)
 Hd. of P.) Bath
 Hd. of S.W.R.) by
 E. in C.) Cour-
 C.E. in C.) tier
 D.A/S.M.
 D.S.D.
 Hd. of L.)

War Diary.13.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z.
 A. PACIFIC GROVE and ULYSSES torpedoed and sunk area 55.00 N. 28.30 W. 0343/12th and 0247/12th respectively. FRESNO CITY torpedoed area 55.00 N. 28.30 W. 0347/12th. INGERFIRE torpedoed sunk 51.48 N. 42.30 W. 2130/11th. U.K. plane attacks sub. 55.30 N. 25.55 W. 1940/12th. Escorts attack subs area 55.00 N. 28.30 W. 0215/12th to 0447/12th.
 B. Rio sights periscope 19.46 N. 75.12 W. 1355/12.
 C. B.18 plane four Radar contacts 38.28 N. 73.46 W. 1023/13th to 1155/13th. Plane Radar and made contacts 40.27 N. 71.35 W. 1345/13th. D.D. STEVENS sound contact area 1946 W. 75.12 W. 1419/12th. D.E. attacks contact 37.06 N. 74.59 W. 1130/11th.
 D. Fishermen sight conning tower area 26.47 S. 48.15 W. 2000/12th. Panan plane sight wake and possible conning tower 10.47 N. 61.45 W. 1800/12th.
 (Cominch 132052Z to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. Comnav serial 13. ALOE torpedoed sunk 5th 32.37 S. 37.50 E.
 INGERFIRE torpedoed sunk 11th 51.48 N. 42.30 W. in O.N.S.2.
 RECINA torpedoed sunk about 11th 37.24 S. (?30).00 E.
 (Cominch C. and R. 132052Z to Comnav.)

U.G.S.7A, U.G.L.3. 1. Sailing telegram part 1, 1630Z April 14 point Z seaward end of swept channel.
 3. Position Q at 2000Z/April 14. S.O.A. 8½ knots.
 4. None. 5. Q.39.36 N. 73.42 W. R. 37.12 N. 70.14 W. S. 32.55 N. 64.30 W. thence Bermuda.
 6. Task Group 65.1. U.S.S. LIVERMORE. (?). U.S.S. EBERLE, U.S. Destroyer KEARNEY, U.S. Destroyer ERICSON, U.S. Destroyer McCORMICK, U.S.S. MACLEISH, U.S.S. OVERTON, U.S.S. SAL(?IN) as escort tanker. U.S.S. P.C. 496, U.S.S. P.C. 550, U.S.S. P.C. 617, U.S.S. P.C. 618, U.S.S. P.C. 627, U.S.S. HACKBERRY Y.N.20.
 7. 46 Merchant Ships 16 L.S.T.
 (Port Director New York 132114Z to Cominch, (R) C.E.S.F. Comnav, N.S.H.Q. Admty. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Cdr. Service Force, Atlantic Fleet, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, Comamph for Atlantic Fleet, Vice Chief Naval Operations, Cinclant.)

WITHERINGTON, C. in C.W.A. (?is requested) to direct WITHERINGTON MANSFIELD. MANSFIELD to report when ready to C. in C.C.N.W.A. for duty in western local escort force.
 (C.T. 24 132127Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.C.N.W.A. WITHERINGTON, MANSFIELD, Cominch, Cinclant, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.)

/F.H.48...

War Diary.

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

F.H.48. E.T.A. Halifax 1100Z/14th 9 ships.
3 stragglers fog.
(KENTVILLE 132232Z to C. in C.C.N.W.A.)

RANGITATA. Following from British M. of W.T. New York begins:
Your 111635 to B.A.D. and N.O.B. Oran. 081106
1. U.S. authorities advise following are on
board for their account.
(N.C.S.O. New York 132325Z to S.T.O.i/c Gibraltar,
(R) B.A.D. D. of S.T. N.O.B. Oran.)

Stragglers lost from Convoys. Your 122007, we also are concerned at these losses. Commodores have recently been instructed to render a separate report showing names of all stragglers and reason for straggling if known. Every case is now reported to Ministry of War Transport and investigated by them. Analysis prepared by Trade

Division for A.U.C. which is being forwarded showed that during 14 months ended February 1943, five per cent of all ships sailed in Atlantic convoys straggled, of which about seven per cent were torpedoed. Straggling caused as to 42% by weather, 32% by machinery breakdowns, 4% by poor bunkers and 22% unknown.

2. Provisional figures relating to same convoy categories for period 1st March to date show that 14 stragglers have been torpedoed of which two broke away deliberately from H.X. 231. The total number of stragglers in these convoys is not yet known and therefore percentage of ships that straggled and percentage of stragglers torpedoed since 1st March cannot yet be given. There is little doubt however, that the percentage of stragglers torpedoed will prove to be considerably in excess of the percentage given in the analysis for the A.U. Committee.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 132336B to B.A.D.)

13.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

DOMINION MONARCH. Your 091945B. Provided DOMINION MONARCH sails south of New Zealand and Tasmania ocean escort is considered unnecessary in S.W. Pacific area until west of 120° East.
(2) It is proposed to provide cruiser and destroyer escort from this meridian to Fremantle, and on leaving Fremantle ocean escort to remain until relieved by SUSSEX.
(A.C.N.B., 130145Z to Admty. (R) Com. 7th Fleet, C. in C. S.A., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. E.C.P.)

HANYANG (British) 2876 tons attacked by A/C. HANYANG attacked by enemy aircraft 0200Z/11th 15 miles East of Oro Bay vessel escorted to Oro Bay and will probably remain afloat. Direct hit starboard bunker number three hold badly holed. Crew casualties 2 missing believed killed, 2 wounded.
(A.C.N.B., 130445Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F., N.Z.N.B.)

Digest Serial No. 447 April 12th. Convoy 2 destroyers, 1 large cargo vessel shadowed during early morning in St. Georges Channel and last sighted off Cape St. George on course 150°.
2. Nine Fortresses attacked aerodrome Rabaul dawn starting fires including one visible fifty miles at Vunakanau. One also attacked and reported sinking submarine in St. Georges Channel. Three intercepting fighters shot down. Morning R/C Liberator sighted 3 small merchantmen towing 20 small craft 70 miles W.N.W. Rabaul course 105° and strafed small craft setting 1 afire.
Photo R/C Rabaul Harbour morning revealed 59 vessels including 36 merchant vessels, totalling approx. 181,000 tons, 10 destroyers, 2 destroyer tenders, 3 submarines, 1 submarine tender, 2 submarine chasers, 1 minesweeper, 4 tankers including 1 very large. Same aircraft also reported sighting 2 destroyers 23 miles East by North Rabaul course 200°.
3. Merchant vessel reported entering Wide Bay morning.
6. Four medium cargo vessels, 2 destroyers, 2 small vessels sighted 94 miles North by East Tewak (?Wewak) course 130° midday 11th. Force same composition attacked Hansa Bay afternoon 12th and direct hit scored on 2 vessels left smoking. 2 vessels sighted unloading.
7. Forenoon R/C Liberator reported sighting 1 medium 4 small merchantmen, 2 small vessels in Wewak Harbour and shot down 6 intercepting fighters plus 1 probably.
8. Another Liberator struck Madang noon starting fires in dock area.
11. 50 medium bombers escorted by 50 fighters attacked Port Moresby forenoon destroying 3 and damaging 9 grounded aircraft starting fires in fuel dump and causing 7 casualties. Intercepting Allied fighters including Lightning Kittyhawks and Aircobras shot down 15 bombers, 9 fighters plus (?4) bombers 1 fighter probably while anti aircraft fire destroyed 2 bombers plus 6 probably. Two Allied fighters lost but 1 pilot safe.

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13.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Digest
Serial No.
447 April
12th.

12. Photos afternoon 11th reveal 2 medium merchant vessels in Humboldt Bay and Hollandia strip probably serviceable. 1 small merchant vessel sighted in Humboldt Bay morning 12th.

13. Morning R/C reported 3 vessels of the 2000 - 3000 tons Saimana Bay and 2 vessels 200 tons heavily camouflaged mouth Maikoor River (25 miles S.S.W. Dobo).
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 130906Z).

Movements.

Arrivals Melbourne 12th N.L.C. HEEMSKERCK.
Sydney 11th VAN GALEN, 12th WARNAMBULL.
Brisbane 12th MILDURA, Townsville 12th U.S.D. PATTERSON, WARRAMUNGA, VENDETTA, BALLARAT,

Palm Island 12th U.S.D. HELM.

Departures Townsville 12th U.S.D. (?PATTERSON), Palm Island 12th I.U.S.C. PHOENIX, U.S.D. PATTERSON for Brisbane. Melbourne 12th BUNGAREE for Sydney, Brisbane 12th KALGOURLIE, MILDURA for Sydney. Fremantle 12th U.S.S.T. HERON for Exmouth Gulf. (A.C.N.B., 131201Z as amended 141029Z to Admty).

Arrival 11th Brisbane R.A.F.A. oiler KURUMBA. 13th Townsville U.S.A. transport MAETSUYCKER, R.A.A.F. storeship WANAKA arrived Fall River 12th departs 13th due Townsville 15th. A.S.I.S. YUNNAN departed Townsville 12th due Challenger Bay 12th (C.S.W.P.S.F., 131446Z to Admty).

KIWI No.9.

Yugoslav Ship RECINA sunk 1600M/11th in convoy 21 miles E.N.E. Gabo Island Victoria apparently torpedoed 10 survivors. Patrol Aircraft 310 miles N.N.E. Santa Cruz Group attacked 10th and

11th by enemy twin engined land based aircraft. Jap. SS. sunk 2300M/7th North West San Cristobal Island. Extensive foraging continues New Georgia Area. Japanese Barge successfully attacked on landing at Sagigai West Choiseul Island 0700M/12th ammunition machine gun and food captured and barge burned. One possible C.L. 1 D.D. 2 large A.K. 1 small A.K. sighted Buin Faisi area a.m./11th. Bougainville 7 tons bombs dropped Kasili Runway and A.A. gun positions a.m./11th. (C.W.R. Wellington, 131455Z to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Admty. D.N.I., G.H.Q., New Delhi India.)

CANADIAN
STAR.A.M. 311313A*March para. 2. 1. ALOE
2. 5th April. 3. 32° 37' S. 37° 50' E.
4. U-boat. C. in C S.A. 112239B refers.
(D.T.D. 131735B to A.C.N.B.)
*re Indicated loss of CANADIAN STAR.U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 131350B, 131420B).

14.4.1945.
Wednesday

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Minelaying
Offensive.

1. Following on the visit of D.D.O.D.(M) to Washington the Admiralty in a message today suggest certain principles which should govern the co-ordination of the offensive minelaying efforts of the U.S.A. and ourselves.

Home Commands.

E/B attack
on P.W.323:
ESKDALE
sunk.

2. Convoy P.W.323 was attacked by E-Boats between 0300 and 0330 today in about 060° Lizard Head 12 miles. The Norwegian destroyer ESKDALE and SS. STANLAKE were torpedoed and sunk.

E-Boat
menace in
Plymouth
Command.
Convoys
to lie up
at night.

3. It is apparent to C. in C. Plymouth that the enemy is now attempting a systematic attack by torpedoes and mines on the traffic routes in the Plymouth Command. Since 1st Jan. 1943 E-Boats have made 12 incursions into the area, they have attacked two convoys, and have sunk a destroyer, 2 trawlers, one T.L.C. and 2 merchant ships. Minelaying is known to have occurred west of the Eddystone. To deal with the menace C. in C. Plymouth reports that an early reinforcement of the motor gunboat strength in the Plymouth Command is an urgent requirement. The coastal force craft will be reinforced by available destroyers. In order to preclude E-Boat attack by dark in the Western Channel, W.P. convoys are to enter Falmouth by 2000, and P.W. convoys Plymouth by 2300, resailing at 0400 next day. C. in C. Plymouth regards this arrangement as only a temporary palliative, and he pointed out (16 April) that we can afford gradually to lose 15% of the total tonnage in these coastal convoys and still carry more cargo per annum if we return to continuous voyages. Whilst these new arrangements for the P.W. and W.P. convoys continue only one destroyer will be required as escort.

4. C. in C. Nore and C. in C. Portsmouth also both asking for reinforcement of their coastal craft.

T.G.92.3.
(BOGUE's
Support
Group)

5. The U.S. Auxiliary aircraft carrier BOGUE with U.S. seaplane tenders GEORGE E. BADGER, OSMOND INGRAM, GREEN E and BELKNAP, and destroyer LEA have been designated Task group 92.3. They will be based at Londonderry and C. in C. W.A. will exercise operational control of this support group. C. in C. W.A. states (162308B) that

BOGUE's / ...

War Diary.

14.4.1945.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

T.G. 92.3.
(BOGUE's
Support
Group.

BOGUE's group can be of little operational value on account of the lamentably short endurance of her escorts besides lack of Western Approaches experience. For their first assignment, given in a message from C. in C. W.A. today, the group will be split up.

Two Western Approaches support groups will be in service by the beginning of May.

R/C of
Biscay
Ports.

6. At the request of Coastal Command the frequency of reconnaissance of Bay of Biscay ports is to be reduced.

Operation
"Derange".

7. Sixteen aircraft operated in the Bay of Biscay today. Two U-Boats were attacked but no results were seen.

8. An air raid on ships at anchor at Murmansk at 1800 today caused no damage or casualties. Two tankers had previously been moved for greater safety to the White Sea.

North Atlantic.

U/B sunk
off
Las Palmas.

9. A report, graded B.1, states that a shipwrecked U-Boat's crew were transferred from Las Palmas by tug to a submarine between 0100 and 0300 today. The wrecked submarine is reported to be lying in 40 ft. of water South of Juan Grande, her condition is not serious and she can easily be salvaged.

Mediterranean.

Seizure
of
Kerkenah
Islands.

10. A small commando force (10 officers and 100 O.R.'s) operating from 4 M.L.'s, landed at 0500 today at the western extremity of Gharbi Island, the south-westernmost of the Kerkenah Islands, to clear the islands. No opposition was met. The force withdrew and left gendarmes in charge, and returned to Malta on 19th April.

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

GORIZIA.

11. The GORIZIA, which was sighted off Leghorn p.m. yesterday steering N.N.E. has arrived at Spezia. *When? Was she there during the raid, 13/14th? (p. 533)*

12. A petrol fire broke out in SS. KING EDWIN (British 4536 tons) whilst she was discharging at Malta today, and the ship became a total loss. It is hoped to save some of the cargo.

Spezia
bombed.

13. 187 out of 211 heavy bombers which were dispatched from the U.K. attacked Spezia last night. Mines were also laid off the port by 8 out of 10 Lancasters. Subsequent air reconnaissance showed considerable damage ashore but no damage to any of the three LITTORIO class battleships there, one of which was thought to have been possibly hit. 4 of our aircraft are missing.

America and West Indies.

14. LEAMINGTON was in collision with U.S.S. ALBATROSS this afternoon. Both ships are damaged and LEAMINGTON is being placed in Halifax graving dock.

Australia and New Zealand.

Air
Attack
on
Milne
Bay.

(New Guinea)

15. 36 enemy medium bombers, 30 zeros and 10 or more dive-bombers attacked shipping and the aerodrome at Milne Bay at noon today. The Dutch SS. VAN HEEMSKERK (2996 tons) was set on fire, and was beached, but became a constructive total loss. M/V GORGON (3533 tons) and K.P.M. vessel VAN OUTHOORN (2069 tons) were hit and damaged. Our aircraft brought down between 12 and 21 of the enemy and lost 2 themselves, and A/A fire from ships and the ground shot down 3 more. Aircraft hit and set on fire a ship in Hansa Bay this forenoon. It is thought that this is possibly one of the ships damaged in Hansa Bay on the afternoon of 12 April.

War Diary.

14.4.1943.

Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Two R.M.Ls. for Clyde. Capt. M/L Clyde 141058 and 140930. The four remaining available R.M.Ls are now being worked continuously including duty with night flying. Eight carriers (including PEGASUS and BITER) are now working from Clyde and it is not proving possible to supply crash-boats for all requirements. 2. Request consideration be given to allocation of additional R.M.Ls. to Clyde for crash-boat duty.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 141156B to C. in C. W.A.)

Two R.M.Ls are to be transferred temporarily to F.O.I.C. Greenock, for crash-boat duties with aircraft carriers.

(C. in C.W.A., 141856B to N.O.I.C. Larne.)

Your 141856B. Two R.M.Ls can be transferred temporarily to Greenock but this would only leave 1 M.L. available for exercises with training group. Three M.Ls 18th Flotilla refitting. Two R.M.Ls. 66th Flotilla detached Belfast and PORT ELLEN.

(N.O.I.C. Larne, 142230B to C. in C.W.A.)

M.T.Bs. for Nore.

A.M. 201048A/March. Request probable date of delivery of D. Type M.T.Bs. as Torpedo Boats are very urgently required.

(C. in C. Nore, 141301B to Admty.)

S.O. Force "J"

My 092246. Intend transferring my broad pendant back to VECTIS 0800/16th.

(S.O. Force "J" 141632B to C. in C. Portsmouth.)

FOMALHAUT.

In accordance with your 111411B and 111416B April Commander Jackson U.S.N. and party visited North Africa Ship FOMALHAUT yesterday with S.O.'I) Leith and Security C. Officer. U.S. Officers were then satisfied that Master was not favourably disposed towards General De Gaulle and that none ships company would be permitted to join Fighting French or British Forces. Today the Master received a letter from Admiral Lemmonnier O.i/c Merchant Navy, in Africa to the effect that none of Merchant Service Crew were to receive war bonus during vessels stay in U.K. Ports. Security C. Officer states this is contrary to promise made before leaving Casablanca, when escorting ship is said to have been promised French rates plus 200 Francs War Bonus daily and to further promise said to have been made in Gibraltar whereby crew was to receive British Merchant Navy rates. Security anticipates that major portion of both officers and men will refuse to sail unless written assurance is given at least implementing promise made to North Africa French to effect that men would receive French rates plus 200 francs each day as war bonus. Effect of Lemmonnier letter is to render most of crew in debt as they have been receiving advances in reliance upon war bonus.

(N.O.I.C. Leith, 141641 to Admty.)

/Portsmouth...

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14.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.

Portsmouth Admiralty 07/2219B. A/S trawlers were to have
A/S been released in exchange for 1 flotilla of "B"
Trawlers. class M.Ls. for patrol and local escort at
Portsmouth. Although there are nominally 36
"B" class M.Ls. allocated to Portsmouth Command,
6 are absent, being fitted with Q.H. Special
Navigation Gear or lent to Force "J". A shortage of other
types of coastal craft in the Portsmouth Command aggravates the
shortage of "B" type M.Ls. When it is possible to allocate a
complete flotilla of M.Ls. to XDO. (E) and when Chasseurs are
fully operational (see Portsmouth 1754/P/9603/2/13 of 6/4/43)
it will be possible to release the A/S trawlers.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 142150B to Admty.)

Plymouth It is apparent that the enemy is now attempting
Command a systematic attack by torpedoes and mines on the
Coastal traffic routes in the Plymouth Command as was
Forces. forecast in Admiralty letter M/M/S 0672/42 of
Require- 12th November 1942. Further he has publicly
ments. announced his intention of intensifying his use
of the E-boat weapon against our shipping in
future. 2. The following is a summary of known
E-Boat activity in this Command since 1st January
1943; (a) Sorties in Lyme Bay 6 (six), in Eddystone area three,
in The Lizard vicinity three: total 12. (b) Convoys attacked
twice. (c) Own losses - 1 destroyer two trawlers one tank
landing craft and two merchant ships. (d) Enemy losses -
none known. (e) Minelaying is known to have occurred west of
Eddystone. 3. It is apparent this increasing menace can only
be met by deploying adequate forces which can be expected firstly
to intercept and then to destroy the enemy. Such a force must
comprise S.G.B. or Motor Gunboats and if possible destroyers
and the number must be sufficient to allow of minimum of (?six)
S.G.B. or Motor Gunboats being available for patrol every night.
A coastal force craft to be reinforced by available destroyers.
4. The above will require not less than 12 S.G.B. or M.G.Bs. of
modern type to be available in Plymouth Command. The 14th
M.G. Flotilla of four boats is the only force of this type in
this Command and up to the present only two boats of this
Flotilla have joined. 5. An early reinforcement of Motor
Gunboat strength, in the Plymouth Command is considered an
urgent requirement. Until such forces are available the chance
of inflicting a decisive defeat on the enemy's E-Boats is remote.
6. Further the fitting of type 271 or 272 R/D/F as requested in
my number 10391 Plymouth 790 of 3rd April 1943 is an immediate
requirement.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 142153B to Admty.) *See also pp. 523, 562, 601.*

SVALEN,
SANDFLY,
VITEN.

Your 111836. It is necessary to rename M.F.V.
SVALEN, allocated to Peterhead. Propose therefore
that she be renamed SANDFLY and that VITEN be not
renamed. Do you concur?
(D.P.S. 142307B to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M My 131609. Add new para. (E) SEVERN vicinity movements. 62° 23' N. 00° 31' W. probably on surface to Lerwick, 10 knots.
(F.O.S. 140021B)
From position (o) 043° N. 010° W. proceed by route "Gold" to R/V with an escort in position (Z) 180°. Lizard Head 12 miles as ordered by Capt. (S) 5.
(F.O.S., 141104B, and 141357B to STURGEON.)
Position of submarines at 0800B/15 and movements for following 24 hours. (A) BLACKFISH, BARB and STUBBORN in Zone K.194, K.193 and K.190 respectively. (B) TUNA on patrol between 69° N. and 004° W. and Jan Mayen Islands. (C) UNIVERSAL escorted by MACBETH vicinity Sumburgh Head, E.T.A. Lerwick 1000B/15.
(F.O.S. 141611B.)
Intend sailing SATYR escorted by PELICAN, WEAR, SPEY, SENNAN from Lough Foyle at 1500B/15th arriving Larne 1900B/15 for exercises with PHILANTE.
(Cdre., Londonderry, 141710B)
My 141611B. Add new para. (D) H.43 escorted by KIHNA leaves Rothesay 0800B/15, via Searched Channels Sound of Islay and Mull and Minches thence normal route to Blyth. S.O.A. 5 knots.
(F.O.S. 141751B)
My 131150. Sailed at 1955 (UNIVERSAL)
(A.C.O.S., 142320 to S.O. S/M. Lerwick.)

INDOMITABLE. Your 131028. Arrived INDOMITABLE.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 140030B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

BRISSENDEN. Your 131726B. BRISSENDEN detailed.
(R.A.D. H.F. 141035B to C. in C.H.F.)

UGANDA. Arrived UGANDA.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141622B.)

BITER. Unless material defects in flying arrangements have been discovered proceed independently with OBDURATE and OPPORTUNE to Hvalfiord and await further orders. Repairs to gun-mounting will be taken in hand at about the end of April.
(C. in C.W.A., 141931B, to BITER.)

Operations.

Coastal My 131106B. "Device" returned at 0740.
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 140753.)
Intend M.Ls 269 (S.O.) and 122 to patrol tonight between 50° 25' N. 01° 55' W. and 50° 20' N. 02° 25' W. 2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol-line at Dawn/15. 3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 141151B.)

/1. M.T.Bs...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

1. M.T.Bs. 94, 227 and 239 position 090° Roches
Douvres 5 miles and 080° Roches Douvres 12 miles
2. Object. To intercept enemy shipping.
3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for patrol
2100B/14. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles
of own coast by first light 15th. 4. E-Boats
at Cherbourg. 6. Codeword "Obstacle".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141449B.)

S.G.B. 6, M.G.B. 608, 615. Short notice at Newhaven.
Chasseurs 41 and 10 patrolling southward of E.A.5. M.L. 309 at
St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. BLEASDALE, LA
COMBATTANTE after night firing to patrol on latitude 50° 18' N.
between 0° 40' W. and 1° 45' W. returning through Needles at
daylight. Codeword "Object". M.L. 269 and 122 from Portland
patrolling between 50° 20' N. 2° 25' W. and 50° 25' N. 1° 55' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141500B)

M.Ls. 138 and 141 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 38, 219, 24 and
M.G.Bs. 114 and 116 patrolling at Berck Buoy. Route via No. 10
Buoy Each way. E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R. 0630/15. M.G.Bs. 41 and
40 at "V" Buoy. E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R. 0600/15.
(V.A. Dover, 141718B.)

My 141151B. "Device". Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 142040B.)
Your 141449B. "Obstacle". Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 142102B.)

Operation VIOLA sailed for operation Pollux III.
"Pollux III". (N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 141530B to D.D.O.D. I.)

Denmark Estimated position at 2200 tonight. CUMBERLAND,
Straits GLASGOW, INTREPID patrol "White".
Patrol. (A.C.I.C. 141607B to Ships.)

Operation M.T.B. 625, 653 and 627 returned 2000/14th.
"Carey". Nothing to report.
(A.C.O.S., 142145 to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Rover 3 Hampdens 455 Sqdn. and Fighter Escort up to
Patrol. 6 Beaufighters to carry out Rover patrol in "Stand"
area, time at Station Commanders discretion.
(C. in C. Rosyth 140919B to H.Q.C.C.)

1832 1832 Squadron to form with 10 I.E. Hellcat on
Squadron. 1st June at Eglinton, Northern Ireland. Date
subject to A/C being available in U.K. and
location is subject to Air Ministry concurrence in
in transfer.
(Head of Air Branch 141544B to F.O.N.A.S.)

/Bomber...

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber Command operations. / On night 13th/14th. 211 A/C attacked Spezia. Early arrivals found the smoke-screen in operation and the Port area was effectively covered by it during most of the attack. Some crews claim to have seen and attacked the battleships. Others report that several ships were on fire. Concentrated fires were seen in the built-up areas of the Town, and crews describe the defences as futile. 6 Mosquitoes of 2 Group carried out dawn attacks, on Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven and Bremen, 2 A/C bombing each target from 18-20,000 feet. Results were mostly unobserved, but bombs are believed to have fallen in built-up areas in the respective towns. Minelaying. 10 Lancasters of 5 Group took off, and 8 successfully laid mines in their allotted area off Spezia. (H.Q.B.C., 141710B.)

R/C of Biscay Ports. Your 121545B. Concur provided the provisions of paras. 2 and 3 are observed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141919B to Admty.)

Mining.

Western Channel. All boats of the 10 M.L. Flotilla are fit to lay moored mines as soon as traps for laying them have been received at Falmouth. It is intended to continue mine-laying operations in next dark period. In meantime the mine layers when not being fitted to lay moored mines should be given opportunity for exercising for future minelaying operations and otherwise employed operationally as required. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141305B to N.O.I.C. Falmouth.)

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 0711/14 in 163° Foreland Bay 2½ cables. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness, 141345B)

Burnham. Enemy parachute Mine-cap of recent origin found at 1400 today with small portions of the parachute near. No signs of the mine at low water. (R.N.O. Burnham, 141555B to Admty.)

Harwich. 2 ground Mines exploded by Sweepers, one at 1105/14 in 52° 08' N. 01° 49.3' E., and one at 1120/14 in 52° 05.1 N. 01° 48.2' E. Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141933B.)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats
reported.

Inconclusive D/F Bearings of transmission at 0615Z/14 indicate that you may have been reported by a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 140850B to TUNA.)
P.C.S. of enemy 47° 18' N. 10° 20' W., 260°, 8 knots.
(A/C 218 Sqdn. 141634 to 19 Group.)

U-Boat
attacked.

Am over enemy S/M on surface in 63° 30' N. 09° 16' W.
(A/C 92ZB T.O.R. 141601 to 18 Group.)
Have attacked with bombs level.
(A/C 141559 to 18 Group.)

U-Boat
sunk
by TUNA.

Four U-boats sighted, one sunk, one missed. (Corrupt group) line 150° from Bjerneberg and 30 miles apart. Two external one internal bow torpedoes and stern torpedo remaining.
(TUNA 14 2031B to F.O.S.)

Casualties and Defects.

ARAB.

My 131855B. ARAB returning Belfast defective.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 140732B.)

LINDOY.

Aberdeen's 121546B. Norwegian M.F.V. LINDOY, recently refitted, broke down whilst on passage to Greenock and has been towed into Burgh Head Harbour. 2. Request you ask representative of Duncan's to visit vessel, investigate damage and make proposals for effective repair.
(D.S.V.P., 140734B to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

FRASERBURGH.

Request approval proceed FRASERBURGH to Aberdeen for refit in accordance with Admiralty's 1246A/30 para. (1). Expect to be ready to sail from Oban p.m. 16th.
(M/S 15 141012B to A.C.O.S.)

PORT
FRASER.

PORT FRASER returning Clyde with weather damage.
(C.T.U.24.1.15, 141121Z)

ARISTOCRAT.

My 141029B. Sailing delayed owing to failure today of engine of diesel generator.
(F.O.I.C. London, 141417B.)

CASTLETON.

CASTLETON requires. (A) docking to renew studs of the boss gland on one propeller which were sheered by wire round screw and (B) M/F D/F calibration. (A) is desirable but not essential.

/Could...

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

CASTLETON.
(Contd.)

Could these be undertaken and completed in time for her to provide escort for return passage of MENESTHEUS on 22nd. CASTLETON who is at Tobermory is available to sail thence from p.m. tomorrow.
(R.A.M. 141628B, to A.C.O.S.)

Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy P.W. 323.
ESKDALE and STANLAKE sunk.

E-Boat attack on convoy P.W.323 took place between 0300 and 0330/14, approximate position 060° (? 140°) Lizard Head 12 miles. ESKDALE torpedoed and sunk. Survivors reported to date 110, including 10 Officers. STANLAKE also sunk, 24 survivors reported to date. Remainder of convoy and escorts accounted for. Convoy sheltering Falmouth, proceeding at 0900/14th. C. in C. Plymouth, 140447 to Admty.)

My 140349. Cancel reference to M.M.S.223. M.M.S.233 sighted one mile from P.W.S.S. at 0311/14. She reported having survivors from STANLAKE but has not been seen since.

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 140627B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

My 140627. M.M.S. 233 is off Falmouth.)

(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 140850B.)

Remain in Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 140931B to WENSLEYDALE.)

Escort convoy P.W. 323 to Lands End thence to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 141015 to GLAISDALE.)

H.X.232.

Unless in contact with enemy INGLEFIELD, FURY, ECLIPSE proceed to Clyde.
ICARUS proceed to Scapa and on arrival act under orders of C. in C. H.F.
(C. in C. W.A. 110947B to E.G.4.)

H.X.232.

My 112345 and 120930 as corrected by my 131320 (N.T. in W.D.) Of attacks carried out three patterns were on U-Boat sighted diving close ahead of escort. One each by GARLAND, RENONCULE and

ROSELEYS. At least four other attacks based on asdic considered good. No observed results except for GARLAND who obtained violent explosion additional to depth charges.
(B.3, 141617Z to C. in C.W.A.)

W.S.29 and K.M.F.13.

Intend sailing ATHLONE CASTLE, ORMONDE, TROILUS, SILVERWALNUT, EMPIRE KAMAL, EMPIRE PRIDE, INDRAPOERA, GLOUCESTER, HIGHLAND BRIGADE, CITY OF EDINBURGH and PARDO escorted by SHIPPIGAN 1900Z/15 to R/V with Clyde Section in 270° Oversay 6 miles at 1200Z/16.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 141030B.)

/Intend...

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.S.29 Intend sailing Clyde portions escorted by S.O.E.G.
and 42 in WESTON passing Clyde Boom 0200B/16 to R/V
K.M.F.13. with remaining portion and escort from Londonderry
(Contd.) in position B.A. at 1400B/16, April thence in
accordance with A.M. 082007B. (2) NEWCASTLE
will sail A.M. 16th April for Gunnery practices
and to overtake.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 141104B.)
My 091008. Estimated R/V for CHARYBDIS noon G.M.T. 18th
049° 21' N. 014° 32' W.
(C. in C.W.A. 141816B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

EMPIRE Your 131353B. EMPIRE JACK was not told of
JACK. special escort. COVERLEY was warned to be
careful in view of previous behaviour of EMPIRE
JILL. In view of "C" EMPIRE JACK must have
realised that COVERLEY was his escort.
(N.O.I.C. Methil, 141031 to Admty.)
Your 141031. It is considered that EMPIRE JACK should
have been informed of his escort arrangements.
(D.T.D., 141836B to N.O.I.C. Methil.)

BOGUE C. in C.A.F. 131522, 131529. Request BOGUE,
Group BELKNAP, LEA, BADGER may be sailed to Argentina
(TG.92-3) when ready.
(C. in C. W.A., 141047B to Admty.)

Following vessels designated Task Group 92.3.
BOGUE, GEORGE E. BADGER, OSMOND, INGRAM, GREENE,
BELKNAP, LEA. Escorts will base at Londonderry, BOGUE at
Belfast. C. in C.W.A. will exercise operational control.
C.T.G.24.7 hereby requested exercise administrative control of
Task Group 92.3 for Commaveu when in U.K. waters. Refer to
this as Commaveu 141106.
(Commaveu, 141306 to Admty.)

Admty. pass to C. in C.W.A. This is Commaveu 141548.
Request despatch reply whether BOGUE is able to fuel escorts and
if so to what extent. Will Cruising Radius of 4 AVD be different
from that given in O.N.I. Cruising Radius Tables when acting
as Escort for BOGUE and if so please furnish data.
(Commaveu, 141611 to Admty.)

My intentions for BOGUE support Group are as follows:
GREENE, OSMOND, INGRAM to remain with which ever of H.X.233 or
S.C. 126 convoy is threatened until P.L.E., and then return
Argentina. BOGUE, BELKNAP, LEA, and GEORGE E. BADGER to proceed
as soon as ready to Argentina to refuel and stand by for operational
work.

(C. in C.W.A. 142115Z to C.T.24.)

Routeing For N.C.S.Os. only. Instances have been reported
instruction of swept channels being referred to as such in
wording. routeing instructions issued to merchant vessels.
2. Descriptive words such as "swept" and "searched"
should not be used in this connection.
(D.T.D., 141112B, A.Message 666A)

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Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. - Convoys.

YARRAWONDA, Following were positions at 2200 April 13th.
 AKKA, Greek Relief vessels westbound. YARRAWONDA and
 BARDALAND, AKKA 43° 03' N. 66° 31' W. BARDALAND and
 FENRIS, FENRIS 39° 12' N. 66° 30' W. WIRIL 62° 00' N.
 WIRIL, 04° 00' W. Special Gothenburg sailing westbound.
 KALMIA, KALMIA 60° 16' N. 20° 07' W.
 (N.A. Stockholm, 141201 to Admty.)
 Your 041742. Swedish WIRIL arrived.
 (N.O.I.C. Faroes, 141950B.)

E.G.3. Arrived IMPULSIVE.
 (Cdre., Londonderry 141234B.)

O.N.179. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12 in BROADWAY H/F D/F plus
 PRIMROSE, DRUMHELLER, MORDEN, CALGARY, ALGOMA,
 AMHERST, LAGAN. Designated ocean escorts for
 O.N.179.
 (C.T.G. 24.7, 141524Z.)

Depth A.M. 111919B. Report in accordance with A.M.
 Charge 141728A March. Para. 3. (A) None fitted.
 Stowage (B) Suitable for fitting improvised stowage for
 in Tankers. 60 D.C. estimated time required 10 days at this
 base. To fit complete deck stowage in accordance
 with drawings D.N.C. 24/A 1497 Sheets 1 and 2 would
 take approx. 3 weeks at this base. (C) Could
 be supplied from stocks here. (D) No as regards D.C., in other
 respects Yes.
 (A.S. Orkney, 141539 to Admty.)

Kola Tankers and fuel situation Kola Inlet.
 Inlet. PONTSFIELD and BRITISH GOVERNOR undergoing repairs
 (?may) (?leave) R.A. 54. 2 remaining undamaged
 tankers BEACON HILL and MARATHON moved to White
 Sea for greater safety from air attack.
 Furnace fuel stocks now reduced below 2000 tons. As from April
 9th H.M. Ships and merchant ships require total of 120 tons oil
 fuel for each additional days stay in North Russia. All
 British coal stocks will be consumed by ships at present in North
 Russia when they bunker for return to U.K.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 141719B to Admty.)

O.N.S.4. WHITEHALL detached to Iceland at 1700/14 from
 Altacarry.
 (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 141745Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 O.N.S. 4 taken over by ocean escort. Proceeding
 execution your 141103. E.T.A. Falmouth 1300/23.
 (NARVIK, 142003B to C. in C.W.A.)

Coastal Admiralty 271057 March. Owing to delay in arrival
 Craft of escorts, sailing of coastal craft (D) from
 for Milford Haven is postponed till April 25th. Escort
 Gibraltar. will comprise trawler COVERLEY and BREAM who will be
 /sailed...

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- Coastal craft for Gibraltar. (Contd.) sailed to arrive Milford Haven April 23rd. (C. in C.W.A., 141752B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven)
- O.N.S.2 INGERFIRE survivors. Have 13 survivors including Master and five Officers from Norwegian ship INGERFIRE. (CAMROSE, 14180Z to F.O.N.F.)
- W.P. Convoys. F.O.I.C. Cardiff and Milford Haven are requested to sail W.P.325 and future W.P. Convoys in time to enter Falmouth by 2000. 2. F.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail W.P. convoys in time to arrive Needles by 2100. 3. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail P.W.325 and future P.W. convoys as early as possible, to enter Plymouth by 2300. Convoy will be resailed from Plymouth at about 0400 next day. 4. The change-over of A/S trawler escorts will be effected whilst P.W. convoy is in Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 141811B.) *See also pp. 562, 601.*
- T.A.41. PASTEUR will be ready to leave Liverpool 20th April for New York. 2. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 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., 141827B.)
- CLAN LAMONT. 1. S.S. CLAN LAMONT carrying important stores for Suez will be ready to leave Tail of the Bank on 19th April. 2. Speed 13½ knots. 3. It is intended that she should arrive at Freetown in time for onward passage with W.S.29. 4. CLAN LAMONT and Escorts will proceed in the first place to Casablanca where escorts will fuel. 5. Escort to Casablanca will be provided by (A) ANTHONY from Clyde and (b) BRISSENDEN from Milford Haven. 6. F.O.i/c Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward escort to Freetown using ANTHONY if required. 9. F.O.i/c Greenock is requested to sail CLAN LAMONT and ANTHONY as early as requisite on 20th April and C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange R/V for BRISSENDEN. (D.O.D.H., 141950B.)
- E.G.3. Sailed C. in C.W.A. 131315. (Cdre., Londonderry, 142006B.)
- S.L.127. Owing to fuel shortage intend leaving convoy so as to arrive Plymouth 0600Z/19. 10% of fuel will then remain if speed 19 knots is maintained throughout. Your 131425 refers. (BIRMINGHAM, 142149Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

M.K.S.11 Sailed TEVIOT to R/V Lisbon Section M.K.S.11 thence joining main convoy. (F.O.C. Gib., 140015 to Admty. etc).

Dispositions. Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 44.34 12.01 through 43.01 11.59 and 39.01 10.01 to Lisbon 14. (2) STURGEON 38.19 09.45 to 38.50 10.00 at 150030 thence 360 (corrupt group)/2 situation 141958A. (3) S.L. 127 ROCHESTER (e) 38.10 11.47 332.7. (5) BIRMINGHAM approx. 34.15 12.30 (?349) to cover S.L. 127 18½ knots. (6) U.S. destroyer KNIGHT one merchant ship 34.10 11.58 281° 19. Destroyer return to Casablanca at 150800A. (F.O. Gibraltar, 141123A).

Situation at 2004A/14th. U.G.S.7, C.T.F.69 (U.S.) 34.05 24.58 through 34.30 23.30 thence 090° 9. (2) G.U.S.6 C.T.F.63, 35.38 18.37 through 36.30 20.01 thence 265°. (3) U.C.2, C.T.F. 21.6 35.33 21.21 through 34.30 25.01 thence 247° 13½. (F.O. Gib., 141149 as amended 141516A).

Situation at 1959A/14th. T.O.3, C.T.G. No. 61.1 27.02 34.02 through 25.01 38.01 thence 238° 13½. (2) 17 L.C.I.(L)s S.O. C.L.I.(L). 269, 32.08 35.52 through 32.05 35.01 thence 092° 10. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 141207).

HYDRANGEA. My estimated P.C. and S. 141200Z, 036° 42' N., 010° 16' W., 325° 12½ knots. (HYDRANGEA, 141201Z to ROCHESTER).

Axis Shipping Arrival 13th MONTE. Arrival 14th TIM. Departure Bilbao. 13th RIO FRANCOLI. (Consul Bilbao, 141245 to Admty. etc). 61, 62, 64 (BALDUR, NORDFELS and BORDSEE) at anchor outer harbour loaded ready for sea, probably sailing in convoy tonight 14th. (Consul, Bilbao, 141505 to D.N.I. (R) B.N.A. Madrid).

Convoy R.S.4 R.S.4 sailed as in my 061636 less LARIAT, CONAKRIAN, plus SOBO for Takoradi, BEL ABHES for Casablanca. FORT STIKIN requires deperming P.L. M/L minus. All ships in ballast except MONKLEIGH coal BARON RUTHVEN general. BANFFSHIRE general.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 141451A to F.O.C.W.A., C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C. Med).

Sailed Convoy R.S.4 escorted by ACUTE, HUSSAR, PIROUETTE, CONVULVULUS, SPEEDWELL, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, THYME, VIRGINIA M.L. 574, Q.L.A. 166.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 141537A to F.O.C.W.Af. C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med., Comar, Dakar).

Italian Repatriations Para. 7 of your 111805. A broadcast referred to as Family News Broadcast was permitted last voyage and received by the ships.

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Italian Repatriations. (Contd.) (2) Consider this undesirable as it provides cover for passing messages and recommend it should not be permitted this voyage. S.B.N.Os. are of same opinion.
(F.O. Gib. 141518A to Admty.)
Concur (Hd. of M.I. 151704B.)

Your 131950B. Request dates on which liners will leave Trieste and order in which they will sail and their speeds.
(F.O. Gib. 141726A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Mines. Following requested amplifying report ground mines swept. (Details April 4,5, and 6.)
(S.N.O.C.A. 141600Z to C. in C. Med.)

Sunk U-Boat crew landed in Spain. Further to my 091530, reported Grade B.2. that Woermann tug said to have gone alongside German ship CORRIENTES and taken off U-Boat crew and conveyed them to waiting S/M. Tug leaving port at 0100 hours today Wednesday and returning at 0300 with 1 hour's steaming each way.
(Consul, Las Palmas 141830 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)

Your 131523B, see my 141830.

2. Further to my 091530, submarine reported Grade B.2. to be lying in about 5 fathoms water off beach approx. 3 miles south of Tanife, Direction Is. Endeavouring confirm report This coastal area under military control.

(Consul, Las Palmas 141945 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)

M.K.S.11. Sailed EGRET, CLARE, FISHGUARD, QUALICUM, FORT YORK, WEDGEPORT, PARRSBORO with Gibraltar Section M.K.S.11 to R/V main convoy.
(F.O.C. Gib. 141938A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med.)

M.K.S.11. List and destinations.

(F.O. Gib. 142245A to Admty. (R) Connav, C. in C. Med.)

M.K.S.11. Gibraltar section arrived, 7 ships, plus SAN CIRILO
(F.O. Gib. 142317A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. Connav.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals ILEX, HAYDON, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE from Mers El Kebir. F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, BUDE, from S.L.127 ?G. FANTOME, WHADDON, WHEATLAND, FELIXSTOWE, CIRCE, BRIKHAM from M.K.S.11.

Departures 13th. TILLMAN for Casablanca. 14th, U.S. Ships MERVINE, EARLE, DAVISON, P.C. 472 tug ARAPAHO towing ALMAACK to Casablanca. MALAYA, HAYDON, ILEX, CALPE to R/V Force H.
(F.O. Gib. 142157A to Admty. etc.)

/Air...

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air
Report.

Opsum No. 164 for 24 hrs. ended 1800 14th April.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Boston Z2234 in transit from Portreath at 0953/14. 42.03 N. 09.20 W. sighted U-Boat trimmed down course northerly, speed unknown, submerged to C.T. depth not attacked. (I) E/A activity nil.
(A.H.Q. Gib. 142200Z.)

SEMINOLE
grounding.

Return of Force H. has necessitated moving SEMINOLE from Harbour to Bay.
2. Early this morning during gale she dragged into deep water when she was taken in tow by tugs and anchored about 2 cables N.E. (?) of Algeciras.
3. Some hours later she parted her only cable and drove ashore.
4. She has been refloated but must be docked before proceeding to Repairing Port. 5. Intend placing her in No.2 Dock before GRYFEVALE. Alternative is for her to remain under way and be beached when weather moderates which in view of her condition entails risk of further structural damage.
(F.O. Gib. 14250A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

- Movements, Arrived 1605Z April 13 STELLA POLARIS, DRANGEY
Durban. with C.D.13. Arrived 0653Z April 14th BULOLO,
KEREN, FOXHOUND, ROTHERHAM, QUILLIAM with W.S. 28
Durban Section.
(Com.i/c. Durban 140654Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A.,
C. in C. E.F.)
- Movements, Arrived SAINT BASILE 132015Z escorted by M/Ls.
Dakar. 281 and 290.
(Comar, Dakar 140828Z to F.O.C. W.Af., Admty.)
- MALCOLM, Intend sailing MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE at
WITCH, 1500Z/14th in accordance with Admty. 021850 April
WOLVERINE. (Convoy W.S. 29 and K.M.F.13.) to Casablanca to
arrive a.m. 19th April. (2) Route through
position A 010° 56' N. 017° 26' W. thence to
Dakar to refuel, E.T.A. 1600Z/15th. (3) Sailing
from Dakar 0900Z/16th routed through (B) 023° (737') N. 017° 30'
W. (C) 033° 30' N. 009° 00' W. thence to Casablanca to refuel.
(4) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to give further instructions.
(F.O.C.W.A. 140834Z to N.O.I.C. Gib. Commorseafront, Comar, Dakar
(R) A.H.Q.W.A., Admty, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, C. in C. Med. MALCOLM.)
- U-Boat. American army aircraft report sighting of 3/M at
0925/14th in 005° 01' S. 011° 10' W.
(F.O.C.W.A. 141011Z to Admty, N.O.I.C. Ascension.)
- Convoy Sailing telegram.
S.T.62. (2) 0700/14th April, zone time, knots 9.
(4) NEW TEXAS, SUTHERLAND, EMPIRE CHUB, EMPIRE ACE,
and EMPIRE DENIS for Takoradi 19th April. ALLIGATOR
and EMPIRE OBERON for Lagos (Nigeria) 20th
(?April), TORDENE for Buenos Aires 5th May. (5) and (6) (Route).
(7) TORDENE detaches at dusk 16th April in approx. 002° 040° N.
010° 33' W. Ships for Lagos detached off Takoradi. A separate
signal will be made for South American Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 141016Z to Admty.)
- SOUND FISHER. N.C.S.O. Lagos 131615. SOUND FISHER is to be
sailed Pointe Noire escorted by TURCOMAN. My
061151, not to Admiralty, both refer.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 141034 to R.N.O. Lagos (R) Admty.)
- Italian Your 13 1950B/April. Your 10 2028R not received
Repatriations. and your 13 1950 not understood. My 08 1720
gives onward route from St. Vincent.
(F.O.C.W.A. 141042Z to Admty.) Reply: 151711B.
Your 071541B/April. (Routes of Italian repatriation liners).
Position B. Longitude reads 01° 00 E. Request check.
(D.O.D. (F) 141341B to C. in C. S.A.)
- COLOMBIA. Overdue shipping. Swed. ship COLOMBIA from
Kilindini to Capetown has not arrived.
(C. in C. S.A. 141058B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.)

/Dispositions...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 142002Z air France 4 searching in position 20.25 17.30 CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, VULCAN, INKPEN, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE one M.L. with S.R.4 17.55 17.35 359.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. BUTSER escorting 13.31 17.50 to 12.59 17.22 thence 188.9. MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE 09.16 14.42 to 10.56 17.26 thence 360.20. French S/M ARGO M.L. 289. 10.27 16.15 to 10.41 16.49 at 2300Z and 11.10 17.15 at 0200Z thence 360.12 $\frac{1}{2}$. M.L. 256 M.L. 244 escorting 09.37 14.20 290.10 CILICIA on patrol about 09.30 N. 27.30 W. (F.O.C.W.A. 141130Z.)

Situation at 142002Z. SNOWDROP, CROCUS, DUNTON, PORTSDOWN 2 M.Ls. with T.S.35 006° 38' N. 012° 42' W. 303.7 $\frac{1}{2}$. COPINSAY and ARRAN off Marshall. 2 M.Ls. off Accra PETUNIA, BIRDLIP, BELLWORT, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR with O.S.S.45, 007° 30' N. 013° 20' W. 125.10. F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 007° 01' N. 022° 30' 20. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 002° 01' N. 021° 00' 15 $\frac{1}{2}$ Allied Naval Units on patrol in Ascension St. Pauls Rocks Area. (F.O.C.W.A. 141300Z.)

Position at 2000Z/14th April. QUEENBOROUGH escorting AQUITANIA 024° 40' 011° 20' to 023° 00' 010° 00' then return to Capetown 19 knots. NORTHERN ISLE 030° 50' 016° 20' to Capetown 9 knots. QUALITY escorting PRIAM 033° (728') South (7050°) 25' E. coastal to Capetown 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. RACEHORSE escorting KHETI and PACHECO (7031°) 10' 030° 25' coastal to Durban 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. FREESIA, ST. LOMAN, SONDRRA with D.N. (733) 031° 05' 032° 45' to 033° 00' 036° 00' 9 knots. CHALLENGER 026° 10' 035° 55' to 020° 00' 039° 00' 9 knots. (C. in C. S.A. 141137B.)

AQUITANIA. Request early decision whether ship is to proceed to Rio De Janeiro. If proceeding to Freetown intend diverting to Northward forthwith.

(C. in C. S.A. 141438B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
A.M. 111945 and your 141438. In view of U-Boat situation it is necessary for AQUITANIA to be routed via Rio De Janeiro and New York. C. in C. S.A. is requested to divert ship and to confirm Chop with Connav. 2. Connav is requested to arrange fuel and water of which P.S.T.O. Capetown should signal estimated requirements. 3. B.A.D. inform B.M.W.T. New York. (D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 141930B to C. in C. S.A. (R) Connav etc.)

A.M. 141930. For your information AQUITANIA carries 2,726 Italian P.O.W. in addition to approx. 3,500 service personnel. (D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 141946B to N.A. Rio de Janeiro.)

C.N.17. Arrival 14th April NORTHERN DAWN, VIVIANA, escorting convoy C.N.17. (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 141452B to Admty. C. in C.S.A. Connav.)

/Towage...

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- Towage of KELTS. Arrangements made for tug ALLIGATOR with EMPIRE OBERON as standby to tow KELTS from Lagos to Cape via Pointe Noire and Walvis Bay. KUMAON and KATHIAWAR will provide escort. Masters of tugs agreed. (2) M.W.T. London, now propose EMPIRE MINNOW instead as more suitable. (3) KELTS has been waiting towage for a considerable time and occupies much needed berth at Lagos causing delay to refit of other vessels. EMPIRE MINNOW is believed still at Gibraltar. (4) Opportunity for part escort of tow now exists, and no suitable escort in future can be forecast. (5) Intend to continue arrangements for towing by ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE OBERON unless there are overriding considerations unknown to me.
(F.O.C.W.A. 141452Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.C.S.O. Freetown, M.W.T.R. Freetown.)
- Italian Repatriations. From War Registry. A.M. 141603 addressed C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gibraltar, etc. re Italian repatriation ships has been passed to C. in C. S.A. for information at request of M. Branch.
- QUILLIAM, QUALITY, PRIAM. Sailed QUILLIAM to join QUALITY and provide additional escort to S.S. PRIAM. My 140914 refers. 2. QUILLIAM shifts W/T organization to area S.L. at 0001Z April 15th,
(N.O.I.C. Durban 141611, to Admty. etc.)
- M.Ls. (N.T. in W.R.) My 121716. In view of your 130802 intend to replace M.L. 244 with M.L. 290. (Comar, Dakar 141748Z to F.O. W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C. Bathurst for H.Q. West Africa, Admiralty.)
Cancelled by 151556Z, q.v.
- COPINSAY. Departure 121900Z April COPINSAY to Marshall. (S.O. (I) Sierra Leone 141751Z to Freetown.)
- Movements, Takoradi. Departure 14th April ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, Lagos 15th April.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 141805Z to Admty.)
- S.L.128. Sailing destinations.
(D.T.D. 141916B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- MALCOLM. Arrival 1640/16th.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 141959Z to Admty. etc.)
- NORTHERN ISLE, search. 2000B P.C. and S. 030° 36' S. 016° 42' E. 156-8½.
No sign of EMPIRE ROACH.
(NORTHERN ISLE, 142012B to C. in C. S.A.)
- O.S.45. Arrivals 141000Z April. BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, LA MALOUINE with O.S.45.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 142040Z to Admty. etc.)

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14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following read: Position and course of one small M/V and 2 enemy war motor boats is 37.40 N. 11.12 E. 010°. (A/C GHS/S via Alexandria W/T 140210B).

TRIDENT, UNBENDING. Your 122314 acknowledged. Leave patrol through 042° 00' 007° 40' at 2000 Thursday 15th 038° 31' 004° 08' at 2030/17th thence R/V with escort for Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 18' at 0615 Sunday 18th. (2) P.37 (UNBENDING) arrives same R/V at 0700/18th (Capt. S.8., 140232A to TRIDENT (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (S) 10, (S) 8).

D.19 Report. My 140412 (sic) and my 140430 (N.T. in W.D.) P.C. and S. at 0400, 036° 24' N., 000° 06' E. range over 30 miles. (Capt. (D) 19, 140335). Following read. Have obtained a bearing by H/F D/F. believed to be of German S/M transmitting a short signal. 5 205° QC OL 44. (D.19 (via Alexandria W/T) 140412 to Gib. W/T).

Movements Aden. Arrival 0430Z RANPURA, BALUCHISTAN and ASTER. (Cdre. Aden, 140529Z to Admty. etc).

B.A.41 Convoy B.A.41 arrived. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 140650Z to Admty).

French Refugees, Portugal. Your 131935 (Subject. Embarkation port for refugees will be Setubal N.T. in W.D.) Destination confirmed see N.A. Lisbon's 091158 and my 082014 but sailing postponed. H.M. Minister Lisbon's 131612 refers. (C. in C. Med., 140803 to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty).

Enemy Destroyers. P.C. and S. of 5 enemy destroyers 39.30 N. 13. 25 E. 180° 15 knots. (A/C ARY/O (Via Alexandria) 140835A to Air H.Q. Malta).

P.A.32 Convoy P.A.32 arrived less TSINAN to Masirah. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 140840Z to Admty).

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 13th April DULVERTON, ABDIEL, DELPHINIUM, MAGNET, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, SPETSAL. Departure 13th April, EURYALUS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 140922C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

/UNSEEN...

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

UNSEEN, P.51 (UNSEEN) sail 1600B April 14th for patrol
RORQUAL. as ordered by Capt. (S) 8 routed through
R. 037° 03' 011° 49' 037° 45' 011° 59' and P,
passing through P. at about 1600B/16th.
P.51 (UNSEEN) will keep 5 miles North and East
of line as far as R.
RORQUAL is to keep 5 miles South and West of line from R.
(Capt. S.10., 140923B to Capt. (S) 8, RORQUAL, (R) C. in C.
Med., C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1, 8th S/M F).

Movements, Arrived UNSHAKEN and PAKENHAM, PALADIN and
Malta. NUBIAN.
(V.A. Malta, 141027 to Admty. etc).

Enemy M/Vs. ? Aircraft 15 to 20 fairly large merchant ships
stationary approx. 4 miles off Kurba 036°
35' N., 010° 52' E. 2 Squadrons of Bombers sent
to attack them.
(S.N.O. Inshore Sqdn. E. Med., 141041A (?)
to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, C. in C. Levant).

ADVENTURE Your 071148. Mine supply will be arranged and
adventure sailed as requested by you.
2. Ref. A.M. 191120 March and your 222004
March twenty "A" mines with double contact
relays and sterilizers can also be embarked if you wish,
and a corresponding number of assembly 100 mines brought back by
ADVENTURE if necessary to avoid congestion in Depot.
(D.D.O.D. (M) Approved A.C.N.S. (F), 141147B to C. in C. Med.,
(R) Comnob Oran, S.O. Force H, ADVENTURE). Reply: 152127A.

K.M.S.12 Algiers section sailed as in my 131217A
TRITON now for Philippeville, all M/Vs
have K.Bs. except ORKLA.
(Cdre. Algiers, 141214A to N.Os. I.C. Bone,
Philippeville, Jijelli, (R) S.O.I.S., A.I.G.
259).

ERINPURA, On completion Alexandria 23rd April request
ROHNA, ERINPURA may make one voyage to Malta with
CAP ST. JACQUES urgently required personnel.
(2) ROHNA will be released for return to Bombay.
(3) My 141227C/4 refers re disposal CAP ST.
JACQUES.
(P.S.T.O. Middle East, 141232C to D.S.T.
(R) T.D., P.S.T.O.(I) C. in C. Levant, G.H.Q.
M.E.F.) Concur (D.S.T., 170138B).

/Trooping...

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Trooping Requirements. Your 011930A para. (1) (E) EGRA, KAROA, NEURALIA, PRINCESS KATHLEEN. My 141227C and 141233C neither to all addressees also refer. Agreed. (P.S.T.O. Middle East, 141236C to D.S.T.)
- SAFARI enemy intelligence. P.211 (SAFARI) reports shipping following Swept Channel along north side of Gulf of Cagliari but A/S activities following 4 sinkings liable to be very heavy. E-boats are known to be active (Capt. S.8., 141238A to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE)(R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10).
- Damaged Enemy Cruiser. My 131932 (Refers to 121244, Patrol of Subs). Damaged Cruiser was sighted p.m./13th by P.R.U. off Leghorn (Livorno) steering N.N.E. (Capt. S.8., 141250A to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. S.10)
? GORIZIA
- ROPODI My 1724C/13, ROPODI sailed 1700 G.M.T. April 13th for Cavalla. (S.O.(I) Istanbul via N.I.D., 141255C to C. in C. Levant, and S.O.(I) Levant, S.1 (R) D.N.I.)
- P.R.U. April 14th visuals. 1035 Taranto 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 1145 Messina no major naval units. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 141302B to C. in C. Med., etc).
- Enemy Units. Following sightings by aircraft from U.K.
0110Z/14 off Savona, 2 large vessels.
0135Z/14, 44° 05' N., 9° 25' E. 2 large vessels course N.W.
0158Z/14 44° 18' N., 8° 55' E., 1 large vessel.
0200Z/14. 44° 01' N., 9° 30' E. 1 U-boat on surface.
0208Z/14 44° 10' N., 8° 50' E. 1 large vessel course S.E. high speed and 2 vessels stopped.
(D.D.I.C., 141314B to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta).
- Mines off Spezia. Mines were laid by aircraft on night of 13/14th April in an area to the North of 44° 02' N., between 09° 50' E. and 09° 56' E. (D.D.O.D. (M) 141340B to C. in C. Med).
W.D. Note - Refers to Bomber Command raid on Spezia.
- Bi-weekly Opsum No. 116 part 4. April 12th 20 B.24s despatched to make dusk attack on Naples Harbour found objective completely obscured by low cloud. 6 B.24s estimating position of Harbour from AA bursts bombed through cloud with unobserved results. Of remainder 1 bombed Pizzo, bombs bursting near wharves, 6 bombed Cosenza bombs bursting on railway yards, 1 bombed Crotona with unobserved results. 6 returned with bombs. 1 Mc. 202 damaged over Naples. 2 B.24s hit by A.A. fire.

/Night...

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Bi-weekly
Opsum No.
116 part 4.
(contd).

Night 12/13 April. 5 Hurricane sorties on patrol Sousse area without incident. 6 Liberators despatched to Bomb Palermo Harbour. Owing to low cloud over North west. Sicily only 1 aircraft located objective, bombs bursting in N.W. corner of town. Remainder attacked alternative target Messina Harbour bombs bursting in Railway sidings South of ferry terminus. Fire seen on railway South of town. 12 x 500 lb. H.E. on Palermo at 2101Z hours, 60 x 500 lb. H.E. on Messina at 2118Z hours. April 13th. Operations limited to offensive patrols over forward area without incident by Spitfires and Kittyhawks. P.40s provided protection for convoy approaching Sfax. 20 B.24s despatched to bomb Catania Aerodrome. Preliminary reports indicate 15 aircraft reached objective which was completely obscured by low cloud. 1 B.24 bombed estimated position of aerodrome, 2 bombed shipping off East Coast Sicily. Remainder returned. Night 13/14 April. About 13 enemy aircraft attacked Tripoli harbour. No damage or casualties reported. Beaufighters shot down 1 Ju.88 probably destroyed 1 Ju.88. A.A. fire damaged 1 He. 111.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 141409Z, 141433Z, 141459Z).

Mines
swept,
Casablanca.

Following requested amplifying report ground mines swept X. (technical details, April, 4, 5, 6,) (S.N.O.C.A., 141600 to C. in C. Med).

SATURNIA,
VULCANIA,
DUILIO,
GIULIO CESARE.

Admty. Message 061241B and A.M. 061242B. SATURNIA and VULCANIA leave Trieste 1500 hours April 22nd, arriving Gibraltar 0800 hours April 27th. DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE leave Trieste 2000 hours April 24th arriving Gibraltar 0800 hours 30th April. At Gibraltar S.B.N.Os. and Naval and Military guards should be embarked.

2. Routes are:- (a) to Gibraltar as in A.M. 061241B, (b) To St. Vincent as in F.O.C. Gibraltar's 071508A. (c) Onward routes will be signalled.
3. Air authorities concerned should be informed. (Head of M.I., 141603B to C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, R.A.W.A.F., (R) V.A. Malta, C. in C. E.F. etc).

Raid on
Spezia,
13/14 April.

Request you will convey my warm congratulations to Bomber Command on achieving such a heavy bombing attack on Naval targets at Spezia last night combined with accurate Minelaying under difficult conditions.
2. This attack comes at a well chosen moment in our Mediterranean offensive.
(1st S.L., 141616B to C.A.S.)
H.Q.B.C., 141710B see Home Commands.

UNSEEN

Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 141623, to Admty. etc).

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. at 1615A of 1 enemy destroyer 2 escort vessels 1 medium vessel 38.37 N. 12.35 E. course 200 speed 7 knots. 2 Ju.88, 1 Me. 210. (A/C 75 H/H via Alexandria 141625A to Air H.Q. Malta).

(Corrupt group) now reports that speed of ship reported at 1625 may be up to 15 knots.

(C. in C. Med., 141808A to TARTAR (R) F.O. 12th C.S.) Aircraft report 1 tanker 6,000 tons 1 merchant ship 2,000 tons 090° Cape Stilo 2 miles at 1550B, speed 3 knots, course 180°.

(Capt. S.10, 141743 to REGENT).

M/V Repairs in Spain or Portugal.

Spanish authorities no objections but most yards very full. Am making enquiries Cadiz and Valencia regarding possibilities. (B.N.A. Madrid, 141739A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. B.N.A. Lisbon) Note: C. in C. Med's 121151A refers. See also N.A. Lisbon 151155A.

UNISON, SIBYL, UNSEEN.

After dark 15th P.43 (UNISON) proceeds zone (C) and P.217 (SIBYL) to zone (D) (2) P.51 (UNSEEN) passing (P) at 1500A 16th is to proceed to operate in (?zone) (B). (Capt. S.8., 141748A to 8th S/M Flot. (R) Capt. (S) 10).

TAURUS, SHAKESPEARE.

Leave patrol keeping east of 010° 30' E. thence through 040° 21' 010° 37' at 2030/16th, 039° 35' 010° 37' thence pass 038° 35' 009° 22' at 2030 17th 038° 23' 003° 52' at 2100/19th and R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 06' at 0615/20th. (2) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) in area J keeping clear. (Capt. S.8., 141754A to P.339(TAURUS), (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10).

P.R.U.

April 14th. p.m. cover of Taranto not completed. Aircraft returned to report sighting of convoy. (V.A. Malta, 141801B to C. in C. Med., etc).

S/Ms Information.

My 132228 para. 1, confirmed passage 2. 2 Hunts sweep towards Cagliari pass 8 miles North of Cape Serrat at 0500/15 on return passage. (Capt. S.8., 141818A to 8th S.F. P.37 (UNBENDING) (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 10).

TAURUS

You were sighted 1425A today if you were near Bastia. (Capt. S.8., 141822A to P.339 (TAURUS)).

/SIBYL...

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SIBYL Leave patrol so as to pass $038^{\circ} 45' 011^{\circ} 30'$ at 2330/16th $038^{\circ} 28' 010^{\circ} 01'$ at 1200/17th $038^{\circ} 14' 004^{\circ} 11'$ 2100/19th and R/V escort Algiers in $036^{\circ} 56' 003^{\circ} 06'$ at 0615/20th P.339 (TAURUS) also R/V at same time and place.
(Capt. S.8., 141842A to P.217 (SIBYL) (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10th, 8th S/F).

Malta A.I. 595 14 April C.S.R. Offensive night 13/14.
C.S.R. 6 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily.
At 2020 3 M.T.Bs. or small escort vessels were sighted southwest of Lovanzo Island. The largest of these vessels was attacked with cannon and blew up with large explosion and blinding flash. 1 M/V 5000 heading north 2 miles off Mazara Del Vallo was also attacked and strikes scored on superstructure. 4 Wellingtons and 2 Beauforts with torpedoes and 2 Albacores and 1 Wellington with bombs made searches for enemy shipping in Sicilian Narrows but found no suitable target. Night fighters were encountered but were successfully evaded. On return journey 1 Wellington and 1 Albacore bombed shipping in Porto Empedocle but low cloud prevented observation of results.
Day 14th. 4 Spitfires made offensive sweep Pantellaria Licata area 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep off East Coast of Sicily. No enemy shipping was found.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Night 13/14.
2 Beaufighters made interception patrols in Sicilian Narrows and Cape Passero area.
(C) Naval.
1. On Monday M.T.Bs. carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Hammamet but no shipping was sighted.
2. A convoy of 4 ships arrived from Alexandria on Monday forenoon.
3. On several nights lately 1 destroyer has carried out sweeps in the Sicilian Narrows but no enemy have been encountered.
(A.H.Q., Malta, 141858, 151720Z).

SAHIB. Intend to sail P.212 (SAHIB) 1830/16th routed through $038^{\circ} 09' 004^{\circ} 17'$ at 0500/17 $038^{\circ} 09' 009^{\circ} 59'$ at 1200/19th thence patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea.
(Capt. S.8., 141904A to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S.F.)

Movements,
Oran.

Departures NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, FARNDALE, LOYAL, ANTELOPE, NEWFOUNDLAND, VELOX, TYNEDALE, LOOKOUT, LAFOREY, ILEX, CALPE, HAYDON, PUCKERIDGE, G.S. ADRIAS.
Arrivals LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, G.S. ADRIAS.
(Comnob Oran, 141945A to Admtly etc).

/AVONVALE...

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

AVONVALE.

Your 09/1823 AVONVALE will probably be ready to sail about end of May.
(C. in C. Med., 141946A to Admty. (R) A.S. Chatham, F.O.C. Gibraltar).

French
Refits,
Bermuda.

Following summary of position known to me as regards re-arming French escorts in Bermuda intended to clarify situation arising from many signals.

2. Destroyer TEMPETE and Minesweepers COMMANDANT BORY and GAZELLE left Casablanca for Bermuda 0700/12th April. Capitaine de Frigate de Bon embarked in TEMPETE for liaison duties Bermuda during whole period French vessels are re-arming.
3. TEMPETE and GAZELLE have on board four Oerlikon equipments complete but no A/S Gear. They expect Asdic sets type 128C and 127A respectively will be in C.E. Bermuda in SS. LOBOS about 7th May (A.M. 101745).
4. COMMANDANT BORY was included at short notice. She has no Oerlikons but has embarked 43 unexamined cases of A/S stores ex SS. WANDERER believed to comprise A/S set type 127A. It is probable this set will be found incomplete but it appears further set will be available ex SS. LOBOS.
5. Following work requested in each ship: (details).
6. French have been informed that no twin 40 MM are available in U.K. or U.S.A.
7. French appreciate arrangements intended for training and request work upon completion of refit may be intensive as they are very short of escorts and do not wish ships delayed.
8. Request S.B.N.O.W.A. will give estimated date when second batch can be accepted and confirm that three vessels are required in each batch. Interval between batches preferred to avoid absence of six escorts at same time.
9. For subsequent batches it is not intended to send Oerlikon equipments unless requested by S.B.N.O.W.A. Two further Asdic sets type 127B on passage to Gibraltar will be sent to Bermuda in second batch.
10. Fenard Mission Washington may have small quantities urgent stores for return passage. Request B.A.D. Washington keep S.B.N.O.W.A. informed.
11. B.A.D. pass to Cominch and Fenard Mission for information. (C. in C. Med., 141957A to S.B.N.O.W.A. (R) Admty. B.A.D., F.O.C.W.A.F., Commorseafron, F.O.C. Gib).

Movements
Bone.

Bone. Departures TARTAR, ASHANTI, BICESTER (ZETLAND).
(F.O.I.S., 142000A to Admty. etc).

Situation
Report No.
79.

Para. 1. During night 11/12 April destroyers of Force Q carried out sweep to Marittimo and destroyers of Force K operated in Gulf of Hammamet. M.T.Bs. from Bone proceeded to search in vicinity of Bizerta roads.

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation report No. 79. (contd). Para. (2). During night 12/13 April M.T.Bs. from Bone landed small commando party on North Tunisian Coast. Party re-embarked on completion of task without casualties. M.T.Bs. from Malta were operating in Gulf of Hammamet.
Para. (3). During night 13/14 April destroyers of Force K. carried out sweep to Marittimo.
Para. (4). TRIDENT obtained possible hit on 2,000 ton supply ship in Gulf of Genoa at 1415/12 (C. in C. Med., 142002A to Admty).

Movements Algiers. Algiers arrivals OAKLEY, AHTERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, L.S.Ts. 320, 402 S/M SAFARI (P.211) L.D.T.170. Departures OAKLEY, AHTERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, TRITON, L.S.T's 304, 261, 363, 403, M.L.444. (Com Algiers, 142007 to Admty etc).

Movements, Malta. Sailed BRITISH TRUST, HURWORTH, EASTON, ROCKWOOD. (V.A. Malta, 142021B to Admty. etc).

M.Ls. Benghazi. Sailed 13th April. M.Ls. 357, 358, 354, 351. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 142137C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements, Sfax. Arrived WHITEHAVEN, BOSTON, CROMARTY, SEAHAM, POOL, APHIS, BARFORD, SKUDD, ARCTIC RANGER, KAI, M.L. 459, M.L. 462, T.L.C.111, 113, 154, 157. Arrived and sailed GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, FALK and KLO. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 142151A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med).

French Sqdn. Alexandria. I met Godfroy yesterday and it appeared to me that his intention is to join Giraud as soon as an organisation (representative of a French unity and recognizing the Marshal as still the legitimate but temporarily helpless authority) is set up in North Africa. He asked openly how soon after fall of Tunisia his ships could move West, raised question of exercises beforehand from East, and discussed possibility of sending LORRAINE by Cape Route to Dakar. I thought these were hopeful signs but he was still resentful over pay talks. (C. in C. Levant, 142152 to Admty).

DIDO Admiralty's 131454. Request your remarks. (C. in C. Med., 142201 to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty).

/Movements...

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Movements, Sailed ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW,
Tobruk. RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE, M.L. 1143,
M.L. 1164.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 142212C to Admty).

O.T. Tankers, U.S. Escorts, entry into Mediterranean. Your 2201 of 5th Feb. It has not been found possible to give tankers a six day turn round in Mediterranean as it is necessary to follow a minimum of 8 days of which 3 days on passage 2 days discharge 1 day gas freeing and 2 days for discharging aircraft. In order to comply with 6 day turn round it has therefore not been possible to accept these tankers in Mediterranean and it has been necessary to keep 3 tankers for sole purpose of ferrying. Moreover this involves overside discharge which is dangerous practice. Can you accept a turn-round of up to ten days maximum to obviate present uneconomical and dangerous arrangement? Loss in time of turn-round is compensated by the release of 3 extra tankers.

(2) Our present commitments also make it impracticable to provide special escorts solely for these tankers and it will only be possible to take the tankers straight through and back and thus obtain the 8 to 10 turn-round if U.S. escorts can accompany throughout. In view of the importance of keeping the maximum flow of oil products into "Torch area in view of large build up now necessary I should be grateful if you would give consideration to rescinding the ban on U.S. escorts entering Mediterranean in order to assist in solving the problem.
(C. in C. Med., 142220 to Cominch (R) Admty).

Movements, Arrived HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS.
Libya. (N.O.I.C. Libya 142301 to Admty.)

Movements 14th April Port Said arrivals EURYALUS M.L. 384
Port Said. M.L. 385. Departures ?AETOS, PANTHER, CUMBRAE,
COUNDOURIOTIS, QUEEN OLGA, M.L. 599, M.L. 1149
M.L. 1032, EURYALUS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 142303C to Admty etc).

Enemy Units. Following read position of five unknown 38.18 N.
12.48 E.
(A/C BTB/Y via Malta, 142359 to Air H.Q. Malta).

538A

MOST SECRET

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

141449Z/April.

IN

Date: 15.4.43

From: Algiers.

Tunisia: Situation Report.

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)
BRITMELAF Ankara (For Marshal Chakmak)) Passed by
Foreign Office. (Resident Minister Achimota) Passed by
Colonial Office. Defender Wellington (For Puttick)
Passed by War Office.

No. 3720 (LIRREP 37)

Dated April, 13th, 1943.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 9th to 11th APRIL.

I. EIGHTH ARMY.

(1) With the 30 Corps advancing on the Axis of the Gabes-Sfax road and the 10 Corps directed on Bou Thadi U 36, the pursuit northwards continued.

(2) After some enemy resistance on April 9th, Mahares was occupied while to the west the enemy was driven north of the Sfax-Sbeitla road. Our forces contacted on the same evening a strong and stubborn enemy rearguard which was guarding the approaches to Sfax, but continued to advance. A confused armoured engagement took place further inland on the road to Faid about 40 miles west of Sfax.

(3) Early on the 10th April Sfax was occupied and by evening forward patrols had reached a general line running east and west through El Djen, little opposition being encountered throughout the day. On April 11 the pursuit continued and by nightfall our patrols were within 8 miles of Sousse. During the day no contact was reported.

(4) On April 12 at 0830A Sousse was occupied.

II. 2nd CORPS.

(1) 2nd Corps was ordered to stay west of Y 90 grid line after armored patrols made contact with 8th Army April 7. In order to clear enemy from Djebel Ben Kreir and Djebel Chemsî the 2nd Corps then turned north. Including removal mines from Faid Pass which is now open to traffic, clearance of the battlefield has continued. From Caid Abnu (?) armored patrols moving north. To the east of the ridge have made contact in the Fondouk area with the 9th Corps.

/III. 9th CORPS....

III. 9th CORPS.

(1) Under command 9th (BR) Corps, the combined British and American forces consisting of US 34th Inf. Div., Inf. Brigade and some Churchill Tanks, and British 6th Armored Div. continued their attack on the Fondouk Gap with the mission of permitting passage through to the Kairouan area for the 6th Armored Div. where it could threaten the enemy L. of C. and inflict losses on any retreat from the south. During the afternoon of April 9th the hills to the north of Fondouk were occupied. Engineers and Infantry cleared a gap in the minefield in the face of strong opposition enabling our Armored Forces to pass through the gap to the east during the night of April 9/10th. During April 10th good progress was made and in the evening to the south of Karouan an armored battle was in progress. During the night April 10th/11th the enemy withdrew to the north.

Kairouan was occupied and contact was made with advanced patrols of Eighth Army to the town on April 11th. The retreating enemy was quickly followed up by our Armored Forces. Engaged 25 enemy tanks 12 miles north west of Kairouan and destroyed 10.

IV. FIRST ARMY.

By advancing and capturing Djebel Ousselat to the northeast of Pichon French troops protected the north flank of 9th Corps. Several hundred prisoners have been captured and heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. Our forces having advanced 5 miles over a 10 mile front to the line Chaouahh (?SIC) J 5240-J 4650-S1 Achour J 3848, the limited attack in the area north of Oued Zarga was successfully completed on April 9th. Our new positions were improved by continued operations. On April 11th a further attack was launched northeast of Beja towards Mateur; no opposition was encountered but progress was slow due to enemy mines and our troops had reached 3 miles southwest of Sidi Nsir by evening.

V. SUMMARY.

It appears that the enemy has succeeded in withdrawing the greater part of the German Mobile Forces to his next defensive positions along the line of hills from Djebel Fkirine (?SIC) to Enfidaville, in spite of the rapidity of the Eighth Army's advance and the allied attack through Fondouk, but Italian effectives are seriously reduced by the loss of a large proportion of their Infantry. Combine this with the fact that our attacks in the north forced the enemy to commit his reserves in that area so that troops could not be spared for the preparation of his new defensive positions, and it suggests that the manning and elaboration of this line must be the enemy's main preoccupation. Likely to continue to operate, therefore, is a mobile screen in the plains to the south of it.

VI. NAVAL.....

MOST SECRET

VI. NAVAL.

The postponement of several projected operations by light craft was caused by bad weather. Two enemy Merchant Vessels of 4,500 tons and 2,000 tons respectively have been sunk by our submarines on patrol.

Entering Sfax on 10th April a Naval party found the Channel was blocked and quays blown up at intervals of 40 yards, but by p.m. 11th Channel had been partially cleared and in harbour 3 berths were available.

Night 11/12th April Destroyers from Bone carried out sweep to Marrittimo but nothing sighted.

VII. AIR.

All bombing missions of the Strategic Air Force were cancelled owing to weather 9th April. Heavy bombers made 3 attacks on the harbor at La Maddalena, on the north coast of Sardinia, on 10th April, and several direct hits were scored on 2 Italian Cruisers, 1 of which was sunk and 1 damaged severely. Bombers and Fighters intercepted large formations of enemy transport aircraft and 40 of them were destroyed. Night 10th/11th April airdromes in Sardinia were bombed. April 11th, 29 further enemy transport aircraft were destroyed and successful attacks were made on the harbors of Tunis, Trapani and Marsala.

Especially in the area of Enfidaville, the Tactical Air Force concentrated on retreating enemy transport and troop concentrations. Enemy vehicles were destroyed in large numbers and enemy transport columns appeared to be completely disorganised on many occasions. Fighter sweeps were carried out in Northern Tunisia successfully and destroyed many enemy aircraft.

VIII. POLITICAL.

No report.

141449Z

Received from War Office 151138.

War Office Circulation.

- 1st Lord
- 1st S.L.(2)
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S.(A)
- A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(V)
- A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
- A.C.N.S.(H)
- U.W.R.
- D.O.D.(F)(2)
- D.O.D.(H)(2)
- D.D.I.C.(2)

- Brigadier Jacob
- Foreign Secretary
- First Sea Lord,
- C.6.Tels., W.O.
- A.M.C.S.(C)
- Mr. Strang
- Mr. Radcliffe.
- D. of P.(2)
- Duty Capt.(2)
- Hd. of M.
- D.N.I.(4)
- I.P.(2)
- D.P.D.

- C.N.I.
- W.D.
- Admiral Blake
- D.D.O.D.(M)
- D.A.W.T.
- D. of L.D.
- D.A/S.W.(2)
- A.M.W.
- C.C.L.S.
- F.O.S.
- by Courier
- A.L.O.

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

LUCIA. Departure 0137Z April 14th LUCIA.
(2) Ref. 174 C, 65, 181, 159, 22, 10, 246, 413.
(?F.O. Ceylon, 140140 to Admty).

Movements, Departure PATNA escorting 3 I.W.T. vessels.
Madras. (N.O.I.C. Madras, 140221 to Admty. etc).

B.M. 49 Departure FALMOUTH with B.M. 49.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 140231Z to Admty. etc).
Signal one. Sailing telegram B.M. 49.
2. 0230Z/14th April. 3. Expected time of
passing Cochin 1930Z/16th April. 3A. E.T.A. Colombo 0830Z/18th
April. 4. 9 knots. 5. Route to Colombo. 6. FALMOUTH.
(N.O.I.C. and N.C.S.O. Bombay, 140241Z, 140243Z to Admty).

Movements, COCANADA, BALDOCK, SABARI and LADY MYRTLE
Calcutta. escorted by VICTORIA MARIA departure Sandheads
p.m./13th for Vizagapatam.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 140536Z to Admty etc).

TRUSTY Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez, 140631Z to C. in C.
E.F. (R) Admty. etc).

Movements, Departure BARODA escorting 2 I.W.T. Paddle
Karachi. Steamers.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 140745Z to Admty. etc).

Movements (1) CARTHAGE left Aden 12th April (arriving?)
Summary No. Bombay 17th April.
54. April (2) CANTON left Bombay 10th April escorting
14th. convoy B.A. 42 to 055° E. thence Kilindini due
19th April.
(3) CERES left Kilindini 10th April escorting
one Transport to Aden due 16th April.
(4) EREBUS left Durban 9th April due Kilindini 19th April.
Following Y Messages are cancelled. 228 Y of March 19th.
232 Y of March 24th. 235 Y of March 29th. 240 Y of April 3rd.
(C. in C. E.F., 140823Z to Eastern Fleet, 248 Y, F.O.R.S.C.A.
etc).

Ceylon 1. ASTER and BALUCHISTAN escorting P.A. 32 due
Movements Aden 14th April.
Summary No. 2. BARRYMORE arrived Colombo 7th.
46, 14th 3. BATHURST leaves Aden 17th escorting A.J.C. 10
April. due Calcutta 18th April.
5. BOMBAY leaves Banda Abbas 16th April escort-
ing P.B. 36.
6. CLIVE arrived Karachi 10th.

War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Ceylon
Movement
Summary No.
46. 14th
April.
(contd).

7. FALMOUTH leaves Bombay 13th April escorting H.M.49.
 8. GAWLER arrived Colombo 14th April.
 9. GERALDTON and SUTLEJ left Banda Abbas 10th escorting P.B.35 due Bombay 17th.
 10. HINDUSTAN left Colombo 12th April escorting C.46, due Trincomalee 14th.
 11. JAN DE WAELE arrived Aden 13th April.
 12. KONKAN left Bombay 13th escorting B.P.75½.
- with H.M.I.S. CARNATIC.
13. LAUNCESTON left Aden 11th escorting A.P. 28 due Khor Kwai 18
 14. LISMORE and MARYBOROUGH arrived Colombo 12th April.
 15. MADRAS arrived Khor Kwai 8th.
 16. MARGUERITE arrived Bombay 11th due to leave 17th with PUNJAB escorting B.P.76.
 17. ORISSA left Banda Abbas 13th escorting P.A.33 due Aden 21st April.
 18. RAJPUTANA arrived Bombay 8th April.
 19. SCOUT arrived Colombo 11th April.
 20. SONAVATI arrived Colombo 12th April.
 21. TAMWORTH left Colombo 11th escorting M.B.32 due Bombay 16.
 22. TULIP arrived Calcutta 8th April.
 23. VERBENA arrived Colombo 9th due to leave 15th for Addu Atoll escorting C.X.2.
 24. CESSNOCK arrived Bombay 10th.
(F.O. Ceylon, 140926Z to Admty. etc).

Movements,
Colombo.Colombo arrivals 14th April 0730, GAWLER.
Departures 1230 TEWERA, 13th April, blank.
(F.O. Ceylon, 141156 to Admty).

HINDUSTAN

Arrival HINDUSTAN Trincomalee (?07)15Z/14th April
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 141215Z to Admty).

DEVONSHIRE

Your 130728Z April (proposed programme for
DEVONSHIRE's return to U.K.) Concur except that
for Scapa read Clyde.
(D.O.D. (F) 141302B to C. in C. E.F.)Hospital Ship
requirements.Your 120846Z Concur.
(D.O.D. (F) 141339B to C. in C. Eastern Fleet,
(R) C. in C. Levant).

?Enemy Units.

K X O U. My 14th April 0923 G.M.T. (N.T. in W.D)
was cruiser 2 funnels. 3 Funnel transport
escorted by cruiser hove to while cruiser chasedKJXR DJXQ U.S. After attempting identification signal which
failed cruiser resumed easterly direction. We proceeded on our
course. (TEXMAR via Colombo, 141540 to N.O.I.C. Aden)

W.R. Note. Passed to Admty. by Colombo.

Congestion
at Kilindini.No. 33 Your telegram No. 30. Position re dates
for completion of berths 7 and 8.
(Kenya-Uganda Railways and Harbour (Sir H. Moore)
to S. of S. Colonies No T.O.O./14).

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

B.Y.M.S. C.E.S.F. sail B.Y.M.S.43. 44. 45. 46 when ready about April 17th Charleston to Miami. C.G.S.F. routed onward to Guantanamo. C.C.S.F. direct U.S.N.O.B. Guantanamo sailing onward to Trinidad for further routing by U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad to Freetown via Belem and Recife. Action addressees advise time of departures, routes, S.O.A. and arrangements for logistic requirements en route. British advise ships should not be operated at speed above 1000 revolutions per minute. Ships have a radius of 1700 to 1800 miles at 9 knots using 30 American gallons fuel per hour. Total tank capacity 5700 gallons. Approval granted to carry 1200 gallons extra fuel as deck cargo in barrels provided ships sailed on favourable weather report and do not refill barrels after fuel is removed. (Cominch 140020Z to C.E.S.F. C.G.S.F. C.C.S.F. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. Admty. Com. 4th Fleet, F.O.C.W.Af. etc.)

U.G.L.2. Bermuda 13 April departures convoy U.G.L.2. containing 8 British L.S.T. L.S.T. 368 remains Bermuda defective. My 122108 not to B.A.D. refers. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 140113Z to Admty. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. Med. V.A.Gibraltar.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Arrived Ambrose 2200A/13th. (Port Director New York 140114Z to C. in C.U.S. Fleet, (R) C.E.S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q.) From B.M.W.T. New York. 1. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND unable to enter dry dock today account weather. 2. Anticipate will be ready for departure April 21 but will advise soonest possible. (B.R.L.O. New York 142215Z to D.S.T.)

BAYNTUN, BERRY. Comply Cominch 132035Z (re BAYNTUN and BERRY to Londonderry.) (Cinclant 140158Z to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) BAZELY, Cominch, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 13th, arrivals MALPEQUE, THREE RIVERS, ex H.J. 45. Departures TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN, to Halifax. ANNAPOLIS, BRANTFORD, MATAPEDIA, SASKATOON, KENORA, to O.N.S.2. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 140249Z to Admty.)

T.U.24.1.11. When relieved by Western local escort direct your unit less VILLE DE QUEBEC, KITCHENER, MOOSEJAW and CAMROSE proceed to St. Johns N.F. VILLE DE QUEBEC, KITCHENER, MOOSEJAW and CAMROSE remain with convoy until prudent limit of endurance thence Halifax. F.O.N.F. pass to Western Local Escort T.U. 24.18.5 for information. (C.T.24 140415Z to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11, (R) C. in C.C. N.W.A. F.O.N.F. C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5. C. in C.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

/Your...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

T.U.24.1.11. Your 140415 VILLE DE QUEBEC now reports necessary to proceed to St. Johns with defective steering (Contd.) CAMROSE has been detached to St. Johns with injured survivors. Position 047° 28' N. 045° 48' W. (S). Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.11 141502Z to Ottawa W/T.)

Movements summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed.
1800 G.M.T. 14th.	ARGONAUT	34½° N. 50½° W.	260°	9½
	CILICIA	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARNARVON } CASTLE }	02° N. 21° W.	Patrol	Blank
	F.S. GEORGES) LEYGUES)	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	Flight 6 } (L.C.I.(L)s.) }	31½° N. 38½° W.	109°	10
	Flight 7 } (L.C.I.(L)s.) }	Arriving Bermuda		
	MILFORD with } Floating Dock }	01½° N. 35½° W.	087°	4½
	CHESHIRE with } Floating Dock }	28½° S. 48½° W.	018°	4
	(D.O.D.(F) 140932Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu.)			

U/B. S/M sighted in 20.16 N. 74.00 W. at 132100Z. (Kingston Jamaica 1409480 to Admty.)

SAINT DOMINGUE. My 121458. (Re French Ship SAINT DOMINGUE 10 Apl seized at Puerto Plata,) B.R.L.O. Ciudad Trujillo states U.S. Authorities have no details which they can divulge. (S.O.(I) Jamaica 141001Q to Admty. etc.)

T.A.G.54 List and destinations.
G.N.54. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 141006Q to Admty.)

U.S. This is Cominch's 131510 making changes to his Dispositions.061615. Serial 69.
Atlantic. ARKANSAS at Casablanca, MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI at Bahia, CORE, ESSEX, CARD at Norfolk. BOGUE at Boston. BOISE at Philadelphia.
MEMPHIS at sea. ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, RANGER, AUGUSTA, TUSCALOOSA, OMAHA, MARBLEHEAD at sea.
Pacific. NEVADA, IDAHO, LONG ISLAND, CONCORD, LOUISVILLE, MINNEAPOLIS, SAN FRANCISCO, WICHITA at sea. TRENTON at Balboa. SALT LAKE CITY at San Francisco. (Comnavu 141128 to Admty.)

/EMPRESS...

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War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. New York arrived 132200.
(N.S.H.Q. 141224Z to D.S.T.)

Attacks on U/Bs. Cominch 141256Z. See U-Boat Campaign.

TRILLIUM. My 021354. TRILLIUM delayed amended E.T.A. Boston a.m. 20th April. B.A.D. pass N.M.C.J.S. (C. in C.C.N.W.A. 141309Z to B.A.M.R. (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. N.M.C.J.S. C.E.S.F. etc.)

Convoy X.B.44. Convoy arrival. X.B.44 arrived Cape Cod Canal 0100Z/14.
(Cmdr. 1st Naval U.S. Dist. Boston)

Attack on U/B. Submarine attacked 49.22 N. 41.15 W. at 1316Z/14.
(Washington 141316 to Admty.)

H.J.46. Sailing telegram, 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 141349Z to Admty.)

U.G.S.7A. Convoy U.G.S.7A with U.G.L.3. All ships
U.G.L.3. departed except L.S.T. 381 and 425. Last ship through gate L.S.T. 1 left Harbour 141116Z. Task Group 65.1 pass to Cdre. and Vice Cdre. (Port Director New York 141402Z to Task Group 65.1. (R) N.O.B. Bermuda etc.)

Sailing telegram part 2 U.G.S.7A with U.G.L.3.
(Port Director New York 142050Z to Connav.)

ARCOLA, Departure 1030Z Italian tankers ARCOLA and
TAIGETE. TAIGETE for St. Vincent. 2. Cargo: ARCOLA 7901.76 tons fuel oil, TAIGETE 6014.60 tons marine diesel. 3. No cargo papers on board. (Aruba 141405QR to Admty. (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At. S.N.O. Curacao.)

My 132105. ARCOLA and TAIGETE departed Aruba 141030Z proceed together 7.5 knots, E.T.A. 29th April. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 141432Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, (U.S.) Com S/M At. Fleet, N.O.B. Trinidad, S.B.N.O.W.At. Com. 4th Fleet.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B. U.S. Army A/C call sign 3 P.C. sighted S/M in 049° 22' N. 041° 15' W. course 087° 8 knots at 141316.
(C.O.A.C. 141507Z to C.B.7a, (R) C.T.F. 24, Admty. Connav, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)

Dispositions. Section East. O.N. 176 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6 043° 48' 051° 18' 260° 8.5. U.S.S. GREENE vicinity 045° 39' 047° 50' 15 to overtake S.C. 126. U.S. Submarine HADDOCK unescorted 040° 54' 050° 49' 059° 115 miles per day. TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN 044° 27' 058° 19' 271° 12. U.S.S. OSMOND DORINGRAM, U.S.S. PONTIAC 047° 03' 054° 22' en route Argentia 13. J.H. 48 departs St. John N.B. 2000Z to position 047° 34' 052° 29' thence 195° 8, altering to 267° in 052° 52' W.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 141510Z to Admty.)
My 141510Z. Add U.S. Task Force 22 consisting of 14 ships exercising in area 39 N. to 44 N. and 52 W. to 56 W.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 141515Z to Admty.)

S/M estimates. (Cominch 141521Z, 141522Z, 141546Z, 141547Z, U.S. S/M 142336Z.)
Notices.

M.M.S. My 121509 (sailing of M.M.S's delayed 24 hours).
M.M.S. delayed further 24 hours due weather.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 141607 to N.M.C.J.S. C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

BAZELY. Arrived Bermuda.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 141732 to Admty.)

Minelaying Policy, Co-ordination with U.S.A. 1. Following on D.D.O.D.(M)'s visit to Washington, suggested that principles set out below should govern co-ordination of our offensive minelaying effort with that of U.S.:-
A. In any given theatre of war, the general conduct of all minelaying operations should be vested in principal Naval authority in that theatre, who must be kept fully informed of capabilities and limitations of available material. In U.K., this authority to be the Admiralty.
B. The principal Naval authority must be in a position to advise the supreme Commander with regard to co-ordination of minelaying operations to the main strategic plan and to keep London and/or Washington informed of his intentions and material requirements.

War Diary

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Minelaying Policy, Co-ordination with U.S.A. (Contd.)

2. Application of these principles entails the appointment of qualified staff officers, both British and American, in each theatre of war, and provision of skilled personnel capable of dealing with their own types of mine. The servicing of American mines by British personnel, and vice versa, is considered to be impracticable in other than exceptional circumstances.

3. Present situation is as follows:-

United Kingdom. A. A British Officer experienced in the conduct of aircraft minelaying operations has been attached to U.S.A.A.F. Headquarters.

B. Understood consideration is being given to assignment of an American Officer for operational liaison duties in London. Such a step would be welcomed.

C. Question of parallel representation in Washington will be taken by D.D.T.S.D. during his forthcoming visit.

D. Provision of American technical personnel is understood to be in hand.

Mediterranean.

A. British technical Officers and personnel are on station, and a British Officer is being held available to augment the operational staff if required.

B. Understood that American Officers and skilled personnel are on station.

India.

A. A small planning, operational, technical, and supply staff is being formed, and will proceed to India in due course.

B. British mines have already been laid by American aircraft operating from India, and C. in C.E.F. reports that an extension of these operations is contemplated by Gen. Bissel.

Not known whether an American minelaying Staff Officer is available in India, but the assignment of such an officer would in any case be of value for liaison with British staff referred to above.

Pacific.

A. Americans have the matter in hand in so far as employment of their own material is concerned, and necessary personnel for employment of British material should be available from Australian resources.

B. Requirements for co-ordination of minelaying effort when the offensive against Japanese develops from India and S.W. Pacific should be met by machinery outlined in foregoing paragraphs.

Summary.

4. Summarised, requirements are considered to be:-

A. Dissemination of information regarding available resources and capabilities and limitations of new material.

B. Close liaison between London, Washington and respective theatres of war on operational minelaying questions.

C. Provision of necessary staff officers and trained personnel in each theatre.

5. Request you will seek the agreement of Cominch to views set out above, and inform him of action contemplated by us, with a view to reciprocal action being taken where necessary.

(D.D.O.D.(M) 141732B to B.A.D.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- G.Z.28. Convoy G.Z.28 arrived.
(B.R.O. Cristobal 141736R to Admty.)
- U.S. Assis- Admty. much appreciate prompt assistance you
tance to arranged for ARGONAUT and regret that it was
ARGONAUT. necessary to ask for it. It had been expected that
ARGONAUT's temporary repairs would enable her to
make passage unescorted at 16 knots.
(D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 141805B to Cominch)
- H.X. 234. Sailing telegram. 2. Gate 1600/14th April.
3. Homp 1000/15th April. 5. As C.E.S.F. 072126
April. 7. Total 14 sailed. 8. As C.E.S.F.
072126 April.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 141843Z 141845Z to Admty.)
- Convoy Arrived F.H.48.
F.H.48. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 141922Z to Admty.)
- Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 1900Z/14. 3. E.T.A.
J.H.48. Halifax 0600/17. 4. 8.5 knots to N. then 9.5 knots
(Route). 6. THREE RIVERS, VEGREVILLE.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 141950Z, 141943Z to
Admty.)
- U.S.A.T. JOHN L. CLEM (U.S.A.T.) arrived New Orleans 12th.
(N.S.H.Q. 142035 to Admty.)
- Sub attack All times Z. A. B.17 attacks sub course 087
& sighting 49.22 N. 41.15 W. 141316. C. Army plane two
summary. radar contacts area 12.20 N. 59.50 W. 131252
and 131331. C.G.C. 83381 sound contact 20.15 N.
73.55 W. 132100. D. B.18 sights slick has made
contact 38.15 N. 74.10 W. 132100.
(Cominch 142056 to Admty. etc.)
- U.S. A/C Propose in future to send you U.S. Navy's Aircraft
Deliveries. delivery forecast mid monthly in same form as
contained in Briny 2370.
2. Consider this is most realistic forecast
obtainable since it is that to which U.S. Navy
works for planning purposes.
3. Recommend you adopt this forecast as basis for your planning
irrespective of any B.A.C. figures which are frequently more
misleading.
4. This would have the advantages that we both use the same
figures and are in step with U.S. Navy.
5. Current forecast for 1st April follows.
(B.A.D. 142115Z to Admty.)

/Convoy...

546A!

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.)

141 645Z/April.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To Britmen Washington.

Date 14.4.43.

CYPHER

From Air Ministry.

C.O.S.(W) 574.

14th April 1943.

OZ.1067a

*Tizard Mission
Information for Russia.*

Reference J.S.M. 874.

Since the lists were first sent to you there has been some change in the way the Tizard Mission will handle affairs. No lists as such will be given to the Russians and paragraph 3 of J.S.M. 874 is correct, namely that Tizard will have a free hand except on items not to be disclosed.

2. Regarding the first sentence of paragraph 3 of J.S.M. 874 (a) all radio items in the M.A.P. List No. 2, paragraph 2, are to be deleted. You should rely instead on paragraphs 2 and 3 of C.O.S.(W) 518, which gives the radio items not to be disclosed; (b) Admiralty List 2 and War Office List 1, items 25/28, can be taken as part of their Lists 1, i.e. items which may be disclosed; (c) M.A.P. List No. 2, paragraph 2, except radio items. The following are the comments of M.A.P.

"2. 1 Naval Aircraft The Admiralty have now no objection to the disclosure of the details of the Fulmar, Barracuda, Sea Otter, Firefly, Firebrand and S.12/40. These items can therefore be added to List No.1 Paragraph 1.

"2. 1 and 2. 3 Jet Propelled Aircraft and Jet Units. It is probably inevitable that this subject will be raised. It can be left to discretion of head of Mission as to extent of disclosure.

"2. 2 Frank Suit It is agreed in principle that this item can be disclosed. Disclosure at discretion of head of Mission.

"2. 3 Rolls Royce Two Stroke Engine. This development is in its early stages and could not therefore be of immediate help to Russian war effort. For this reason it is not proposed to disclose it."

(d) Although the items in 2 (b) and 2 (c) above, with one exception, now become part of the Lists which can be disclosed at the discretion of Tizard, we repeat that this does not mean that the Lists as such will be given to the Russians or items in them automatically disclosed.

3. The reason Lists have been kept despite paragraph 1 above is for convenience, i.e. to enable members of the Mission to study the items thereon and to enable us to show Americans what ground may be covered by the Mission if things go well.

4. What is of importance in discussion with Americans is those items not to be discussed.

5. We confirm corrections to C.I.C. 23/3 given in paragraph 4 your 874.

6. Paragraph 2 your 874 also correct.

7. The Tizard Mission will not leave before the beginning and it is quite possible not before the end of May. For your private information the official approach to the Soviet Government has still to be made. This is expected very shortly. We appreciate the importance of reaching agreement on items with the Americans. Please keep us informed therefore of your progress and the chances of clearing items by the beginning of May.

144645Z.

Received from Air Ministry 151137.

1st Lord.

1st S. L. (2).

D. F. S. S.

V. C. S. S.

A. C. S. S. (H).

A. C. S. S. (V) (2).

B. A. Mails.

P. A. S. (S).

D. C. D. (S) (2).

D. C. D. (H) (2).

Ad. Blake.

D. N. I. (4).

D. of P. (2).

D. C. (2).

D. D. I. O.

D. of P. (2).

Hd. of M. (2).

I. I. (2).

W. D.

Air Ministry Circulation

Brig. Jacob.

First Sea Lord.

A. M. C. S. (C).

Lord Strathallan.

Mr. B. Lockspeiser,

M. A. P.

Maj. Gen. Lethbridge,

W/O.

Foreign Secretary.

C. 6 Tels., W/O.

Mr. Donaldson.

Mr. E. W. Austin,

Admiralty.

Professor R. B. Linstead

Min. of Supply.

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War Diary.14.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy H.J.46. Departure WASAGA, WOODSTOCK, U.S.S. ALAITK, ARVEK, TRAVIS escorting H.J. 46. (C.Halifax 142204Z to Admty. etc.)

U/B. This is Comsolant Force 142131 to Cominch for action passed to Admiralty Info by Cominch., Army Ascension reports plane sighted S/M 141833Z 05.02 S. 11.20 E. West course 150 speed 5 knots. (Radio Washington 142344Z to Cominch (R) Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Enemy Intelligence. Unidentified aircraft reported 420 miles N.N.E. V.Nikoro Islands (Santa Cruz group) 1300M/12 (KIWI 10). Gunfire reported 1600M/13 near N.W. end of Choiseul (Solomons). 3 A.K. 1 escort vessel sighted Buin Tonolei area a.m. 12th April. Kahili aerodrome (Buin) again raided p.m. 11th April. (N.O.? Wellington 140246Z to C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. D.N.I. Admty. G.H.Q. New Delhi, India.)

Movements, Auckland. Departure Auckland 1937Z/13. U.S.S. RIXEY for Noumea E.T.A. 2100Z/16. Arrivals Auckland 0150Z/14 U.S.S. TRYON 0430Z/14 U.S.S. KOPARA. (D.N.I. Wellington 140520Z to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 448 April 13th. / Submarine off Cape Orford early morning course north. Afternoon R/C Fortress sighted possibly same unit 40 miles further North course 110° and over 50 ships in Rabaul Harbour plus 3 large cargo vessels from unidentified warships outside harbour course 360°. Aircraft later bombed Finschhafen runway.

2. Liberator unsuccessfully bombed schooner and launch in Wide Bay afternoon 12th.
3. 2 Destroyers sighted 50 miles north of Talasea early morning course 85°.
4. From 7500 feet 6 Liberators attacked shipping Hansa Bay afternoon 12th (refer digest 447 para. 6) when 9 ships reported including 3 probable destroyers, 3 large and 3 medium cargo vessels also numerous barges. 3 direct hits starting fierce

/Fires...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial no. 448 April 13th (Contd.)

fires on one 8 - 10,000 tonner and direct hits on 8,000 ton vessel left smoking heavily. Ten zeros and 5 twin engined fighters intercepted whereof 5 zeros and 1 other type destroyed. Total enemy aircraft losses reported in digest 447 included these claims.

5. Six Fortresses attacked same target after dark 12th but 3 unable locate shipping due weather and attacked installations and searchlight positions Hansa Bay also waterfront Bogia. Other 3 aircraft used skipbombing tactics scoring very close? miss on destroyer outside bay heading North and possible hit or near miss on 2,000 ton cargo ship. In bad weather only 5 ships positively observed including 2 destroyers 3 cargo.

6. Afternoon 13th nine ships sighted 40 miles northwest Hansa Bay course 100°. Convoy comprised 3 each destroyers, large transports, and medium cargo vessels.

7. Liberators dropped some bombs Lae runway returning from Hansa Bay.

8. Small craft from Madang using harbours Saidor area for night anchorage.

9. Three Bostons bombed enemy positions Mubo Area during morning.

10. Photos shipping Kaimana Bay morning 12th (refer digest 447 para. 13) show 3 M/Vs of 1500, 1000, 500 tons respectively.

11. Forenoon search Hudson strafed 2 Praus Kai Islands and bombed village near Langgoer.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 140825Z/4 to Admty. etc.)

Movements. Arrivals Port Moresby 12th BOWEN. Mile Bay 12th PIRIE, WHYALLA, 13th SWAN, ARUNTA. Townsville 13th U.S.S. TULSA. Departures Townsville 13th BALLARAT for Brisbane, WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby, U.S.S. TULSA for Cairns. Milne Bay 14th ARUNTA for Townsville. Thursday Island 13th LATROBE for Merauke.
(A.C.N.B. 141119Z to Admty. etc.)
H.T. TAROONA arrived Fall River 13th April.
Hospital ship CENTAUR arrived and departed Port Moresby 13th due Brisbane 18th.
V.S.I.S. MERKUR departed Cairns 14th for Challenger Bay.
U.S. S/M Chasers CREMER, SWARTENHONDT, R.F.A. BISHOPDALE departed Brisbane 13th due Townsville 17th.
U.S.A. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Townsville 13th Brisbane 15th
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 141242Z to Admty. etc.)
Arrival Wellington U.S.S. HERMITAGE.
(D.N.I. Wellington 142307Z to Admty. etc.)

PRESIDENT GRANT. Sydney N.S.W. 0013Z/14th April PRESIDENT GRANT San Francisco 6th May. (Route).
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 141851Z to Admty. etc.)

/KIWI...

War Diary.

14.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

KIWI No. 11. D/F 12/4 indicates enemy S.S.E. of Fiji. Possible floating mine 82 miles 298° Amadee Light New Caledonia 11/4. Vila and Ringi Cove Kolombangara Island bombed 12/4. Kahili Aerodrome Bougainville Island bombed 12/4.
(C.W.R. Wellington 142350 to C. in C.E.F. Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 141316B, 141317B.)

Submarines Attacked.

U.S. Weekly Summary. Your 1059B/22 July. Admiralty pass to Comnavu for info. Following promising attacks reported week ending 2400Z/11. April 4, U.S.S. O'BANNON in S.W. Pacific attacked submarine. Heavy explosion other than depth charge explosions heard and strong diesel oil odour. April 5. Brazilian plane attacked submarine at 11° 25' S. 35° 27' W. Some wreckage and three life preservers appeared. Details of attack not reported. April 6. ROSTHERN and U.S.S. GREER attacked sound contact 49.11 N. 42.45 W. Large oil slick seen. April 7 U.S.S. STRONG in South Pacific attacked submarine which settled slowly then sank stern first.
(Cominch 141256Z to Admty.)

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Northern
Patrol.

1. The second cruiser was withdrawn from the Northern Patrol this evening.

2. Norwegian M.T.B.625 at Lerwick was considerably damaged and had some casualties when a mine exploded on board today.

E-Boat
Operations.

3. R.D.F. contacts in the early hours of this morning indicated that three groups of E-Boats (15) were operating off Lowestoft. Coastal forces were moved to intercept, but without success. About 0100 H.M. Trawler ADONIS, fitted with R.D.F. Type 271, on patrol between 54B and 3 buoys was sunk by E-Boats. WESTMINSTER, on patrol 6 in the area, reports that she sank 2 and damaged 2 others soon after 0130 between 3B and 3C Buoys. Mines were detonated in this area today. WIDGEON also claims to have damaged 2 E-Boats and 2 Albacores also each claim a near miss at an E-Boat.

Protection
of Coastal
Convoys.

4. C. in C. Portsmouth points out that the arrangements made by C. in C. Plymouth (see 14 April) will have the result of diverting the enemy's E-Boat attacks on coastal convoys from the Western Channel to the Channel east of the Isle of Wight. He proposes to hold a conference to consider whether convoy sailings can be arranged so as to cover the distance between Portsmouth and Dungeness by day, and also whether additional escorting craft can be provided.

5. 12 Venturas with fighter cover today attacked a merchant vessel and whale oil factory ship SOLGLINT in dry docks at Cherbourg. At least one near miss on one of the vessels is reported.

Enemy
Aircraft
over
Thames
Estuary.

6. There was considerable air activity over the Thames Estuary last night. A large number of enemy aircraft returning very low from west to east were heavily engaged by forts and ships of the local defence flotilla but no definite results were obtained. There was no positive evidence of minelaying, and it is thought the aircraft were engaging shore objectives.

Unexplained
Explosions.

7. Underwater explosions not associated with minesweeping were reported at 142305B and 142510B by Ramsgate, Tongue, Sand Tower and Knock John Tower, and at 151544B 130° 1½ miles approx. from Knock John Tower.

551

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. Cominch reports that two U.S. aircraft on patrol attacked a submarine today in 04.08 S. 31.20 W. (about 250 miles E. by N. of Cape San Roque). One of the aircraft was damaged by the U-Boat's gunfire. The U-Boat was sunk, 30 to 50 survivors being seen in the water. A message from B.A.D. Washington on 23 April gives the position of sinking as 03.23 S. 30.28 W.

Mediterranean.

9. It is reported from Valencia that SS. ST.LUCIEN (French, ex - AALBORG, 1256 tons) which sailed from Marseilles on 29 March, destination not known has been torpedoed and sunk off Port Vendres.

Sousse
and
Sfax.

10. C. in C. Levant reports Sousse ready to receive L.C.T. and suitable as an advanced M.T.B. base. Only one ship blocks the entrance, and there is a gap 120 ft. wide with 22 ft. depth. In the harbour berths are available for two ships of 400 ft. with 17 ft. draught. The entrance to Sfax is completely clear.

Force Q.

11. Last night 2 destroyers of Force Q made a sweep to Marittimo and 2 to Cagliari, apparently without incident.

M.T.B's.

12. M.T.B's from Bone last night operated off Bizerta, destroyed a recent wreck near Cape Zebib, and attacked 2 large U-Boats on the surface without success but damaged one of 2 escorting E-Boats.

13. Bombers of the Strategic Air Force attacked enemy aerodomes in Sardinia last night. Thirteen B.24's were despatched today to attack a tanker in Catania harbour. Bombs burst close to the vessel, through no hits are claimed; but several large fires were started on the mole and in the dock area. Fourteen B.24's bombed Palermo Harbour at 1711Z, dropping 126 500 lb bombs and 560 incendiaries. Bursts were seen along the quay behind the moles on the West side of the harbour, and on the northern section of the outer mole.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- ✓ 14. 15 JU.88's attacked Bone at 1945 today at 0 ft. unplotted. No damage is reported, except to the enemy aircraft.

Australia.

- ✓ 15. Enemy shipping off Wewak was attacked this evening by 4 Fortresses. Two hits with 1000 lb bombs were obtained on a cargo ship of 6 - 8,000 tons which sunk 13 minutes later. A similar ship and a transport of 8,000 tons were also possibly sunk. A probable gunboat was apparently beached, and is considered as probably destroyed.
- ✓ 16. Five Dauntless aircraft attacked Vila, New Hebrides this evening, destroying a large building believed to be a power plant.
- ✓ 17. Fortresses and Liberators today attacked shipping near Kairiru Island (New Guinea). Three merchant ships were hit; one was left sinking a second was beached and the third was damaged.

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

- M.T.Bs. for Nore. Your 141301. It is hoped that one boat will be operationally available in about 6 weeks, and a further three boats in about 2 months, but this will depend on time taken to work up at H.M.S. BEE.
(D.D.O.D. 151720B to C. in C.Nore.)
- A.I.G. 219. A.F.O. S5/43. Senior Officer Submarines Lerwick is to be added to composition of A.I.G. No. 219.
(D.S.D. 151806B.)
- 14th M.G.B. Flotilla. M.G.Bs. 312, 316, 317 and 326 are re-allocated temporarily from the 1st Coastal Force Flotilla to the 14th M.G.B. Flotilla.
2. S.O. Force J is requested to arrange for these boats to be sailed to Dartmouth as soon as possible.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 151922B to S.O. Force J.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

- Folkestone. Boom defence Folkestone harbour temporarily withdrawn.
(V.A. Dover 151137B to Admty.)

Movements.

- KING GEORGE V. C. in C.H.F's 121056B escorted by IROQUOIS, ECHO, BRISSENDEN passed S.W.O.N.A. at 0001B/15.
(A.C.O.S. 150004B to C. in C.Rosyth.)
Rosyth arrival KING GEORGE V escorted by IROQUOIS, ECHO, and BRISSENDEN.
(C. in C.Rosyth 151210B to A.C.O.S.)

- S/M Movements. My 141158B. Sailed (H.43).
(Capt. S.7 150814B.)
Intend to sail H.M.S. URSULA escorted by Z.5 from Rothesay at 2200/16 by normal route to Lough Foyle Buoy, E.T.A. 0800/17. Thence URSULA as ordered by N.O.I.C. Londonderry.
(Capt. S.7 151149B.)

My 261715 January. UNSPARING completed and sailed for Holy Loch p.m. today.

(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 151752.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/16th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. BLACKFISH, BARB, STUBBORN in zones K.194, K.193, and K.191 respectively.

B. TUNA approx. 68° 10' N. 03° 55' E. probably on surface through 68° N. 06° E. and 62° 00' N. 01° 27' W. for Lerwick.

C.H.43 escorted by KIHNA vicinity south of Sound of Mull through Minches for Blyth, speed 5 knots.

(F.O.S. 151846B and 152301B.)

/My...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M My 151846. Add new para. (D) URSULA escorted by
Movements. Z.5 leaves Rothesay 2200/16, due Lough Foyle
(Contd.) 0800/17.
(F.O.S. 151921.)

NEWCASTLE. My 131915. NEWCASTLE completed and proceeded
down river to Tail of Bank a.m. today.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 151751.)

Operations.

Engagement with Positions of E-Boats by D/F.
E-Boats off (C. in C.Nore 150105B, 150119B, 150120B,
Lowestoft. 150121B, 159125B, 150128B, 150129B, 150130B,
ADONIS sunk. 150132B, 150133B, 150143B, 150201B, 150224B,
2 E-Boats 150235B, 150255B.)
apparently Number of groups of E-Boats operating appears to
by WESTMINSTER. be three.
4 E-Boats (C. in C.Nore 150124B to S.E.E.C.C.D.)
damaged. Lost touch with E-Boat. Am returning to patrol.
Consider 2 sunk, 2 damaged.
(WESTMINSTER 150156B to C. in C.Nore.)
Patrolling destroyers keep north of number 4 buoy.
(C. in C.Nore 058B/15 to S.E.E.C.C.D.)

Patrol destroyers proceed Great Yarmouth at daylight. WIDGEON
keep two miles west of swept channel. Anchor two miles west of
three A Buoy at daylight until further orders.
(C. in C.Nore 150201)

- Preliminary report of E-Boat activity last night Wednesday.
1. No. F.S. convoy. F.N. 95 passed Haisborough by dark.
 2. Three groups at least 15 E-Boats in all operated. Enemy reports at 2335 and 0010 were received from F.A.A. Albacore aircraft 35 miles east of Lowestoft and Southwold respectively. C/F's were moved to intercept without success.
 3. First group. About 0100 H.M. Trawler ADONIS fitted with R.D.F. Type 271, on patrol between 54B and 3 buoys sighted 3 E-Boats. She was torpedoed and sunk after firing starshell. Minelaying in this area is doubtful, but may have taken place east of channel.
 4. Second group probably of 6 E-Boats crossed channel from east to west at about 0115 between 3B and 3C buoys, recrossing soon after 0130 when they were engaged by WESTMINSTER on patrol 6 and WIDGEON on patrol 7. Moored mines have detonated in sweeps in this area.
 5. Third group probably also of six boats may have been further north or may have been E-Boats engaged by WIDGEON. Ships concerned have not yet returned to Harbour so this cannot at present be determined.
 6. WESTMINSTER claims one E-Boat set on fire and appeared to disintegrate. Another was set on fire and explosion was seen behind smoke screen. Two others also claimed as damaged. Albacore aircraft which had followed E-Boats in confirms two badly hit and on fire.
 7. WIDGEON claims two E-Boats damaged.

/8...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement with 8. Coastal forces narrowly missed intercepting E-Boats off Lowestoft. E-Boats in difficult conditions of smoke and confused firing.

ADONIS sunk. 9. Albacore followed large number of E-Boats to eastward and claims near miss with bomb. Another Albacore took up chase also claiming near miss close to bows of one E-Boat.

2 E-Boats apparently by WESTMINSTER. 10. "K" sets gave useful assistance but identification of plots was hampered by presence of several units of own coastal forces.

4 E-Boats damaged. 11. All times zone Minus 2.
(Contd.) (C. in C.Nore 151931B to Admty.)

TUNA
Patrol.

Your 142031. Well done indeed. Leave patrol and return to Lerwick by route "Grey" through 068° N. 006° 20' E. Total bombing restrictions arranged.
(F.O.S. 150347B to TUNA.)

Coastal
Patrols.

Your 141449. "Obstacle" returned.
(M.O.I.C. Dartmouth 150721.)
My 141151. "Device" returned.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 150739B.)
Intend M.Ls. 208 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight, on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leave Portland at 2030 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/16.
3. Object Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 151035B.)
1. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 235° and 055° from 125°. Start 13 miles.
2. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol.
3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth 2100B for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0700B.
4. Information. Own P.W. 324 S.O. Escort. LIMBOURNE E.T.A. Plymouth 2300B. LIMBOURNE and MELBREAK will patrol between 160° Eddystone 14 miles and 210° Eddystone 20 miles from 2359B till 0600B.
Enemy. E-Boats based on Cherbourg, but may operate from Brittany Ports.
6. Codeword "Plumb".
(C. in C.Plymouth 151335B.)
1. Tonight S.G.B.6, M.G.B. 608, 615 to patrol. Object. Destruction of enemy shipping.
2. Leave Newhaven so as to pass through passage 2 not before 2130 and carry out search in Baie de La Seine.
3. Return by passage 2 or 3 so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight.
4. Codeword "Advent".
(C. in C.Portsmouth 151403B.)
1. S.G.B. 6, M.G.Bs. 608 and 615 patrolling southward from Newhaven.
2. M.Ls. 309, 346 patrolling Southward of E.A.5 buoy.

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) 3. M.Ls. 208 and 233 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 02° 25' W. and 01° 45' W.
4. Chasseur 41 at St. Helens and BLEASDALE and LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151407B.)
Have steam at 15 minutes notice by 1730B today.
(C. in C. Nore 151549B to WESTMINSTER.)

M.G.B. 324, 330 sail Dartmouth 2100 to patrol 13' S.E. of Start.
M.L. 208, 233 sail Portland 2030 to patrol 10' South of St. Albans.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151637B.)
Proceed to Harwich. Keep two cables east of centre line of Channel between 4 and 3 buoys.
(C. in C. Nore 151656B to WESTMINSTER.)
My 151035B. "Device" sailed at 2107. For M.L. 233 read M.L. 247.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 152112B.)

UNIVERSAL Patrol. P.57 is to be sailed from Lerwick P.M. 17th to carry out A/S patrol in zone K.103.
(F.O.S. 151154B to Capt. S.9.)
My 1154. Cancel in zone K.103 and amend to read in area 30 miles radius of 063° 55' N. 002° 55' W.
(F.O.S. 151911 to Capt. S.9.)

Operation "Mincemeat" SERAPH. Capt. S.3 is to sail SERAPH for Gibraltar on 19th April en route "Rose". SERAPH is to be ordered to carry out operation "Mincemeat" in accordance with verbal orders already received by C.O. establishing patrol for this purpose in area between Meridians 006° 30' W. and 008° 00' W. and North of 036° 40' N. SERAPH is to be ordered to report to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar when operation is completed and to request onward route.
2. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange total bombing restrictions in this area from 0001B/29.
(F.O.S. 151451B, 151808B.)

Denmark Straits Patrol. Estimated position at 2202 tonight.
CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, INTREPID patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C. 151557B.)
GLASGOW return to Harbour. Patrol "White" to be continued using 1 cruiser and at your discretion 1 destroyer.
(C. in C.H.F. 151936 to C.S. 10.)
GLASGOW return to harbour forthwith.
(C.S.10 152206B to GLASGOW.)

P.238 Patrol. P.238 proceed to patrol forthwith in zone K.191.
(F.O.S. 152309.)

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Rescue of A/C crew. Proceed with despatch to 048° 30' N. 009° 30' W. to pick crew of Sunderland in sea.
(C. in C.Plymouth 150245B to WENSLEYDALE.)
My 150245B. Aircraft reports over dinghy with 7 men 048° 54' N. 009° 04' W. at 0830.
(C. in C.Plymouth 150921B to WENSLEYDALE.)
Have 9 survivors from Sunderland Aircraft on board. Have investigated Spanish Trawler SALMON, SEVILLE, my position 048° 42' N. 009° 50' W. E.T.A. Falmouth 0700/16. Message H.D.847 not received.
(WENSLEYDALE 151530B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk attacked on 13th & 14th April. Air raid on town of Murmansk 1830/13 April.
Air raid on ships at anchor 1800C/14. No damage to ships or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 151515B.)

Thames Estuary. During night 14/15 April there was considerable enemy air activity over the Thames Estuary. Between 2359 and 0130 a number of hostile planes passed over the area. Generally these passed inwards from East to West at a considerable height but on returning from West to East they were nearly all flying very low, some being at about only 100 feet. A large number of these planes were heavily engaged by ships and forts of the flotilla, but no definite results were obtained. No positive evidence of minelaying.
(S.O.T.L.D.F. 151816B.)

Mining.

Yarmouth. "O" sweeper detonated mine in sweep in position N. 15E 3 B Buoy 2 miles at 0830 today.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 151009B.)
"O" Sweepers detonated moored mine in sweep 002° 3B Buoy one mile at 0848 today.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 151019B.)
"O" Sweepers detonated moored mine in sweep 210° 3C Buoy 2 miles at 1357 today.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 151429B.)
In addition to 3 moored mines swept by Lowestoft Trawlers today. 2 were swept by 9th M/S F. in positions 014° 3B Buoy 2.7 miles and 208° 3C buoy 2.4 miles.
(C. in C.Nore 152229B.)

Captured Enemy Gear. Your 132028B. 1. This is confirmed. 2. ACONIT as reported in my 121856B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 151038B to D.N.I.)

/Q.Z.X. 962...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

- Q.Z.X. 962. Intend sailing PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, SUTTON, ELGIN, SALTASH, LYDD, and Trawler COMMANDER EVANS at 0800 tomorrow to commence clearance of Q.Z.X. 962, ships returning Plymouth on completion of days operations.
(PANGBOURNE 151107 to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- S.N. 123. The following signal received from N.O.I.C. Stornoway.
S.N. 123. Regret progress still held up by gale and MINER IV has not yet been able to leave Stornoway. As two days have already been lost it is clear from the programme outlined in my 121600B that it is now not possible to complete laying and testing hydrophone installations before 19th, this date is quoted in R.A.(M)'s 091830B as latest date for embarkation. Must therefore request that arrangements be made for postponement of operation. T.O.O. 151030B. The proposal is concurred in.
(S.M.D. 151625B to D.T.M. Bath.)
- Q.Z.X. 910. Intend proceeding with Flotilla a.m. Saturday 17th April to continue clearance of Q.Z.X. 910.
(LYME REGIS 151845B to C. in C.W.A.)
- Q.U.2B. Prepare to carry out operation Q.U.2B with 51st Flotilla on next suitable night.
Position between 052° 23' N. 044° 25' E. and 052° 25' 30" N. 004° 28' E. Irregular laying.
(C. in C. Nore 151934B to BEEHIVE.)
- Operation H.S. Your 111810B. Concur with completion of operation H.S.
(C. in C.Plymouth 152015B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- SPERRBRECHER SP.AA. Photographs taken at 0940B/15 show SPERRBRECHER SP.AA on westerly course at reported position off Pointe St. Mathieu. The extreme bow of another vessel probably small is seen 6½ cables astern.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 151515B.)
- PIETRO ORSEOLO. A report graded B.1 has been received that PIETRO ORSEOLO arrived in Bordeaux on 2nd April from the Far East carrying 4,000 tons of rubber. She had been damaged in two places forward by torpedoes. Comment: This is considered to be the ship attacked by SHAD on 1st April. A.M. 131215B para. 3 refers.
(D.D.I.C. 151920B to Cominch.)

/Unknown...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - Contd.

Unknown Ships. By D/F on 4975 k/cs unidentified ships as follows 2000Z 302° from Station 24, 2007Z 303° from Station 24, and 306° from Station 23, all reliable. (S.B.N.O. North Russia 152303B to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boat sunk by TUNA. Following from TUNA. Begins: Four U-Boats sighted, one sunk, one missed. Disposed line 150° from BJORNERERGET 30 miles apart. Two external one internal bow torpedo and stern torpedo remain. T.O.O. 142031. Ends. (F.O.S. 150436B to Admty.)

U-Boat attacked. (Operation "Derange".) On day 14th 6 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols. The crew of one of these A/C sighted a surfaced U/B in the Bay of Biscay, and attacked it with 6 depth charges 12 seconds after it had submerged. No results were observed. (H.Q.B.C. 151550B.)

Navigational.

New S/M Sanctuary. My 1846/28th March para. 3. Request immediate promulgation of submarine sanctuary off North Irish Coast bounded to seaward by line joining following positions. A. Barrs Point Larne. B. Maidens Light. C. 054° 59' N. 005° 38' W. D. 055° 11' N. 005° 54' 30" W. E. Torcor Point. It is intended to use this sanctuary p.m. today. (C. in C.W.A. 151533B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

BARCOCK. My 141121. Delayed 24 hours by weather. (A.C.O.S. 150926 to N.O.I.C. Oban.)

Explosion in M.T.B. 625. Following from Lieut. Tamber to C. in C.Royal Norwegian Navy begins:- Mine accidentally exploded on board M.T.B. 625 today. One rating killed and 3 injured. Considerable damage to ship. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Lerwick 151430B to Admty.)

LINDOY. My 141529B. Defects of LINDOY primarily due to presence of water in oil. Completion date 19th April. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 151709B.)

/CASTLETON...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- CASTLETON. Your 141628B. Anticipate CASTLETON can be docked at Scapa p.m. 18th or a.m. 19th.
2. Request she may be sailed to arrive p.m. 17th. (A.C.O.S. 151710B to R.A.M.)
- SARBA. My 091701. Drifter SARBA. Following examination of cylinders after breakdown on trial on 10th April, defects found more serious than anticipated and will require approximately three weeks to complete.
(F.O.I.C. London 151739B.)
- LINDOY. Your 131746B and my 140734B. Request cause of engine defects of LINDOY be investigated and report made to Admiralty.
(D.S.V.P. 151958B to F.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- W.S.29 & K.M.F.13. My 121159B. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 150814B.)
A.M. 070110 para. 4.
W.S.29 and K.M.F.13 will R/V at 1200Z/16 in position B.A. 270° Oversay 6 miles through
- | | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|------------|
| B.B. 55.45 | 10.00 | B.C. 55.30 | 11.30 | B.D. 53.25 | 14.25 | B.E. 45.05 |
| 14.35 | B.F. 42.00 | 13.58 | B.G. 36.45 | 10.10. | | |
2. K.M.F. 13 will then proceed as ordered by C. in C.Med.
3. Speed estimated at 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots is to be adjusted to pass through B.G. at 0600Z/21.
4. Ocean escort NEWCASTLE.
5. A/S escort WESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, NESS, EXE, LEWES, LAUDERDALE, SWEETBRIAR, RAPID.
(D.O.D.H. 151707B.)
Your 132348 para. 3. Yes.
2. Your 141322. Endeavour to sail LEWES to overtake.
(D.O.D.H. 151305B to Capt. D. Greenock.)
My 151312B. Cancel WESTON and substitute RAPID.
(C. in C.W.A. 151806B to Ships.)
My 141030. Sailing Liverpool section escorted by SHIPPIGAN.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 152100B.)

- Tankers in N.Russia. Both tankers arrived Molotovsk without damage averaging 8 knots.
2. Ice met in Gouro stretched from North of Terski Ornov to Intzi. It did not greatly hinder vessels, remainder of passage clear water except for some drift ice in White Sea.
3. Molotovsk Harbour covered with broken ice owing North wind. Said to have been clear on previous day.
4. Conditions for future passages depend on direction of wind.
(Dagliesh, Archangel 150955B.)

/Atlantic...

561

15.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.Atlantic
Convoys.

Personal from 1st Sea Lord. Your 122114Z (not to B.A.D.). The average number of ships sailed in the last six H.X., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. convoys are 51, 48, 34 and 32 respectively.

2. Whilst agreeing that in theory convoys proposed for May would convoy 600 ships, in practice if allowance is made for fluctuation in numbers of presenters the schedule proposed would only cover about 450 sailings.

3. If the convoys proposed in your signal were filled to capacity the percentage figures of ships of ten knots and over and of ships of under ten knots would be 80% and 20% respectively.

4. It was estimated recently by the Ministry of War Transport that in 1943 ships in O.N.(S) convoys would be 37% of the total number of ships in O.N. and O.N.(S) convoys and that ships in S.C. convoys would be 39% of the total number of ships in H.X. and S.C. convoys and a further survey by the Ministry has confirmed these figures. It follows that with an 80 ship fast convoy and a 60 ship slow convoy there should be almost as many slow as fast convoys.

5. I am prepared during the summer months to accept up to 80 ship convoys and to agree to the existing cycles of 6 days for H.X./O.N. and 8 days for S.C./O.N.S. convoys to continue as at present which will release one group and will assist materially in helping us to find the Escorts for our operational commitments.

(1st S.L. 151510B to A.A/S S.B.)

A.M. 131318B, cancel para. 5. "Chop" line is still under consideration and a further signal will be sent shortly.

(Head of M.Branch II 151702B to A.I.G. 21.)

O.S. 46

K.M.S.13.

A. 1100/15. B. KIRKELLA on completion to Lough Foyle to await instructions. C. 22. D. O.S.46 Commodore in RHESUS for Freetown. K.M.S.13 Commodore in FORT PITT for Bougie.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 151510B.)

Convoy K.M.S.13. MERKLAND Lisbon. ALMENARA Gibraltar. ANGLO AFRICAN Algiers. ORIENT CITY Casablanca. OCEAN FAME on separation from O.S. 46 Algiers. FORT PITT Bougie. EMPIRE FOREST Philippeville. EMPIRE HEYWOOD on separation from O.S. 46 Bone. EMPIRE HAVEN on separation O.S.46 Algiers. EMPIRE OPOSSUM Oran. MANCHESTER CITIZEN on separation O.S.46 Bone. ESSEX TRADER Casablanca. WILLOWDALE Gibraltar.

(N.C.S.O. Mersey 151516B.)

1. Detail one corvette of 38th Group to proceed Milford Haven to escort merchant ship DUKE OF ATHOLL to join convoy.

2. DUKE OF ATHOLL will arrive at Milford Haven from Cardiff at 0700B/17th.

3. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ships to R/V O.S. 46 K.M.S. 13 in 049° 22' N. 014° 30' W. at 0800B/19 routed via Q.Z.L. 18 and 180° Fastnet Rock 10 miles.

(C. in C.W.A. 152221B to Cdre. Londonderry.)

/W.P....

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

W.P. Convoys. / My 141811B. Due to new convoy routine, M.Ls. will not be required to sail as convoy escort, unless specially asked for.
(C. in C. Plymouth 151557B.)

C. in C. Plymouth's 141811 and 142153. The situation regarding attack on the Channel convoys is now likely to undergo a radical change in view of the steps being taken by C. in C. Plymouth which should have the desirable result of precluding E-Boat attack by dark in the Western Channel. I feel that we can now reasonably expect the enemy to attack the convoys to the eastward of the Isle of Wight. These are being as well protected as is practicable with the craft available. If it is possible however to (A) arrange convoy sailing so as to cover the distance between Portsmouth and Dungeness by day or (B) Provide additional escorting craft, such procedure should now be adopted without waiting for merchant ship losses to impose such possible improvements. I fully appreciate that other factors affecting these proposals exist to the eastward of the Dover Straits. I feel however that the situation is of sufficient importance for a meeting to be assembled at Admiralty or Nore where all interested parties can fully explore the situation. I would be grateful to know if you concur in the proposed meeting.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151921 to C. in C. Nore.) *Reply: 161206B.*

H.X. 232. AZALEA arrived Clyde with survivors.
FRESNO CITY (F.O.I.C. Greenock 151648B.)
survivors. Arrived WITHERINGTON.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 151758B.)

LETITIA. Air Ministry wish 205 Coastal Command personnel at present at Vaagso to return to U.K. as soon as possible.
2. It is proposed that LETITIA should call Faeroes about 19th April en route from Iceland to Clyde.
3. N.O.I.C. Faeroes is requested to confirm that this is acceptable and to inform F.O.I.C. Iceland to which anchorage LETITIA should proceed.
4. F.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to sail ship accordingly.
(D.O.D.H. 151719B.)

BOGUE Your 060805. Spare parts and ammunition for
Group. BOGUE and Escort Group available at Iceland and Londonderry.
(C.T.F. 24 151807Z to C. in C.W.A.)

S.L. 127. UGANDA taking ORKAN under his order and passing Gate at 0800/17. Proceed by Q.Z.S. 409 and 410 through position P. 180 Bishop Rock 10. Q. 049° 01' N. 012° 02' W. and thence provide cover for S.L. 127 against surface attack. Keep within 60 miles of convoy.

2. Estimate S.L. 127 S.O. Escort ROCHESTER in 047° 20' N. 014° 54' W. at 0800B/18, steer 358°, 7 knots. Anticipate BIRMINGHAM now covering S.L. 127 will break off for Plymouth daylight, 18th.

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

S.L.127.
(Contd.)

3. UGANDA and ORKAN are to take over cover of O.S.46 S.O.Escort LEITH when convoys pass early on 19th and cover to 042° N. ORKAN being detached to Plymouth for fuel when necessary.

4. 4 Narvik-class destroyers were in Gironde on 11th April.

(C. in C.Plymouth 152011B to UGANDA, ORKAN.)

TAMARA.

A.M. 041742B. TAMARA will sail from Gothenburg for St. John N.B. a.m. April 20th.
(Head of M.I. 152202B.)

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B. Aircraft reported enemy S/M 42.03 N. 09.20 W. at 0853Z April 14th course North, slow speed. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 150932 to STURGEON.)

M.K.S.11. ERNE, TEST, sailed to join M.K.S.11. (F.O.C. Gib. 150947A to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med.)

SEGUNDO EFIGENIA. Your 132033. Spanish SEGUNDO EFIGENIA, ship and cargo seized. (2) Enrique Campos Blanco. (3) Master admits working for Carranza and receiving instructions from his agents at all ports. (C.C.S.O. Gib. 151010A to Arfar 157 for M.E.W.)

Dispositions. Situation 152001A. M.K.S.11. EGRET 36.21 09.10 through 36.30 10.01 thence 311.8. (?2) TEVIOT, VETCH, 4 Merchant ships 36.49 09.28 through 37.21 11.15 at 09.00/16th to R/V M.K.S.11. After R/V VETCH return to Gibraltar.

(?3) C.G. 26, 3 destroyers 35.03 06.42 through 35.47 06.24 to Gibraltar 9 $\frac{1}{2}$. See addition 151714A. (4) R.S.4. ACUTE 33.46 08.31 through 33.23 09.19 thence (?215°) 8. (5) THALASSA patrol Huelva Bight. (6) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND 39.13 10.09 through 39.01 10.01 to Lisbon 14. (7) ST. NECTAN one merchant ship, sail 1700/15th through 35.56 06.20 Huelva 8 where merchant ships enters thence R/V with one merchant ship off Guadalquivir at 1300/16th and escorts through 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar 8. (8) U.S. Destroyer KNIGHT approx. 34.07 11.48 through 34.01 11.01 to Casablanca 18. (F.O. Gib. 151014.)

My 151014 Para (3) C.G.26, add following: E.T.A. 0830/16th, escort then return to Casablanca. (F.O. Gib. 151714A.)

Situation 2002/15th. STURGEON 040° 07' 010° 01' 360 dive by day 8/2. (2) S.L. 127 ROCHESTER 040° 39' 013° 33' (?through) 42.01 14.32 thence 355.7. (3) BIRMINGHAM approx. 41.32 14 (?23) to cover S.L. 127.18 $\frac{1}{2}$. (8) U.G.S.7, C.T.F.69, 34.30 30.20 46.90.9. (F.O. Gib. 151022A.)

Convoy Arrivals. Request I may be informed of safe arrival or otherwise of convoys sailing from here to U.K. At present only Clyde reports arrivals. (F.O.C. Gib. 151140 to Admty.)

M.K.F. Codeword. As there was another odd number M.K.F. Convoy at Sea at same time as M.K.F.11A, codeword "Pillbox" was allocated. (2) Regretted this information was not included in sailing telegram. (F.O.C. Gib. 151150A to Admty.)

M/V Repairs. N.A. Lisbon 151155A. See Mediterranean.

/Convoy...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Convoy X.K.4. My 131143A. Owing to weather this date cannot now be kept. Provided weather moderates in time to complete discharge and bunkering intend sailing p.m./19.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 151200A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A.)

Shipping Losses. Valencia reports ST. LUCIEN torpedoed off Port Vendres and ISLA DE LA GOMERA sprang leak off Cape Palos both sank. Can you confirm?
(D.N.A. Madrid, 151314A to S.O.(I) Gib. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty).

Movements, Casablanca. Arrived ALMAACK, ARAPAHO, MERVINE, EARLE DAVISON P.C.472 departed to join R.S.4 EMPIRE PRINCE, EGYPTIAN PRINCE, HARPALYCUS.
(C.M.S.F.F., 151335 to F.O. Gibraltar).

Convoy C.G.27. Intend sail C.G.27, composed of THEOMITOR (Greek) STORAAS (Br). CAPTAIN PAUL LEMMERLE (Fr). for U.K. and French ships JANINE, FORT ARCHAMBEAULT, for Oran departing Casablanca for Gibraltar 180800A (AFT OK) (as received) escorted by P.C.473 (Senior) 471 French COMMANDANT DELAGE routed via Q.K.A. 92 (E) 34.25 N., 06.56 W. (F) 35.45 N. 06.22 W Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar E.T.A.4 miles south Tarifa 191200A, S. of A. 7 knots. Codeword "Barbat" Convoy guard 500 k/cs 15 provide normal coverage to 35° N. priority C.M.46. Gibraltar pass to Aluslo and A.H.Q. Gibraltar.
(Commorseafon 151600 to F.O. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med etc).

Axis Shipping, Bilbao. Arrival 14th, 5. Arrival 15th, 22, FIO FRANCOLI, SUEVIA. Departure 14th, 13, 24, 17, 3, 2, 5, 18, 27, 28, 25, 1, 62, 64, CASTILLO ANDRADE, CARUSO, COBETAS, MONTE GALERA, MAGALLANES.
(Consul (Bilbao) 151617 to Admty. S.O.(I) Gib).

Note:- 1. PRESIDENT DE LAVIT, 2. COWDANNES, 3. JENNE DENISE, 5. HENK, 13. JEAN MAURICE, 17. OLGA, 18. JIM, 24. GLYCINE, 25. JACQUELINE, 27. MARIBEL, 28. LINETTE, 62. NORDFELS, 64. BORDSEK.

Wrecked U-boat. Report, graded B.1., states that shipwrecked U/B crew were transferred from Las Palmas by tug to a S/M between 0100 and 0300/14 April. Wrecked S/M reported to be laying in 40 feet of water S. of Juan Grande, her condition not serious and can easily be salvaged. (D.D.I.C., 151637B to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.A., Commorseafon).

Italian Repatriation. Your 141518A, concur. Family news broadcast should not be permitted this voyage.
(Head of M. (I) 151704B to F.O.C. Gib).

/My...

566

15.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Italian Repatriations. (Contd.) My 141603B. Military authorities have been requested to arrange that British Officer should contact Signor Caroselli, Head of Italian Mission, on board, at Port Elizabeth, to make detailed arrangements regarding repatriation. Facilities should be granted for this meeting.

2. SATURNIA and VULCANIA will have on board 20 Eritrean priests and students ex Vatican for Eritrea. List with certified photograph will accompany party for delivery to Military authorities. 3. F.O.C. Gibraltar should inform S.B.N.Os. (Head of M. (I) 151706B to F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth N.O.I.C. Massawa.)

SAN CIRILO M.K.S.11. My 142317 April, M.K.S.11. SAN CIRILO rejoined convoy for U.K. (F.O. Gib. 151716 to C. in C. Med.)

Gibraltar, Congestion. Request you will report the number of fleet auxiliaries and merchant ships. (a) in Gibraltar Harbour. (b) in Gibraltar Bay. stating briefly the various purposes for which they are being held. (A.C.N.S. (F) 151915B to V.A. Gibraltar.) Reply: 212010 refers to M.W.T. daily local report.

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals ST. NECTAN, STELLA CARINA, FOXTROT, TANGO GAVOTTE from S.L. 127G. F.O.S. in NELSON, RODNEY, MALAY, FORMIDABLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, LAFOREY, LOOKOUT, LOYAL, HOLCOMBE, LIDDESDALE, FARNDALE, ANTELOPE, VELOX, TYNEDALE, ILEX, CALPE, HAYDON Greek ship ADRIAS from East. Departures WILTON for Algiers. SOKOL, UPROAR, to Patrol East. WISHART, ANTELOPE, VELOX, LIDDESDALE for Oran. ST. NECTAN escort duties Huelva. (Gib. C.C.O. 151947 to Admty.)

Movements, Casablanca. April 15th Departures U.S.S. BEATTY, DORAN, QUICK with C.G.26, F.Os. 471 and 473 escorted 3 M/Vs. to R.S.4 R/V and returned with 2 ships. Arrivals U.S.S. DAVISON, EARLE, MERVINE, P.C.472 with ALMAACK towed by ARAPAHO. (Commorseafron 152030 to C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Movements, Freetown. Departures 140728Z April. PETUNIA, BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KATHIAWAR (Corrupt Group) KUMAON with S.T.62. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 150035Z to Admty., etc.)

STORMWRACK. Request permission be obtained for STORMWRACK and SATREELA to fuel at Beira. 2. Estimated requirements are 40 tons each furnace oil. SATREELA. 3. E.T.A. Beira is 24th April. (C. in C.S.A., 15044? to Admty. (R) N.A.Lisbon, C.S.A. Beira, Cdre. i/c Durban.)

DEVONSHIRE. Route for DEVONSHIRE. By R.9 to 035° 05' S. 018° 38' E. thence J. 034° 30' S. 017° 00' E. K. 017° 00' S. 010° 00' E. L. 010° 00' S. 009° 00' E. thence direct to Freetown. (2) Cdre I/C Durban pass to DEVONSHIRE. (C. in C.S.A., 150848B to Cdre. I/C Durban. (R) DEVONSHIRE, F.O.C. W.A., Admty.)

Movements, Durban. Arrived RACEHORSE escorting SS. KHETI and SS. RUNO. (N.O.i/c Durban, 151002Z to Admty., etc.)

NORTON. Your 121935Z April. Ship was torpedoed and sunk on 20th March in 027° 35' S. 014° 22' E. (C. in C.S.A., 151120B to A.S.O.(I) Recife. (R) Admty., Connav. N.S.H.Q. S.O. (I) Freetown. B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

AQUITANIA. Estimate requirements Rio de Janeiro, A.M.141930 para. 2 refers. (P.S.T.O. Capetown, 151136B to Connav, (R) B.A.D. etc.)

ALOE (sunk 5/4.) S. Africa Ship ALOE bound from Bunbury to Durban torpedoed and sunk 5th April in (?052°) 37' S. 037° 50' E. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 151140B to A.C.N.B., Melbourne)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959Z/15th April. LA GRACIEUSE, CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, INKPEN, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE on M/L with S.R.4, 20.43 17.36 359° 6 $\frac{3}{4}$. BUTSER escorting 10.50 17.03 to Freetown 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. M/L 287 M/L 296 escorting about 11.03 17.27 to Freetown 14 $\frac{1}{2}$. M/L 256 M/L 244 escorting 11.45 17.17 359° 10. CILICIA on patrol about 09.30 27.30. GEORGES LEYGUES about 10.01 20.01 Dakar. 20. (F.O.C.W.A., 151149Z)

/Situation...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 2001Z/15th April. COPINSAY ARRAN
(Contd.) off Marshalls, 2 M.L.s off Accra. PETUNIA,
BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR with O.S.S. 45
05.30 11.26 to 05.10 11.01 thence 148 9.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 02.01 21.02 15½.

Allied Naval Units on patrol in Ascension Area.

(F.O.C.W.A., 151151Z)

Position at 2000Z/15th April. QUEENBOROUGH 028° 25' 013°
50' to Capetown 20 knots.

KENYA, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS with W.S. (?28) Capetown
portion 034° 50' 019° 40' coastal to Durban by R.8 12½.

QUALITY, QUILLIAM escorting SS. PRIAM 034° 40' 022° 20' coastal
to Capetown 16½.

FREESIA, ST. LOMAN, SONDRRA with D.N.33 032° 50' 035° 40' to
dispersal at 033° 00' 036° 00' then to Durban 10.

CHALLENGER 022° 20' 037° 40' to Comore Island 9.

(C. in C.S.A., 1551155)

PORTLAND
(sunk
13/4.)

My 0930/13th. PORTLAND left Gironde 2100 March,
S. of A. 12. Means of detection not known but
exists certainly. 1 105, 2 37 4 20 m.m. guns.
Degaussing and no torpedoes. Rendezvous U/boats
only. Expected in vicinity of and South of
(? equator).

(GEORGES LEYGUES, 151200Z to Comar Dakar F.O.C.
W.A. (R) Admty.) W.D. Note: 1 105 mm = 4.1 inch.
2 37 mm. = 1.45 inch, 4 20 mm. = ? pom pom.

Movements,
Walvis Bay.

Departures 1200/15th VIVIANA, SUNBEAM III,
BENALDER in tow of H.M. Tug MASTERFUL to Capetown.
Estimated speed 5½ knots, routed coastwise, E.T.A.
Capetown 0800/21st.
(N.O.I.C., Walvis Bay, 151202B to C. in C. S.A.
Admty., N.L.O. Capetown.)

W.S.28
Capetown
Section.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1100Z/15th. (3) 029° 57'
S. 031° 12' E. E.T.A. 0900Z/18th. (4) 12 knots.
(5) R.8 to R/V. (6) KENYA, RELENTLESS, REDOUBT,
PROSERPINE. (15) R.D. 1 to 9, codeword
"Dancerbhy".
(N.C.S.O., Capetown, 151208Z to Admty., etc.)

M.M.S.

Propose to sail M.M.S. 102, 103, 105 and 106
to Levant via Gibraltar. Do you concur?
(F.O.C.W.A., 151230Z to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C.
Levant Admty.) Reply C. in C. Med. 161021A.

SARABANDE,
MALAY.

1. Departure 1200Z/15th April SARABANDE
escorting tanker MALAY to Pointe Noire, speed 9½
knots, E.T.A. 1500Z/19th April. 2. (Route)
3. Shifts from Area Q to Area P.W/T organization
1800Z/17th April.
(N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay, 151241Z to C. in C.S.A.
Admty., R.A.W.Af., B.N.L.O. Pointe Noire, Connav)

/O.S.46...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

O.S.46, Will an oiler sail with O.S.46? FORTOL must
oiler. dock very shortly.
(F.O.C.W.A., 151313Z to Admty.) Reply Admty.
171920B.

SOUND My 031515 Mr. Percival representative of owners
FISHER, SOUND FISHER is on his way to supervise fitting
Gun turret ship at Lagos. 2. Request you will recall
for ship if already sailed in accordance your 141034.
PHOEBE. 4. Turret required New York middle May to
complete PHOEBE.
(D.T.D., 151340B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) N.O.I.Cs.)
Comply with Admiralty's 131540 para. 2. (?A.M. 151340
intended). Report probable date SOUND FISHER ready to sail as
soon as known.
(F.O.C.W.A., 151758Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

Italian Your 141341. Position B given in my 071541 is
Repatriations. 011° 00' E.
(C. in C.S.A., 151454B to Admty., (R) F.O.C.
Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.A., F.O.C. Red Sea C. in C.
Levant B.C., St. Vincent, C. in C. E.F.,
N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, C. & C.O. Massawa.)

Patrol Your 060959 March. (Re trawlers for West Africa.)
Launch. Belgian Congo Military authorities have now
received on 163 foot M. Launch of R.A.F. Rescue
type from U.S. and this will be used for local
duty. 3 more are expected.
(B.N.L.O. West Africa, 151505A to F.O. W. Af. (R)
Admty., C. in C.S.A.)

U/B. American A/C sighted U/boat at 1123Z/15 in 05°
35' S. 12° 55' W. Course 350°
(F.O.C.W.A., 151510Z to Admty.)

M.L. Cancel my 141748 F. S/M LE CENTAURE will be
escort escorted by M.L. 281.
for (Comar Dakar, 151556Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) N.O.I.C.
CENTAURE. Bathurst, Air Hqrs. W.Af. Admty.)

Movements, Arrival 15th April ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, M.L.277.
Lagos. (N.O.I.C. Lagos, 151605Z to Admty.)

CORINTHIAN Your 151243Z. (N.T. in W.D.) M.L.11 41 and F.S.LA
S.R.4. GRACIEUSE detached 0700Z to arrive Port Etienne
P.M. in accordance with previous instructions. My
P.C. and S. 020° 26' N. 017° 31' W. 359° 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ knots.
French Ship AIR FRANCE IV and trawler CABO JUBY?
(Portugal) sighted in vicinity this afternoon.
(CORINTHIAN, 151615Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

/Italian...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Italian
Repatriations.

Your 141042. (Route for Italian repatriation liners.) When received your 081720 was wrongly decyphered. Necessary correction has now been made and route understood.
(Head of M.I., 151711B to F.O.C.W.A.)

ARUNDEL
CASTLE.

D.S.T.O. Durban's 131733B to P.S.T.O. Capetown only (N.T. in W.D.) If necessary ARUNDEL CASTLE must be sailed independently, numbers on board being limited as in A.M. 161140 March. Delay in sailing of convoy cannot be accepted.
(D.O.D.(F), 151816B to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. Capetown.)

MALCOLM
WITCH
WOLVERINE.
(W.S.29
K.M.F.13)

Arrived 1630Z/15 MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE. Intend to sail 0630Z/16 in compliance with F.O.C. West Africa 140834.
(Comar Dakar, 152016Z to F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C., Gibraltar, Admty., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, C. in C. Med., Air H.Q. West Africa, Comorseafront.)
Departures 1513/14 MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE. (S.O.(I) Freetown S.L., 152325Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, Comorseafront, Comar Dakar. (R) Admty. etc.)

W.S.28.

Sailed KENYA, RELENTLESS, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, LARGS with W.S.28. (2) Escorts shift to W/T organization J. at 1200Z April 17th and N.U. at 2000Z April 20th
(3) A/S escorts return to Durban from 045° East.
(C. in C.S.A. 152017B to Admty. etc.)

QUEEN MARY.

Arrival 15th April.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 152314Z to Admty.)

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one Destroyer TWKU (?KW) 42.49
39.42 N. 13.49 E. 360° 20 knots.
(A/C BTB/I, 150020B to Air H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. of two unknown vessels 37.20 N.
13.02 E, 315° 15 knots.
(A/C GHZ/R, 150025 to Air H.Q. Malta)

My 2359. P.C. and S. of two destroyers three medium merchant
vessels 38.14 N. 12.52 E. 300° 6 knots.
(A/C MTB/Y, 150029B to Air H.Q. Malta)
My 0029. Enemy course and speed are 120° 6 knots.
(A/C BTB/Y 150046B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
My 2359 P.C. and S. of enemy 38.12 N. 13.07 E. 095° 8 knots.

Request instructions.
(A/C BTB/Y, 150150A to K.T., H.Q. Malta)
Re My 0025B rebroadcast from Rugby. These are E-Boats.
(Capt. (S) 10, 150300 to S/M's on patrol)
P.C. and S. of one medium M/V. one small M/V. and 5 destroy-
ers 39.32 N. 15.21 E. 160° 8 knots. Request instructions.
(A/C. BTB/L 150315B to Air H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. of 2 M/V's 1 Destroyer 37.20 N. 11.30 E.
200° 8 knots.
(A/C BUL/T, 150535 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 3 medium M/V, 1 small M/V, and 2 escort
vessels, 38.57 N. 15.45 E. 190° 8 knots.
(A/C FFD/O, 150740 to Air H.Q. Malta)
P.C. and S. of 2 enemy ships (type undecypherable)
38.01 N. 12.03 E. course 075° speed 12 knots.
(A/C 86R/S via Malta W/T, 150910A via Malta W/T)

Convoy Sailed my 131115, 08(?30).
C.G.26. (C.M.S.F.F. 150310Z to F.O. Gibraltar)

ILE DE D.S.T.O. Suez's 120844. Request confirmation
FRANCE. that number of Service personnel to embark in
ILE DE FRANCE is 6000. How many are for U.K.
giving further explanatory details.
(D. of S.T. 150210B to P.S.T.O. M.E.)
Reply: 161836.

Air Raid Air/Int 863, April 15, damage assessment 63 A
Damage, sortie D/405 Spezia. Whole town and docks are
Spezia, covered on photographs of excellent scale and
14/4. quality. Storehouses adjacent to swing bridge
are three quarters gutted, still burning.
Possible damage to electricity workshops but
smoke obscures. Boat shed gutted and long
building S.E. of Umberto Dock No.5 seriously damaged and
oil tanks possibly damaged and much blast damage to buildings
S.E. of oil tanks. Possible hit on starboard bow of LITTORIO
class battleship lying N of breakwater to Gulf of Spezia.
Considerable residential damage in west part of town. Many
forest fires seen west of docks. Mean time of photography
1545 hours.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 150730B to Air Min.)

Air/Int / ...

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War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Air Raid Damage, Spezia, 14/4 (Contd.) Air/Int/865 April 15, damage assessment 63B sortie D/405 Spezia. Ref. 63A of same date. Further examination of LITTORIO class battleship shows no damage. Examination of heavy cruiser GORIZIA shows extensive superficial damage forward of after funnel. This damage unlikely to have been caused during raid of 13/14 April, 1943. (R.A.F. Medmenham, 151030B to Air Min.)

Air/Int/870. Supplementary to Form White G/357 15th April, 540 Squadron P.R. Sortie D/405 141545/B/APR Spezia. Further examination shows LITTORIO Class Battleship near Marola Jetty to have tug close to stern attached to hawser. No moorings visible. Gangway from stern to quay removed. Boom protecting bow of battleship withdrawn two other tugs manoeuvring near bows. Boom across entrance to Outer Port open. No apparent activity noted amongst minor Naval units. Boom between Southern Breakwater and Pointe Sainte Maria closed. (R.A.F. Medmenham, 152359B to Air Min.)

KING EDWIN, fire. Fire broke out, in KING EDWIN 2030 April 14. Details later but can state now ship unfit for further service. No casualties among ships crew. Request owners be informed. (D.S.T.O.Malta, 150750 to D. of S.T.(R) P.S.T.O. M.E.)

A petrol fire broke out in No.1 hold of SS. KING EDWIN at 2030 April 14th whilst discharging. Now under control but Nos 1 and 2 holds will be completely burnt out. A number of lighters have been destroyed and some stevedores killed. Further signal will be made. (V.A. Malta, 151059A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant)

Spezia R/C. P.R.U. Spezia 141545B/April. Since 20th March, 8" Cruiser GORIZIA, 2 Destroyers resembling TIGRE class Torpilleurs, and 2 Destroyers have arrived. Five T.B's, 2 ELAN class escort vessels and 2 U-Boats (220 feet) have left. Units now present. 3 LITTORIO class Battleships, 8" Cruisers GORIZIA and BOLZANO, Cruiser TARANTO, 2 TIGRE class centre torpilleurs, 9 Destroyers, 7 T.B's, 6 U-Boats 220 feet and 3 U-Boats 130 feet. Cruiser REGOLO class still in dry dock. GORIZIA anchored in Spezia Bay with lighters and crane alongside. One LITTORIO class has moved from Building Slip Quay and is being handled by tugs near boom protected anchorage. Cruiser BOLZANO and REGOLO hull moved from No.2 basin to Marola jetty. Merchant shipping since 20th March 4 vessels 310 to 340 feet have left. At Odero Terni shipyards since 1st March 1943 One U-Boat 220 feet has arrived making two now present. Merchant shipping 1 vessel 500 feet has been launched from ships since 1st March. One of 450 feet and one of 370 feet the latter being a new arrival. One M.V. 350/400 feet has departed since 1st March. (D.D.I.C. 151042B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

K.M.S.12 / ...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

K.M.S.12. Arrived OCEAN LIBERTY, OCEAN VETERAN, SALVATORE JARL, NARVA STAR, PENSHURST, Tank landing ship 361 and 363.
(N.O.I.C.Bougie, 150819A to Admty etc.)

K.M.S.12, Algiers section arrived plus EMPIRE CAMERON (26 ships)
(Cdre. Algiers, 15093A to Admty)

Movements, 14th April. Arrivals. M.L.1038.
Beirut. Departures. AETOS BURRA M.L's 348, 350, 1156.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 150825C to Admty)

Movements, Sailed a.m. for Algiers L.C.I. 243 and 161.
Jijelli. (N.O.I.C.Jijelli, 150850A to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Arrival 14th April WOLBOROUGH departures 14th
Alexandria. April M.T.B. 60 M.L.355 SPETSAI.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 150910C to Admty. etc.)

Bi-weekly Ref. Opsum No.116 Part 4. 20 B.24s despatched
Opsum 13 April to make dusk attack on shipping in
No.117 Catania Harbour. 5 returned early owing to
Part 1. technical troubles. Remainder found Catania
completely obscured by cloud. 1 bombed estimated
position harbour with unknown results. 14 returned
with bombs. 9 x 50 lb H.E. at 1635Z hours.
(H.Q.,R.A.F.,M.E., 150953Z)

E.T.18. Have following for inclusion: NATHANIEL MAC(?ON)
for U.S. CROMARTY FIRTH to load. Cdre. Algiers
is requested to supply pendant number.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 151019A)
Amended, see 180919.

RODOPI. My 141255C. RODOPI entered Aegean 19?45 G.M.T.
April 14th Course North along coast.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 1510?25C to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S.1, D.N.I.)

Movements, Todays arrivals. WILTON, WISHART, ANTELOPE,
Oran. LIDDESDALE, VELOX, EGGESFORD.
(Comnob, Oran, 151034A to Admty etc.)

RORQUAL. Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 151038 to Admty etc.)

UNITED. P.44 (UNITED) sailed 1200B April 15th for exercises
and then to patrol in area M and Q routed through
035° 20' 015° 26' and 037° 00' 015° 52'.
(Capt. (S) 10, 151040B to C. in C. Med. (V.A.
Malta, 151302B to Admty etc.)

574

15.4.1945.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- U.G.S.7. Destination of tankers as follows: (List)
(C. in C. Med. 151102A, 151538 to C.T.F. 69
Escorts of U.G.S.7)
- G.U.F.7. Intend sailing following (List, 16 ships)
(Com. NO.B. Oran, 151129A to A.I.G.259)
G.U.F. 7. My 121613. All times 24 hours
later.
(C. in C. Med. 151147A to Com. N.O.B. Oran,
F.O.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafront. (R) Admty.
Connav.)
- M/V Repairs in Spain or Portugal. Your 1151/12th. In 1941 Portuguese M. of M. refused facilities for repairs in Lisbon of merchant vessels then at Gibraltar on grounds that it would ease Dockyard situation at Gibraltar and expose Portuguese shipping to reprisal by Germans. They have always agreed to repair damaged merchant ships arriving direct from high seas. I will approach Portuguese authorities again and report result.
(N.A. Lisbon, 151155A to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. N.A.Madrid)
- BELA PTITSA. My 131724C para. B. Second Bulgarian Auxiliary Sailing Vessel BELA PTITSA not yet arrived. Now expected next 24 hours.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 151314C to C. in C. Levant,
(R) S.O.I. Levant, S.I. D. of N.I.)
- P.R.U. April 15th visuals. 1055 Taranto 2 Battleships,
3 Cruisers. 1145 Messina no major Naval Units.
(V.A. Malta, 151329B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- PAKENHAM, PALADIN. PAKENHAM and PALADIN repeating my 100758 tonight 15th/16th passing south of Pantellaria on onward route.
(V.A. Malta, 151412B to C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S.,
C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force Q. H.Q. N.W.Af. C.A.F.
H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)
Sailed PAKENHAM and PALADIN on operations.
(V.A. Malta, 151559 to Admty etc.)
- ST.GOTTHARD. Swiss ST. GOTTHARD leaving Genoa 16th April by approved route.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 151446 to ULTOR, UNRULY, SARA-CEN, TRIDENT, P.S. DZIK?)
- P.52. Leave patrol through 042° 19' 009° 15' at
0200/18th 039° 54' 004° 38' at 1500/19th. 038°
14' 003° 18' at 2030/20th and R/V escort

Algiers / ...

575

15.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- P.52
(Contd.) Algiers in (9035°) 56' 003° 02' at 0615/21st all positions North and East all North zone minus 1.
(Capt. (S) 8, 151556A to P.52 (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M F.)
- UPROAR,
SOKOL. Onward route for P.31 (UPROAR) through 039° 57' 001° 37' at 2000/19th and 042° 19' 004° 20' at 1200/21st to patrol North of 042° 19' between 004° 00' and 005° 50'. (II) Onward route for SOKOL through 039° 43' 001° 39' at 1200/19th and 042° 19' 06° 20' at 0100/22nd to patrol North of 042° 19' between 005° 50' and 007° 40'. Keep South of 042° 50' North when West of 006° 42' E. (III) All positions North and East all time zone minus 1.
(Capt. (S) 8, 151628A to P.31 (UPROAR) SOKOL (R) 8th S/M F. Capt. (S) 10, C. in C. Med. F.O. Gibraltar.)
- Movements,
Port Said. 15th April Port Said arrivals SPETSAI departures Tug HENRIETTA MOLLER M/L 384 M/L 385.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 151648C to Admty etc.)
- PETARD. Intend to detach PETARD to comply C. in C. Levant's 092311C para.11 at heel about 0501A/16th, proceeding direct Malta at 25 knots.
(Capt. (D) 14, 151706B to N.O.I.C. Libya, N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C. Levant, PETARD, C.S.15, Capt. (D) 12)
- P.L.M.16
ALBA JULIA. My 121735. P.L.M.(?16) Skyros loads about 3000 tons chrome for Trieste expected ship will await Corinth cargo here. B.2. No armament apparent but report B.2 mountings for 2 Oerlikons 1 fore and 1 (? aft) and 2000 rounds of ammunition. (2) My 101107 ALBA JULIA returned Istanbul from Candia. Now loaded 2500 tons chrome and will complete with 2000 tons general cargo. Expect ship will be ready to sail about 20th April.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 151710C to ? S.O.(I) Levant (R) Capt. (S) 1. Capt. (S) 10. D.N.I.)
- P.R.U. April 15th visuals.
1645B Taranto 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers. 1545 Messina no major Naval Unit.
(V.A. Malta, 151749B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- K.M.S.12. Arrived. (List)
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 151803A to Admty etc.)
- French
N.O's,
N.Africa. I am somewhat concerned over unheralded movements of French Naval Officers from U.K. to this area. Some days ago Commandant Moullec, alias Moret,

arrived / ...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.French
N.O's,
N.Africa.
(Contd.)

arrived in Algiers and made contact with my staff and I now hear unofficially that Adml. Muselier is expected shortly. Glad if Admiralty would keep me in touch with these matters and particularly as regards policy to be adopted. It will be remembered that Muselier has been very unpopular with his contemporaries in French Navy.
(C. in C. Med. 151842A to Admty)

E.T.18.

My 121246A and 131144A sailed less OCEAN MESSENGER, LINGE, and EMPIRE MONOTAUR. GEORGE DAVIS now Oran and HILDUR I Algiers.
(F.O.I.S.151915A to A.I.G.259)
Philippeville Section sailed less 6 L.S.T's and NIMBLE.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 152217A to Admty etc.)

Movements,
Tripoli.

Arrived GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, KLO FALK. Sailed HURSLEY, CROOME, KANARIS, G.S.SAKTOURIS.
(N.O.I.C.Libya, 151946A to Admty)

Damage to
RESOLUTION.

Your 122002A/April. Report forwarded with Admiralty Letter M/T.S.D. 129/43 of 13th April, 1943.
(D.T.S.D. 151952B to C. in C. Med.)

Movements,
Bone.

Bone. Arrivals BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, POLRUAN, CLACTON. Departures BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, POLRUAN, CLACTON, TARTAR, ASHANTI, BICESTER, ZETLAND.
(F.O.I.S.152001A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements,
Philippeville.

Arrival L.S.T's 362, 303, 401, 302, 304, 403, TRITON (G.S)
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 152007A to Admty)

Movements,
Benghazi.

Arrived M.L.349, Fighting French M.L.1143 and 1164 Tug WELLINGTON.
(N.O.I.C.Bengazi, 152048C to Admty)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

To: CG 8th Air Force. (R) C.G. 9th Air Force.
From: H.Q. N.A.A.F. A.D.V. From: Spaatz.
for. Eaker and Brereton.
(1) Three acting as skipbombers, 4 as divebombers and 16 as escort, 23 P.38's attacked beached M/V

S.E. of Cap Zebit. 4 1,000 lb. bombs were dropped, skippers from 50 feet, divers from 2,000 ft. 4 near misses. 3 bombs mechanisms failed to function.
(N.A.A.F. Constantine, 152048Z to Etousa and Cairo)

Situation / ...

577

15.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Situation Report, No.23. Eastern Tunisia. Sousse. Gap in entrance to Harbour 120 feet wide and 22 feet depth. Ready to receive L.C.T. Suitable as advanced M.T.B. base. Only ship blocking entrance was in Ballast and lies on her side. Berths for two ships of 400 feet with draught 17 feet available. (2) Sfax. Entrance completely clear. Small Commando Force landed Western Extremity of Gharbi Island (?Kennah Group) 140500/April to clear Islands. Operation proceeding according to plan, no opposition being met. (3) Tripoli. (L). Raided by 12 plus aircraft L2130 to 2200/13th with circling torpedoes but not pressed home. One exploded on seaward side of Karamanli Mole causing slight damage to pipeline. Remainder exploded outside harbour. 1 recovered with similar dimensions to those in last attack (see my 211921 but pistol fittings different. (4) One German and one Italian Mine destroyed to westward of Tripoli (L) 13th April. (5) My 122006 para. 3 DALTON HALL refloated. (6) Second Minesweeping Flotilla sweeping minefield north of Tolmeita. (7) Submarines. My 091037 April para 2. KATSONIS on 4th April captured one seaman from Caique etc., off Cape Maleta. At 2030/4th April fired three torpedoes into Githion Harbour 36° 46' N. 22° 36' E. sinking Italian Patrol vessel. At 1000/5th April she sank small northbound Spanish Merchant ship by torpedo and gunfire close inshore west of Thermia. (8) EURYALUS carrying out short exercise periods at Suez.

(C. in C. Levant, 152101C to Admty)
A.I.507 15 April 1943 CSR.

(A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 14th/15th April. Haze and low cloud hampered offensive operations. 1 Special equipment torpedo carrying Wellington on shipping search in Palermo sea sighted at 2229 hours 1 M/V 8000, 2 M/Vs 2000 tons and ? 2 D/Rs 38° 12' N. 13° 04' E. course S.W. and attacked M/V 5000 tons with 1 torpedo but no result was observed. Wellington then shadowed convoy and dropped flares until 0147 hours when convoy was left on easterly course probably returning to Palermo. Three special equipment bomb carrying Wellingtons on shipping search in Sicilian Narrows were diverted to attack this convoy but made no sighting owing to haze. On return journey 2 Wellington bombed Empedocle harbour. 1 Wellington is missing. 4 Torpedo carrying Beauforts searched for shipping in Sicilian Narrows and one of them at 0328 hours sighted 1 M/V 2000 tons and 1 escort vessel 37° 20' N. 11° 30' E. course 200°. Beaufort attacked larger M/V with 1 torpedo at 0345 hours but no result was seen. To cover these shipping strikes 6 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicily 2 patrolling Comiso Catania and 4 patrolling Trapani area. At 2250 hours 1 Mosquito sighted 4 small Vessels few miles west of Lovanzo course East and attacked leading vessel scoring strikes on bows. Day 15th April. 5 Offensive sweeps by total of 28 Spitfires were made over Southern Sicilian Aerodromes as diversion for Liberators of 9th Bomber Command bombing Catania, no enemy aircraft was encountered.

Part 2 / ...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report
No.23.
(Contd.)

Part 2. Enemy air activity night 14/15 April 2
Beaufighters made interception patrols in
Pantellaria and Passero areas.
Day 15 April. 9 Beaufighters provided escort
to outgoing southbound convoy.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 152109Z)

ADVENTURE.

Your 141147 (Re mines to be shipped in ADVENTURE).
Request these mines may be shipped. It should
not be necessary to return any mines to provide
storage for them.
(C. in C. Med. 152127A to Admty (R) S.O. Force
"G", ADVENTURE, N.O.I.C.Oran)

Minesweeping.

Your 071923 (Request for circumstances in which
mine was swept). Commorseafron's 141600 being
passed to you. Reports are in the form of
Minesweeping Report No.5.
(C. in C. Med. 152246A to Admty)

MOST SECRET

578A

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.)

*Tunisia -
 Situation Report*

MOST SECRET MESSAGE 151910Z/April IN

From Algiers Date 16.4.43.
Recd. 1043Z

Cipher

Addressed Troopers, Usfor, Mideast, Britman Washington, Amindia Delhi, P.A.I.C., Landforces, Melbourne, Dechiefs Pretoria, Dechiefs Capetown, Force Nairobi, H.M. Ambassador Madrid (Pass to U.S. Ambassador Madrid), *Britmilat Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak) * passed by Foreign Office. Resident Minister Achimota (Passed by Colonial Office) Defender, Wellington (for Puttick) (Passed by War Office)

No. 4665 15th April. U.S. 297.

LINREP No. 38.

Summary of Operations 12th to 14th April, 1943.

1. Eighth Army. Eighth Army continued the pursuit of the enemy to the north of Sousse with New Zealand Division and Armoured elements ahead. By evening 13th April contact was made with the enemy's new positions from Enfidaville to the West. This contact was maintained throughout 14th April while the concentration of Eighth Army in the forward areas proceeded. Our rapid advance of the past 5 days in this sector has released the troops on the Second Corps and Ninth Corps for other duties.
2. Two Corps. The Ninth U.S. Inf. Div. has moved to the northern part of the First Army Sector where one combat team relieved the 138th Brig. the night of 12/13th April. The balance of the Second Corps has been concentrated at Morsott (11th Inf. Div) and Sidi Bou Zid (1st Arm. Div.).
3. Ninth Corps. Sixth Armoured Division reached Sbikha (P-05) on the morning 12th April. The Corps was then ordered to withdraw to the vicinity of Kesra, concentration was completed during night 13/14th April. April 15th the Ninth Corps (less 6th Armored Div. which remained at Kesra) moved to area 6 miles NW of Gafour.
4. First Army
 - (a) Nineteenth Corps. On 12th April the French troops advance continued and by 13 April the whole of Eastern Dorsale South from Karachoum O 8368 has been cleared of the enemy. While maintaining continuous contact with the enemy and advance then was made to the North. On 14 April Djebel Sefsouf, 7 miles north of Karachoum was occupied. Enemy resistance has been stubborn. 500 enemy dead were counted on Djebel Ousselat alone. Over 450 prisoners were captured during 14 April.

(b)

MOST SECRET

548B.

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.

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

-2-

(b) Five Corps. The enemy apparently attaches considerable importance to the Hordous - Djebel El Ang-Sidi Nisir area, where our forces have met strong resistance and repeated counter attacks. Casualties on both sides have been heavy. However, on 14 April our forces occupied Djebel El Ang and the hills to the North and NW of Heidous.

5. ENEMY. Since the initial attack on the Mareth positions, more than 30,000 enemy prisoners have been captured. Allowing for casualties the enemy effective strength is now estimated at 160,000 of which two thirds are German and the balance Italian. As a result of our air and naval activity and necessity of building up supplies the enemy build up in personnel has been reduced to an estimated 200 per day. There are no indications of any immediate intention to evacuate the present bridgehead which extends roughly along the line Enfidaville-Djebel Fkirine-Djebel Chenamila - Oulad Yahia. Anti-tank ditches and other defensive works are being prepared along the recently occupied Eastern part of this line. It is probable that the enemy armour will be centrally located in the general area of the Tunis plain.

6. NAVAL. On 12 April one of our submarines obtained a possible hit on a 2,000 ton supply ship in the Gulf of Genoa. During night 12/13 April a Commando party was landed on North Tunisian coast. Party reembarked on completion of task without loss. M.T.Bs. from Malta operated in Gulf of Hammamet. During night 13/14 April Destroyers carried out a sweep to Marittimo. There is a gap of 120 feet at entrance to Sousse Harbour. Berths are available for L.C.Ts. and two larger ships but approaches have not yet been swept.

7. AIR. Many heavy attacks have been made by bombers of both Strategic and Tactical Air Forces on enemy transport and troop concentrations in the vicinity of Enfidaville. Enemy landing grounds in Tunisia and Sicily have been successfully attacked. Trygani and Bizerta Harbours were bombed on 12 April. Hits have been observed on 3 merchant vessels and one large tanker.

8. POLITICAL. The political situation in North Africa is quiet. Awaiting some word from the negotiations which are taking place in London, England.

151901Z

Recd. in W.R. PM/17/4.

Advance copy D.C., D.O.D.(F), D.D.I.C.

Circulation

.....
Circulation:

Brigadier Jacob.
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang.
Mr. Radcliffe.

1st Lord.
1st 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. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
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D.G.D.
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D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
Admiral Mack (4)
D.A/S.W.
D.T.S.D.

MG

579

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements.

SHAPINSAY arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 150715Z to Admty.)

C.X.2.

(2) 0940Z/15th April. (4) 10 knots. (Route)
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 151012Z, 151026Z to Admty.)

Left RESOURCE.

(F.O. E.Af. 151241Z to Admty.)

Colombo arrivals 15th N.N. 600 Z Tug ZEERANG. Departures

1000 Z. H.M.T. VERBENA.

(F.O. Ceylon 151408Z to Admty.)

India

Air Report.

(B) Offensive R/C 13 April. 5 Hurricanes attacked
huts and Sampans Kaladan river fires started.
14 April. 3 Hurricanes damaged M/T and river craft
area North of Taungup 4 Hurricanes destroyed 6
launches with troops Ramree area. 6 Hurricanesdamaged Lorriec Indian area. 2 Hurricanes damaged launches and
river craft Mayu river.

(A.H.Q. India 151126Z to Air Min.)

Dispositions.

My 071935 U.S. Pacific Fleet, changes in
disposition NEVADA, IDAHO, LONG ISLAND, CONCORD,
LOUISVILLE, MINNEAPOLIS, SAN FRANCISCO, WICHITA
at sea. TRENTON at Balboa. SALT LAKE CITY at
San Francisco.

(D.O.D. (F) 151320B to C. in C. E.F.)

China.Attacks on
Japanese
Shipping
Saigon,
etc.

Your 0462 dated 31st March.

M.E.W. attach highest priority dislocation Japanese
shipping, shipping facilities and warehouses at
Saigon, Haiphong, Hongay. Railway and river
transport by attacks on locomotives and river
craft. Suggested targets include: Railway
workshops at Hanoi, Doumer Bridge at Hanoi,
Power Stations at Hanoi, Haiphong and Cholon,
Cement works at Haiphong. Desertion labour asconsequence of attacks may be most important result. Suggest
discuss with Blewett, M.E.W. representative, Chungking, who has
map showing approx. location mineral deposits. M.E.W. here will
telegram Blewett on value of specific targets if you desire. Air
Ministry willing co-operate.

(W.O. 151040B to M.A. Chungking.)

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

CAMPECHANO. Following read. Spanish Tanker CAMPECHANO position noon 15.53 N., 50.39 W. course 265° speed 11.5 knots - Fernandez Master. (Burnham Radio, Recd. 0030/15)

Dispositions. Section East. My 141510Z. add CAMROSE, VILLE DE QUEBEC vicinity 47.10 48.42 en route St. Johns N.F. 12 from O.N.S.2 amend J.H.48 VEGREVILLE, TROIS RIVIERES ?47.?25 52.31 196° 8.5 altering to 237° 9.5 in 46.34 52.52. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 150030Z to Admty).

Section East O.N.S.2 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5. 45.42 48.42 258° 6.

M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11 due St. Johns (N.F.) p.m./15th from south eastwards.

U.S. S/M HADDO unescorted diving by day 41.47 48.50 059° 115 miles per day.

O.N. 176 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.6 43.18 55.18 260° 9.

J.H.48, VEGREVILLE, TROIS RIVIERES 45.01 N. 18. 237° 9.5 alter to 287° in 57.33 W.

Section East H.X.234 Task Unit 24.18.9 43.38 58.03 080° 9.5

H.J.46 WASAGA, WOODSTOCK, U.S.S. ARVEK, ALATOK, TRAVIS 44.12 58.43 116° 7.5 Alter to 090° in 58.12 W. and to 049° in 56.(?27) W.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 151515Z to Admty).

My 151515Z Section East add U.S.T.F. No. 22 exercised in area 39 N. to 44 N. 52 W. to 56 W.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 151613Z).

My 151515Z. Section East add J.H.48 A. CHELSEA sailed St. Johns N.F. 2030Z/15 to 47.34 52.29 thence 19.30 12.5 altering to 242° in 46.34 52.49.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 152258Z).

Section South West X.B.44 A. DUNVEGAN, STRATFORD 42.35 69.54 228° 6.5 H.F.48.

KENTVILLE, GRANDMERE 43.31 66.26 340° 7.5 alter to 023° in 44.08 N. (corrupt group).

SOREL, SHELBURNE approaches inbound M.M.S. 100, 99, 101, 104, 108, vicinity 43.57 64.17 coastwise to 43.03 N. 69.25 W.

Section South West B.Y.M.S.65, 66, 67, 185, 44, 27, 62, 50 108° 11 alter to (?035°) in 60.01 W. and to 035° in 57.40 W. H.J.46 A DIGBY, ESQUIMALT, SARNIA, AGASSIZ 44.30 63.00 091° 9.5.

Section S.W. H.S.80 NIPIGON 44.30 63.22 (?90°) 7.5 alter to (?065°) in 62.18 W. and for Louisburg in 60.02 W. W.L.E.T.U.

24.18.2. departs Chebucto Head 152030Z to join O.N. 176 in 42.59 N. 58.54 W. 12 MINAS vicinity 44.10 62.10 en route Halifax.

(C.O.A.C., Halifax, 151545Z to Admty).

My 151545Z section South West amend H.J.46 A alter to 073° in 62.18 W. to 123° in 60 (50?) W. and to 091° in 60.01 W. (M?) vicinity 44.15 60.54.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 151810Z).

H.X.234
STEPHAN A.
DOUGLAS.

H.X.234. STEPHEN A. DOUGLAS detached for Halifax at 2200Z. Leaking badly weather report. (C.T.U. 24.18.9., 150030Z to Connav).

War Diary.

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Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 14th. Arrivals LINCOLN, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE, LETHBRIDGE, ex H.X. 233, HAMILTON, THE PAS, KAMSACK, BLAIRMORE, ex S.C.126. TAHOMA ex Argentina. VIMY, HIGHLANDER, PENNYWORT, ANEMONE, ABELIA, CLOVER, ASPHODEL ex O.N.176. Departure VEGREVILLE, TROIS RIVIERES to J.H. 48. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 150050Z to Admty.)
Departure 15th H.M.M.Ls. 378, 379, 1171 and 1172 for St. Lucia.
(B.C. (San Juan) 151425Q to Admty).
Departure REGINA, TRANSCONA, MINAS escorting H.H.X.234. Arrivals TRILLIUM, DAUPHIN from St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 151439Z to Admty).
San Francisco April 14 LURLINE for San Diego Port Hueneme
April 13 EWING YOUNG for Brisbane via Cairns both U.S. Army transports.
(N.S.H.Q., 151724Z to Admty).

Escorts SHEDIAC (?BATTLEFORD) (?GRENADIER) with AMSTEL and ex O.N.S.2. ADHERENT ex O.N.S. 2 en route St. Johns. P.C. and S. 46.33 N. 47.30 W. 288° 8.5. Request information regarding boundary of ice if any. (SHEDIAC, 150240Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. N.W.A., C.T.U. 29.1,11, C.T.24).

BOGUE 150907. This is Navy Yards Boston's 141906 addressed to C.T.F.24 for action. Load testing requires extension to 1200 April 18. Additional essential work Catapult cylinder requires extension availability to 2400 April 16. Representative Aircraft Factory and Commanding Officer of Vessel concur. Yard proceeding with repairs. Advise. Ref. Urdis 072359. (Comnavu, 150907 to Admty).
C. in C. Lant 151225 addressed for action to Navy Yard Boston, informs as follows:
Availability until 1200Q/18th April granted. This refers to Navy Yard Boston 141906.
(Comnavu, 151601 to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	ARGONAUT	34° N. 54½° W.	260°	9½
1800 G.M.T.	CILICIA	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
15th.	CARNARVON	02° N. 21° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	F.S. GEORGES	05° N. 23° W.	Patrol	Blank
	LEYGUES			
	Flight 6	32° N. 31½° W.	109°	10
	(L.C.(I) Ls)			
	MILFORD with	01½° N. 34½° W.	087°	4½
	Floating Dock			
	CHESHIRE with	27° S. 48° W.	018°	4
	Floating Dock			
	(D.O.D. (F) 151055Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu).			

/BOGUE...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

BOGUE O.N.1 cruising radius tables not available.
 A.V.Ds. have 132,000 gallons capacity which is
 fuelling 95% of petrol load. 30,000 gallons of this is
 exercises. diesel which cannot be replaced by black oil.
 6,000 other gallons not useable. Endurance
 by days at various speed purposes: 10 knots - 17.2
 days. 12 knots - 15.7 days, 15 knots - 12.1
 days, 17 knots 9.8 days, 20 knots - 7.8 days, 22 knots - 5.8 days
 BOGUE fuelling exercises with U.S. Des. BELKNAP and GEO. E.
 BADGER indicates fuelling alongside only possible in smooth to
 moderate seaway. So far experience in North Atlantic
 indicates poor possibilities for fuelling due weather and
 projecting sponsons. Rate of delivery of fuel with destroyer
 alongside approx. 25,000 gallons per hour. Recommend
 procurement of floater type hose for use in astern method.
 Use of 2½ inch fire hose for astern method still in experimental
 stage with indications rate of delivery may be about 7,000
 gallons per hour.
 (BOGUE 151130 to C. in C. Lant, (R) Comnavu, Admty. C. in C.
 W.A., D.D. OSMOND, INGHAM, GREENE, Vice Opnav, Comdeslantflt,
 Comairlantflt, D.D. BELKNAP, BADGER). A.D.V. seaplane tender
 (destroyer).

GREENE, U.S.S. GREENE remain with S.C.126 to prudent
 S.C.126. limit of endurance then proceed Argentia.
 (C.T.24., 151131Z to GREENE (R) C. in C. W.A.
 C. in C. C.N.W.A., C.T.U. 24.1.19).

Entrance to Caribbean. Following is repetition of my 131632Z (Formerly
 received undecypherable) (Begins).
 Admiralty from N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, your 111635
 request confirmation that entrance to Caribbean
 laid down in your 1820/16th July is cancelled
 by your 0351/15 Jan. para. 2 D. 131632Z (ends).
 (C.C.O. Ottawa, 151241Z to Admty. C.C.O.)

H.X.234 (1) Ref. Admty. 151031B (N.T. in W.D.) Mid ocean
 diversion. escort for H.X. 234 has only 48 hour turn round
 in St. Johns and every effort being made to
 have ships ready on time. Both destroyers
 require docking.

(2) If convoy is diverted as suggested it becomes necessary to
 sail mid ocean group even earlier. Request therefore that
 original route be adhered to.

(F.O.N.F., 151306Z to C. in C. N.W.A., (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q.
 Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Admty's 151631 (?151031 intended N.T. in W.D.) to
 Cominch C. and R. and F.O.N.F.'s 151306 to C. in C. C.N.A.
 are being passed to you. If you concur with F.O.N.F.'s 151306
 suggest you request Cominch C. and R. to adhere to original
 route.

(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 151522Z to C.T.F. 24 (R) Cominch
 (C. and R) Admty. F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.)

/Begins...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- H.X. 234
diversion.
(Contd). Begins Admty. 151031B. Concur F.O.N.F. 151306. Due extremely short lay over escort group in St. Johns suggest delaying diversion H.X. 234 until Ocean escort joins repeat until ocean escort joins.
(C.T.F. 24., 151911Z to Cominch C. and R. (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C. S.N.W.A., Admty. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q.)
- LEAMINGTON,
ALBATROSS
collision. LEAMINGTON in collision with U.S. ALBATROSS at 141405. Damage portside between stations 80 and 96. Plates started to depth of approx. 3 feet. Auxiliary feed pump testing fractured. Feed lines strained and fractured. Auxiliary dynamo feed strained. LEAMINGTON being placed in Halifax graving dock. 1520Z ALBATROSS has fractured stem and plates strained in vicinity.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A., 151319Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.T.F. 24, Admty. Cominch). *(in/s number)*
- U/B S/M sighted by A/C 038° 20' N., 065° 19' W. course 090° speed 5 at 1215.
(C.O.A.C., 151359Z to GB7 A (R) C.T.F. 24, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)
- B.X. 43 Arrived between 0120Z and 3410Z/15th April.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 151426Z to Admty).
- ARCOLA,
TAIGETE,
repatriation. ARCOLA and TAIGETE Italian tankers depart Aruba 1030Z/14 for St. Vincent C.V. via 11° 38' N., 68° 30' W. 11° 38' 60° 01', 14° 01' 45° 01' 15° 50' 33° 01'. TAIGETE speed 9 knots, ARCOLA speed 8½ knots. This voyage under safe conduct. Proceeding together. Advance 7.5 knots. E.T.A. St. Vincent April 29th.
(N.S.H.Q., 151436Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Subs. estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 151501Z, 151502Z,
15th April. 151555Z, 151556Z, 151557Z).
U.S. Subs.
Notice.
- BAYNTUN Following received from BAYNTUN for transmission (Begins) N.O.B. Bermuda (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D. Cdre. Londonderry, BERRY,
Intend to proceed in execution of previous orders at 2000Z/15th. Route and radio guard as in N.O.B. Bermuda's 151506Z. Average S. of A. 15 knots. increasing speed when circumstances permit. E.T.A. 1300Z/24th April.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 151505P to Admty. B.A.D., Cdre. Londonderry).

/BAYNTUN...

War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

BAYNTUN, Your 140158 BAYNTUN and BERRY depart Bermuda
BERRY. 2030Z/15 for Londonderry through position -
L. Lat. 36.02, Long. 54.58.
M. lat. 36.03, Long. 44.02.
N. Lat. 40.30, Long. 34.25.
O. Lat. 43.25, Long. 22.30. P. Lat. 52.25, Long. 20.15.
Q. Lat. 55.20, Long. 09.10. thence to destination.
S. of A. 15 knots.
Guarding N.S.S.E. until 0800Z/20, in accordance with A.F.Os.1/42
thereafter. 3000 k/cs 500 k/cs and GM 001 to 499 entire route.
E.T.A. "Chop" 47 W. 1200Z/18. Hold Q.Z.H. 314, Q.Z.A. 385,
Q.Z.S.407 Q.Z.X.970. By hand to BAYNTUN, BERRY.
(N.O.B. Bermuda, 151506 to Cinclant, Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At.,
C. in C. W.A., Admty. N.O.B. Londonderry, N.S.H.Q. V.A.Gib).
Departure Bermuda BAYNTUN and BERRY routed as in Navrout
Norfolk 091742, BAZELY routed through V.33.40 N. 64.40 W.
W. 37.08 N. 66.38 W. X. 40.15 N., 68.22 W., Y. 42.22 N., 69.36
W., thence to Boston. S. of A. 15 knots.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 152109Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q. B.A.D., S.O.(I)
Jamaica, C. in C. N.W.A., C. in C. W.A.)

U/B U-boat sighted by aircraft at 1513Z/15th in
44.15 N. 60.54 W. estimated course 210°.
(C.in C. C.N.W.A. 151553Z, 152021Z, to GB 7 A.
(R) C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7
H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

SAINT My 141001. Ciudad Trujillo reports SAINT
DOMINGUE. DOMINGUE sailed 14th for Martinique.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 151555Q to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.T
B.A.D., S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

Task Force 64 C. in C. Lant 150315 addressed for action to
constituted. N.O.B. Bermuda, informs as follows.
Deliver these orders to Commander Oswald
(Comtaskgroup 65.1) on arrival Bermuda: Task
Groups 65.1 and 65.2 dissolved on arrival Bermuda
Task Force 64 Commander Oswald, Secnav letter (S.C.) P.17 -1
of July 18, 1942, hereby constituted as follows: Destroyer
Division 21, McCORMICK, MCLEISH, OVERTON, SALINAS, CHIPPEWA,
P.Cs. 496, 550, 624, 556, 625, 627, S.Cs. 691, 693, 770, 979,
1043, 1044, 498, 771, 978, 1030, 1029, Y.M.S.3, 12, 15, 20,
58, 83, and HACKBERRY; escort convoy U.G.S.7 A and U.G.L. 3
plus left over L.S.T's at Bermuda which are ready, from Bermuda
to Gibraltar and other North African ports. Following route
prescribed by Cominch (Candr). At 47° W. "Chop" for diversion
purposes passes to Admty. On arrival African waters, detach
HACKBERRY, Y.M.S.s. P.Cs., S.Cs. and direct them and U.S. L.S.Ts
in convoy to report to Comnavnav for duty.
Return to U.S. escorting convoy G.U.S.7 to New York (in
accordance with Admty. routing) when directed by Commander,
Moroccan Sea Frontier.
(Comnav, 151559 to Admty).

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N. 176,
Summary of
Anti U/B
action.

Summary of anti U-boat action whilst escorting
O.N. 176.

1. 10 or 12 U-boats were in contact from midday 10th to daylight 12th.
2. 3 evaded by convoy evasive turns, might have been 5 but for excessive smoke from JAMAIQUE, GYDNIA and TJISALAK visible over 25 miles by day and 12 miles by night.
3. Of 7 that attacked all but one were intercepted and attacked by escort outside torpedo range from convoy. This was made possible by excellence of H/F D/F information passed by MELROSE ABBEY and CAIRNVALONA.
4. The one that got in, sank LANCASTRIAN PRINCE from starboard beam was subsequently located and hunted for 2 hours.
5. Number of U-boats in vicinity prevented hunting to destruction but CLOVER produced oil on surface and it is hoped 3 other attacks caused damage to greater or less degree.
6. BEVERLEY torpedoed and sunk from outside screen night of 11th April.
7. Submit for consideration that sense of this summary might be given to ships of convoy should an opportunity arise. As I feel Merchant Ships see little and know only that one of their number was sunk, and there has been a tendency of late for ships to leave convoy after attacks.
8. Ref. your serial 0779 regret time before next assignment will not permit full records being prepared. Diagrams of attacks, with short account of action and tracing of HIGHLANDER's plot will be forwarded before leaving St. Johns.
(C.T.U. 24.1.18 151620Z 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., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

U/B sighted
by A/C.

U.S. Aircraft reports U-boat in 17.46 N. 75.00 W.
at 1835 G.M.T. course South.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 151636Q to Admty).

G.U.S. 5 A.

This is Port Director New York 142030 to Connav for action. "Convoy G.U.S. 5 A. arrived New York 1600Z/14".
(Connav, 151727Z to Admty).

H.S. 80

Sailing Telegram Part 2 (5 ships, list).
(Halifax, N.S. 151749Z to Admty).

M.M.

At 1500Z/15th April sailed M.M.S. 99, 101, 104, 108 in accordance with my 101939, amended time of arrival New York 1500Z/18th April. M.M.S. 100 at New York. B.A.D. pass N.M.C.J.S.
(C. in C. N.A., 151824Z to N.M.C.J.S., C.E.S.F.
(R) Admty. N.S.H.Q., B.A.T.M., Cominch,
B.A.D., F.O.I.C. W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At. Capt. 1/c Jamaica).

/WOODSTOCK...

War Diary.

15.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

WOODSTOCK. Temporary allocation to date 19th April to the Mid Ocean escort force from Western local escort force - WOODSTOCK.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 151906Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

Sub. All times Z. A. B.25 sights submerging course
attack 090 38.20 N. 65.19 W. 15121 E. B. Plane sights
and sub. 44.15 N. 60.54 W. 1513/15th. C. P.C.494
sighting attacks Sound contact 00.50 S. 42.32 W. 2255/14th.
summary. D. P.B.M. Radar contact 37.19 N. 73.38 W.1159/15th
Army plane sights Wake 19.00 N. 83.25 W. 1623/14th
Sub. sighted 18.00 65.10 W. 1410/13th.
(Cominch 152127Z to Admty.)

French Naval C.O.S.(W) 580 15th April. Following from Admty.
Forces J.S.M. 857. We concur generally with Adm. King's
re-equipment. proposals subject to amendments and additions
in J.S.M. 869.

2. Your para. 2(c). The limitations of British repair capacity should be clearly understood. At present we cannot undertake more than we have already promised to carry out at Bermuda.

3. Your para. 2(i). F.O.C.W.Africa has been asked what stocks of initial stores and dockyard materials are urgently required at Dakar, and it is important that when these requirements are known, we should be given details of what U.S. propose as original 3 months' supply, in order that our own liabilities can be quickly assessed.

4. Your para. 2(j). Presume intention is that authority in immediate control of area should be responsible for arranging supplies mentioned.

5. Some modification to para. 4 above may be necessary, in which case a further telegram will be despatched to you as soon as possible.

(Air Min. 152140Z to Britman, Washington.)

Escort Your 091230 supports conclusions recently reached
Oilers, here and in order to conform to what is understood
Spare to be Admiralty practice it is proposed to give
Depth effect to the following:-
Charges. (A) The responsibility for implementing Admiralty instructions in U.S.A. shall be taken over by Trade Division representative (W) from D.D. of S.
(B) At New York an officer on the staff of B.R.L.O. shall co-ordinate and supervise the selection fitting maintenance and sailing of escort oilers including those fitted with spare depth charges. 2. Lt. H.F. Rainey R.N.R. now on staff of B.R.L.O. New York is strongly recommended for this duty by B.R.L.O. New York.
(B.A.D., 152157Z, 161535Z to Admty.)

Movements, Departure TRURO, ALBERNI, MULGRAVE escorting O.N.176,
Halifax. H.M.S. 99, 101, 104, 108 for New York, B.Y.M.S.65, 66, 67, 185 for St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 152235Z to Admty., etc.)

MOST SECRET

586A

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 152303Z/April. IN
Date: 16.4.43
From: J.S.M. Washington. Recd: 0715Z

CYPHER.

Addressed: W.C.O. London.

*Lizard Mission
Information for Russia*

IZ 1401 J.S.M. 881, 15th April, 1943.
C.O.S. (W) 574. ✓

(1) Your para. 1. Please confirm that it is still intended to present lists of items not to be disclosed together with reasons for non-disclosure pursuant to terms of agreement between H.M.G. and U.S.S.R. Americans may raise objection to any mention at all being made of certain items, particularly RADAR. It would perhaps help if we could be furnished with a precis of TIZARD's Directive.

(2) Your para 2(a) not clear since there are no radio items in our copy of M.A.P. list No. 2, Para. 2. To avoid possibility of confusion please confirm earliest possible following additional corrigenda which we now propose for lists in C.I.D. 23/D - Page 3. Add to Naval List 1(a) all items in Naval List 1 (b), and all items in Naval List 2 except those set out in para. 2, C.O.S. (W) 518, Page 6. Add items in Military Supplementary List to Military List No. 1. Pages 10 and 11.

(i) Add all items "to be treated with reserve" (Air) except (a) Rolls Royce Two Stroke, and (b) those set out in para. 3, C.O.S. (W) 518, to Air List 1.

(ii) Add (a) and (b) above to Air List 2.

✓ 141645Z

152303Z/
Recd: from War Office 2150/16

Circulation.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
N.A.Mails.
P.A.S. (S)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)
Ad. Blake.
D.N.I. (4)
D. of P. (2)

D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C.
D. of P. (Q)
Hd. of M. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Contr.
C.A.O.R.
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Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6 Tels. War Office.
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Professor R.B. Linstead, Ministry
Supply.
A.M.C.S. (C)

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War Diary.15.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland 2013Z/14 U.S.S. CYGNUS for Tongatabu E.T.A. 2330Z/18 arrival Auckland 0226Z/15 U.S.S. CRESCENT CITY.
(D.N.I. Wellington 150525Z to Admty.)

Arrivals 14th Milne Bay, KAPUNDA, Cairns, U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA. Brisbane, U.S. Cruiser PHOENIX, U.S. Destroyer PATTERSON. Departures Milne Bay 13th SWAN, PIRIE for Townsville. 14th WAGGA for One Bay Sydney New South Wales. 14th TOWNSVILLE for Brisbane Melbourne. 15th COLAC for Sydney New South Wales.
(A.C.N.B. 151001Z to Admty.)

Digest Serial No. 449 April 14th. Six Liberators bombed light cruiser of large destroyer during afternoon 100 miles west of Tanimbar Island course 90° from medium height. Near misses scored and warship changed course to 355°. 2. Two small cargo vessels in Kaimana Bay unsuccessfully attacked before noon by three B.25's from 9,000 feet. One unclassified Merchantman also seen 50 miles South West Kaimana course 250°. 3. Four Hudsons conducted negative morning shipping search Tanim Ar Kai Ahoé Islands to Kaukenau. Two aircraft bombed Timika airfield. 4. Milne Bay shipping and aerodrome attacked at noon by 36 enemy medium bombers 30 zeros and minimum 10 dive bombers. Three small freighters hit and set on fire whereof Dutch ship VAN HEEMSKIRK subsequently beached and written off with cargo. Second ship holed but can be towed and third still seaworthy. Many casualties on these ships. Two corvettes suffered superficial damage from near misses. Small fuel dump destroyed at Aerodrome. 36 Kittyhawks eight Lightnings intercepted destroying 7 medium bombers, 1 diver bomber, 4 fighters certain 6 medium bombers, 2 dive bombers, 1 fighter probably, and damaged 4 medium bombers, 2 fighters. In addition from ground and ships shot down 1 medium bomber, 1 diver bomber, 1 fighter certain. Our aircraft losses were 1 Kittyhawk missing, 2 more seriously damaged also 1 Lightning crashlanded and destroyed. (5) Five vessels including 3 medium merchantmen and 2 smaller ships sighted early morning 35 miles south west of Kavieng course 120°. (6) Forenoon search Fortress bombed buildings at Ubili also runway Gasmata. (7) Latter target bombed before dawn by patrol Catalina which also effectively strafed two floatpanes and two barges nearby. Set. (8) Same aircraft earlier machine gunned three barges at Finschhafen buildings near Arawe and 2 aircraft on Cape Gloucester Drome which was also bombed. (10) Morning R/C Fortress saw in Hansa Bay and 1 cargo ship shown by photos as 4,000 tons also 2 large landing craft. Later sighted at Wewak 1 medium cargo vessel and 2 small unidentified type ships. One fortress, attacked vessel in Hansa Bay mid morning scoring 3 direct hits from skip bombing while 3 Liberators bombed ship from medium height and 4 other Fortresses bombed Nubia Aerodrome and anti aircraft position. R/C aircraft saw ship Hansa Bay still burning 3 hours after attack. This ship possibly 1 of vessels damaged during attacks 12 April refer Digest, 448 para. 4 and 5. (11) Photos 13 April show only 6 ships in convoy 40 miles northwest Hansa Bay refer Digest 448 para 6 including, 1 destroyer, 3 or 4 merchantmen one unidentified. (12) Photos forenoon 13th show 1 medium merchant vessel in Humboldt Bay.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 150845Z.)

/Milne Bay...

War Diary.15.4.1943
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Milne Bay Following Marine casualties result of
 Enemy Air Raid, enemy air attack Milne Bay 14th.
 Casualties. (1) M/V GORGON 3533 tons hit midships and aft.
 holed on waterline. Main engine temporarily
 out of action. (2) K.P.M. Vessel VAN HEEMSKERK
 2996 tons beached but still burning and vessel
 and cargo total construction loss. (3) K.P.M. vessel VAN OUTHOORN
 2069 tons hit but fire under control and vessel still seaworthy.
 Many casualties among crews in all 3 ships but details at present
 not known.
 (A.C.N.B. 151058 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

Eastern Copy of memorandum N.1273/42 dated 21st November
 Fleet 1942 from B.A.D. to Vice Opnav and forwarded to
 Bases. Naval Board by Australian Naval Attache Washington.
 (2) This memorandum includes a statement regarding
 provision of stores in Australia for following
 R.N. ships: four battleships, three A/C carriers,
 five cruisers, 20 destroyers. (3) These figures differ
 materially from those given in A.M. 291850 December 1941 on which
 we are now working in connection with fleet base projected.
 Request clarification.
 (A.C.N.B. 151118Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., B.A.D.)

Fremantle Dredging requirements Fremantle harbour.
 dredging This requirement has been fully investigated
 requirements. and following conclusions reached. (Details.)
 2. Desired to obtain your remarks on this
 proposal before proceeding further.
 (A.C.N.B. 151130 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.
 B.A.D.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
 (D.D.I.C. 151410B, 151425B.)