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War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.U/B in
Denmark
Straits.

J.W.54.

M.G.B.'s
attack
trawlers.

ULVEN

1. C. in C. W.A. points out that the proposals made in A.M.151846 (Hush - Most Secret) will nullify the organisation which he has at last achieved to remedy the present deplorable state of training in the Atlantic escort forces, and he makes counter proposals.
2. CUMBERLAND, on Northern Patrol, attacked a submarine this morning in 66.35 N. 25.10 W. INTREPID was ordered to hunt and CUMBERLAND moved her ~~to~~ patrol position to the eastward of the minefield. At 1716B C. in C. H.F. ordered her to return to Hvalfiord (arrived 170329B). BLANKNEY and MIDDLETON left Hvalfiord at 161600B to relieve INTREPID.
3. The Admiralty today informed S.B.N.O. North Russia, S.B.N.O. Archangel, 30 Mission and other authorities that Convoy J.W.54 is cancelled. (30 Mission were informed on 12 April, however, by the War Office.)
4. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.'s 608 and 615 under the command of Lt. Comdr. P. Scott R.N.V.R. in the early hours of today attacked 3 large enemy trawlers 27 miles N.N.W. of Cap La Heve. One of the enemy trawlers was set on fire and both the others were hit. Our vessels suffered superficial damage and a few casualties.
5. The Swedish S/M ULVEN has been lost in mysterious circumstances whilst exercising. She was last sighted at 151400 whilst exercising with two other Swedish S/M's. These two latter were fired at by a German vessel when they were on the fringe of territorial waters on the meridian of Marstrand at about 160600. It is stated that a German deep minefield was subsequently discovered in Swedish territorial waters. (See N.A.Stockholm 291751)
6. The Admiralty today emphasised the danger to ships of straggling, romping or breaking away from convoys, and the duty of seamen not to abandon their ship whilst there remains the slightest hope of keeping her afloat. These points are to be impressed on the masters of ships before sailing.
7. Whirlwinds of 137 Squadron claim to have destroyed an E/R boat last night. 52 Fortresses of the U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked Lorient port area today and 17 Liberators the Brest port area.

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✓ 8. 23 Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 59 mines last night in Biscay ports.

South Atlantic.

9. WARSPITE sailed from Durban this afternoon, escorted by FOXHOUND, CATTERICK and ROTHERHAM.

Mediterranean.

M.G.B's
and
M.T.B's
Supply
of Spares.

✓ 10. C. in C. Med. reports that the situation regarding the supply of spares for M.G.B's and M.T.B's is deplorable. He instances 5 out of 6 M.G.B's at Bone which are ineffective owing to non-arrival of spares and are unable to fire their main armament in self defence, on account of their astonishing gunnery design. Many spares are still waiting shipment in U.K, and C. in C. Med. asks that all which can be made available by drastic action may be shipped at the next fast opportunity by H.M.ship.

Enemy
Battleships.

✓ 11. 3 LITTORIO battleships with 6 destroyers were sighted by P.R.U. aircraft steering west 4 miles west of Spezia at 1030A today.

PAKENHAM
and an
Italian
Destroyer
Sunk.

Cigno

✓ 12. At 0300 today PAKENHAM and PALADIN, carrying out a sweep in the Sicilian narrows, encountered two large Italian destroyers in 37.45 N. 12.13 E. (15 miles south of Marittimo), and sank one and severely damaged the other. In the course of the engagement PAKENHAM received damage in the engine room and was later taken in tow by PALADIN. At 0604 Capt. D.12 (PAKENHAM) reported being bombed in 37.28 N. 12.32 E. and in view of their slow progress, close proximity to enemy airfields, and the fact that they were out of range of fighter aircraft D.12 ordered PAKENHAM to be sunk in 37.26 N. 12.30 E. Fighter protection later resulted in the attacking aircraft being driven off whilst the crew of PAKENHAM were transferred to PALADIN. PALADIN returned to Malta at high speed.

C. in C. / ...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

PAKENHAM
and an
Italian
Destroyer
Sunk.
(Contd.)

C. in C. Med. later expressed approval of this decision to sink PAKENHAM and he is taking up with C. in C. Levant the question of always including at least a proportion of more heavily armed destroyers in those available for the night sweeps.

M.G.B.
Patrol.

13. M.G.B's 645 and 646 from Bone, on patrol last night, encountered 3 E-Boats 10 miles N.W. of Ras Engela at 2225 and engaged them, but the E/Boats escaped under smoke. Later the M.G.B's were engaged by a shore battery near Cape Guardia and withdrew undamaged.

14. The Convoy of 4 ships and one tanker, which left Alexandria on 12 April arrived at Tripoli (L) today without incidents.

Air
Operations.

15. 4 Liberators again attacked Naples last night, bombs bursting along quays at the bases of 3 moles.

Messina and Rossano (Southern Italy) were also bombed last night by 1 Liberator each.

* U.S. 12th Air Force report that 21 B.17's escorted by 10 P.58's bombed Palermo (no date or time given but attack is thought to have taken place today). Probable hits and near misses on merchant vessels are reported, and hits on the power station and in the warehouse area.

1 Baltimore, 1 Boston and 12 Hurricane sorties on offensive reconnaissance for enemy shipping along the coast north of Hammamet bombed Hammamet and Nabeul, scoring hits on the jetty and adjacent buildings at the former.

+ 13 Liberators were despatched today to attack Catania harbour. Hits are claimed on a tanker and on the main mole and in the dock area.

East Indies.

16. M/V CAPE ST.ELIAS (Balboa for Durban) reported a submarine at 161010 G.M.T. in 14.58 N. 50.48 E.

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SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

17. SPENCER, destroyer, escorting Convoy H.X.233, attacked a U-Boat at 0340 in 45.44 N. 26.55 W.

18. DIGBY, R.C.N. minesweeper, carried out two depth charge attacks on a suspicious A/S contact at 2215Z in 44.28N 57.35 W. with negative result. AGASSIZ and ESQUIMALT were ordered to remain in the area until 1100Z/17th.

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Defence of United Kingdom.

Oban Six 3. 7 Mobile A/A guns are established and ready for action, four in $56^{\circ} 31' 36''$ N., $5^{\circ} 25' 6''$ W. and two in $56^{\circ} 29' 35''$ N. $5^{\circ} 27' 26''$ W. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 161108B).

Maunsell Towers at Liverpool. Daylight and tide will serve April 17th to April 21st inclusive. Weather permitting it is intended to ground the 14th tower during that period. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 161113B to Admty).

Movements.

BRECON Proceed to pass Switha 1300B/17 to Hvalfiord routed through $058^{\circ} 50'$ N., $007^{\circ} 10'$ W. thence through Reykjanes Passage and A.M. Q.Z.S. 405, 407, and 397. On arrival act as ordered by C.S.10 (R.A.D. H.F., 16051B and 161720B to BRECON).

S/M Movements. My 151846. Add new para. (E) TAKU exercising off Plymouth between 1200/16th and 0230/17th. (F.O.S., 161128B).

Intend to sail P.511 escorted by SAPPER at 1830 today. E.T.A. 1530/17. (WESTERN ISLES 161246).

My 161246. Routed via Sounds of Mull and Islay. Destination Campbeltown.

(WESTERN ISLES, 161426).

My 151846. Add para. (F). P.511 escorted by SAPPER sails Tobermory 1830/16 for Rothesay. E.T.A. 1730/17. (F.O.S., 161546).

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

(A) BLACKFISH, BARB, and STUBBORN in zones K. 194, K. 193, and K. 191 respectively.

(B) TUNA approx. $65^{\circ} 04'$ N., $02^{\circ} 28'$ E. probably on surface through $62^{\circ} 01'$ N., $01^{\circ} 27'$ W. for Lerwick.

(C) H.43 escorted by KIHNA vicinity northern end Little Minch speed 5 knots for Blyth.

(D) URSULA escorted by Z.5 arriving Lough Foyle from Rosyth.

(E) STURGEON $43^{\circ} 26'$ N., $10^{\circ} 01'$ W. dived by day through $43^{\circ} 59'$ N., $10^{\circ} 00'$ W, and $44^{\circ} 00'$ N., $06^{\circ} 01'$ W, daily advance 108 miles.

(F) UNIVERSAL sails Lerwick 1800/17 through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to patrol in vicinity 64° N., 03° W.

(F.O.S. 161724).

URSULA escorted by Z.5 sailing Clyde 2200/16 for Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A., 161837B to KEPPEL).

My 161724. Add para. (G) P.511 escorted by SAPPER East of Islay for Campbeltown 8 knots E.T.A. 1530/17th. (H) SURF escorted by SHIKARI sails Holy Loch 1800/17 Scapa, E.T.A. 2100/18th.

(F.O.S., 161849B).

My 151149B. Sailed (URSULA).

(Capt. S.7., 162211B).

/BIRMINGHAM...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.BIRMINGHAM

Your 142149Z. Route through position (J) 049° 20' N., 012° 17' W. (K) 180° Bishop Rock 10. (L) 180° The Lizard three (M) 050° 03' 30" N., 004° 14' 36" W., thence to gate.
2. Speed to be adjusted to pass (L) at 0630B/19. (C. in C. Plymouth, 161153 to BIRMINGHAM).

North Atlantic dispositions.

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic:-
Area Iceland (C) HOWE, BELFAST, CUMBERLAND, GLASGOW, 1 destroyer.
Area Scapa ANSON, DUKE OF YORK, FURIOUS, BERWICK, JAMAICA, KENT, SCYLLA, SUFFOLK, 4 destroyers.

Area Clyde NEWCASTLE, INDOMITABLE.

Area Londonderry 9 destroyers.

Area Plymouth CHARYBDIS, UGANDA, 4 destroyers.

Area Gibraltar MALAYA, NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 7 destroyers. (D.O.D. H., 161615Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

Landing Craft for Med.

Admty. 2006/19th March. Intend sailing flight C at 1800/17th. S.O. escort IOTUS. (N.O.I.C. Appledore, 162000B to F.O.I.C. Gib).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols.

My 152112B. "Device" returned at 0729. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 160735B).

M.Ls. 194, 191, 193 to patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between 00° 45' E. and 00° 10' W. covering C.W.171. On patrol by 0300 and leave patrol 0630. Codeword "Advent". M.G.B. 613 short notice at Newhaven. M.L. 309, 346 patrolling southward of E.A.5 Buoy. CHASSEUR 15 at St. Helens. At Yarmouth BLEASDALE, LORD WAKEFIELD immediate notice, GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, half hour notice. M.L. 205, 246 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 161320B)

1. M.T.Bs. 94 (S.O.) 239, 227, and 98 are to patrol between 090° Roches Douvres 5 miles and 080° Roches Douvres 12 miles.

2. Object. To intercept enemy shipping.

3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for Patrol 2100B/16. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 17th.

4. Information Enemy E-boats based on Cherbourg but may operate from Brittany Ports or Guernsey Own. WENSLEYDALE and KRAKOWIAK, patrolling 190° Eddystone 15'.

6. Codeword "Obstacle".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161422B).

KRAKOWIAK and WENSLEYDALE are to pass the Gate at 2100B today 16th and to carry out anti E-boat patrol between 210° Eddystone 20 and 160° Eddystone 14. Unless otherwise ordered leave patrol at 0600/17 and return to Plymouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 161451B).

/Departure...

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations

Coastal Patrols. (contd). Departure H.S.L. 2551 and M.A.S. B.33 for P.Y.B. Patrol Z 12 - Z.14. Boats keeping close search procedure. If ordered to the eastward H.S.L. 1551 will take M.H.B.3 call sign and M.A.S.B.33 will take M.H.B.4 and carry out deep search procedure.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 161503B to C. in C.Nore).
My 161451B. Your codeword is "Evidence". Para. 1 amend to read "Unless otherwise ordered leave patrol at 0300/17 and return to Plymouth".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 161703B to KRAKOWIAK, WENSLEYDALE)
M.Ls. 140, 143 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 24, 235, 240, at Vergoyer Shoal. M.G.Bs. S.2, S.1. 43 at Bullock Bank.
All E.T.D. 2115. E.T.R. 0615/17.
M.A.S.Bs. 32 and 23 from Ramsgate at "V" buoy. E.T.D.2130.
(V.A. Dover, 161821B).
My 161202B. "Device" sailed 2042.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 162048B).

UNIVERSAL patrol. Request you sail UNIVERSAL at 1800B/17 routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5.7 miles direct to patrol area as details in F.O.S. 151911.
(Capt. S.9., 160929B to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Operation VP - R. Carry out VP - R. (1) Through position 55 miles west of R to patrol R. (2) 2 or 3 M.T.Bs. (3) 1200B/17th April or first suitable day thereafter. (4) 10. (5) No. (6) No. (7) 055° Out Skerries 130 miles.
(A.C.O.S., 161140B to N.O.I.C. Lerwick).

X Denmark Straits Patrol. Your 161118. Retire towards Hvalfjord keeping outside submarine's Island on position. BLANKNEY and MIDDLETON proceeding to relieve INTREPID.
(C.S.10, 161325B to CUMBERLAND).
My 161325B. Is this in accordance with your policy.
(C.S.10, 161326B to C. in C. H.F.)
My 161325B. CUMBERLAND will be available to move back if A/C reconnaissance picks up a blockade-runner.
(C.S.10, 161327B to A.C.I.C.)
My 161326B. There is an alternative in anchoring cruiser in one of the following Fjords: (1) Hesteyrifjord. (2) Dyrafjord, (3) Skutilsfjord.
(C.S.10, 161357B to C. in C. H.F.)
Return to Hvalfjord. (2) On arrival Report - Evidence of S/M sighting.
(C. in C. H.F., 161716B to CUMBERLAND).
Intend to retain INTREPID until arrival of BRECON.
(C.S.10, 161850B to C. in C. H.F.)
Return to Hvalfjord when relieving BLANKNEY and MIDDLETON or at 0600Z tomorrow if not met.
(C.S.10, 161945B to INTREPID).
Hvalfjord departure 1600B BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON to Patrol "White".
(A.C.I.C., 162001B to INTREPID).
E.T.A. 0030Z tomorrow.
(CUMBERLAND, 162113 to A.C.I.C., JASON).

/Russian...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. - Contd.

Russian S/M
K.218.

My 100902. This S/M is now returning to base.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 161407B).

Engagement
with Enemy
Trawlers.
One Trawler
damaged.

My 151403. At 0105/16 S.G.B. 6, M.G.B. 608 and 615 sighted 3 large enemy trawlers in 286° Cap La Heve 27 miles. Force had been guided to enemy from reports received from Ventnor R.D.F. Station. During first stage of action which lasted 8 minutes at range of 700 yards, S.G.B.6s steering was shot away, M.G.B.615 expended all 6 pounder ammunition, her pompom became irreparably jammed, and she was ordered clear of the action. By 0152 S.G.B.6 had rigged hand-steering and with M.G.B.608 returned to engage enemy. During a 35-minute engagement leading trawler was silenced, stopped, and set on fire, and remaining two enemy retired. S.G.B.6 after extinguishing a fire in her 0.5" magazine and with all ammunition expended ordered force to return to base. Consider one trawler suffered very considerable damage and casualties and that both of the others were hit-one repeatedly. Casualties S.G.B.6 one rating killed, one officer 3 ratings wounded, M.G.Bs. nil. All three craft received superficial damage. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 161540B and 162004B).

Exercises.

INDOMITABLE.

Sailed INDOMITABLE at 2145/15th to carry out exercises.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 160113B).
Arrived V.A. (A) H.F. in INDOMITABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 161854B)

MENESTHEUS,
AGAMEMNON.

Request you sail MENESTHEUS escorted by CASTLETON at 0630B/22nd to carry out high angle firing as arranged by MENESTHEUS and then as necessary to R/V for exercises with AGAMEMNON, in 350° South Rona light 3 miles at 1800B/22nd.
(R.A.M., 161402B to A.C.O.S.)

Allied Air Activity.

Denmark
Straits.

My 050107 para. A. One Hudson Aircraft was on patrol from 1630B until 1812B April 15th when it returned on account of bad weather. Negative report.
(A.C.I.C., 160020B to C. in C. H.F.).

Cherbourg
bombed.
SOLGLINT.

On Day 15th April, 12 Venturas with Fighter cover, attacked a Merchant vessel of 360 ft. and the Whale Oil Factory Ship SOLGLINT in dry docks 5 and 6 at Cherbourg. The attack was launched from about 1,000 ft. At least one near miss on one of the vessels.
(H.Q.B.C., 161200B).

/Damaged...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity. - Contd.

Damaged A/C
in BATTLER.

Your 151001. Be at Tail o' the Bank 18th in order to embark Admty. representatives at 1000. (V.A.A. H.F., 161640B to BATTLER).

Mining.

North
Russia.

JASON and BRITOMART sailed KOLA Inlet p.m. 15th and arrived Iokanka a.m./16th April to assist Russian's to clear dangerous area. My 141126B refers.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel, 160841B).

Q.U. 2 B.

Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U. 2 (B) tonight. S.O. may cancel operation if visibility is extreme, or alternatively back up Q.U. 7 (B).

2. Escort one unit of M.G.Bs. to be in 52° 10' N., 03° 00' E. at dusk, subsequently to R/V with M.Ls.

3. One unit M.T.Bs. R.B.12 leaving vicinity of Hook as late as practicable.

(C. in C. Nore, 161041B to BEEHIVE).

Thames
Estuary
explosions.

Underwater explosions not associated with minesweeping have been reported as follows:
At 2305B/14th and 2310B/14th. Seen and heard by Ramsgate, Tongue Sand Tower and Knock John Tower estimated to be in area of Q.Z.S.12.
At 1544B/15th 130° 1½ miles approx. from Knock John Tower.
(C. in C. Nore, 161106B).

PLOVER

C. in C. Plymouth 152015. Request PLOVER may be sailed for Milford Haven as convenient.
(D.O.D. H., 161155B to C. in C. Nore).

S.N. 123.

My 091830. Information from Stornoway shows hydrophone laying and testing programme has been delayed by bad weather.

2. Proposed date for embarking minelayers and laying are 22nd and 29th respectively.

3. In event of still further delay it is considered well worth while to postpone embarkation until 25th and laying till 2nd May. If latter date cannot be adhered to, propose to embark minelayers for S.N. 111 A, early in last week in April and carry out S.N. 111 A. as quickly as possible after this date. Provisional date for laying S.C.123 would then be 10th May.

(R.A.M. 161222B).

/North...

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North Russia. Arrived Iokanka 0700C/16 BRITOMART in company. Have agreed with Russians to sweep as follows Channel from Iokanka to Svyatoi Nos (LL) and SA, Q.Z.L. 48 Oropesa, Q.Z.L. 49 partly Oropesa. Bay partly (LL) and SA to Ice-edge and then do clearing sweep of Southern half of area given in your 141126B (LL) SA and Oropesa. Channels to be swept once only to width of 4 cables. Commencing sweeping operations today. (JASON, 161300C to C. in C. W.A.)

Tyne One mine detonated by sweepers at 161130B in 55° 09' N., 01° 28' 30" W. Details. (N.O.I.C. North Shields 161520B).

FRODE My 121256B. Evidence so far obtained points to mine having been a drifting mine a little below the surface. (C. in C. Portsmouth 162035B to Admty).

Humber Mine detonated at 161553B in N.30° W. 11 Buoy 3 cables. Details. (F.O. Humber, 162055BZ and 171140).

U-boats.

U-boats reported. Inconclusive D/F bearings at 0428Z indicate U-boat may have reported H.X.233. (D.D.I.C., 160742B to Escorts H.X. 233, S.C.126) Am over enemy S/M in 62° 53' N., 13° 51' W. (A/C 161144B to 15 Group).

Have dropped sea markers over enemy submarine in 63° 08' N. 12° 37' W. at 1213B. Stick of 6 markers at 6 miles intervals bearing 155°.

(A/C AB3J 161213B to 15 Group).

Aircraft 429848 reports sighting two unidentified submarines at 1135Z today position approx. 54.05 N. 11.40 W. Both submarines submerged immediately upon being sighted.

(F.C. Prestwick 161644B).

Am over enemy S/M in 62° 31' N., 12° 10' W.

(A/C 161745B to 18 Group).

1 submarine on surface 46° 52' N., 06° 08' W.

(A/C LF8H 162145B to 19 Group)

U-boats attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 62° 13' N., 12° 17' W. (A/C J of 111 Sqdn. 160810B to 15 Group). Am over enemy S/M in 62° 07' N., 14° 15' W. (A/C T of 111 Sqdn. 160935B to 18 Group). Am over enemy submarine. (A/C T of 111 Sqdn. 160950)

My 0935. Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C T of 111 Sqdn. 160955B to 15 Group).

Am over enemy submarine in 63° 08' N., 12° 37' W. (A/C J of 111 Sqdn. 161109 to 15 Group).

/Have...

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attacked.
(contd).Have attacked enemy with depth-charges.
(A/C J of 111 Sqdn. 161111B to 15 Group).
One S/M submerged in 66° 35' N., 25° 10' W.
Position based on a fix taken within ½ an
hour of 1000.

(CUMBERLAND, 161118B to Iceland W/T).

My 161118. Submarine sighted in 66.35 N. 25.10 W.
on surface - submerging. Attacked with depth-charges. Am
proceeding to patrol east of minefield. (INTREPID?) hunting.

(CUMBERLAND, 161127B to C.S.10).

Am over enemy submarine in 62° 30' N., 14° 08' W.

(A/C 190 Sqdn. Duty T, 161435B to 18 Group).

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges at 1430B.

(A/C T. of 190 Sqdn. 161512B to 18 Group).

Navigational.Larne S/M
Sanctuary.(r) Larne Sanctuary. The area off the North
Irish Coast bounded to seaward by a line joining
the following positions:-

A. Barrs Point, Larne. B. Maidens Light.

C. 54° 59' N., 05° 38' W. D. 55° 11' N., 05°

54½' W. E. Torcor Point.

(D.A/S.W., 160307B A.G.M. 392).

Technical.X I.F.F.
gear in
T.F. 22.B.A.D. reports that I.F.F. Mark 2 N is being
used in Task Force 22.
2. Would you prefer Task Force 22 to use I.F.F.
Mark 3 in all aircraft so fitted and to conform
with Admiralty Message 132214 April whenever
co-operation with British carriers appears
likely.

(D.S.D., 161309B to C. in C. H.F.)

Pumpkin

In view of successful preliminary trials of
Pumpkin and of availability shortly of 12
outfits request ARCHER, ATTACKER, and BITER may
each be supplied with one for further trials to
be carried out.

(C. in C. W.A., 161955B to Admty).

Casualties & Defects.

BARCOCK

My 141121 and 150926. Sailed 0950. E.T.A. 2030/17
(A.C.O.S. 161027 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

Boat

Following from FREDERICK LYKES. Sighted small
boat 5 miles distance position 055° 04' N. (2014)
56' W. No sign of life visible, feared decoy.
(Burnham Radio, 161630 to C. in C. W.A.)

Dinghy

Am over an aircraft dinghy or raft in 49° 43'
N. 06° 40' W. (A/C Duty E. 161708 to 19 Group).
Circling dinghy 49427 0623C.
(A/C J5WE 161740 to 19 Group).

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Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

W.S. 29 & K.M.F.13. Sailed Clyde portion in accordance with my 141104B. C. in C.W.A. 091428 RAPID escorting Clyde portion, WESTON joining from Londonderry, LEWES sailing to overtake on completion of defects.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 160254B.)

Sailed 160246B. ORION, FRANCONIA, BELGRANO, DUCHESS OF YORK, BOISEVAIN, NEA HELLAS, BANFORA, STAFFORDSHIRE, CUBA, DUNNOTTAR CASTLE.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock 160650B.)

Sailed NEWCASTLE in accordance, with para. 2 of my 141104 April.

2. AORANGI did not sail.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 160914B.)

Sailed convoys as in Admiralty 021850 and 021855A as amended in Admiralty's 061839B, 081351, and 110015B except AORANGI did not sail.

Routed as in Admiralty's 082007B, NEA HELLAS sailed convoy in accordance with Admiralty's 091845.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 161024B.)

H.M.S. CHARYBDIS is to pass Gate at 1400B/17 and is to proceed by A.M. Q.Z.S. 409 and 410 through position A. 050° 10' N. 006° 05' W. B. 050° 30' N. 010° 20' W. and thence to R/V with W.S. 29 and K.M.F.13 Steer 180° 12½ knots at 1400B/18 in 049° 21' N. 014° 32' W.

2. CHARYBDIS is to provide A/A protection on joining convoy and when convoys split is to remain with K.M.F.13 and proceed to Gibraltar.
(C. in C.Plymouth 161041B to CHARYBDIS.)
Admty's. 021850. LEWES will not sail.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 161116B.)

AORANGI expected to be ready to proceed p.m. 17th.

Intend sailing her with CLAN LAMONT. Admiralty 141950B refers. 2. LEWES being sailed p.m. today for consumption trials. If trial proves that endurance is suitable, intend sailing her as additional escort to above ship.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 161546.)

Sailed WESTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, EXE, NESS, WELLINGTON at 1130B.
(Cdre. Londonderry 161744B.)

O.S. 46 & K.M.S.13. Sailed LEITH, COREOPSIS, JONQUIL, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, ANCHUSA, TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE, DORNOCH, REDSHANK, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ROHILKHAND for O.S.46. WHIMBREL and SHIPPIGAN will overtake.
(Cdre. Londonderry 161014B.)

Intend to sail at 1100B/17 DUKE OF ATHENS escorted by COREOPSIS to R/V with main convoy as in para. 3 of C. in C.W.A. 152221B.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 161416B.)

LETITIA. Your 161719 is acceptable. LETITIA should be sailed to Thorshavn.
(N.O.I.C. Faeroes 161056B to Admty. A.C.I.C.)

/Channel...

War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.+ Channel
Convoys.

7/15/1943

Your 141921. Concur. As Dover is interested propose meeting be held at Chatham and suggest Monday April 19th.
(C. in C.Nore 161206B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
Your 151921.

Some index on p.511

I consider the steps being taken with P.W. and W.P. convoys can only be looked on as a Temporary palliative at time as sea both ways is being lengthened which is wasted time. In effect we can afford gradually to lose 15% of the total tonnage in these coastal convoys and still carry more cargo per annum, provided the turn-round is the same, if we go back to continuous voyages.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161511B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

While the present new arrangements of the P.W. and W.P. convoys continue only one Destroyer will be required as escort.
2. C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to detail the Destroyer for duty between Portsmouth and Plymouth.

3. A Destroyer of 15th D.F. will escort convoys from Plymouth westward.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161711B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Gunnery Training at Milford Haven. In order that advantage may be taken of the gunnery training facilities at Milford Haven, merchant ships due to join outbound ocean convoys from Milford Haven should whenever possible be sailed so as to arrive at Milford in time for the training to be carried out before the convoy sails.

Requested that N.C.S.Os concerned may be kept informed of the times and dates of arrival which would enable this to be done.
(D.T.D. 161240B to F.O.I.C. Cardiff, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

M.K.S.11. Cancel my 152011B. UGANDA take ORKAN under his orders and pass gate at 1800B today, proceeding by Q.Z.S. 409 and 410 through position P. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles Q. 049° 01' N. 012° 02' W. and thence covering M.K.S.11 against surface attack when north of 042° N. ORKAN to be detached for Plymouth when fuel requires.
2. M.K.S.11, S.O. escort EGRET, estimated in 042° 02' N. 015° 03' W. at 181300B, steering 002°, 7½ knots.
3. Unless otherwise ordered UGANDA is to transfer cover to O.S. 46 when convoys pass.
4. BIRMINGHAM is to remain as cover for S.L. 127 as long as practicable.
5. 4 Narvik-destroyers were in Gironde on 11th April.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161347B to UGANDA, ORKAN.)

UGANDA and ORKAN sailed in accordance with my 161347B.

(C. in C.Plymouth 161803B.)

J.W.54. My 021705. J.W. 54 is cancelled.
(V.C.N.S. 161526B.)

/O.N....

War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N. Convoys. It is requested that Masters of Ships in O.N. convoys be given the following instructions and Commodores informed. Begins:-
Ships in O.N. convoys bound beyond New York, who will be delayed in New York by voyage repairs or any other reason, are to report by signal to the Commodore giving details as to nature of repairs or description and quantity of stores required etc. This signal is to be made before convoy arrives at longitude 55° W. Ends.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey 161604.)

O.N. 176. Following is a summary of attack on your convoy. Twelve U-Boats in contact with convoy from the 10th to 12th April. Three evaded by evasive turns, two would have been evaded but for excessive smoke made by three ships. Of seven that attacked all but one intercepted outside range from convoy, this was due to excellent information passed by MELROSE ABBEY and CAIRNVALONA. Unfortunately one merchant ship was torpedoed but several promising attacks on U-Boats were carried out by the escorts.
(D.T.D. 161745Z to Convoy O.N. 176.)

Straggling & Premature Abandonment. Pass to N.C.S.Os. A scrutiny of recent merchant ship losses by U-Boat attack shows clearly that many valuable ships and irreplaceable lives are being lost in the following avoidable circumstances:-
A. A growing number of ships are straggling, romping or deliberately breaking away from convoys. The percentage of such ships that are sunk shows a considerable increase, due to the mounting number of U-Boats now operating in the vicinity of our convoys. In a recent convoy that was heavily attacked by a large number of U-Boats, only one ship in convoy was sunk, but ships that straggled or broke convoy were torpedoed.
It must be remembered that ocean convoys are now normally attacked not by a single U-Boat but by a pack of U-Boats that may number anything up to 20. The convoy is protected by its close escort and frequently by additional escorts operating out of sight of the convoy. Air escorts and A/S patrols by aircraft in the vicinity of the convoy are also provided whenever possible.
This protection is progressively increasing in strength, but obviously is most effective for the ships which are actually in the convoy.
B. In spite of detailed instructions on the subject (see A.M.S. Is 184/43 and 185/43) there is an increasing tendency for ships to be abandoned prematurely. It is the plain duty of every seaman to do his utmost towards bringing his ship safely to port, and, if attacked not to abandon her until there is no longer the slightest hope of keeping her afloat.

/The...

War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

Straggling & Premature Abandonment. (Contd.) The great majority of Masters are fully alive to their responsibilities in this matter and, indeed, some of them have brought their ships to port in almost impossible circumstances. It is not, however, possible to single out the individuals on whom it is necessary to impress this matter and it is hoped therefore that Masters will not resent the above remarks, bearing in mind the vital importance of each Allied merchant vessel at this crucial stage in the war.

2. N.C.S.Os are to ensure that no Master sails on an ocean voyage independently without having para. 1 (b) firmly impressed on his mind. Masters of ships sailing in ocean convoys are to have both sub para. (a) and (b) stressed to them as clearly and forcibly as possible.
(A.C.N.S.U.T. 162107B.)

Oil from Escort Oilers Request representative sample of each consignment of Furnace Oil supplied to Escort Oilers to be taken and retained. Tanks containing oil should be tested for water before vessels sail.
(D. of Stores 162110B.)

O.N. 176 BEVERLEY. Your 151153. Confirmed only survivors picked up as in my 121505. From survivors reports and evidence of nearest escorts appears BEVERLEY hit by two torpedoes, one forward and one in boiler room. Sunk instantly. Heavy underwater explosion followed, presumed depth-charges. Regret casualties must be considered missing presumed killed. Several dead bodies were sighted by ABELIA and CLOVER who searched from 0400Z/7 until after daylight. BEVERLEY torpedoed at 0358Z/11 in 52.28 N. 40.32 W.
(C.T.U. 24.1.18 162111 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

X Atlantic Convoy Cycles. Having at long last achieved an organisation to remedy the present deplorable state of training in the Atlantic escort forces, the proposals contained in your 131846 April (Hush - M.S.) are a great disappointment. The first and most important requirement to permit this training to be accomplished is time in the layover. The present number of groups in the mid-ocean convoys and the cycles of these convoys are now about to permit this essential time to be available.

2. Two W.A. support groups will be in service by the beginning of May. BOGUE's group I fear can be of little operational value due to the lamentably short endurance of her escorts besides lack of W.A. experience. I have had no information as to the provision of an effective support group by the Canadians.

War Diary.

16.4.1943.

Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Atlantic
Convoy
Cycles.
(Contd.)

3. The two support groups formed by the Home Fleet destroyers have already proved of utmost value. It is realised that these ships must be withdrawn in due course and it is only by intensive and progressive training for which time is essential that I can balance to some extent the withdrawal of the Home Fleet ships by increase of efficiency in the W.A. escort groups. A reduction of the total layover on mid-ocean groups to 14 days will render all these efforts abortive, for I cannot hope to achieve any real tangible progress in fighting efficiency in the time allowed.

4. With reference to your 131846 the following alternative proposals are submitted to save a total of two groups i.e. one group for W.S./K.M.F. convoys and one group as shown in the penultimate sentence of your 081726.

A. To open the O.S./K.M.S. cycle to 20 days thus saving one escort group

B. To open the H.X/O.N. cycle to eight days and raise the limit of ships per convoy to about 80 during the summer weather. This will allow an increased number of ships to be brought over and at the same time save two escort groups.

C. To open the S.C/O.N.S. cycle to nine days thus saving one escort group. The combination of A. and B. is preferable. This will give three spare escort groups to be used, one from W.S/K.M.F., one spare as in your 081726 and one as additional support group in the mid-ocean run.

5. This combination will have the further benefits of keeping the H.X/S.C. cycles the same and so permit convoys to be suitably spaced to make the most use of support groups and also the layover on the mid-ocean runs will always be six days in Newfoundland and 11 for H.X. and 12 for S.C. in the U.K. (C. in C.W.A. 162308B to Admty.)

E.G.5.

Request you will sail PATHFINDER p.m. 17th to Hvalfjord to join anti S/M screen of BITER in 5th Escort Group
(C. in C.W.A. 162349B to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

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War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

C.G.26. Arrival Gibraltar 0630A to-day. Latest Q.K.A. on hand 93. Request permission escort return Casablanca immediately. Previously requested by first information addressee.
(BEATTY 160445A to F.O.C. Gib. Force, Information. C.M.S.F., C.T.F.66, Cmdr. Destroyer Squadron 15.)

C.G.26 arrived.

(F.O.C. Gib. 160701C to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Connv, Admty.)

Convoy Amend my 151600. Now intend sail convoy 0700A/18
C.G.27. S. of A. 6.5 E.T.A. Gibraltar 1630A/19.
COMMANDANT DELAGE is senior escort.
(Commorseafron 160930 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Aluslo Gib. (Gib. pass) N.O.B. Oran, Connavnaw (C. in C. Med. pass) Comesunit, Connobensa, (Comfairwing 15.)).

Dispositions. Situation 1958A/16th.
THALASSA Huelva Bight. (2) ST. NECTAN 1 merchant ship (?286°) Cape Spartel 14 to Gibraltar 8.
(3) VETCH 36.41 09.02 to Gibraltar 12.
(4) FANTOME 1 destroyer 4 trawlers (?sailing)
0800A/17th through 35.45 06.30 thence 243° 9. (5) STURGEON 41.54 10.01 passing through 43.01 10.01 at 0445A/17 diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night 8. (6) MIRROR 1 M/L sailing 170730A to repair cable off Tangier M/L returning to Gibraltar on reaching territorial waters. (7) CHASSEUR II 35.48 06.12 through 35.45 06.35 to Casablanca 12.
(F.O. Gib. 161033A.)

Situation at 1959A/16th.

G.U.S.6, C.T.F.63, 036° 02' 027° 10' 277° 9. (2) 17 L.C.I. (L), S.O. in L.C.I. (L) 269, 031° 55' 026° 36' through 031° 50' 026° 15' 097° 10.

(V.A. Gib. 161055A.)

Situation 2001A/16th.

STURGEON 041° 54' 010° 01' passing through 043° 01' 010° 01' at 0445A/17th diving by day 2 knots surfacing by night 8. (2) M.K.S. 11 (? URGE) 038° 08' 012° 25' through 039° 58' 015° 10' thence 003° 8. (3) R.S.4, ACUTE, 031° 23' 010° 58' 215° 8. (4) U.G.S.7, C.T.F.69, 034° 31' 016° 24' 090° 9.
(F.O. Gib. 161141A.)SEGUNDO
EFIGENIA.Arfar 159. My 151010. Spanish SEGUNDO EFIGENIA, cargo 3,000, one gallon tins for which no use here. Owing to limited storage space strongly recommend Ministry of Food be invited to requisition. Shipping space will be available.
(C.C.S.O. Gib. 161125A to M.E.W.)

MIRROR.

Intend to sail MIRROR escorted by one M.L. at 0730A 17th to Tangier to repair Gibraltar-Tangier cable close inshore. (2) M.L. returns to Gibraltar on reaching territorial waters off Tangier.
(F.O. Gib. 161137 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

16.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.F.7. V.A. Gib. 152254. Request you will sail ESSO, ROCHESTER as stand by tanker in G.U.F.7. (C. in C. Med. 161158A to Commorseafron (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Oran, V.A. Gib. Comnavnaw, Cominch.)

SANTA
IRENE.

Your 1926/31st March. Min. of Marine admit SANTA IRENE sunk. Date believed to be 13th and only 1 survivor. Details later. On 1st April I made request to M. of Marine personally and in writing for at least 4 days notice of sailing date from Genoa with Portuguese marking. No reply was received. Portuguese For. Office informed Embassy in note dated 12th April received here same day that SANTA IRENE would sail from Genoa for Civita Vecchia on 12th. This was not communicated to me but Embassy informed M.E.W. by telegram 433 Arfar No. repeated Gibraltar despatch 13th April. (B.N.A. Lisbon 161214A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Gib.) SANTA IRENE, Portuguese, 520 tons, Lisbon for Genoa, left Gibraltar 28 March.

My 161214. Only details now available are that ship wearing Portuguese marking was sunk on Southern course between Corsica and Elba night 12th-13th by gunfire from unknown S/M. One survivor 17 missing. Time of attack will be reported if it can be ascertained.

(B.N.A. Lisbon 161840A to Admty, R.O. Cutuco, C. in C. Med. V.A. Gib.)

X O.S.46. In view of unusually large number of ships in convoy request special effort may be made to give additional air protection in your area. (D.T.D. 161226B to F.O.C. Gib.)

X Sunk U-Boat off Tarifa. Further to my 141945 position of S/M as given approx. correct and at low water top of conning tower said to be visible. (Consul Las Palmas 161245 to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib. B.N.A. Madrid.)

Your 141945. (S/M reported Grade B.2 to be lying in about 5 fathoms water off beach 3 miles S. of Tarife Direction Is.) Report immediately any developments especially in connection with salvage activities.

(N.I.D.20. 161627B to Consul, Las Palmas.)

Your 131523. If crew landed on beach by own effort and were later taken into Las Palmas by gunboat XAUEN does this alone constitute grounds for internment? This is quite apart from question whether S/M sank inside territorial waters.

(N.A. Madrid 162013A to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 200327.

SPERBER.

65 arrived 16th.
(Consul Bilbao 161320 to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

16.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

G.U.S.6. Amend my 1625/8. (Sailing telegram G.U.S.6.)
(C.M.S.F.F. 161735 to Port Director, New York
(R) S.B.N.O. W.A. etc.)

SICKLE. Intend sailing P.224 (SICKLE) p.m. 18th for
working up patrol off Valencia W. of 000° 15'
East between latitude 038° 50' and 040° 06' N.
2. Communications Gibraltar broadcast W. of
Greenwich Meridian and Algiers Broadcast E. of Greenwich shifting
to read M.S. routine. 3. Routed (S) 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at
2100/18th. (T) 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 2100/19th and unless
otherwise ordered by Captain (S) 8. (U) 135° Cape Palos 5 at
0900/20th. 4. Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational
control at 2100/19th. Speed of advance 9½ knots 120 miles per
day. Time zone minus 1.
(F.O.C. Gib. 161937A to C. in C. Med. Capt. S.8, (R) P.224
(SICKLE) N.O.I.C. Malta, 8th S.F., S.O. Force H, N.O.I.C. Oran.)

Movements, Departures. EGGESFORD for Oran, NEWFOUNDLAND for
Gibraltar. Mers El Kebir, LAFOREY, LOYAL, LOOKOUT for Algiers,
RHODODENDRON on escort duties, MELIMLA, CHASSEUR 2
to Casablanca, Tug ST. DAY for Phillippeville,
M.M.S.179, 133 for Algiers.
(F.O.C. Gib. 162005 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrivals. 16 April, U.S.S. KNIGHT, QUICK, BEATTY.
Casablanca. (Commorseafron 162120 to C. in C. Med.)

M.K.S.11. P.C. and S. at 2000A/16th 037° 51' N. 011° 53' W.
310° 7½. Lisbon section met. SAN CIRILO in
company. Number of ships of convoy 33. All
escorts present. My P.C. and S. at 2130A/16th
036° 55' N. 009° 08' W. 114° 13. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1400A/17th.
Weather report.
(VETCH 162130 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

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16.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy D.C.19. 2. 0600Z on 16th April. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal, reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay J.P. HERTFORDSHIRE, STELLA POLARIS. 12. E.T.A. (?Capetown) p.m. April 20th, E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. April 18th, E.T.A. (?East London) p.m. April 17th. (N.C.S.O. Durban 160732Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Dakar. Sailed 0645 MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE. Arrived 0700 F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES. (Comar Dakar 160856Z to F.O.C.W.A.F. Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

W.S.28. W.S.28 sailed 15th E.T.A. R/V 1100B/18. D.S.T.O. Durban is requested to inform addresses E.T.A. Aden. (5 ships, list.) (S.T.O. Capetown 161041Z to Admty. for D. of S.T. S.S.T.O. Aden, (R) C. in C.Levant, C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. M.E. D.S.T.O. Suez, F.O.R.S.C.A.)

P.615 M.M.S. 67. 1. Intend to sail S/M P.615 escorted by M.M.S. 107 at 1600Z/17th both to Cape via Takoradi and Pointe Noire. 2. Route to Takoradi "Orange" speed making good $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots, E.T.A. 1600Z/21st. 3. N.O.I.C. Takoradi is to sail P.615 and M.M.S. 107 about 25th April and give onward route to Pointe Noire. 4. Air H.Q. West Africa is requested to impose total bombing restrictions for 30 miles ahead and astern and 10 miles each side of estimated position. P.615 will report P.C. and S. if she passes outside T.B.R. zone. 5. C. in C.S.A. is requested to give onward route from Pointe Noire. 6. B.N.L.O.W.Af. is to sail P.615 and M.M.S. 107 accordingly. (R.A.W.A. 161113Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Air H.Q. West Africa, B.N.L.O. W.Af. C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

SOUND FISHER gun turret for PHOEBE. Your 151758 and Admty. 151340. Anticipate SOUND FISHER ready to sail shortly escorted to Pointe Noire by TURCOMAN. Your 121806 para. 7, 061151/4 and 141034/4, propose routeing SOUND FISHER from Pointe Noire to Bahia escorted by TURCOMAN and SARABANDE to 020° S. 012° W. thence independently, trawlers returning Freetown. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 161130Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/16th April. VIVIAN escorting tug MASTERFUL 025° 50' 014° 30' Coastal to Capetown $5\frac{1}{2}$. NOTHERN DAWN escorting SALVIKING 027° 15' 015° coastal to Capetown $9\frac{1}{2}$.

ST. ZENO, LE TIGER, NORTHERN DUKE, SONNEBLUM with C.D.14, 034° 20' 018° 20' coastal to Durban 10. FRITILLARY with C.D.14A 034° 50' 020° 20' coastal to Durban 13.

/COVENTRY...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic

Dispositions. COVENTRY CITY, CAPE WARWICK, ARCTIC EXPLORER with
(Contd.) C.A.19 035° 35' 018° 20' to 040° 018° 20' 10.

KENYA, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS with W.S.28
Capetown section 034° 30' 025° 35' coastal to
Durban 12½.

HERTFORDSHIRE, LUCIFER with D.C.19 031° 45' 029° 45' coastal
to Capetown 9.

FREESIA, ST. LOMAN, SONDRRA 030° 40' 032° 05' to Durban 10.
(C. in C.S.A. 161145B.)

Situation at 2001Z/16th April.

PETUNIA, BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR with O.S.S. 45,
02.33 09.22 to 02.00 09.00 thence 080° nine. ARRAN, COPINSAY
off Marshall. CARIARVON CASTLE on patrol about 02.03 21.20
15½. Two M.Ls. off Accra.

(R.A.W.A. 161417Z.)

Situation 1959/16th April.

CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, INKPEN, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE with
S.R.4, 23.20 17.32 037° 6¼.

MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE 19.05 17.35 to 23.00 17.35 thence
035° 20.

M.L. 281 with French S/M LE CENTAURE 12.51, 17.17 to 11.15
17.09 at 0530Z 10.34 16.35 at 1100Z thence 113 10.

CILICIA on patrol about 09.30 27.30.

BUTSER escorting 08.50 14.01 to Freetown 7½.

(R.A.W.A. 161447Z.)

LE CENTAURE. Sailed French Sub. LE CENTAURE 0905 escorted by
M.L. 281.
(Comar Dakar 161316Z to F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C.
Bathurst, Admty.)

WARSPITE. Sailed WARSPITE, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK, ROTHERHAM.
Destroyers. (Com i/c Durban 161442Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F.
C. in C.S.At.)

Convoy 2. 1700Z/16th. 4. 8½ knots. 5. Coastal,
C.D.14. reference position J.P. Saldanha Bay. 6. ST. ZENO
LE TIGER, NORTHERN DUKE and SONNEBLOM. 15.
C.D.D. 1 - 9, codeword "Janitor" B.B.H.
(NC.S.O. Capetown 161442Z to Admty. etc.)

ALCANTARA. Report at 1st opportunity whether it will be
A.F.D. 24. essential to relieve any escorts before arrival
A.F.D. XXIV and on what date.
(F.O.C.W.A. 161708Z to ALCANTARA, (R) Com. 4th
Fleet, MILFORD.)

U/B. U.S. aircraft reports sighting S/M on surface in
01° 43' N. 11° 30' W. at 1043/16. Course 075°
No confirmation.
(F.O.C.W.A. 161733Z to Admty.)

/MEAD...

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

- MEAD. MEAD's 141515 not to D.S.A.N.F. Request Cdre. Durban will sail MEAD for Capetown in next convoy to lay H.D.A's A. and D. in Table Bay and to load H.D.A's for Durban.
(Cdre. i/c Durban pass to MEAD.)
(C. in C.S.A. 161751B to Cdre. Durban, MEAD.
(R) D. of A/S.W. D.S.A.N.F. South A.F. N.O.I.C. Durban.)
- T.S.35. Arrival 151802Z. SNOWDROP, CROCUS, DUNCTON, PORTSDOWN, M.Ls. 279, 266 with T.S.35.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 161849 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) Admty.)
- CARNARVON CASTLE. CARNARVON CASTLE leave 42 patrol area at 0800Z/17th and proceed to patrol in area bound by R. 009° 12' N. 024° 44' W. S. 008° 11' N. 023° 46' W. T. 004° (?59') N. 027° 01' W. U. 006° 01' N. 028° 00' W.
(?F.O.C.W.A. 161917Z to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R) Morseafon, Admty. Com. 4th Fleet.)
- Movement, Takoradi. Departure 16th M.L. 274 escorting to Port Bouet 17th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 161920Z to Admty. etc.)
- QUEEN MARY. 1700R/16 April QUEEN MARY Clyde 22 April.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 162339Z to Connav.)

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War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

K.M.S.12. K.M.S.12 arrived.
(F.O.I.S., 160125A to Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connv.)

Enemy Units. P. C. and S. of (?F) 1 enemy destroyer 1 unidentified vessel 35° 23' N. 14° 00' E. 270° 20 kts. (A/C BTC/A 160150B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
2 unidentified vessels bearing 080° distance 2 miles course 165° position 38° N. 12° E. speed 16. (Capt. D.12 160248 to Malta, W/T.)

CERES. Arrival.
(Cdre. Aden, 160429Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)

E.T.18 TITUS arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 160525A to Admty., etc.)
E.T.18. My 151019A add ESSO, BAYONNE for U.S. (Commob, Oran, 161036A to Admty., etc.)
E.T.18. Intend to sail TESTBANK to Gibraltar, EVVIVA to Gib. for U.K., ROUENNAIS (French) to Gib. for Casablanca. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 161054A to Admty., etc.)
My 151019A (E.T.18.) Add French Ship JOSEPHINE LE BORGNE. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 161103A to Admty., etc.)

Movements Oran. Arrivals for 15th were, M/L 444 and departures, H.M. tug EMPIRE FRED.
(Commob, Oran, 160650A to Admty., etc.)

1 Cigno
2 destroyers sunk by PAKENHAM, PALADIN, PAKENHAM disabled and sunk. PAKENHAM and PALADIN sank two large destroyers in approx. position 37.45 N. 12.05 E. at 0300.
2. At 0330 D.12 reported damaged engine room and small fire aft and at 0345 in 37.36 N. 12.23 E. that PAKENHAM was in tow. 3. At 0604 D.12 reported being bombed in 37.28 N. 12.32 E. and in view of disappointing progress close proximity to enemy airfields and fact that due to distance fighters would be unable to remain I ordered PAKENHAM to be sunk. 4. PALADIN is now returning at 32 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 160914, 161257B to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)

one
PAKENHAM and PALADIN on sweep from Malta sighted 2 destroyers 15 miles south of ^{Mar}ettimo at 0248/16 and sank both ships. (2) PAKENHAM sustained damage in engine room and fire aft and was taken in tow by PALADIN. (3) Ships were attacked by A/C at 0604/16 in 37.28 N. 12.32 E. (4) In view of close proximity to enemy airfield and distance from Malta for fighter cover, PAKENHAM was ordered to be sunk.
(C. in C. Med., 161234A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, Connv, F.O.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, B.A.D. F.O. H.)

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 15th April, TETCOTT M.L. 357, 359, 1032, 1149. PINDOS Greek Dests. BASILISSA, OLGA, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, departure 15th April M.L.1004.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 160919C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
- Movements, Sfax. Departure 15th WHITEHAVEN, BOSTON, CROMARTY, COWDRAY, POOLE M.L.459, 462 SKUD 4, KAI.
(N.O.I.C. Sfax., 160938A to Admty.)
- P.R.U. April 16th Visuals. 0800 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers. 0845 Messina no major Naval units.
(V.A. Malta, 160951B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- M.M.S. for Levant. Your 151230. (M.M.S. 102, 103, 105 and 106 to sail for Levant via Gib.)
(C. in C. Med., 161021A, to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Levant, Admty.)
- Bi-weekly Opsum No.117 Part 2. Night 14/15 April. 10 Hurricane sorties on patrol east coast Tunisia. Coastal shipping and 20 small vessels in Hammamet effectively machine gunned. Wharves buildings and transport vehicles also attacked. April 15. P.40s provided cover for shipping on Sfax Tripoli routed 13 B 24s despatched to attack tanker in Catania Harbour. Bombs burst close to vessel but no hits claimed. Several large fires started on Mole and in dock area. Enemy fighters encountered over target and 1 fighter seen to crash. 129 X 500 lbs H.E. at 1104Z hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 161028Z.)
- SAHIB. My 141904 P.212 (SAHIB) sailed from Algiers at 1830A/16th is to reroute through 038° 09' 003° 30' at 0330/17th and 038° 09' 009° 59' at 2000A/19th.
(Capt. S.8, 161042A to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F. Capt. (S) 10, etc.)
- Bi-weekly Opsum No.117 Part 2. April 15. P.40s provided cover for shipping on Sfax Tripoli route 13 B.24s despatched to attack tanker in Catania Harbour. Bombs burst close to vessel but no hits claimed. Several large fires started on mole and in dock area. Enemy fighters encountered over target and 1 fighter seen to crash. 129 by 500 lbs H.E. at 1104Z hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 161053Z)

/M.L....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.L. Flotillas. Your 091040. 1. Assume M.L. 491 referred to in your para. 3 should read M.L.341. 2. For accounting and stores purposes M.Ls. 338 and 444 have been allocated to 22nd and 29th Flotillas respectively. 3. Flotilla Number 8 has been allocated to M.Ls. 554, 557, 566, and 483. 4. M.Ls. 567 and 577 ex 29th Flotilla (My 1816/17 Feb. para 2 refers) M.Ls. 218, 232 and 240 ex 22nd Flotilla and 8 M.Ls. referred to in para. 2 of my 1231/30 March will be joining you shortly. How do you wish these 13 boats to be allocated? (D.D.O.D.(C) 161055B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

UNRIVALLED, UNSEEN. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) sails at 1500B/16th by same route as P.51 (UNSEEN) passing P. at 1600B/18th for patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. (Capt. S.10 161114 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) C. in C. Med, Capt., (S) 1 N.O.i/c Malta, 8th S.F.)

DIDO. A.M. 13145B/April para. 3. A.B.U. is available and can be installed. D.O.D.(F) 161209B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant.) Intend to sail DIDO at 1600/17th April arriving Gibraltar 1200/18th and sailing p.m. on 18th April for U.K. (C. in C. Med. 161636A to Admt. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib., C. in C. Plymouth, C.S.12 DIDO.)

Spares for M.G.Bs. M.T.Bs. serious situation. Situation regarding supply of spares for M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs is deplorable. A.M. 141536 to C.F.W. indicates many spares still waiting shipment in U.K. 2. Of 104 Packard engines being shipped direct to Bone in accordance with A.M. 1506/11th Feb., none has so far arrived. (3) Outfit torpedoes for 32nd Flotilla only have arrived. (4) These craft have complicated power worked gun mountings for which no spares of any sort have yet arrived. A.M. 100343 indicated that in the case of 20 M.M. twin mountings other ships carried generous allowance of spare parts. Facts are that CARLISLE is only ship on station with similar mounting, and her last remaining G.A.C.O. washer has already been issued in an attempt to keep M.G.Bs. serviceable. (5) F.O.I.S. reports 5 out of 6 M.G.Bs. are ineffective because of non-arrival of spare Ford auxiliary engines for 220 volt. dynamo. Efforts being made to obtain suitable improvisation from U.S. Army. Meantime, 5 craft are not only unable to go to sea, but due to the astonishing gunnery design, are unable effectively to fire their main armament in self defence. (6) Request immediate supply of adequate spares for these craft may receive urgent attention. Request for auxiliary engines and essential gun spares may be sent by air and that all remaining spares which can be made available by drastic action may be shipped at next fast opportunity by H.M.Ship and not be freight. (C. in C. Med. 161231A to Admt. (R) C.C.F. F.O.I.S. C.F.W.A. C.O.A. Algiers.)

/ P.R.U...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.R.U.
information
for S/Ms.

P.R.U. Spezia on 15th show three LITTORIO battleships, 2 damaged 8" Cruisers one light cruiser, 11 destroyers including 2 French Tigre class, 7 torpedo boats.
(Capt. S.8., 161235A, to 8 S.F.)

M.T.Bs.

Sailed M.T.Bs 82 62, 61 and 75 on operations.
(V.A. Malta, 161400 to Admty., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

KING EDWIN
(fire 14th
April C.T.L.)

My 150750B. Fire took charge at 2400 15th spreading aft necessitating scuttling with charges of engine room and after holds. Ship now sunk and consider vessel C.T.L. for duration. Fire practically extinguished 1200/16th. Admiralty Salvage Officer in charge operation. Master requests instructions from owners regarding officers and crew. Propose that crew sign off articles retaining Master, C. O. Chief Engineer 1 other Engineer and Electrician for the present.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 161410B to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. M.E.)
Reply: D.S.T. 200218B.

OSIRIS.

S.1. 142345, (OSIRIS delayed owing to engine defect.) Very much regret I have no available substitute. OSIRIS will be sent as soon as possible.
(C. in C. Levant, 161428C to C. in C.E.F., (R) Admty., F.O.S., S.1. S.4.)

× Enemy
Battleships,
destroyers.

3 Battleships, 6 destroyers sighted by P.R.U. aircraft 4 miles west of Spezia at 1030A course west.
(C. in C. Med., 161441A to Med. Fleet. (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
My 161441A. Photography confirmed.
(C. in C. Med., 161610A to Med. (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

All three LITTORIO battleships were sighted four miles west of Spezia at 1030A today course west.
(Capt. S.8., 161452A to 8 S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

Movements,
Malta.

Arrived PALADIN 1245 and PETARD 1400. Sailed UNRIVALLED.
(V.A. Malta, 1615000 to Admty., etc.)

× 201 H.C.
Group
inadequacy.

A.O.C. 377 16. For V.C.A.S. from A.O.C. in C. On April 7th C. in C. Levant signalled direct to Admty., (T.O.O. 1058)* expressing his concern with inadequacy of R.A.F. Naval co-operation group in Eastern Med. I did not see signal before its despatch but have since discussed it with C. in C. Levant.

* Received as 1057.

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Group,
inadequacy.
(Contd.)

2. An appreciation of present G.R. position in Eastern Med. has been made by A.O.C. 201 Group.

His main recommendations are:-

(A) Long range fighter and R/C squadrons are adequate to meet present needs. (B) If Italian Fleet came out and proceeded Eastwards we should have to rely largely on (?R.A.F. and)

in particular torpedo bomber squadrons of 201 Group to defend or deflect it. There are only 2 torpedo bomber Squadrons available in this Command (1 Beaufort and 1 Wellington VIII) and these are fully employed in meeting our present A/S commitments, consequently these squadrons are not practised in concerted torpedo attacks against major naval units. To allow one squadron at a time to be withdrawn to Delta for intensive training an additional torpedo bomber squadron should be provided (C) Although enemy is not at present conducting an intensive submarine campaign in Eastern Med. this may well develop at short notice. The capture of Tunisia will increase considerably volume and importance of traffic in and through Eastern Med.

A/S cover now provided is inadequate since a large percentage of aircraft employed are unsuitable for A/S work because they are not fitted with A.S.V. 2 additional squadrons of suitable long range aircraft fitted with A.S.V. should be provided.

3. My only comment on the foregoing is that I doubt if 2 additional A/S squadrons are required. I consider that the commitment could be met with one additional A.S.V. squadron provided that one of the present Baltimore G.R. squadrons could be re-equipped with A.S.V. long range aircraft such as Wellington VIIIs.

4. Eastern Med. is however, only half the picture and Mediterranean as a whole must be taken into account. This can only be done by A.O.C. in C. Med. Air Command and C. in C. Med.

5. A full copy of appreciation mentioned in para. 2 together with C. in C. Levant's signal to Admty. mentioned para. 1, are being sent by air to Med. Air Command forthwith together with my covering remarks. Suggest Air Ministry holds its hand until question has been reviewed by A.O.C. in C. Med. Command.

(H.Q. R.A.F., ?M.E., 161658Z to Air Min.)

Movements
Port Said.

16th April Port Said arrivals M.L. 355, M.L. 1004, G.S. AETOS, CUMBRAE, ISLAY, M.L. 348, R.F.A.WAR, KRISHNA, FOINAVON. Departure G.S. SPETSAI. (N.O.i/c Port Said. 161702C to Admty. etc.)

P.L.M.16.

My 151710C para. 1. P.L.M.16 has taken clearance and is due to sail a.m. April 17th for Constanza B.2.

(S.O. (I) Istanbul, 161721C, to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.I, S.10, D.N.I.)

RODNEY.

My 141935/April (Hush - N.T. in W.D.).

RODNEY will now be taken in hand for docking at Devonport on her arrival in U.K. about second week in May. Request she may be routed accordingly.

2. S.O. Force H. inform RODNEY.

(D.O.D.(F), Approved by V.C.N.S. on O.D.1101/43 161759B to C. in C. Plymouth, S.O. Force H. (R) C. in C.H.F., C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, A.S. Devonport.)

/NIEUW...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

NIEUW HOLLAND, CUBA. Desired to use NIEUW HOLLAND and CUBA arriving North Africa in K.M.F.13 for movement of A.A. Regiments (total strength 4200) from West Africa to India. 2. Request report whether these two ships can be sailed from Algiers to Freetown in sufficient time to collect personnel from Freetown, Takoradi and Lagos and return to Freetown to sail with W.S.30 about 2/6. D.S.T.O. W.A. should report latest date by which they can be accepted at Freetown from Algiers. (D. of S.T., 161759B to C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.Af., (R) P.S.T.O. Med., D.S.T.O., W.A., C. in C.S.A.)

Minesweeping Sousse. M.A.G. 7, "Social" and "Secure", completed, negative result. One floating mine similar to Italian I sunk by rifle fire at 0955/15 A near number 7 buoy south of Gharbi Island. One mine similar to German X or Italian J with spiked horns, new black and glistening cut by M.L. with 3 fathoms depth sweep in position 101° Sousse Mole distance 1.75 miles at 1418A/16 sunk by rifle fire. (S.O. 14 M/S, 161835A to N.O.I.C. Sousse. (R) S.N.O. Inshore Sqdn, Eastern Med.)

ILE DE FRANCE. Your 150210B April referring to my 120844C April. Total to embark in ILE DE FRANCE confirmed about 6000. 2. Following are approx details. (3) Included in Army total for U.K. are 1950 Poles ex. P.A.I.C. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 161836C to Admty., for D.S.T.)

KING EDWIN fire, total loss. My 151059. (re fire in No. 1 hold of SS. KING EDWIN.) Regret to report fire again took charge at 2355 April 15th and spread aft. To avoid ammunition explosion charges had to be fired in number 4 and 5 holds and ship will be a total loss. Hoped to save some of the cargo. (V.A. Malta, 161854B, to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

P.R.U. 16th April. Visuals. 1640 Taranto, 2 battleships 3 cruisers. 1735 Messina no major naval unit. (V.A. Malta, 161921B, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals TARTAR, BICESTER, OAKLEY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA. Departures DIDO, AURORA, TARTAR. (S.O.I.S., 161959A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Movements Algiers. Algiers arrivals DIDO, ASHANTI, M.L. 273, EMPIRE FRED, French COLONEL CASSE and RAIE. Departures SIRIUS, ESKIMO, BLYSKAWICA, RONALDSHAY. Submarine SAHIB, L.C.(L) 161. (Com. Algiers, 162039 to Admty., etc.)

/Minesweeping...

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Minesweeping, Mine Clearance Force "Pelman" anchored South of Sousse. Head. M.Ls. and Whalers working into Sousse all tomorrow. Request fighter cover. (S.O. 14th M/S 162047A to S.N.O. I.S. Squadron, Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Sousse, C. in C. Med).

PROTEA Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 162105C to Admty.)

Malta C.S.R. A.I. 519 16 April, C.S.R. Malta.
PAKENHAM (A) Air. Part 1. Offensive. Night 15/16th
sunk. April. Haze and low cloud hampered offensive operations. 2 special and 6 strike Albacores with bombs carried out shipping searches along N.E. Coast of Tunisia in Gulf of Tunis, and in Marittimo area but made no significant sighting. Before leaving patrol area 1 Albacore bombed coastal installations at Ras Mostefa, Tunisia, scoring direct hit causing violent yellow explosion. 4 special torpedo carrying Wellingtons on armed search for enemy shipping in Sicilian narrows and to N.W. of Sicily experienced A.S.V. jamming and made no significant sighting. Night fighters were encountered and successfully evaded. To cover our shipping strikes 3 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in Pantelleria, Trapani, and Palermo areas. Day 16th April. 19 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over Southern Sicilian aerodromes as diversion for Liberators of Ninth Bomber Command attacking Sicilian targets. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 15/16 April. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols in Pantelleria and Passero areas. Day 16th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 29 Spitfires provided escort to 2 D/Rs returning from Sicilian Channel. Escort was provided at maximum range with long range tanks. At 0520 hours Spitfires saw 1 of our D/Rs fire at and sink the other. Part 5. operations by aircraft of other commands. Night 15/16 April. 1 Liberator of 344 Squadron airborne from Lete to bomb Palermo Harbour and shipping landed at Malta. Bombs were dropped in target area. A.A. was encountered and the aircraft was hit in outer starboard engine. 1 of several attacking Me.109s was shot down by Liberator's return fire. (B) Army nil. (C) Navy. Last night two D/Rs PAKENHAM and PALADIN carried out a sweep in the Sicilian Channel and sank 2 large enemy D/Rs. PAKENHAM received shell damage in engine room which stopped her. In view of close proximity to enemy airfields, slow progress under tow, and fact that due to distance from Malta fighters would have been unable to regain PAKENHAM, was sunk by PALADIN after taking off ship's company. PALADIN returned undamaged to Malta. Four M.T.Bs. are carrying out a sweep in Gulf of Hammamet tonight. (A.H.Q., Malta, 162149Z).

/Situation...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Situation
Report.
No. 80.

1. During night 14/15th April two destroyers of Force Q carried out sweep to Marittimo and two to Cagliari. M.T.Bs. from Bone proceeded to vicinity of Bizerta, destroyed recent wreck near Cape Zebib and reported attacking two large U-Boats on surface without success but damaged one of two escorting E-Boats.
 2. During night 15/16th April. PAKENHAM and PALADIN carried out sweep from Malta sinking two destroyers as reported in my 161234. M.T.Bs. from Bone were on offensive sweep inland of Tunis. M.G.Bs. 646 and 645 also from Bone, encountered three E-Boats 10 miles N.W. of Ras Engela at 2225/15 April. M.G.Bs. engaged but E-Boats escaped under smoke. Later M.G.Bs. were engaged by shore battery near Cape Guardia and withdrew undamaged.
 3. M.M.S., (?S/M intended) SAFARI reports about 1300/3 sank minesweeping trawler and schooner off east coast of Sardinia by gunfire. In approaches to Cagliari at 1345/6 hit 4000 ton merchant vessel with torpedo ship being later seen making slowly to harbour. Sank 300 ton Brigantine by gunfire at 1218/9 April, and at 1719/10 April attacked convoy of 3500 ton tanker 5000 ton A.M.C. and 3000 ton Merchant Vessel.* (C. in C.Med. 162155A to Admty.)
- *W.D.Note. For addition, see 190941 in Diary 19th April.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

- M.B. 32. Convoy M.B.32 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 160246 to Admty. etc.)
Arrival TAMWORTH with M.B.32.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 160308Z to Admty. etc.)
- HILDASAY. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 160730Z to A.I.G. 89.)
- RAJULA. Following additional move has been arranged,
Colombo to Suez, 1 personnel ship, RAJULA, with
N.A. Battery, 1800 troops, to sail about 30th April.
(P.S.T.O. India 160812Z to C. in C. E.F. (R)
F.O. Ceylon, D.S.T. P.S.T.O. M.E.)
- Carriage of Passengers. Question of passenger certificates issued under
Simla Rules, 1931, will be referred to Admty.
2. Request you will signal brief summary of these
rules indicating their general effect vis-a-vis
Board of Trade rules and forward details of them,
with a list of more important ships affected, by letter. 3. Ships
of 10 to 12 knots other than those quoted in para 2 of my 1441/20
March abide by ruling given in Admty. 1140/16 March. Your
051029 April refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 160903Z to Com. R.I.N. (R) Admty.)
- U-Boat. Following has been read. SSSS DE KCCH (KHOY)
CAPE ST. ELIAS sighted S/M 14.58 S. 50.48 E.
(Colombo W/T 161010G.M.T.)
- U-Boats. No. 10 disposition U-Boats. Japanese.
One very doubtful off Marmagoa 9th April.
2. These weekly signals represent review of
U-Boats disposition in East Indies Station Area
during previous 7 days.
(C. in C. E.F. 161156Z to Eastern Fleet (251Y)
(R) Admty. etc.)
- ORDUNA. ORDUNA 1400Z/16th April, escorted, E.T.A.
Durban 0300Z/22nd April.
(N.O.I.C. Tamatave 161510Z to Admty. etc.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

BAZELY. My 151504, departed Bermuda 2155/15th.
(U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda, 160241Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) Cominch etc.)
N.O.B. Bermuda 151504 addressed for action to Cinclant informs as follows: This refers to your 140158. BAXELL (As received, BAZELY intended) departs Bermuda about 2200Z April 15th for Boston through positions: V. 33.40 64.40, W. 37.08 66.38, X. 40.15 68.22, Y. 42.22 69.36. Thence approach channel to destination. Guards NSS F. Hold Q.J.C. 134. S. of A. 15. E.T.A. 2000Z/17th April.
(Comnaveu, 160731 to Admty)

BAYNTON, My 1506/15, departed Bermuda 2020Z/15th.
BERRY. (N.O.B. Bermuda, 160242Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) Cominch etc.)

Movements, St. Johns N.F. April 15th/43. Arrivals ITCHEN, ST. LAURENT, ST. CROIX, OXLIP, NAPANEE, VILLE DE N.F. QUEBEC, CAMROSE ex O.N.S. 2. Departures CHELSEA to J.H.48A.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 160245Z to Admty)

SHEDIAC, E.T.A. 0800Z/16th. SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD GRENADIER etc. with SS. AMSTEL and tug ADHERENT. Boiler hours. (SHEDIAC, 160300Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.W.A., C.T.U. 24.1.1, C.T.F. 24)

U/B. Following read: Submarine sighted 38.20 N. 65.19 W. (Portion missed).
(Freetown C.C.O. T.O.R. 160320Z/ to Admty)
(Plymouth C.C.O. 160556B to Admty)

L.S.T's. New York departed 14th April for Bermuda L.S.T. 410, 426, 428.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 160344Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O. W.At.)

ENGADINE. San Diego arrived 2130Z April 14 ENGADINE.
(N.S.H.Q. 160345Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

U/B attacked. SPENCER sighted S/M 034° Z/16th 045° 04' 026° 55' and attacked.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.3, 160515Z to A.I.E.303)
(C. in C. W.A., 160921B to Escort Group 3)

U/B. A.868, 16 April.
Enemy sightings. 1 A/C of 31 OTU Debert sighted U-Boat in 44.15 N. 60.54 W at 1513Z/15 but being on navigation exercise and unarmed was unable to make an attack.
(H.Q. E.A.C. 160545Z)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

- F.H.49. Pre-sailing telegram. (A) Saint John N.B. 1600Z April 17th. (B) KENTVILLE, GRANDMERE. (C) 7 ships. (D) 44 hours. (N.C.S.O. Saint John N.B. 161202Z to Admty)
- Convoys. Convoy G.A.T. 55 arrived complete. Convoy B.T. 9 arrived less TROUBADOUR and Motor Vessel SEMINOLE, stragglers, and MEVANIA which did not sail. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 161218Q to Admty)
- Convoy X.B.44A. X.B.44A arrived Cape Cod Canal 160300Z. (Com. 1st U.S. N. District Boston, 161240Z to Cominch, C. & R., Comeastseafon, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Admty.)
- T.A.G.54. List - 9 Ships. All ships for New York. (Willemstad, 161301Z to Admty)
- U.S.S/M Notice. S/M Estimate April 16th. (Cominch, 161605, 161606Z, 161607Z, 161536Z, 161537Z)
- Escort Oilers, Spare Depth Charges. Address of my 152157 should be amended to read as above. (2) Admty. pass this and my 152157 to C. in C. W.A. (B.A.D. 161535Z/4 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. N.W.A., N.M.C.J.S.) Passing action being taken by W.R.
- Convoy, J.H.47. Arrival Louisburg DALWARNIC, arrival St. Peter's Bay LIVERPOOL LOYALIST lost 2 blades of propeller. Anticipates 4 days to repair at St. Peter's. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 161617Z to Admty)
- Convoy S.C.127. Escort oiler BEACONSTREET and standby oiler EL CIERVO both buoyant hose trough method for oiling astern. BEACONSTREET 104 D/c's removes unsuitable stowage. No other tankers fitted for oiling at sea and no vessel with spare D/c's are in this convoy. (N.C.S.O. Halifax. (N.S.), 161657Z to Admty (R) Port Director New York, Cominch, C. & R. N.S.H.Q. etc.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. INGONISH, GUYSBOROUGH, CARAQUET, BAYFIELD, LOCKPORT departure 1545 G.M.T. 16th April. E.T.A. Guantanamo 19th. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 161701R to Admty etc.)

War Diary.16.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- ∧ O.N.176. Following received from C.T.U. 24.1.18.
Summary of anti-U-Boat action whilst escorting
O.N.176. (As C.T.U. 24.1.18, 151620)
(D.A/S.W. 161821B to B.A.D.)
- Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z. SPENCER attacks sub 45.04 N. 26.55 W. 0340/16. CUMBERLAND sights sub 66.35 N. 25.10 W. 0918/16. VP 83 planes attack sub. 04.08 S. 31.20 W. 1700/15. Para. D. CGR 3064 sound contact 40.39 N. 71.08 W. 1800/16 CGR 80014 sound contact 41.33 N. 69.50 W. 0804/16. Army plane sights sub. course South 17.46 North 75 West 1835/15. PBV has made contact course North 21.33 North 85.09 West 1845/15.
(Cominch, 162020Z to Admty for O.I.C.)
- H.X.235. (1) Sailing telegram part 1. (2) Position C.N. at 2030 April 18th. (3) (5) (8) Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafrons 2017/13 April except all times 1½ hours earlier. (6) Task Unit 24.18.
8. ARROWHEAD. (S.O). SWIFT CURRENT, NEW WESTMINSTER, HALIFAX.
C.E.S.F. pass to C. in C. C.N.A. for info.
(Port Director, New York, 162026Z to Admty)
- VERA B. British Schooner VERA B HUMBY due Halifax 7th
HUMBY from Fortune Nfld. has not arrived.
overdue. (N.S.H.Q. 162038Z to Admty. Connnav, C. in C. C.N.A.
F.O.N.F., N.O.I.C. Sydney.)
- × O.N.176, Escort of O.N.176 reports excessive smoke from
Smoke. following vessels seriously endangered convoy;
JAMAIQUE, GDYNIA and TJISALAK. Advise M.O.W.T.
New York and Amiral Dight accordingly.
(D.T.D. 162052B to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) N.S.H.Q)
- × Atlantic Convoys, "Chop" positions Your 061802 A.M. 091205 and Cominch C. and R. 101555. Propose following instructions for promulgation if you concur.
(A) "Chop" for H.X. and S.C. convoys is at same time and date as Westomp and will be promulgated by the sailing authority who sails Mid-Ocean escort. (B) "Chop" for O.N. and O.N.S. convoys is 24 hours before time and date of Westomp and will be promulgated by sailing authority who sails Western Local escort.
(C) Sailing authorities referred to in (A) and (B) are requested to promulgate "Chop" and any subsequent amendment thereof in ample time for appropriate action to be taken by controlling authorities. (D) Signals from Controlling authority will be addressed to both Mid-Ocean and Western Local escort groups until it is known that change over of escorts has been effected.
(D.T.D. 162059B to N.S.H.Q.) Reply: N.S.H.Q. 191657Z.

Assignment / ...

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War Diary.16.4.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)Assignment
of
Docks.

My 010025 and 030035. Case was referred by C.M.A.B. to C.C.S. and by them to Combined Planners, gist of whose subcommittee report is as follows. (7) We recommend acceptance of this paper. May we have your early approval if possible by Thursday April 22nd. (B.A.D. 162223Z to Admty.)

S.C.127.

Departure ST.FRANCIS, DUNDAS, FREDERICTON, BADDECK, MINAS escorting S.C.127 including L.S.T.424. (C. Halifax, 162249Z to Admty etc.)

Convoy
O.T.4.

Sailing telegram Part 1. (2) Departing Aruba 17th April 1230Z (3) Estimated time of passing first Ocean position 19th April 0430Z. S. of A. 13.5 knots. "Chop" 18.24 N. 38.46 W. 23 April 1500Z. E.T.A. R/V 20.20 N. 23.20 W. 26th April 0900Z. "Chop" 10° W. 29th April 2300Z. E.T.A. position W. 30th April 0500Z. (4) - (5) Ocean route of convoy. (6) Task group 21.5. U.S. Destroyers ROPER, BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR. (C.A.F.A.C. 162324Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Connav etc.)

War Diary.

16.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland 1841Z/15 U.S.S. TRYON for Wellington. E.T.A. 0400/17. Arrivals Wellington 2200Z/15 U.S.S. MAURY and U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT. (D.N.I. Wellington 160212Z to Admty.)
Arrival Townsville 15th ARUNTA, Sydney N.S.W. 15th U.S.D. STURTEVANT, BUNGAREE, KALGOURLIE, MILDURA. Departure Cairns 15th GLENELG for Milne Bay. (N.Z.N.B. 161122Z to Admty. etc.)

Kiwi No.12. Manda aerodrome raided a.m. 13th April and 15th April four hits on runway and munitions dump large fires started. Intense barge activity with looting parties continuing central Solomons area. (C.W.R. Wellington 160217Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. etc.)

DOMINION MONARCH. My 101414 B.O. As troopship capacity of DOMINION MONARCH is 3536 will it be possible to fill her to capacity so as to reduce any further requirements which may be difficult to meet as far as provision or troopships and escorts is concerned? (D.S.T. 160423B to N.Z.N.B.)
A.C.N.B. 130145 N.Z.N.B. agree that ship be routed South of New Zealand. New Zealand Govt. insists escort be provided from port of departure. Comsopac being requested to provide escort. Propose A.C.N.B. provide escort from vicinity of 140°. Exact R/V to be arranged later. (N.Z.N.B. 162159Z to Admty., A.C.N.B. Com. 7th Fleet, C. in C. E.F.)

QUEEN MARY, prisoners. P.S.T.O. Capetown's 101759B to D. of S.T. only reports as follows. (Begins.) On arrival of QUEEN MARY it was found that limitations referred to in para. 1. of A.C.N.B. 040042 were insisted upon because Master of O.C. Troops understood that the prisoners of war were German and not Italian. It was impossible to collect more than 4000 prisoners at Capetown in the time available but ship has willingly (?accepted) 4000 service male personnel for U.K. in addition to 4000 prisoners. (Ends.) 2. This is not understood as my 0356/12/1 stated that P.O.W. to embark would be Italian. Would appreciate your views. (D.S.T. 160426B to A.C.N.B.)

Digest Serial No.450 April 15th. Nil shipping sighted Kavieng Area by morning R/C. Fortress, but observation interrupted by 8 to 10 Zeros intercepting whereof 3 damaged. Partial photos show 15 fighters Kavieng. (3) Two enemy S/MS sighted afternoon on surface off Cape Orford course South. (4) 9 ships sighted Wewak Area forenoon including one light cruiser with three stacks, one large cargo ship, and one small unidentified vessel, in Muschu Strait also one destroyer one Gib.Net, four Merchantmen, of which two

War Diary.

16.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial No.450 April 15th. (Contd.) large two medium approaching Harbour. Photos show possibly additional single 1000 tonner in Harbour with 4 luggers and number of barges. Photographs also reveal 42 probable fighters on old drome solitary floatplane near Kairiru Island plus 8 fighters airborne. Shipping attacked after dark by one squadron Fortresses two squadrons Liberators and preliminary reports indicate three merchantmen probably medium sized hit whereof one left sinking slowly second beached and third damaged. (Further details, 170815Z.)
(8) Photos of warship attacked 100 miles west of Tanimbar 14 April refer digest 449 para. 1. show torpedo boat CHIDORI. class.
(10) Two Hudsons conducted negative morning shipping search Tanimbar Kai Aroe Islands. One attacked camouflaged floatplane near Dobo other bombed wreck east of Jamdena Island.
(12) Before midday three other Hudsons attacked Japanese occupied village of Ossu. (Eastern Timor).
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 160905Z to Admty. etc.)

DOMINION
MONARCH.

A.C.N.B. 130145 N.Z.N.B. agree that ship be routed South of New Zealand. New Zealand Government insist escort be provided from Port of departure. Comsopac being requested to provide escort. Propose A.C.N.B. provide escort from vicinity of 140° E. Exact R/V to be arranged later (N.Z.N.B. 162059 to Admty. A.C.N.B. Com. 7th Fleet, C. in C. E.F.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 161340B, 161345B).

17.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.U/B attack
on H.X.253.
U.1705
Sunk.*All 21/17 B June
1943 calls the
UB U175.**(U.S. cutter
JOHN C. SPENCER)*

1. SPENCER, S.O. of escorts of H.X.253 reported Radar sound contact beginning at 0412Z today and also by D/F. The 3rd Escort group reported at 0917B that they had met the convoy and were hunting a U-Boat sighted in 47.21 N. 22.10 W. At 0605Z the British FORT RAMPART, 7100 tons, was torpedoed and was later sunk by the Convoy Escort about 550 miles SW. of Cape Clear, one of her crew being killed and 52 survivors taken aboard ARVIDA. At 1150B the 3rd Escort Group lost contact and abandoned their hunt; but at 1150Z SPENCER captured the 750 ton U-Boat No. 170 which subsequently sank in 47° 58' N. 21° 12' W. and took 44 prisoners of her crew of 57. This U-Boat had approached the convoy submerged from ahead and was forced to the surface and captured astern.

CUMBERLAND
damaged.

2. On reaching Hvalfiord at 0301 this morning from the Denmark Straits Patrol CUMBERLAND touched the ground off the harbour entrance. The ship will have to be docked, and she sailed from Hvalfiord at 180009B for Scapa with INTREPID.

3. Flight C of 24 Landing Craft L.C.T.3 with L.C.F.13 and the Rescue Tugs EMPIRE LARCH and HUDSON, escorted by LOTUS and DIANELLA, left Appledore at 2219B tonight for Gibraltar.

4. 10 Venturas of Bomber Command attacked the coke ovens and benzol plant at Zeebrugge today. 100 U.S. Fortresses of Bomber Command made a successful attack on Bremen today. The Fortresses claim 47: 17: 10. Sixteen of our aircraft are missing.

5. The British DYNAMO, 809 tons, in Convoy F.S.89 was mined and sunk off Harwich at 1506B today. Moored mines were destroyed off Orfordness today.

6. A U-Boat was sighted by Catalina aircraft A of 202 Squadron at 1250 in 39.13 N. 14.11 W. CLARE, destroyer, escorting convoy M.K.S.11 attacked with depth charges, and at 1427 was continuing the search with a corvette.

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17.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

7. CILICIA left patrol in the Atlantic narrows this evening and proceeded to Bahia to escort a floating Dock for Capetown.

Mediterranean.

× Enemy
Battleships.

8. Visual and photographic reconnaissance of Spezia this afternoon showed that the three LITTORIO battleships had returned to harbour.

× FORMIDABLE's
aircraft.

9. S.O.Force H proposes to reduce the fighter strength and increase the T.B.R. strength of FORMIDABLE. At present the ship is unable to launch a striking force; and moreover the work which her one T.B.R. Squadron has been called upon to perform is beginning to tell on the morale and efficiency of the crews.

× M.T.B.
Operations.

10. M.T.B's from Malta operated between Hammamet and Kelibia last night. M.T.B's 634 and 656 in the course of a sweep from Bone attacked a convoy of two merchant vessels and 4 destroyers between Zembra and Zembretta and hit a 4000 ton ship which burst into flames. The M.T.B's suffered only superficial damage from the fire of the enemy escorts. Albacores of 826 squadron from Blida (working under H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F) attacked a convoy in the same position shortly afterwards and estimated one hit on a merchant vessel which appeared to stop. (cf para. 13)

Convoys.

11. A convoy of 10 Storeships and 2 tankers for Tripoli (L) and 2 Storeships and a tanker for Malta sailed from Alexandria today.

12. Last night a Hudson aircraft dropped 3 depth charges and machine gunned a surfaced U-Boat 55 miles north of Cape Tenes.

Air
Operations.

13. 4 Albacores (Coastal) from Blida torpedoed a tanker last night and left it stationary (no place mentioned) (cf para.10). 13 Wellingtons from Algiers bombed Bizerta last night. Malta Albacores attacked at 0030 a merchant vessel of 5000 tons with destroyer escort, apparently between Zembra and Zembretta. A dull flash and long streak of oil were seen.

Air / ...

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Air
Attacks
in
Palermo.

- x 14 B.17's of N.A.A.F. escorted by 36 P.38's bombed Palermo today. Six ships received direct hits and one was near missed. All piers, a power house and the dock area were hit, 14 B.17's were damaged by A/A fire. 40 enemy aircraft attacked 11 B.17's, who destroyed 7 of the enemy and destroyed or damaged 7 more. One B.17 was lost.
- x Spitfire bombers attacked Syracuse Harbour today, scoring hits in the factory area and near the seaplane base.

- x 14. About 12 enemy aircraft raided Algiers harbour about 2000 today. No naval damage was caused. Sousse was raided today. No damage was caused but precautionary mine sweeping was subsequently carried out in the approaches.

East Indies.

Anti
U-Boat
Air
Measures.

- x 15. Air cover for convoys round the coast of Africa and in the Indian Ocean has been studied by the Anti U-Boat Committee with a view to developing further air bases and improving flexibility, and an outline of the measures proposed is contained in A.M.172014B.

Escort
Vessels.

- x 16. There is little hope of any increase in escort vessels for the Indian Ocean until our Atlantic requirements have been met, probably not until next year. (c.f. 21 April re abandonment of escort in Indian Ocean.)

Diego
Suarez.

- x 17. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez considers that the time is rapidly approaching when our policy as regards Diego Suarez must be made clear and the French firmly informed either that we intend to hold the port indefinitely or that we shall turn it over to them at a given date. Deputy C. in C. Eastern Fleet considers that we should retain full control of the harbour, dockyard and facilities for the duration of the war, and this policy was continued.

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War Diary.

17.4.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

STURGEON. My 161724 para (e). This S/M may be in vicinity of 42° 55' 09° 25' searching for survivors of aircraft.
(F.O.S. 170543B to Admty)

Sailing of 6th L.C.P(L) Flotilla. Arrangements for sailing. 6th L.C.P(L) Flotilla of 12 craft with M.L.297 to Portsmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 171257B)

MALAYA. A.M. 141935 and 151612. (1) MALAYA is to proceed direct to Scapa. (2) C. in C. H.F. will provide destroyers to take over escort North of Ireland (R) (3) Request you will sail destroyers to relieve destroyers of Gibraltar Escort Force in latitude of Finisterre. They should return to Plymouth after fuelling at Londonderry.
(D.O.D. H. 171336B to C. in C. Plymouth)

S/M Movements. Positions of submarines at 0800B/18 and movements for following 24 hours: (a) STUBBORN, BARB, BLACKFISH in zones K.191, K.193 and K.194 respectively. (b) TUNA approx. 61° 26' N. 01° 09' W. on surface for Lerwick. (c) UNIVERSAL 62° 08' N. 01° 40' W, probably on surface for vicinity 63° 55' N. 02° 55' W. (d) H.43 escorted by KIHNA 58° 43' N. 03° 37' W. for Blyth 5 knots. (e) SURF escorted by SHIKARI vicinity 56° 08' N. 07° 05' W. for Scapa 10 knots. (f) STURGEON vicinity 42° 55' N. 09° 25' W. searching for aircraft crew, probably proceeding after dark 18th routed through 45° 02' N. 09° 59' W and 45° 59' N. 09° 58' W. (g) SATYR may be exercising in Larne Sanctuary.
(F.O.S.171551B)
Sailed P.239 escorted by SHIKARI in accordance with S.3's 161619B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 171604B to A.C.O.S.)
My 171551 para (A). Cancel reference to STUBBORN and add new para. (H). STUBBORN in Zone K.191 leaves patrol 0900B/18th probably on surface, course 275°
(F.O.S.171716B)
My 171614. Amend H.43, KIHNA to 058° 44' N. 004° 06' W. thence anchoring in Scrabster Bay for night.
(A.C.O.S.171716B to ships)
TAKU exercising with destroyers off Plymouth in area D between 1000/18 and 1630/18.
(C. in C. Plymouth 171853B)(F.O.S.172151B)
My 171551B. Amend para. (D) to read H.43 escorted by KIHNA on passage at 5 knots to Blyth anchored in Scrabster Bay for night.
(F.O.S.172208B)

CUMBERLAND. Having embarked mails and passengers take INTREPID under your orders and proceed Scapa via Q.Z.S.407 and West of the minefield passing boom at 2100Z.
(C.S.10. 171815B to CUMBERLAND)

BULLDOG / ...

631

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

BULLDOG. (1) BULLDOG will be ready to leave U.K. 24th April to join Command of F.O.C.W.Af. (2) She will proceed in the first instance to Gibraltar for onward passage to Algiers. (3) F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail BULLDOG to Gibraltar when ready. (4) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward passage to Freetown at earliest opportunity. (D.O.D.(H) 172145B to C. in C. W.A.)

Landing Craft Flight C for Gibraltar. Sailed from Appledore flight C. of Landing craft consisting of 24 L.C.T.(3) Craft. Numbers. L.C.F's 13 and R. Tugs EMPIRE LARCH, HUDSON escorted by LOTUS and DIANELLA for Gibraltar routed as in Admiralty 301935A March. (C. in C. Plymouth, 172219B)

Operations.

X Denmark Straits Patrol. CUMBERLAND arrived Hvalfiord at 0301 from patrol "White!" (A.C.I.C. 170329B) Unless in contact with submarine HUNTS are to return to Hvalfiord. (2) On their arrival INTREPID is to be sailed for Scapa in accordance with my 071738.

(C. in C. H.F. 171034B to BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON, C.S.10)

X There is a possible alternative for patrol "White" in view of apparent advent of U-Boats in Denmark Straits and present ice limits. A. Cruiser to remain at anchor at immediate notice in Hesteyri Fiord using type 273 and Motor-boat Patrol. B. Ice-edge on the vicinity of minefield to be patrolled by one or two Destroyers as available assisted by A/C from Cruisers and Saebol, destroyers re-fuelling from Cruisers. C. Cruiser in this position is within reasonable striking distance of enemy ships either side of minefield. D. Alternative Fiords are available in case of bad weather or should there be indication the enemy discovering whereabouts of cruiser. My 161357B refers.

(C.S.10, 171625B and 181844B to as above)

INTREPID arrived.
(A.C.I.C.171806B)

Coastal Patrols.

Arrived KRAKOWIAK, WENSLEYDALE.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 170445B)

My 161202B. "Device" arrived 0743.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 170746B)

(1) Intend M.L's 269 (S.O) and 124 to patrol tonight on Lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leave Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at Dawn/18. (3) Object Anti E-Boat Patrol. Codeword "Device" (F.O.I.C. Portland 171103B and 172153B)

Departure of H.S.L.185, M.A.S.B.33 for special position PYB patrol Z 20 Z 22. Boats keeping close search procedure. If ordered to eastward H.S.L.185 will take sign MHB 3, MASB 33 will take MHB 4 and carry out deep-search procedure.

(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 171229B)

(3) / ...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Patrols.
(Contd.)

(3) M.G.B.613, 608, 614 short notice Newhaven.
 (4) 3 M.L.'s from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles to southward of convoy route covering convoy between 0° 10' W. and 0° 45' E. On patrol by dark and leave patrol after convoy has left Portsmouth Command. (5) M.L.572, 346, patrolling south of E.A.5 Buoy. (6) CHASSEUR 10 at St. Helens. GLAISDALE, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. (7) M.L.269, 122 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 25' W and 1° 45' W. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171310B)

(1) M.G.Bs 324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 235° and 055° from 125°. Start 13. (2) Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. (3) Execution. Leave Dartmouth 2100B for patrol. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0700B. (6) Codeword "Evidence". (C. in C. Plymouth, 171419B)

(1) When P.W.325 enters Plymouth BLEASDALE and LA COMBATT-ANTE are to proceed to take up anti E-Boat patrol between 160° Eddystone 14 and 210° Eddystone 20. Unless otherwise ordered leave patrol at 0400/18 and return to Plymouth.

(2) Information. Enemy. E-Boats based on Cherbourg but may operate from Brittany or Guernsey. (3) Codeword "Nation 9".

(4) KRAKOWIAK is to be at immediate notice while W.P.325 is in Falmouth.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 171533B)

My 171103B sailed. For M.L.122 Read M.L.124.

(F.O.I.C.Portland 172153B)

My 171533B. Sailed 2000B/17.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 172129B)

Your 171419B. "Evidence" sailed.

(N.O.I.C.Dartmouth, 172130B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Russian
S/M
K.21.

Cancel my 101244. S/M has withdrawn from patrol.
(F.O.S.170918B to S/M's)

UNIVERSAL
Patrol.

UNIVERSAL leaves Lerwick 1800B/17 unescorted and on the surface at C.O.'s discretion through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol in area 30 miles radius of 063° 55' N. 002° 55' W. (S.O.S/M Lerwick, 171106B to S/M's)

P.238.

(1) TUNA has reported U-Boats vicinity south east of Jan Mayen Island. (2) Leave patrol 0900B/18 and proceed through 071° 01' N. 004° 30' W, thence direct 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence Lerwick. (3) Proceed on the surface as far C.O.'s discretion except when west of 002° W and north of 068° 30' N. during which time you should be diving as long as practicable. (4) Object U-Boat but cruisers and above are to be attacked and reported immediately if encountered. (5) Bombing restrictions follow.
(F.O.S.171734B to P.238)

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War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Brest. Damage assessment Sortie 16 April Brest.
Damage on 16th April. Damage to NW end of Power Station. Some damage to Naval Workshops. E. Wing of Naval Barracks demolished, others damaged. Workshops destroyed in unidentified factory N. of Port De Commerce. (Medmenham, 170655B)

A/C in BITER. Your 162255B. Weather bad but better periods. Confirmed limited flying due to liveliness of ship. Two out of four aircraft broken on landing; one (?repairable). Day flying operations within convoy screen confirmed practicable but own screen essential for proper A/S protection in unfavourable wind. Conditions unsuitable for night flying but consider this within convoy screen presents considerable difficulty. Ship handled satisfactorily. (BITER, 171215Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Ostend attacked. On day 16th 9 A/C bombed Ostend. (H.Q.B.C. 171745B)

Mining.

Thames Estuary. One ground mine detonated by Sweepers at 0958/14 in 259° Tongue Sand Tower 1.6 miles. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 170901B)
One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 1530/14 in 134° Tongue Sand Tower 1.4 miles. Details. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 170903B)
One ground mine detonated by Sweeper at 1534/15 in 275° N.E. Spit Buoy 7½ cables. Details. (Capt. M/S, Sheerness, 170904B)

Dover. During routine sweeping carried out 16/17th April. 2 Mines detonated as follows:-
(1) Red 51° 18' 31" N. 01° 31' 30" E.
(2) Blue 51° 14' 38" N. 01° 27' 48" E.
(V.A.Dover, 171147B)

Q.Z.X.910. LYME REGIS 151845. Sailed. (N.O.I.C.Oban, 171151B)

Convoy F.S.89. DYNAMO Sunk. SS. DYNAMO mined (?and) aground in 040° B 8 1 mile. Ship standing by HAMBLEDON. (HAMBLEDON, 171506B to C. in C. Nore.) My 171506B. Ship sunk. Am proceeding Harwich with survivors. GRIPER, BASSET rejoining convoy. (HAMBLEDON, 171554B)

Your 171506. Tug leaving Harwich now. Endeavour to prevent ship sinking in channel. (C. in C. Nore, 171602B to HAMBLEDON)

Q.Z.X.962 / ...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. (Contd.)

Q.Z.X.962.

Intend sailing PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, SUTTON, ELGIN, LYDD, SALTASH, Trawlers COMMANDER EVANS, BILSDEAN at 0800 tomorrow to continue clearance of Q.Z.X. 962. Ships will return to Plymouth E.T.A. 181730B. Codeword "Occasion". (PANGBOURNE, 171804B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Harwich.

Trawlers detonated 2 and cut one mine at 1759 in 52° 0.5' N. 01° 47.2' E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 171842B)

My 171842. Add 1 mine cut in 52° 01' N. 01° 47.7' E. Area cleared extends East of channel between No.3 and 54A to position to mines found.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 171936)

Q.Z.148
and

My 161300C. QZ 148 and QZ 149 from latitude 067° 43' 30" N. to 067° 34' N. swept SA and Oropesa 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ % to width 6 cables. QZ 149 swept SA only from latitude 067° 34' N. to 067° 23' N. (LL) gear of both ships being at present out of action. Result negative. In view of lack

of DAN layers, improbability of existence of moored mines, and the fact that Russians can do mine-sweeping, intend doing searching sweep only with Oropesa in declared area unless moored mines are located.

(JASON, 172045C to S.B.N.O. Murmansk)

Yarmouth.

My 162020B. Mines detonated yesterday were in 349° 3.0 miles, 342° 2.15 miles, and 346° 3.1 miles, all from 3B Buoy.
(M/S 9, 172159B to C. in C. Nore)

Enemy Intelligence.EMDEN,
SEYDLITZ.

(1) EMDEN sighted Kiel April 3rd.
(2) SEYDLITZ observed Bremen April 8th with all upper works except funnel removed. Graded A.3.
(N.A. Stockholm 171601)

Lorient.
SPERRBRECHER
SP. AS.

Photos taken on 16/1415B show Lorient: Port fully covered. One 750 ton U-Boat alongside hulks as on 4.4.43. SPERRBRECHER SP.AS. remains drydocked. Four trawler-type auxiliaries only other naval shipping present. No merchant shipping over 200'.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 171700B)

Brest.

Photos taken 17/0940/B show: Brest following vessels present. One Elbing D/R, four T/Bs T1-19, one Moewe T/B, six probable eight M-class M/S, one probably two 500-ton U-Boats, one A/C

security / ...

War Diary.17.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Brest (Contd.) security vessel, one S/M Chaser, thirteen trawler-type auxiliaires, one M/V 250, SPERRBRECHER SP.AI and SP.AC, tanker T.20. Since 16/1710/B two M-Class have departed and one 500 ton U-Boat then seen entering harbour not now seen. SP.AA seen at reported position five miles SW Pte. St. Mathieu on reported westerly course, followed by small vessel.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 171730B)

U-Boats.

Convoy H.X.233 attacked. See shipping.

U-Boats reported. Am over enemy S/M in 47° 08' N 08° 57' W. (A/C DT 88 of 172 Sqdn. 170350B to 19 group) Your 161716. S/M sighted on the surface at one thousand yards in heavy snow-storm close ice-edge. Dived at 500 yards. Seen by 6

Officers including Captain and 17 ratings.
(CUMBERLAND, 170608B to C. in C. H.F.)

Pass to HAKE and Comsublant for action, HADDO for information. As W/T indications including D/Fs at 0936Z and 1724Z/16 suggest that several U-Boats may be on or near HAKE's route, keep a sharp look-out during night 17th/18th.

(F.O.S. 171359B to Cominch)

Am over enemy S/M in 47° 03' N. 10° 08' W.
(A/C. G. of 269 Sqdn. 172308B to 19 Group)

Technical.

X I.F.F. gear in T.F.22. Your 161309 Para. 2. Yes.
(C. in C. H.F. 170957B to Admty)

Force "V". Request arrangements may be made for all Red Ensign and Blue Ensign ships now under or about come under orders R.A. Force "V" to be painted Home Fleet grey overall.
(S.O. A.S.C. 171232B to D.S.T.)

X Coal at Reykjavik. Convoy escort vessels bunkering at Reykjavik report excessive smoking due to bad coal. Request supply of better coal.
(C. in C. W.A. 172108B to Admty)

Casualties and Defects.

MOUSA. A.M. 111210. Completion of MOUSA delayed four days.
(D.O.D.(H) 171213B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.17.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects (Contd.)

- PATHFINDER. C. in C. W.A. 162349B. Anticipate dynamo defects of PATHFINDER will be completed 18th. (Cdre. Londonderry, 171215B).
- CUMBERLAND. Intend sailing CUMBERLAND for Scapa p.m. today. Ship needs docking to make good defects incurred when touching ground off entrance to Hvalfiord during dark hours a.m. today. Ship is seaworthy and can steam at 18 knots. (C.S.10.171444B to C. in C. H.F.)
- ULVEN. Swedish submarine ULVEN 667 tons has been reported missing since April 15th whilst carrying out exercises within territorial waters off Stora Polsan. Salvage vessel cannot arrive west coast before April 19th. Search daily continues. (N.A. Stockholm 171537)
- BARCOCK. Your 141121. Arrived EMPIRE BASCOBEL and BARCOCK. (N.O.I.C.Oban, 171749B to A.C.O.S.)
- TIRADE. My 171519B. Returning Aberdeen with engine defect. E.T.A. 2100. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen, 171924B)

Shipping and Convoys.

- * Convoy H.X.233. FORT RAMPART (British 7100 tons) Sunk. U-Boat 170 Sunk. Incomplete D/F at 2127Z/16 indicates U-Boat in vicinity of convoy H.X.233 and which may have reported it. (D.D.I.C.170024B to Escorts H.X.233, E.G.3) S/M attack P.C.S. 047° 16', 022° 09', 043° 9.2. (M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3, 170600Z to C. in C. W.A.) Submarine RADAR sound contact beginning 0412Z/17. Also 0445Z by D/F 4070 K/cs B Barred. SPENCER and DIANTHUS hunting and attacking. 047° 03', 022° 16'. 6 D/F bearings on 4070. 5562 5650 K/cs subsequently. Support group not joined. (M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3, 170610Z)
- A.M.170024B. D/F of transmission at 0442Z indicates U-Boat is probably in contact. (D.D.I.C.170753B to Escorts H.X. 233, E.G.3.) 3rd E.G. hunting U-Boat sighted in 047° (?21') N. 022° 10' W. H.X. 233 met. Weather 5880 3382. (E.G.3, 170917B to C. in C. W.A.) 06 05Z FORT RAMPART torpedoed starboard hand aft, 047° 22' 021° 58', 043°, 9.2. Abandoned, still afloat, no rudder or propeller, but considered salvable. 52 survivors in ARVIDA. 1 killed. Support force joined and with DIANTHUS hunting U-Boats. Estimate 4 in contact. Weather 4381 3115. (M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3, 170930Z)

My / ...

637

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy
H.X.233.
FORT RAMPART
(British,
7100 tons)
Sunk. 5
U-Boat 170
Sunk
(Contd.)

My 170917B. (A) 047° 19' N. 022° 10' W.
(B) 3rd E.G. (C) Abandoned 1150B. Lost
contact. Group required by C. M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3.
(D) PANTHER may (group missed)
(E.G.3, 171205B to A.I.G.303)
F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail Tug
STORM KING at best speed to assist FORT RAMPART
torpedoed and derelict in 47° 22' N. 21° 58' W.
at 0600Z/17. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested
to sail HUDDERSFIELD TOWN to escort STORM KING
and to arrange R/V off Smalls.
(C. in C. W.A. 171303Z) (175 indicated)

1150Z SPENCER captured 750 tons U-Boat number 170 which subsequently sank as result of 3 depth-charge attacks and gunfire 047° 58' N. 021° 12' W. 44 prisoners including 3 officers SPENCER and DUANE from crew of 57. 3 killed by gunfire presumably including U-Boat Captain Gerhardt Muntz from BERNDT. U-Boat approached submerged from ahead and was first 4000 yards from convoy and finally captured astern when forced to surface. Radio man 3rd class U.S.C.G. in 398 S killed by gunfire. SPENCER has 32 depth-charges remaining. Weather 4381 2813.

(11) FORT RAMPART sunk by escort.

(S.O.D.48, 171555Z to A.I.G.303)

Your 171303. FORT RAMPART broke in half at 1215B/17 and subsequently sank.

(E.G.3, 171640B to C. in C. W.A.)

Incomplete D/F bearings on Series 1 at 171458Z indicate U-Boat within 150 miles N.E. of S.W. of 47° N 24° W.

(D.D.I.C. 171748B to Escorts H.X. 233, S.C.126)

Return to Campbelltown, Vessel has sunk. Cancel my 171303Z not to all addressees.

(C. in C. W.A. 171930Z to STORM KING)

X Convoy
H.X.232,
report.

Preliminary report of convoy H.X.232 escorted by B.3 Group ESCAPADE, WITHERINGTON, NARCISSUS, AZALEA, ORP GARLAND, FF. ships ROSELYS and RENONCULE S.O. in ESCAPADE convoy 48 ships in eleven columns. No rescue ship.

(1) All attacks took place night 11/12 April in vicinity 54° 30' N. 31° W. and were made from Van and Up moon. Weather - wind West Force four - Sea 24, visibility maximum.

(2) Sweeps were carried out p.m. 10th, consider convoy was not located until about noon 11th. On 11th destroyers were stationed twelve miles on either bow and made sweeps along H/F D/F bearings. Nothing was sighted, probably owing to visibility, until dusk when ESCAPADE chased and attacked submarine 22 miles on Port Bow convoy at 2028Z. Light smoke could be seen rising vertically from convoy 25 miles away during day, and probably visible up to 35 miles. Escorts in N.E.7 at dusk with ESCAPADE absent from S. "Half Raspberry" negative ships in B and L in force, Convoy not headed SNOWFLAKE. (3) First attack, at least four submarines in close contact between 2225Z/11 and 0028Z/12. RENONCULE attacked effectively and in quick succession three of these submarines coming in on Port Van. Torpedoes believed seen - no hits. (4) Second attack. Between 0214Z

and / ...

War Diary.17.4.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

Convoy H.X.232, report. (Contd.) and 0500Z/12 at least four submarines in contact on starboard bow. One appears to have drawn GARLAND off screen allowing another to penetrate. Ships numbers 121, 122 and 104 being torpedoed at 0243Z/12. "Half Raspberry" executed and attack carried out by GARLAND. Later two other attacks carried out by ROSELYS and GARLAND after sightings. (5) No further attack after moonset. (6) Convoy still heavily shadowed during forenoon 12th from four directions. Submarines appeared to loose touch from noon and no further attacks developed. Possible causes being (A) arrival of air cover at 0730Z/12. (B) Deterioration of weather (C) Arrival of support Group p.m. 12th. (D) Evasive turn made at 1140Z/12 after shadower astern had been put down and sweep carried out towards direction of turn. (E) Rough handling of previous night. (7) Air cover provided by Liberators from Aldergrove on 12th at very long range, and on subsequent days was absolutely first class. (8) Remarks (A) strong indications of co-ordinated attacks with leading submarine attempting to open gap. (B) Apparent reluctance of enemy to attempt attack after once being located. (C) No tankers carried depth charges for replenishing escorts. (Capt. (D) Greenock, 170108B)

W.S.29 and K.M.F.13. 2000B/16. Sailed LEWES in accordance with my 161758B. (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 170108B) Sailed CHARYBDIS in accordance with my 161047B. (C. in C. Plymouth, 171441B) AORANGI should be ready to sail on 19/4. (D.S.T. 171929B)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA. QUEEN OF BERMUDA due Southampton about 17th April is to be fitted for service as a troop transport. (D.S.T. 170118B) Your 160618B. Arrived (QUEEN OF BERMUDA) (C. in C. Portsmouth, 171631B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

O.N.S.J4. Reykavik departure 2310B/16, O.N.S. J.4 escorted by WHITEHALL (S.O) and THIRLMERE. (A.C.I.C. 170426B)

S.L.127. HYDRANGEA is to be detached to Falmouth on reaching 49° N. proceeding direct unless otherwise routed by C. in C. Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A. 171026B to ROCHESTER)

OS 46 K.M.S.13. A. 0800/16. C. E.G.38 Leith H/F D/F WHIMBREL H/F D/F JONQUIL, COREOPSIS, ANCHUSA, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC, DORNOCH, ILFRACOMBE, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ROHILHAND, REDSHANK controlled minelyer. Combined Convoy Codeword

"Mangle" / ...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.S.46 "Mangle" after splitting K.M.S.13 Codeword
 K.M.S.13 "Hickory". D. 70 (27 breaking off as K.M.S.13)
 (Contd) E. (Commodores) F. 413 (K.M.S.13 432 after
 splitting). G. VY (K.M.S.13 VK after splitting)
 (C. in C. W.A. 171055Z).
 Ships breaking off for K.M.S.13.
 ALMENARA, WILLOWDALE, BARON DOUGLAS, META, BRISK, USKSID, TINTERN ABBEY, BELNOR (Nor.), ROSAUM (Du.), HARMATRIS, BOLLSTA (Nor) eleven ships for Gibraltar.
 ANGLO AFRICAN R/T OCEAN FAME M/F R/T.
 ND EMPIRE HAVEN M/F R/T EMPIRE DUNSTAN, STAN CLEEVE R/T BENLEDI, EMPIRE TORRENT, OCEAN PILGRIM (SS R/T ND) FORT GIBRALTAR ND EMPIRE GALE (CAM) BLAIR NEVIS eleven ships for Algiers.
 FORT PITT R/T one ship for Bougie.
 EMPIRE FOREST, FORT CHILCOTIN 2 ships for Philippeville
 EMPIRE HEYWOOD (SS RXT ND) MANCHESTER CITIZEN M/F R/T FOR RELIANCE ND R/T, CARLTON, CLAN MURRAY SS R/T EMPIRE ENVOY (ND) THISTLEDALE (ND) seven ships for Bone.
 EMPIRE OPOSSUM, JOHN CARVER (ND) MAHOUT M/F R/T, three ships for Oran.
 RAVENSPPOINT, COITY CASTLE, LLANCARVAN, CAMERATA four ships for Lisbon.
 SALTWICK, ARY LENSEN, STANHOPE, three ships for Huelva.
 (C. in C. W.A. 171106Z/4 to F.O. Gibraltar)
 C. in C. W.A. 152221B. Sailed at 1300B/17 COREOPSIS with DUKE OF ATHENS.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 171411B to LEITH)

C.E.169. Part company from C.E.169 at B 2 buoy about 1115 tomorrow and proceed by swept channels in force and by A.M. Q.Z.S. 402 and 277 to Rosyth.
 (C. in C. Nore, 171149B to NEWPORT)

F.S.90. TEANO missing from morning muster. MEYWELL
 TEANO. was detached to cast back at 0800B but has not reported sighting.
 (VICEROY, 171201B to C. in C. Nore)

KALMIA, Following were position at 2200/16, special
 WIRIL. Gothenburg sailing westbound. KALMIA 53° 35' N. 31° 16' W. Greek relief vessels westbound.
 WIRIL 60° 47' N. 16° 55' W.
 (N.A. Stockholm 171201)

S.C.126. S.C.126 P.C.S. 046° 15' N. 027° 25' W. 071° 8 knots. (Corrupt Group). Investigating (Corrupt Group) search will be carried out with U.S. Destroyer GREEN as 162000 situation placed him 210 miles astern proceeding at 12 knots.
 (C.T.U.24.1.19, 171202Z to C. in C. W.A.)

AMSTERDAM / ...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)AMSTERDAM,
PRAGUE.

Intend sailing transports AMSTERDAM and PRAGUE from Cromarty at 0401B/21st routed a.m. Q.Z.S. 150352 (? route to) 35 buoy where AMSTERDAM parts company for Scapa. E.T.A. 0901B. PRAGUE and escort 5 miles east Fair Island.

E.T.A. Lerwick 1501B.

(N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 171217B)

Your 171217B. CHIDDINGFOLD will provide escort and will be sailed to arrive Invergordon on 20th.

(A.C.O.S.172035B to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)

X Important
Cargoes.

C.A.F.O.1009/41. It is requested that the Master of a ship carrying especially important cargo should always be informed before sailing as to which escort has been detailed to look after him in the event of having to leave convoy for shelter or other reasons. F.O's i/c or N.O's i/c are requested to see that the escort providing special protection is fully aware of her duties before sailing and that, when practicable, all concerned should attend Convoy Conference. (D.T.D. 171246B and 171944B to A.I.G.21)

X Torpedoed
Ships.

A.C.I's amendment sheet No.4 contains a draft amendment of A.C.I's article 50 synopsis of which has been promulgated in my 612N which is not in agreement with sub-paragraph (B) of Admiralty's 162107B. (2) A large percentage of ships which are unable to steam have been subsequently torpedoed and in view of Admiralty's sub-para. (A) and the fact that no escorts can normally be spared to stand by damaged ships it is considered that to expect crews to remain on board in these circumstances is liable to react adversely on the morale of the Merchant Navy. (3) Ships have been left derelict and later successfully salvaged and it is therefore proposed that sub-para (B) second sentence, be amended to conform with paras. 2 and 3 of the draft amendment to A.C.I.50. (C. in C. W.A. 171306B to Admty)

O.N.179.

H.M. Rescue Tug DEXTEROUS is to sail as rescue ship in convoy O.N.179 leaving Clyde p.m. tomorrow. (2) DEXTEROUS is to be supplied with all necessary equipment for this work and be sailed to arrive Greenock at 0800B April 18th.

(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 171314B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown)

A.M. 161519B. EL MIRLO. Emergency outfit is unsatisfactory and incapable of improvement. It has accordingly been decided that PRESIDENT DE VOGUE shall carry 1,000 tons although she has only canvas hose. A spare length of canvas hose has been put on board. (2) No alternatives are available for O.N.179 and the success of these 2 vessels on passage will depend on the instruction and practice which can be given at Merville.

(D.T.D. 171546B to Cdre. Londonderry)

My 161122B and 161222B. Tanker PRESIDENT DE VOGUE sails p.m. 17th for Merville to embark 1000 tons oil fuel for oiling at sea. 60 depth charge in improvised stowage on board. Vessel for convoy O.N.179.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 171632B to Admty)

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

- TAMARA,
WIRIL. A.M. 041742B/April. Sailing postponed 48 hours
at German request.
(Hd. of M.Branch I, 171349B)
- H.X. Convoys. Admiralty 141846. To conform to revised sailing
H.X.237. of Q.N. Convoys and providing 6 days lay over
for escort in Newfoundland H.X.237 should sail
May 1st. then on 6 days cycles.
(C. in C. W.A. 171452B to Admty)
- PASTEUR. Following is a repetition of my 171030B.
Begins addressed A.T.41. Arrived codeword
"Apricot". Ends.
(F.O.I.C.Liverpool, 171710 to C. in C. W.A.)
- E.G.1. Request you will sail first Escort Group
consisting PELICAN, SENNEN, SPEY, JED, and WEAR
as early as possible to-morrow to proceed through
055° 30' N. 039° 00' W. at 0800Z/22 provided
this can be done without risk incurring weather damage. Ships
are to act as Support Group.
(C. in C. W.A. 171730Z to Cdre. Londonderry)
- S.D.39 S.D. 39. Intend sailing LETITIA at 1400B/18
(LETITIA) escorted by SABRE and SALADIN to Thorshavn routed
in accordance with C. in C. W.A's 171644.
Codeword STANDARD.
(A.C.I.C.171952B)
- T.A. 41A. Convoy T.A.41A MAURETANIA will be ready to leave
Liverpool for New York on 24th April.
(2) F.O.I.C.Liverpool is requested to sail ship
independently by route which will be signalled
by the Admiralty. (3) C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange
maximum air protection.
(D.O.D.(H), 172109B)
- DE LA SALLE. My 1458/25/3. DE LA SALLE will not be fitted
for service as a troop transport but will be
employed as a berth liner.
(D.S.T.172257B)

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B
G.U.S.6. By D/F on 6,672 k/cs at 2045Z/16, U-boat estimated to be in vicinity of 39° 00' N., 26° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 170105B to Escorts of G.U.S.6, (R) C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cominch, Commorseafron).

Movements
Gibraltar. Departures at 2720 U.S.P.T. 205, 206, 207, 208, A.V.R.C. 9469, 9470 for Oran. At 0840 M.T.B. 633, 636, 637, 76, 639 M.G.B. 641 for Algiers. (F.O. Gibraltar, 170947 to C. in C. Med., etc).

X.K.4 Intend sailing (list). Request destinations. (F.O. Gibraltar, 171043A to Admty).

Dispositions. Situation 171959A. M.K.S.11 EGRET (E) 39.47 14.50 through 39.58 15.10 thence 003° 7½.
2. U.G.S.7 C.T.F.69 (E) 34.30 (?13) (?15) 090° 8 - 1.
3. 17 L.C.I.(L) S.O. L.C.I. (L) 269 31.26 21.59 through 31.02 17.30 thence 070° 10.
4. MALCOLM 2 destroyers 26.24 15.11 037° 20.
5. S.R.4, CORINTHIAN 25.28 15.47 to R/V R.S.4 in approx. 27.25 14.05 at 181800 and exchange escort 6¾ knots. (See amendment 171624A).
6. R.S.4 (corrupt group) 29.47 12.10 to R/V S.R.4 4.8 knots. (F.O. Gibraltar, 171104A).
My 171104A. Amend para. (5) to read S.R.4 CORINTHIAN (A) 25.49 15.34 to R/V R.S.4 in approx. 27.35 13.59 at 1630A/18th and Q.Z. escort thence 035° 6¼.
Gibraltar keep zone minus 2 time as from 0100Z/18th. (F.O. Gibraltar, 171624A).

Axis Shipping Arrival 16th, 16 from Castro, JUPITER. Arrival Bilbao. 17th, 13. 25 Villa Real, Alava, Cabo Corona. Departure 16th, 14, 4, 16, 10, 1, 8, 9, 3. (Bilbao, 171240 to Admty. etc).
W.R. Note - 1. PRESIDENT DE LAVIT. 3. JEUNE DENISE. 4. MARIE GABRIELLE. 8. SPES. 9. BANKA. 10. WATERWEG,*14. LE VIOLENT, 16. LOUVETOT, 25. JACQUELINE. *13. JEAN MAURICE.

U/B attacked by CLARE (M.K.S.11). Am over enemy S/M in 39.13 N., 14.11 W. Periscope only sighted. When first sighted was on course 275° speed unknown. (A/C 80T/A 171250 to R.A.F. Gibraltar). Following received by aircraft from EGRET (beginning Catalina A/202's 171250. M.K.S.11 CLARE attacked with D/Cs now searching with corvette, test*1427 (ends) (F.O. Gibraltar, 172034A to Admty. C. in C. W.A.) *(sic).

/DIDO...

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

- DIDO C. in C. Med's 161636A. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail DIDO direct for Tyne. 2. Admiralty will route onwards from 43° North. (D.O.D. (F) 171337B to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., etc).
- U.G.S.7 WHEATLAND sails 2200A/17th April to R/V U.G.S. 7 in position (R) at 1200A April 18th and act as additional escort. (F.O. Gibraltar, 171722A, to Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.7 for Commodore (R) C. in C. Med., Cdr. N.W. Af. Sea Frontier, Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, FANTOME).
- Convoy C.G. 28. Intend sail C.G. 28 composed of French DJEBEL AURES and SIDI ABBS ABBES (?SIDI-BEL-ABBES) carrying French troops for Oran at 1530A/8 escorted by LA GRANDIERE (Senior) DUMONT D'URVILLE and P.C.481. Routed via Q.K.A. 92 (B) 35.44 N. 06.23 W. L.A. 87 thence Gibraltar S. of A. 10 knots, E.T.A. Gibraltar 1330A/19 codeword "Fantail". Comfairwing 15 provide coverage until moonset 19th. Mission. 7. Priority B. F.O.C. Gibraltar requested to attach troopships to U.G.S.7 for onward passage to Oran. Escorts return Casa. reversed route. (C.M.S.F.F., 171817 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. etc)
- x Survivors for U/B sunk 5/4. A.M. 1523/13th. I know your connections with Spanish Navy are 1st class but if it is any help use my name with Cdr. Melendez and Lieut. Cdr. Martel. Important points are (1) Did submarine sink inside territorial waters? (2) Were crew definitely moved from beach to Las Palmas in XAUEN? (N.A. Madrid, 171819A to R.O. Las Palmas (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar) Reply: 201315.
- x M/V Repairs in Spain. Your 1151/12th, not to Gibraltar. Only Cadiz Yard that can undertake temporary repairs of our ships in Echevarrieta. M.W.T. has full details of conditions. (N.A. Madrid, 171934A to C. in C. Med (R) Admty. N.A. Lisbon).
- Gibraltar Air Report. Op. Summ. No. 167 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 17th April. (G) Sightings and attacks. 1 Beaufort D.W. 960 in transit from Portreath sighted at 1314A/17 April XLTA 5517 U-boat fully surfaced stationary. Not attacked. 2 Catalina ABLE/202 on escort to M.K.S.11 sighted U-boat periscope at 1250A/17th April TWEF 1349, course 275° speed unknown not attacked. (I) E-A activity, nil. (Gibraltar, 172200Z, to Air Min).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.U/B
CILICIA.

Inconclusive D/F of transmission on 5415 kc/s at 0031Z indicates a U-Boat may be in your general vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 170652B to CILICIA (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Sailed DEVONSHIRE to Freetown routed by route R.9 to 035° 05' S. 018° 38' E. thence as in C. in C. S.A. 150848. S. of A. 18 knots E.T.A. Freetown 1700Z/26th. 2. Shifting W/T organization to group S.L. at 1700Z/17th. 3. C. in C. S.A. is requested to instruct DEVONSHIRE for any subsequent shift of W/T organization. (N.O.I.C. Durban 170801Z to N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, Admty, N.L.O. Capetown, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. W.A., N.O.I.C. East London.)

Convoy
D.N.34.

Sailing telegram.
(2) 1000Z/17th. (4) 8 knots. (5) Y 028° 34' S. 032° 30' E.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 171052 to Admty. etc.)

CALIFORNIA.

Intend sailing CALIFORNIA 0800/18 routed to Takoradi Bay, for onward routing to U.K. and escort if available. Ship has only 19 days endurance which is insufficient to reach U.K. with safe margin from Rio de Janeiro and Bahia has not necessary depth of water.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 171105Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F)

CILICIA.

CILICIA leave patrol at dusk 17th April and proceed through position A. 005° N. 030° W. and B. 009° S. 032° W. to Bahia. S. of A. 14 knots.
2. Signal E.T.A. Bahia and requirements on arrival 8 hours after leaving patrol. Com. 4th Fleet and B.S.O. Rio de Janeiro to be included in addressees. 3. Pass by Washington broadcast at 2000Z/17th April. 4. U.S. South Atlantic frequencies are now (details). 5. Ref. sub para. (C), transmit enemy reports on appropriate one of above frequencies. 6. Attention is drawn to A.G.M.87 A.L. of 30th March. (F.O.C.W.A. 171109Z to CILICIA (R) Admty, CARNARVON CASTLE, CHESHIRE, C. in C. S.A., Com. 4th Fleet, N.A. Montevideo, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

Movements,
Dakar.

Arrived p.m. 16th April U.S. Government Salvage Steamer WALVIS, R. CHAMBERLAIN JUNIOR.
(N.C.S.O. Dakar 171137Z to Admty. (R) Connav.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
SaturdayFOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. Situation at 2002Z/17th April.
MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE about 25.25 15.40
036° 18.
CORINTHIAN, INKPEN, WASTWATER, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE with S.R. 4 25.53 15.25 37 6 $\frac{3}{4}$.
CROCUS, BURDOCK escorting 08.36 13.36 301 11.
French submarine LE CENTAURE M.L. 281 09.59 15.12 through
09.30 14.00 at 0330Z thence Freetown 10.
CILICIA about 09.01 27.02 to South 14.
CARNARVON CASTLE about 05.03 24.05 to patrol about 07.30
26.04 15.5.
(F.O.C.W.A., 171235Z).

Position at 172000Z.

VIVIANA escorting tug MASTERFUL 27.45 15.25 coastal to
Saldanha Bay 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
NORTHERN DAWN escorting SALVIKING 30.35 17.15 to Capetown 10.
COVENTRY CITY, CAPE WARWICK, ARCTIC EXPLORER with C.A. 19,39.
00,18.20, to disperse at 40.00 18.20 10 knots.
ST. ZENO, LE TIGER, NORTHERN DUKE, SONNEBLOM with C.D.14.
34.30 23.00 coastal to Durban 10.
FRITILLARY with C.D.14 A. 304° 10' 026° 30' coastal to Durban
13 knots.
HERTFORDSHIRE, STELLA POLARIS with D.C.19 033° 50' 027° 05'
coastal to Capetown 9 knots.
KENYA, QUADRANT, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, NAPIER, RAIDER with W.S.
28 031° 25' 030° 25' to Durban 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
DEVONSHIRE 032° 50' 028° 50' by R.9 westbound 16 knots.
JASMINE with D.N. 34 028° 40' (036°)20' coastal to Lourenco
Marques 9 knots.
TRUSTY 022° 10' 048° 40' to 024° 55' 047° 40' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
WORCESTERSHIRE 037° 40' 049° 50' to 037° 59' 039° 59' 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(C. in C. S.A., 171204B).

Weekly statement south Atlantic Station 17th April.

Cape Area NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK, ARCTIC EXPLORER,
COVENTRY CITY.
Durban to Capetown HERTFORDSHIRE, STELLA POLARIS.
Capetown to Durban, LE TIGER, NORTHERN DUKE, ST. ZENO, FRITIL-
LARY.
Durban Area ROTHERHAM, CATTERICK, FOXHOUND, JASMINE, KENYA,
RELENTLESS, REDOUBT, QUADRANT, RAIDER, NAPIER, DEVONSHIRE, LARGS.
Walvis Bay area SARABANDE.
Walvis Bay to Capetown VIVIANA.
Durban to Kilindini EREBUS, CHALLENGER.
Diego Suarez to Durban, TRUSTY.
Saldanha Bay SPINDRIFT, FERNMOOR, MANCHESTER CITY.
Capetown QUEENBOROUGH, GENISTA, ROCKROSE, QUILLIAM, INDIAN STAR,
NORTHERN CHIEF, NORTHERN ISLES, SPHENE, WELLARD.
Simonstown NORMAN, BLACKMOOR, QUALITY, QUAIL, COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, ULSTER MONARCH, M.Ls. 381, 830, 11, 50,
Sub. P.614, Sub. P.552.
Port Elizabeth CECILE MAPLESON.
East London KIRRIEMOOR.
Durban SUSSEX, RACEHORSE, NIGELLA, FREESIA, ETHIOPIAN, DRANGEY,
LADY ROSEMARY, LADY ELSA, NORWICH CITY, PACHECO, (A.S.I.S.)
CORSICA, (A.S.I.S.) KHETI, (A.S.I.S.) KEREN, BULOLO, MEAD,
SONDRA, STORMWRACK, SATSA.

(C. in C. S.A., 171349B to C. in C. E.F. etc).

/SOUND...

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War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

SOUND FISHER, gun turret for PHOEBE. Your 161130Z. From Pointe Noire SOUND FISHER escorted by TURCOMAN and SARABANDE is to be sailed to Recife via Takoradi. Escorts are to fuel Takoradi to permit them to remain for full voyage.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 171311Z to N.O.I.C. Lagos, (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O.W.Af.).

Movements, Freetown. Arrivals 0125Z/17th April 1943 BUTSER, M.L. 296 and 287.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 171406Z to Admty. etc).

M.Ls. N.C.S.O. Dakar's 171718Z (N.T. in W.D.) Intend to sail M.L. 244, M.L. 256 escort to prudent limit of endurance estimated 021° W. Thence proceed direct to Bathurst signalling E.T.A.
(ii) French air protection until last night 18th. (Comar Dakar, 171719Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

Weekly statement, Dakar. 17th April. Cruisers. F. Cruiser GLOIRE Dakar available. F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES Dakar repairs. Escort Vessels French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, French sloop minesweeper COMMANDANT BORY, French Sloop Minesweeper LA GRACIEUSE, GRANDIERE, MOUCHEZ, ASPIRANT, BRUN, Casablanca Area. VICTORIA French Despatch Vessel CALAIS Dakar Area.
S/MS Greek S/M NEREUS Dakar French S/M LE CENTAURE on passage to Freetown.
(Comar Dakar, 171742Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Casablanca, B.A.D.)

Takoradi movements. Departure 17th H.M. M.L. 278 Cape Palmas 19th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 171830Z to Admty).

Escorted Shipping. Cancel my 161517. Intend to sail BURDOCK, CROCUS and M.Ls. 272 and 209 at 1500Z/18 escorting ?SIRANGER, ESSO WASHINGTON, CALUMET and BULKOIL.
Route A, 11.01 N., 17.18 W. E. 10° 21' N., 23° 01' W. F. 10° 21' N., 30° 02' W. G. 04° 02' S. 33° 03' W. Thence Recife E.T.A. 0600Z/27 S. of A. 9 knots to position F., thence 12.5. M.Ls. return Freetown at dusk 20th April. Merchant Ships will be dispersed in position F. Ships shift W/T watch to Washington F. at 1200Z/23 April. Com. Fourth Fleet is requested to sail BURDOCK and CROCUS from Recife as Escort to three L.S.T's for Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A., 171905Z*to Com. Fourth Fleet (R) P.R.T.O. Admty. BURDOCK, Connav, S.B.N.O.W.At) *As amended 181654Z.

O.S.46 Oiler. Your 151313Z. No. Can arrangements be made to dock FORTOL at Dakar between convoys?
(D.T.D., 171920B to F.O.C.W.A.)

/CECILE...

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

CECILE
MAPLESON.

CECILE MAPLESON sailed 2000/17 route close inshore speed 6 knots wireless watch single operator period on 500 k/cs B.A.M.S. period on 500 k/cs B.A.M.S. period observed E.T.A. Capetown 1930B/20.
(N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth, 172001B to C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.C.S.O. Capetown N.O.I.C. East London (R) Admty).

Air
cover.

For convoys in African waters, etc.
(Admty. 172014B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A.) See East Indies.

LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE is at present en route from U.K. to India. She is fitted as an L.S.I.(L) and is intended for training there.
2. It is not desired that she should be held up in South Africa as she is urgently required in India. Subject to no delay being incurred, however, she may be used for personnel from South Africa to India. Numbers will have to be restricted in accordance with A.M. 1140/16/3 as it is presumed that no special arrangements can be made for her.
3. On arrival in India she will relieve DILWARA which should proceed immediately to Middle East where she is required for operational purposes.
(D.S.T., 172017B to P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. India (R) P.S.T.O. M.E., etc).

QUEEN MARY.

Transport QUEEN MARY sailed p.m./16th for U.K. Total on board 8157.
(D.S.T.O. West Africa, 172303Z to Admty).

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Enemy Units. Following read: 4 destroyers, 2 medium vessels
290° Bon 10 024.
(A/C 3QLY 170105A.)
Following has been read. P.C. and S. of type F.
and one destroyer 38.06 N. 12.09 E. 290 20.
(A/C GLHE 170120B to Admty.)

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of one destroyer, 4 enemy
motor boats and 4 small craft 37.14 N. 10.08 E. 408.
(A/C 08MF 170125B.)
P.C. and S. of enemy 3 destroyers, 1 medium vessel, 1
small vessel 118° 38° N. 12° E. 10, 350° 10.
(A/C AQCK 170250B to Admty.)
Position of 1 enemy merchant vessel and 3 destroyers
38.34 N. 12.47 E. course 000° speed 8 knots.
(A/C C/S 53 L.B. 171117 to A.H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 1 medium vessel, 3 destroyers 39.45 N.
14.02 E. course 020° 10 knots.
(A/C 53 L.M. 171425A to A.H.Q. Malta.)
My 1425, position of enemy is 39.25 N. 13.28 E.
(A/C 53 L.M. 171455A to A.H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of one small M/V one escort vessel 38.52 N.
14.12 E. 060° 10 knots.
(A/C FDHX 172303B to A.H.Q. Malta.)

ERINPURA, Your 141232C. Concur.
ROHNA, (D.S.T. 170138B to P.S.T.O.M.E.)
CAP ST.
JACQUES.

A.P.29. 1. A.P.29 (3 ships, list). 12. Abadan, E.T.A.
Rooke p.m. 24th.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 170436Z to Admty. etc.)

Shuttle Sailed ALPERA escorted by RONALDSAY.
Service. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 170659 to N.O.I.C. Algiers,
(R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.
Connav.)

Tripoli Arrived 16th JERVIS, JAVELIN, COMMANDANT DOMINE,
Movements. F.S. LA MOQUEUSE, F.S. Sailed 16th GLOXINIA,
PRIMULA, FALKFORKLO. Sailed 17th JERVIS, JAVELIN.
(N.O.I.C. Libya 170757 to Admty.)

Aden Departures BATHURST 0332Z RANPURA 0628Z.
Movements. (Cdre. Aden 170901Z to C. in C.Levant, etc.)

Alexandria Arrival 16th GENERAL BITWOOD, HENRIETTA MOLLER,
Movements. Tug, C.307. Departure 16th DELPHINIUM,
WOLBOROUGH, SOUTHERN ISLE, ROMNEY.
(S.O.(I) Alex. 170908C to Admty.)

/Beirut...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Beirut 16th arrivals. IERAX, M.L. 384, M.L. 385.
Movements. Departures IERAX, M.L. 1038, SNOWDRIFT.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 170945 to Admty.)

A. 662 part 1 15 B.24s despatched to make evening attack on
17th April, Palermo Harbour. 1 returned early with engine
Secret, 1036Z trouble. 14 bombed objective bombs bursting along
Bi-weekly opsum Quay behind Moles on West side of Harbour starting
No.117 part 3 fires and on Northern Section of Outer Mole.
15th April. Fires seen on North Western Quay and Southern
Outer Mole. About 6 Me.109s attacked formation.
1 Me. 109 shot down. 126 X 500 lb H.E. 560 X
40 lb incendiary at 1711Z hours. (Night?) 15/16

April. 1 Baltimore, 1 Boston, 12 Hurricane Sorties on offensive
R/C for enemy shipping long coast North of Hammamet. Visibility
bad with haze and cloud. No shipping seen. Hammamet and
Nabeul bombed, hits on jetty and adjacent buildings at Fomer
(?former) followed by 2 explosions.

Part 2. A.662. 17th April, 1036Z.

X 6 Liberators despatched to attack Naples harbour 4 bombed
objective bombs bursting along quays at bases of Vittorio
Emmanuele Duchessa Elena W'Aesta and Bausonia Moles and along
buildings North of Bausonia Mole. 1 Liberator bombed Messina
Harbour bombs bursting in area of railway lines and power
station immediately South of Ferry Terminus. 1 Liberator bombed
Rossino? in Southern Italy with unobserved results. Each
aircraft dropped 12 X 500 lb H.E. time over Naples 2101Z hours.
4 Enemy aircraft reported off Homs possibly laying mines. 2
formations totalling 15 B.24s despatched to attack tanker in
X Catania Harbour. 2 returned early with engine trouble, remainder
bombed objective claiming hits on tanker and main harbour Mole.
Hits on quay in North East corner of harbour in area of oil
storage tanks and port railway station followed by explosion
and black smoke. Smoke also seen in? (missing group) Western
Quay and from Town West of Harbour.

Part 3A. 662. 17th April 1036Z.

(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 171041Z, 171137Z, 171036Z.)

U/B West of San Vito Cape at 0913 today a S/M was
UNSEEN. reported.
(Capt. S.8 171110A to UNSEEN.)

M.K.S.12. Intend to sail 51 ST. CLEARS. 52 JOHN A. BROWN (T)
53 ZENA, 54 TITUS, 41/43 L.S.Ts. 31/32 L.S.Ts.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 171139 to F.O.I.S. (R) N.O.
I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran.
Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav.)
Amended by 191441 q.v.

M.T.Bs. Arrived M.T.Bs. 634 and 656. Returned from
operations M.T.Bs. 82, 62, 61 and 75.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 171144B to Admty. C. in C.Med.
C. in C.Levant, (R) N.O.I.C. Bone.)

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.228 (SPLENDID) sailed at 1500B/17th for patrol as ordered by Capt. S.8 routed as P.51 (UNSEEN) passing through position P. at 1600B/19th.
 P.42 (UNBROKEN) sailed at 1700B/18th for patrol as ordered by Capt. S.8 routed R.Q.P. passing position P., at 1600B/20th.
 RORQUAL. 3. RORQUAL sails at 1600B/18th for minelaying in accordance with C. in C.M.F. 141700 (N.T. in W.D.) routed R.Q. and S.Z. 037° 40' N. 011° 35' E. thence for laying in Marittimo Area, returning Malta on completion by reverse of outward route.
 (Capt. S.10 171145B to Capt. S.8, C. in C.Med. 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.1.)

P. 51, P.43. 1. After dark 18th P.51 move to zone C, P.43 (UNISON) leave patrol through North West corner zone C TROOPER, P.45 thence through zone E and D. pass North West (UNRIVALLED) corner of zone A. at 2330/19th position P. at 0530/20th thence Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10.
 2. TROOPER keeps well clear of P.43 (UNISON) and leave patrol through 039° 15' 012° 37' at 2100/20th 038° 35' 010° 00' at 2102/21st thence course 267° 130 miles a day*
 3. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) passes P. at 1500A/18th proceeding zone B. (Capt. S.8 171158A to 8th S/M F. 10th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)
 * Para. 2 cancelled by 191540A.

TURBULENT. Your 291215 March (proposing date S/M TURBULENT be formally paid off.) Approved.
 (Hd. of M.B. II 171344B to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, F.O.(S), Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.10.)

12th A.F. Report. For Eaker and Brereton, From Spaatz.
 1. 18 P.38s skip and dive bombed beached M/V. 1 medium M/V and 1 barge near Cap Xebit. Five 500 (4 second delay) were skipped from minimum altitude. Eight 500 (.1 and .025) were dropped from 2,000 feet. All vessels hit barge blowing up. One P.38 lost.
 2. A large formation of enemy fighters prevented a similar attack by 13 P.38s on beached M/V at Cap II Ahmar. 21 B.17s escorted by 10P - 38s bombed Palermo from 23,500 feet. Probably hits and near misses on M/V at dry dock and on 3 other M/Vs, also hits on power station and in warehouse area. Formation attacked North of Marittimo Islands. One Me. 109 damaged. One P.38 lost, pilot baled out.
 5. Bone was attacked April 15 at 1945 by 15 Ju.88s at 0 feet unplotted. No damage reported. A/A destroyed 1 and damaged 4. There were seen 3 parachutes.
 (O.G. 12th Air Force 171415Z to Etousa.)

/O.S.46...

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Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

O.S.46 Request composition of convoy O.S. 46 and K.M.S.13.
K.M.S.13. (C. in C.Med. 171452A to Admty.)

SPLENDID. Sailed.
(V.A.Malta 171523 to Admty.)

PAKENHAM, Following is a repetition of D.12's 161521.
PALADIN (Begins) Addressed C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.
action with Levant, V.A.M., C.S.15, A.O.C.Malta, Com. (D)
destroyers from D.12 L.G.O. 241.
16/4. Two large Italian destroyers westbound engaged
and sunk in 37° 45' N. 12° 13' E. 0300B/16
PAKENHAM received four hits, one lucky shot in
engine room put ship out of action. PAKENHAM
subsequently sunk by PALADIN in accordance with V.A.M.
160631 (N.T. in W.R.) in 37° 26' N. 12° 30' E. after towing for
approx. two hours at five knots, during which one tow broke
and one was slipped by PALADIN when air attack was attempted
and further towing seemed impracticable within a reasonable
period. All books destroyed and survivors embarked in PALADIN
9 killed, 15 wounded. Fighter protection later resulted in
attacking aircraft being driven off while crew of PAKENHAM
was transferred to PALADIN. T.O.O. 161521B. (Ends.)
(V.A.Malta 171624B to C. in C.Med. (R) C. in C.Levant, Com.D.
R.A.Alex.)

Force H. It has been the practice in Force H for some months
A/S air to maintain an A/S air patrol of one Albacore ahead
Patrols from of Fleet by night as well as day. Recent ex-
FORMIDABLE. perience has shown effort required to maintain
original patrol by the one T.B.R. Squadron in
FORMIDABLE. Besides being costly in aircraft,
the strain of continuous and monotonous patrol
involving deck landings at night and in all weather is
beginning to tell on morale and efficiency of crews and is
moreover resulting in a lowering of efficiency of other functions
of T.B.Rs. Yet these patrols are most necessary in these narrow
and submarine infested waters.
2. If Force H operates further east than Algiers, frequent R/C
searches would be necessary, particularly as R.A.F. is still not
yet able, I understand, to provide any regular oversea deep
R/C. Night searches and shadowing might also be required if
there was a change of contact with surface forces.
3. These requirements, in addition to A/S air patrol, would
stretch one T.B.R. squadron of 12 Albacores to the limit and
with her present allocation of A/C it is a delusion to suppose
that FORMIDABLE is capable of launching a striking force. In
short FORMIDABLE, at the present time, can only perform a
defensive role.
4. It is therefore proposed to increase embarked strength of 820
Squadron to 18 as soon as proposal in para. 4. (A) of my letter
H 77/1206 of 1st April (not to Admty.) and approved by your
101817A and A.M. 131755B can be implemented. This should allow
small strike to be mounted and also give a margin to permit of
tactical practices.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Force H.
A/S air
patrols from
FORMIDABLE.
(Contd.)

5. Consider the small reduction in fighter strength of FORMIDABLE entailed by increasing 820 Squadron to 18 can be accepted now that the preponderance of Allied over Axis air strength in Western Mediterranean is growing, though unfortunately not yet apparent in aircraft suitable for oversea R/C and torpedo work.

6. This proposal when implemented will apparently absorb all available personnel and will seriously reduce reserves of A/C, yet in my opinion it does not go far enough and I consider that a further reserve of say six training maintenance and flying crews complete with A/C and equipment should be built at Tafaroui, over and above normal provision of allocated reserve (A.R.) A/C.

7. Number of spare T.B.R. crews on station training in carrier work seems to me to be deplorably small. Difficulties in way of providing proper opportunities for practices at sea for carrier's own squadrons are considerable, and tactical training of new crews is almost out of the question. It appears therefore that provision of some more T.B.R. crews from U.K., fully trained in all aspects of day and night carrier work, is most necessary.

8. In view of para. 7 above, request para. 5 of my letter H 77/1206 of 1st April be cancelled as this proposal was made with insufficient realisation of amount of day and night practices required by 820 Squadron especially when increased to an I.E. of 18 Albacore.

(S.O. Force H 171643 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. FORMIDABLE)
Reply 191800.

My 171643A. A further operational requirement I have considered it necessary to impose on 820 Squadron when Force H is at Mers el Kebir is a night A.S.V. patrol to seaward and working in conjunction with the surface patrol of 2 destroyers I usually maintain off Oran Bay. In present state of Mers el Kebir underwater defences I feel these patrols are very necessary as precaution against human torpedo attacks launched from a submarine and also as potential A/S striking force.

2. Value of destroyer patrol is of course greatly enhanced by A.S.V. air patrol but provision of latter seriously interferes with badly needed training of 820 Sqdn. when disembarked at Tafaroui.

3. Would it be possible for this A.S.V. patrol be undertaken by 813 Sqdn. under direction of N.W.A.C. A.F. when Force H is at Mers el Kebir?

4. Ref. para. 1 of my 171643, it would also ease strain on 820 Sqdn. at sea and therefore increase its offensive potential if N.W.A.C.A.F. could undertake the A/S air patrol, ahead of Force H when at sea and operating say as far as Algiers, when route followed can be communicated in advance. With adverse wind the saving of time on passage would be considerable. Would be most grateful if this could be taken up with Air Command. Have discussed it with A.O.C. Gibraltar who is quite prepared to undertake this patrol as far as Oran subject to availability of A/C.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanForce H
A/S air
patrols from
FORMIDABLE.
(Contd.)

5. I feel R.A.F. might do these irksome and defensive jobs for us in part return for use of the several disembarked F.A.A. Squadrons which are operating from shore at expense of their true function and training therefore.

6. At present time these Squadrons cannot be regarded as reserves of the carriers and therefore it is all the more important to relieve 820, our only carrier-trained squadron, as much as possible of routine patrol work so as to give it maximum training for offensive operations.
(S.O. Force 172204 to C. in C. Med. etc.)
Reply 191800.

Famagusta
Movements.Arrived and left 17th G.S. PANTHER and BURRA.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta 171701C to Admty.)

E.T.18.

Sailed less CAUDEBEC latter now for Algiers.
Algiers section arrived.
(Cdre. Algiers 171707A to V.A.A.I.G. 260
(Except 8 and F.O.H.)Oilers for
Malta, Tobruk,
Tripoli.

Your 281758/3. Anticipated that sufficient oilers can be transferred from the East to enable C. in C. Levant to meet all requirements at Malta, Tobruk and Tripoli.

2. R.F.A. ORANGELEAF will be sent from U.K. to North Africa so that after allowing for oilers already available two 8/12000 ton and five 1600/3000 ton tankers will still be required from the West.

3. Propose that two suitable large oilers be selected by you from those arriving in U.G.S. convoy at appropriate time. Request ports to which oiler outfits for these ships should be sent from U.K.

4. A further signal will be made re 1600/3000 ton oilers. Number available from British sources will depend mainly upon deliveries of new 1600 tonners to M. of W.T. from U.S.A.

5. Cominch is requested to confirm that arrangements will be made as requested in para. 4 of C. in C. Mediterranean's 281759.
(D. of S. 171720B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant, Cominch, V.A. Malta.)

G.U.S.6A.

Request you will sail convoy G.U.S.6A at 1700A/21.

2. Speed of ships 9 knots, of advance $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots in Med. 9 in Atlantic.

3. Route through 100 - 89 - 86 - 72 - 37 lettered M. to Q. via Q.K.A. 87 to R/V with Casablanca Section in position R. 33.42 N. 08.06 W. at 1600A/24.

4. Ocean route as ordered by Admiralty.

5. Section join with local escorts as follows Oran in $36^{\circ} 07' N.$ $0^{\circ} 49' W.$ at 1600A/22 Gibraltar in 37° at 1800A/23.

6. First two letters of W/T call sign Q M Incon 353.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

G.U.S.6A. (Contd.) 7. Fighter priority 3, codeword "Wasting".
8. Escorts WHEATLAND, WILTON, CIRCE, FELIXSTOWE, BUDE, STELLA CARINA.
(C. in C.Med. 171728A to Com. Algiers, (R) Comnob Oran, F.O.C.Gib. C.M.S.F. Admty. Connav.)

Port Said Movements. 17th April Port Said. Arrivals M.L. 1038, QUEEN OLGA, M.L. 1158 departures CUMBRAE, M.L. 1004.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 171733C to C. in C.Levant.)

X Enemy Battle-ships, destroyers. My 161441. Visuals R/C Spezia p.m. 17th 3 LITTORIOS have returned to harbour.
(C. in C.Med. 171849A to Med. Fleet, (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)
My 171849 photographs confirm.
(C. in C.Med. 172120A to Med. Fleet, (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

P.R.U. shows all 3 LITTORIO battleships at Spezia p.m. today.
(Capt. S.8 172348A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

X "Chop" proposed amendment for Atlantic Shipping. Cominch requests an amendment to the "Chop" line for all Atlantic shipping as follows. From South Pole north on 26th meridian to 00° 35' N. thence to 06° 15' N. 30° W. thence north on 30th meridian to 20° N. thence to 30° N. 24° W. thence north to 40° N. thence west to 47° W. thence north on 47th meridian. This will extend U.S. control over U.S/African Convoys to 24° W. We have no objections and propose to concur subject to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa agreeing.
2. In these circumstances as "Chop" line between 30° N. and 40° N. will be 24° W. it is suggested that present control by Admiralty of U.S/African Convoys between 40° W. and 10° W. on your behalf should be terminated and operational control of such shipping East of 24° W. should be exercised by you or F.O.C.Gibraltar acting on your behalf.
3. It is considered that this is the proper course to take having regard to joint operational control of Air and Escort forces at Gibraltar.
4. Reply to Cominch is being held pending your comment.
(D.O.D.(H) 171935B, 181249B to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.Gib. B.A.D.) Reply C. in C.Med. 201320.

Bone Movements. Bone. Arrivals AURORA, SIRIUS, TARTAR, ESKIMO,. (S.O.I.S. 171958A to C. in C.Med.)

Philippeville Movements. Arrived L.C.T. 160. Sailed M.M.S. No. 20. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 172006 to Admty.)

Tobruk Movements. Arrived PROTEA, M.L. 354, ZAHRA sailed M.L. 354. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 172303C to Admty.)

/Malta...

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta C.S.R. A.I. 527 17 April C.S.R. 17 April.
A. Air Part 1. Offensive, night 16/17th April. 1 special equipment Albacore with bombs and 3 torpedoes carrying Albacores searched for enemy shipping in Palermo Area. 1 Albacore sighted 0030 hrs. 1 M/V 5000 tons, 1 small M/V and 3 D/Rs 30° 00' N.*12° 06' E. course North and attacked larger M/V with 1 torpedo special equipment Albacore, they saw dull flash from M/V and long streak of oil, this Albacore aimed 2,250 lb. bombs at same vessel scoring near misses. Haze prevented exact observation of results. 2 torpedo carrying Wellingtons made shipping searches in Sicilian Channel and Ustica Area but found no target. To cover these shipping strikes 3 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols 2 in Trapani Area and 1 in Cape Bon Bizerta Area. At 2130 hrs. 1 of the Mosquitoes attacked a small coastal vessel North of Favignana Island scoring many strikes. Day 17th April 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires attacked Syracuse harbour scoring hits in factory area and near the seaplane base.
Part 2. Day 17th April.
4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. 4 Beaufighters provided escort to convoy approaching from South. Night 16/17th April 1 Liberator of 344 Squadron despatched from (LMHE (as received)) to bomb Catania Harbour area and shipping landed at Malta bombs and incendiaries were dropped over the target and near misses scored on breakwater. Aircraft damaged by intense heavy A.A. (A.H.Q. Malta 172316Z.)*Sic.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies

Movements. Departure VICTORIA-MARIE for Calcutta escorting NULCHIRA.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 170317Z to Admty.)
Departure RUKMAVATA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 170434Z to Admty.)
Departure 0300Z MARGUERITE with B.P. 76. Arrival 0245Z BAODA with 2 Indian water transport craft 0400Z CARTHAGE 0600Z SUTLEJ, GERALDTON with P.B. 35.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 170637Z to Admty.)
Departure HINDUSTAN 0900Z/17th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 170901Z to Admty.)
Departure RAJPUTANA with B.P. 76.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 170941Z to Admty.)
Colombo departures 16th 1145Z tug ZEERANG.
(F.O.Ceylon 171221Z to Admty.)
Left HAWKINS, BARSTOKE.
(F.O.E.Af. 171241Z to Admty.)

B.P. 76. Sailing telegram (4 ships). 2. 0230Z/17th.
3. E.T.A. position E. 0430Z/19th. 3A. Expected time crossing 062° 0230Z/20th April.
3B E.T.A. west of Quoin Is. 1130Z/21st.
4. 10½ knots to position E. thence 11 knots. 5. D. 022° 10' 068° 37' E. 024° 25' 066° 34' F. 024° 27' 061° 41' thence P.G.W. G. to M. 6. MARGUERITE, PUNJAB.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 170243Z, 170341Z, to Admty.)

P.B. 25. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 170602Z to Admty.)

ETHIOPIA. Transport ETHIOPIA. E.T.A. your A.M. 19th April B.O.13 V.C.O. 16 I other ranks 970 bags 78 tons.
(S.T.O. Calcutta 170647Z to S.T.O. Chittagong,
(R) P.S.T.O. India (Bombay) D. of S.T.)

B.P. 76½. Sailing telegram (3 ships) 2. 0930Z/17th.
3. E.T.A. position 1. 0230Z/20th 3A. Crossing 062° 0930Z/21st. 3B. E.T.A. west of Quoins 0630Z/23rd. 4. 8 knots. (Route). 6. RAJPUTANA.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 170941Z, 170943Z to Admty.)

Air Report India. Daily Intelligence Summary No. 398 17th April.
B. Offensive recces 16th April. 2 Hurricanes Akyab-Taungup repetition Akyab-Taungup on search for river craft. 1 Wellington Arakan coast damaged 2 Sampans.
(A.H.Q. India 170945Z to Air Min.)

/Fremantle...

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Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Fremantle, dredging requirements. Dredging requirements at Fremantle your 151130 refers. Para. C. existing depth of 36 feet in entrance channel and para. D. four pockets along-side dredged to 38 feet can be accepted.
(C. in C.E.F. 171308Z to A.C.N.B. (R) Admty. B.A.D.)

M.Ls. Stores. Base stores and spares for M.Ls your 081538 April refers.
2. Intend A. 110 Flotilla to consist of M.Ls. 1082, 1086, 1080, 1098 plus four boats from U.K. to be based at Colombo. B. 112 Flotilla to consist of M.Ls. 1057, 1088, plus those building at Mombassa to be based Kilindini.
C. 45 Flotilla to be based Kilindini.
3. Request stores be despatched accordingly.
(C. in C.E.F. 171331Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon F.O.E.A. S.N.S.O. Ceylon.)

X Proposed incorporation of Fighter Direction Flight. I propose to incorporate a Fighter Direction Flight in Eastern Fleet F.R.U. to provide the Fighter Direction training for ships of Eastern Fleet which I consider essential should now be commenced. This flight will be moved as necessary to enable it to operate from the Eastern Fleet Base and will be attached initially to 788 Sqdn. It will have an I.E. of six and A.R. of three Martlet four to be taken from the 19 remaining at Nairobi.
2. Pilots will be provided from 795 Squadron Fighter Pool.
3. Maintenance personnel will come from those made available by reduction to Fayid.
4. If this cannot yet be approved I intend to use 877 Sqdn. as a Temporary expedient and this will increase the urgency of supplying the Collant Joints mentioned in R.A.N.A.S.I.O's 031236 April. While this expedient would form a valuable part of 877 Squadron's working up training it could manifestly not be as satisfactory for efficient training of ships of Eastern Fleet as provision of a separate fighter direction training flight.
5. Request your early remarks.
(C. in C.E.F. 171346Z to Admty. (R) R.A.N.A.S. Indian Ocean, Com. N.A.S. Ceylon, R.A.E.F.)

A.B.7. HAWKINS. 1. HAWKINS will be available as ocean escort for Convoy A.B. 7 consisting of STRATHAIRD, STRATHMORE and CAPETOWN CASTLE, E.T.D. 22nd.
2. Request you will sail convoy and escort routed as follows to Bombay H. 012° 47' N. 047° 07' N. 014° 22' N. 052° 15' K. 016° 59' N. 058° 07' L. 017° 46' N. 064° 27' M. 017° 54' N. 070° 24'
3. Pass to HAWKINS on arrival. HAWKINS 161811 to N.O.I.C. Aden only refers.
(C. in C.E.F. 171630Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) Cdre. R.I.N. Admty. F.O.Ceylon, C.S.4., F.O.Red Sea Canal Area.)

/Air...

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17.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

x Air Cover, Your 311358Z March 1943. (Not to C. in C.S.A.)
African Air cover for convoys round coast of Africa and in
Waters, Indian Ocean. committee with a view to developing further bases
and improving flexibility.
2. Order of priority decided was - A. Gibraltar to Congo. B. Orange River to Mombassa through Mozambique Channel. C. East of Madagascar.
3. South Africa has been asked to speed up construction of coastal aerodromes in Union. We are developing bases elsewhere. To allow Catalinas to work from Congo area, flying boat depot ship DUMANA is being moved from India.
4. As regards Indian Ocean, following development of bases will take place - A. For flying boats at Saint Lucia Lake, Madagascar (Diego Suarez and Tulear), Mauritius, Seychelles, Diego Garcia, Male, Addu Atoll, Durban, Pamanzi, Kilindini, Aden, Jiwani, Karachi, Bombay and Ceylon.
B. For landplanes at - Durban, Kosi Bay, Madagascar (Majunga and Tulear), Mauritius, Lindi, Dar Es Salaam, Kilindini, Mogadishu, Obbia, Socotra, Masira, and in India and Ceylon.
5. Latest target for coastal type aircraft in Indian Ocean to be reached by March 1944 is Flying Boats - 117 Catalinas (13 X 9), Long Range G.R. - 24 Liberators (2 X 12), Medium Range G.R. - 96 Wellington (6 X 16), Torpedo Fighter - 96 Beaufighter (6 X 16), as well as 128 Venturas at the Cape and Kilindini.
6. Capacity of bases will be greater than the number of aircraft and actual location of units and detachments will be decided by Air Officers Commanding. Specimen dispositions showed following in India and Ceylon for other than A/S duties - 24 Liberator G.R. (2 x 12), 32 Wellington T/B G.R. (2 x 16), 48 Beaufighter Fighter (3 x 16), 48 Beaufighter Torpedo (3 X 16), all remaining aircraft were primarily for A/S work, dispersed among bases mentioned in para. 4.
7. There is little hope of any increase in Escort Vessels for Indian Ocean until our Atlantic requirements have been met, probably not until next year.
(D.O.D.(F) 172014B to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A.)

Ptongwe Your 191148 March. High Commissioner for
N.A.D.Jetty. Transport Nairobi has been informed that contractors should be diverted from deep water berths to carry out necessary pile driving for armament depot.
(Hd. of M.11 172326B to A.S.Kilindini, (R) C. in C.E.F. F.O.E.Af. D.D.A.S.E.F.)

x Diego A.M. 142229 and your 160903 (N.T. in W.D.) Use
Suarez. of accommodation by French.
8. Suggest the time is rapidly approaching when policy as regards Diego Suarez must be made clear and the French firmly informed either that we intend holding port indefinitely or that we shall turn it over to them at a given date.
(N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 172356Z to C. in C.E.F.)

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17.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies

A/S contact, Carried out 2 depth charge attacks on suspicious
depth charge A/S contact at 2215Z/16th 044° 28' N. 057° 35' W.
attack. Negative result. AGGASSIZ and ESQUIMALT ordered
to remain area till 1100Z/17th. Weather report.
(DIGBY 170045Z 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.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 16/43. Arrivals SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD
GRENADIER, ADHERENT ex O.N.S. 2. Departures
LINCOLN, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE, LETHBRIDGE to O.N. 17
SHERBROOKE, CASROSE to Halifax. HIGHLANDER,
ROSTHERN, PENNYWORT, ANEMONE, CLOVER, ASPHODEL, ABELIA to
H.X. 234. LACHINE escorting W.H.X. 234.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 170412Z to Admty.)
San Francisco. Arrival 16th PRESIDENT POLK. Departure
15th PENNANT for Brisbane. (Both U.S.A.Ts.)
(N.S.H.Q. 171531Z to Admty.)
Bermuda arrival ARGONAUT.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 171609P to Admty.)
Arrivals VEGREVILLE, TROIS RIVIERES ex J.H. 48 ST. CLAIR,
TIMMINS, TRAIL, NORANDA, MONTGOMERY ex O.N. 176.
(C.Halifax 171633 to Admty.)
Arrival CHELSEA ex J.H. 48A.
(C.Halifax 172101Z to Admty.)

O.T.4. Sailing telegram part 2 and final my 2324/16th.
1. O.T.4 (7 ships, list).
12. Destination - BENNINGTON - Dakar from R/V.
First port of arrival for convoy North African
Ports or Gibraltar.
(C.A.F.A.C. 170413Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Cinclant,
Admty. Com Carib. S.F. N.O.B.Trinidad, Connav,
F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

MONTGOMERY. My 170031Z (N.T. in W.D.) (Defects ship detached).
One hour early.
(MONTGOMERY 170545Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) D.
Halifax.)

Air Report. W.X. 6047. A.873 17th April.
B. A/S sorties 27. Enemy sightings 1. A/C of 113
B.R. sighted U-Boat in 41° 57' 63° 47' at 2140/16.
U-Boat submerged before arrival of aircraft.
No attack.
(H.Q. E.A.C. Halifax 170800Z to Air Min. (R) Admty.
etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 17th	ARGONAUT	33° N. 59° W.	260°	9
	Flight 7 (L.C.I.(L))	33° N. 69° W.	120°	10
	T.O.3	19° N. 48° W.	240°	13½
	CILICIA	10° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	ALCANTARA and MILFORD with	1½° N. 30° W.	090°	4½
	A.F.D. 24 CARNARVON)			
	CASTLE)	02° N. 21° W.	Patrol	Blank
	U.C.2.	30° N. 35° W.	238°	13½
	(D.O.D.(F) 171110Z to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)			

A/S Training. Your 262152/March. 2 L.C.I.(L) cannot be spared for this purpose since they are required for operations.
2. Request you will consider obtaining from U.S. authorities barges or other small vessels and fitting Oerlikons in these to provide the training facilities required if it is impossible to increase numbers under training at Price's Neck A.A. range.
(A.C.N.S.(W) 171335B to B.A.M.R. Washington.)

FENCER Aircraft. Intend to sail FENCER with approx. load of Helcat. 10 Martlet five, 1 Stinson Reliant, 4 Tarpon, 30 Seamew and special stores not exceeding 20 tons.
2. Propose to sail her in H.X. 237 if possible, otherwise H.X. 238 dependent on possibility of having defects and necessity of completing short work up.
3. Request your remarks.
(B.A.D. 171441Z to Admty. (R) FENCER.)

S/M estimate (Cominch 171504Z, 171505Z, 171537Z, 171538Z, April 17th. 171539Z.)
U.S. S/M Notice.

Information You may sight following on 19th Convoy G.U.S.6 for BEVERLEY, westbound FREDERICK LYKES, U.S. westbound BAYNTUN. KALMIA Swedish southbound.
(N.S.H.Q. 171530 to BEVERLEY, BAYNTUN, (R) BERRY, S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty.)

J.H.48. Arrived J.H. 48 less HAFMOY, NORTH BROOK.
(N.C.S.O Halifax 171834Z to Admty.)

J.H.48A. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 171840Z to Admty.)

/Atlantic...

War Diary.

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Atlantic
Shipping.

Cominch proposed amendment to "Chop" line.
(Admty. 171935B to C. in C.Med.) See
Mediterranean.

ARROWHEAD.

P.C. and S. at 1600Q 037° 55' N. 074° 51' W.
020° 14 knots. Weather report.
(ARROWHEAD 172000Z to C.E.S.F. Cdt. 3rd U.S.Nav.
Dist. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. Cominch, C. in C.At.
Comtask 24. N.S.H.Q. Cdt. 4th U.S.Nav. Dist.
Cdt. 5th U.S. Nav. Dist. Cdr. 6th U.S. Nav.
Dist. Admty.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

All times Z. Para. C. Plane sights Sub, 41° 57'
N. 63° 48' W. 162200.
Para. D. Panam plane sights sub. on surface course
015 25° 15' N. 80° 03' W. 161109. C.A.P. planes
attack oil slick 39° 15' N. 74° 21' W. 16155(sic)
DIGBY attacks sound contact 44° 28' N. 57° 35' W.
162215.
(Cominch 172056Z to Admty.)

C.U/U.C.
Convoys,
Escorts.

Your 061954 April and B.A.D's 1741/15 March.
Request information whether any further C.U/U.C.
Convoys will have British escorts requiring
facilities at Curacao.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 072132Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

BOGUE.

BOGUE's 1610/17 informs as follows:-
Will depart with BELKNAP and LEA for Base Roger
from base Able on 17th at 2300 Zebra. E.T.A.
20th at 1130Z. At advance speed of 14 knots.
Conditions permitting will conduct flight operations and A/S
patrol en route. From outer end swept channel routing planned
as follows: starting course 090 through A. 42° 28' N. 65° 00' W.
at 1730Z/18 course 081 to B. 43° 05' N. 60° 00' W. at 0930Z/19th
course 052 to C. 45° 46' N. 55° 14' W. at 0400Z/20th course 024
to D. 46° 45' N. 54° 36' W., at 0830Z/20th course 035 to
destination.
(Comnavu 172151 to Admty. Pass to C. in C.W.A.)

CHURCHILL,
defects.

E.T.A. 1700Z/18. Boiler hours. In company TRENT
etc. survivors COLLINGWOOD, BRANDON, N.S. ST. ALBANS.
RESTIGOUCHE E.T.A. 1000Z/18, boiler hours.
A.F.O. 2901/41. A. RESTIGOUCHE B. Dutch SS.
BLITAR, E. 6. F. 15. N. 21. O. 5 of (E) Dutch
6 of (F) Dutch, 6 of (F) Chinese, 3 of (F)
Javanese, total 20. P. 2 of (F) Javanese, also (A) TRENT
B. Dutch SS. BLITAR, D.1 (E) 4. F. 10. N. 15. O. 4 of (E)
Dutch, 5 of (F) Dutch, 1 of (F) Chinese, 3 of (F) Javanese.
Total 13.

/P...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

CHURCHILL
etc.,
survivors,
defects.
(Contd.)

(P) 1 of (E) Dutch, 1 of (D), 1 of (F) Javanese total 3. All except (P) suffering mild immersion (corrupt group). N.S. ST. ALBANS has serious hull defects on forecastle and badly defective capstan. CHURCHILL has fractured keel fitting of Admiralty Type whalers davit. (CHURCHILL, 172230Z to N.O.I.C. St Johns N.F., (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns N.F.)

V.L.R.
Aircraft.

J.S.M. 888. 17th April 1943.
Reports on V.L.R. aircraft for A/S duty are now being received weekly by C.O.S. in accordance with Directive contained in C.C.S. 78th meeting Item 1(b) Supplementary Minutes. 2. Propose to signal these reports weekly. To facilitate transmission will adopt following set form. Signal will be prefixed "VLR" No... for week ending... and will be in paragraphs. 3. Para. 1 will be "VLR aircraft equipped CM ASV operation in areas on... (date)" in 11 columns headed as follows - Column 1 - Service. Column 2 - U.K. - Iceland. Column 3 - N.W. Atlantic. Column 4 - U.S. - Atlantic. Column 5 - Gibraltar - N.W. Africa. Column 6 - Caribbean. Column 7 - South America. Column 8 - Bermuda. Column 9 - Ascension. Column 10 - Total. Column 11 - Commitment. 4. Para 2 will be headed "Progress at modification centres as of ... (date)" in four columns headed - (1) - Service. (2) - Under modification. (3) - Complete modification during week ending ... (date as in heading) (4) - Total modified since April 1st. (5) Para. 3 will be headed "Estimated date of operational readiness of new VLR CM ASV aircraft" in a variable number of columns with date headings for all excepting Column 1 which will indicate the Service. (J.S.M. Washington, 172241Z to W.C.O. London.) J.S.M. 889. V.L.R. No.1. for week ending April 7th. (J.S.M..172245Z) J.S.M. 890. V.L.R. No. 2 per week ending April 14th (J.S.M., 172249Z).

North
Atlantic,
Support
Groups.

Value of Support Groups has been clearly shown during passages of recent H.X. and S.C. convoys. 2. When do you expect Canadian Support Group arranged for at Conference in Washington to become operational and what will be its composition?

3. In order that work of Canadian Support Group can be co-ordinated with that of the other 3 Support Groups, which will be under operational control of C. in C. W.A., I suggest that employment of Canadian Group also should be co-ordinated by him, making arrangements direct with C. in C. North Atlantic. 4. In order to strengthen R.C.N. Support Group with ships of greater speed and endurance, we would be prepared temporarily to allocate two Frigates from new construction until R.C.N. new construction can replace them. 5. NENE and TWEED would be available for this service about mid-May and early June respectively.

(1st S.L. 172349B to C.N.S. Ottawa, (R) C. in C.W.A., B.A.D.)

/Movements...

War Diary.17.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Sydney section convoy G.P.46 sailed 17th comprising CARLISLE for Brisbane also BUNGAREE for Moreton Bay.
(N.C.S.O., Sydney, 170132Z to Admty.)
Departures Auckland 2130Z/16th U.S.S. ARIDED E.T.A. Noumea 0600Z/21st, arrival Wellington 0020Z/17th U.S.S. TRYON.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 170350Z to Admty.)
Arrival Exmouth Gulf 15th U.S.S. TENDER HERON, Port Moresby 16th, WARRAMUNGA Thursday Island 16th Townsville Melbourne 16th CHASER 227. Departure Port Moresby 16th WARRAMUNGA for Townsville Melbourne 16th Netherlands Cr. HEEMSKERK for Fremantle Exmouth Gulf 16th U.S.S. TENDER HERON for Geraldton.
(A.C.N.B. 170831Z to A.I.G. 115 Admty., etc.)

MIZAR A.M. 1139A/19th March. Following ammunition
ammunition shipped in U.S.S. MIZAR 12th April to San
to Pearl Francisco for transshipment to Pearl Harbour (details)
Harbour. (A.C.N.B. 170235Z to C. in C. Pacific Fleet
(U.S.) (R) Admty., VICTORIOUS.)

Digest My 170815. Three B.25s sighted nil shipping
Serial Eastern Timor bombed Baucau during morning.
No.45 Saw 2 Zeros airborne over South Coast Timor.
1 April 16. (2) Same time two Liberators bombed dump area
Kagmana hitting possible ammunition store and
starting 3 huge fires. Three small ships seen
Kaimana Bay also 3 small craft near Fak Fak.
(3) Afternoon single Beaufighter strafed three barges in
Ljaikoor Bay (West Coast Aroe Islands?). (4) Morning R/C
Fortress bombed possible new strip near Ubilig. (5) Forenoon
pictures (A) In Kavieng area 1 small vessel in anchorages.
Also damaged heavy Cruiser AOBA class with 2 small craft
alongside and 1 merchantman of 6000 tons badly damaged and awash.
(B) At Lorengau single large ship of 5000 tons shown outside
harbour while no progress apparent on runway. (I) At Javaul
46 ships visible in harbour, including 24 merchantmen totalling
106000 tons, 2 tankers about 8000 tons each, 7 destroyers, 2
destroyer tenders, 5 small submarines, 1 submarine tender, 1
converted seaplane tender, 4 subchasers also 8 floatplanes
Laukun I 120 fighters 5 medium and 7 light bombers, 4 transport
planes. 6. At noon 1 large merchantman sighted Gazelle
Channel headed for Kavieng. (8) At dawn submarine sighted off
cape Orford heading North slowly. (9) Ref. Digest 450 para. 4,
4 Fortresses skip bombed shipping off Wewak before midnight with
1000 pound 5 second delay, scoring 2 hits 6 to 8 thousand ton
carge ship which was seen to sink 13 minutes later. Possibly
sunk another similar ship also 8000 ton transport. Probable
gunboat hit apparently beached and probably destroyed. Another
Fortress simultaneously bombed A/A positions ashore. Before
dawn 9 Liberators were unable to find shipping at Wewak and
6 bombed waterfront A/A and Boram aerodrome. Others bombed
Madang runway and Lae airfield. Incomplete photos mid morning
show 7 vessels Wewak harbour, whereof largest 1000 tons, plus
25 barges also 24 fighters 5 bombers on old airdrome. Same
time 4 ship convoy including 1 light cruiser, 1 destroyer, 2
medium merchantmen sighted 60 miles north of Wewak course 360°.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 170815Z)

Fremantle. Dredging requirements. (C. in C.E.F., 171308Z)
See East Indies.

664

17.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 171340B, 171347B.)

War Diary.18.4.1943.
Sunday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands./ Proposals
re patrol
"White".

1. C.S.10 suggests a possible alternative for patrol "White" in view of the apparent advent of U-Boats in Denmark Straits and the present ice limits; viz., that a cruiser should remain at anchor at immediate notice in Hesteyri Fjord where she would be within reasonable striking distance of enemy ships on either side of the minefield. Alternative fjords are available in case of bad weather and discovery by the enemy of the anchorage. The ice edge near the minefield to be patrolled by destroyers and by aircraft from the cruisers and from Saebol. C. in C.Home Fleet did not approve the suggestion.

X Enemy Main
Units.

2. A B.2 report states that on 2nd April TIRPITZ was in Lang Fjord (70.06 N. 22.48 E.) and two pocket-battleships (almost certainly refers to SCHARNHORST and LÜTZOW) in Kaa Fjord (69.58 N. 23.10 E.)

*Trawler
Action off
Holland.*

X 3. M.T.Bs. 234, 241 and 233 on patrol last night between Egmond and Hook of Holland attacked 3 enemy patrol trawlers in 52.13 N. 04.11 E. and sank one of them. The C.O. of M.T.B. 233 was killed and her port torpedo tube was put out of action.

4. WHITEHALL chased a U-Boat on the surface in 61.00 N. 22.04 W. at 182340.

5. At 0836Z, C in C.W.A. ordered E.G.1. to proceed forthwith to support S.C. 126 as soon as possible, and at 1721Z E.G.3 was also ordered to support.

Two U-Boats were in contact with the convoy at 2202Z in 48.22 N. 21.30 W.

U-Boat
damaged.

X 6. Sunderland Aircraft 5QKE of 10 Squadron reports having attacked a U-Boat at 0908 in 46.57 N. 11.10 W. (280 miles S.W. of Ushant) and left it damaged on the surface. At 1230B the same aircraft reported having obtained 4 hits on a U-Boat which was still on the surface.

7. Whirlwind bombers attacked 2 R-Boats and 2 trawlers near Berck Buoy in the early hours of today and blew up one trawler. 12 Venturas attacked a motor vessel at Dieppe today but hit another smaller vessel instead.

/8...

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

X 8. 22 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines last night off Biscay Ports.

North Atlantic.

? 9. Gibraltar was ordered to keep zone minus 2 time as from 0100Z/18.

South Atlantic.

P.615
sunk.
by U.123.
(Cdr. Warner)

10. Submarine P.615 was destroyed by explosion and sank in 5 seconds, no survivors being picked up, at 1000 today in 06.49 N. 13.09 W. (about 120 miles South of Freetown). It is considered she was torpedoed by a U-Boat. M.M.S. 107 was providing surface escort. (page 715)

MANAAR,
SEMBILAN,
(sunk)*

? 11. A ship referred to as the MANAAR (British 8007 tons) is reported by the Commodore, Durban, to have been sunk by U-Boat at 0115 in 31.17 S. 33.13 E. (about 130 miles E.S.E. of Durban). She was hit by 2 torpedoes and finally sunk at 0515Z by gunfire. The U-Boat's crew is described as apparently mixed German and Italian. The second officer of the MANAAR was taken prisoner and exchanged for a wounded lascar, thought to be the sole survivor of the Dutch SEMBILAN, sunk on 17th April. CORBIS, British tanker, was sunk at 0356Z in estimated position 34.56 S. 34.03 E. Ten survivors were landed at East London on 1st May.

12. SS. EMPIRE BRUCE, 7459 tons, Buenos Aires for Freetown and U.K., was torpedoed about 1049 in 06.40 N. 13.17 W.

* Details of sinking, and explanation of lack of escort. C. C. South Atlantic
061241 B and 081511 B September 1943.

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

- X Enemy Q Ships. 13. TRIBUNE and TRIDENT have encountered enemy Q ships in the Tyrrhenian Sea and Gulf of Genoa respectively.
- X Heavy destruction of enemy transport planes. 14. Kittyhawks and P.40s covered by Spitfires made several offensive sweeps in force over the Gulf of Tunis today, to intercept enemy transport aircraft. One formation of 4 squadrons of P.40s met about 100 Ju.52s (transport planes) heavily escorted by fighters, flying north-east, in the Cape Bon area, apparently carrying enemy personnel. Reports of the number of enemy planes shot down vary widely, but it appears that the total approached 80, more than half of which were transport planes.
- X Air attacks on Catania. 15. 6 Liberators were sent to bomb a tanker in Catania harbour last night. The tanker was not seen, but bursts were seen on the main harbour mole and western quay in the area of the power station and shipyard. Further attacks were made on Catania today; they were hampered by cloud but large fires were seen in the oil depot area west of the harbour.
18 B.25s escorted by P.38s bombed shipping in Porto Torres, Sardinia, and hit two merchantmen, one of which was left sinking and the other on fire. The port installations were well hit. Last night, 19 Wellingtons bombed Tunis docks and railway yards.
B.17s attacked Palermo today, for the third day in succession.
16 B.17s escorted by 36 Spitfires bombed Ferryville dock area today.
- X 16. About 18 enemy aircraft raided Algiers harbour at about 2000 today. The S/M TORBAY was slightly damaged by a near miss.

War Diary.18.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

F.O.A.C.H.F. Office of F.O.A.C. H.F. has moved to Naval
(V.A.A.(H.F.)) Air H.Q. Largs Ayrshire.
(2) Flag of F.O.A.C.H.F. will continue to be
flown in INDOMITABLE and INDOMITABLE should be
included in address of all urgent operational
signals.
(F.O.A.C.H.F., 181134B.)

Items
not to be
disclosed
to Russians.

Details.
(Air Min. 181401Z.)

X Admiral Arrived Moscow 181555C.
Fisher. (30 Mission, 181645C.)

Movements.

H.43. H.43. and KIHNA sheltering Loch Eriboll.
(A.C.O.S. 180016.)

S/M-
movements.

Amendments to 171551B.
(F.O.(S) 180102B, 180301B, 180509, 181058B.)
Your 170433 (N.T. in W.D. but cf. 170543B.)
nothing sighted. My P.C. & S. 013° 32' N. 010° 04' W.
000° eight.
(STURGEON, 180145B to F.O.S.)

BRECON.

Sailed BRECON to Hvalfiord E.T.A. 200300B.
(R.A.(D) 180202B)

TAKU exercising off Plymouth in Area D. between
1000/19th and 1800/19th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 181547B to Admty., C. in C.
Plymouth, F.O.I.Cs Portland, Falmouth, C. in C. Portsmouth,
F.O.(S), N.O.I.Cs. Milford Haven, Dartmouth. Ships maintaining
W/T watch on broadcast O.N. and Port Wave in Plymouth Command.
Group 10. Cmdr. A/P.)

Position of submarines at 0800B/19th and movements for
following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 181603B, 182158B, 182338B.)

Intend sailing H.32 for Portsmouth in C.W.172 on Tuesday
April 20th.

(C. in C. Nore, 181623B.)

Intend sailing SERAPH escorted by ACANTHUS from Clyde
1800B/19th to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 0909B/21.

(2) thence SERAPH to Southward.

(Capt. S.3. 181823B and 201929B.)

LEWES.

Returned Clyde from Trials.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 180814B.)

/My...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- LEWES. My 161546B. Trials satisfactory. Intend sailing
(Contd.) LEWES to arrive Milford Haven 19th April and top
up with fuel. N.O.i/c Milford Haven is
requested to sail LEWES in company with BRISSENDEN
to comply with A.M. 141950.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 181126B.)
Sailed LEWES.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 182038B.)
- BULLDOG. Admiralty's 172145.* BULLDOG is not expected to
come down river until Saturday 24th.
2. Anticipate BULLDOG will be ready to sail from
Clyde Wednesday 28th after H/F D/F calibration
deperming degaussing ranging and compass adjustment.
(Capt. (D) Greenock, 181330B.)* BULLDOG ready to join Command of
F.O.C. West Africa.
- FAULKNER. On completion of exercises P.M. tomorrow Monday
Capt. (D) 8 in FAULKNER proceed to Liverpool
routed through Minches North Channel and Q.Z.S.298.
Report E.T.A. to me before sailing.
2. Fighter Protection arranged codeword FARTHING.
Help Messages 385 Kcs.
3. On arrival act as ordered by C. in C.W.A.
(R.A.(D), 181657B.)
- ADVENTURE. ADVENTURE will be required to embark special stores
and be ready to sail for the Mediterranean on
28th April.
(A.C.N.S.(F), 181745B.)
- LOTUS. Orders.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 181749B to LOTUS, (R)
DIANELLA, C. in C. W.A., Admiralty, F.O.(S)
F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. BIRMINGHAM,
UGANDA, ORKAN.)
Cancel my 181749B* proceed in accordance with Admiralty's
181630B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 182119B to as former.)* To avoid head
wind alter course to given position.
- Minesweepers C. in C.H.F. is requested to detail two recently
for docked turbine-driven ships from 1st M.S.F. to
Mediterranean. relieve HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL temporarily attached
to 12th M.S.F. 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to
sail ships detailed by C. in C. H.F. with the first
available convoy. 3. C. in C. Med. is requested
to sail HUSSAR and SPEEDWELL for U.K. at first opportunity.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 181828B.)

/Coastal...

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Forces' Patrols. Your 171419B EVIDENCE arrived. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 180719B to C. in C. Plymouth) My 172153B.* DEVICE returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 180733B.)* M.L. 269 (S.O.) and 124.

1. Intend M.Ls 208 (S.O.) and 124 to patrol tonight Sunday, between 50° 25' N. 01° 45' and 50° 20' 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/19.
3. Object Anti E-Boat patrol.
4. Constant W/T watch on 2300 Kcs. Usual books to be landed.
5. Code word "Device".
6. Request air protection be arranged.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 181025B, 181157B to C. in C. Portsmouth.) M.G.B. 613, 608, 614 to patrol tonight 18/19 April on Latitude 50° 20' N. between longitudes 1° 30' W. and 0° 48' W. Constant watch 2450 Kcs. Pages of Loxod for 18th and 19th April and A.S.V.B. only to be carried. Collective call sign 3 0 1 A.

2. Object. Anti E-boat patrol. If ordered to investigate plots only small patrol craft and coastal force craft to be attacked.
3. To be on patrol by 2200. Leave patrol 0600. If ordered away from patrol line to return so as to be within 20 miles of own coast by daylight. Route to and from patrol via E.A.5 buoy.
4. Code word Advent.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 181350B, 181822B to N.O.I.C. Newhaven, S.O. 18, M.G.B.F. (R) Admty., V.A. Dover, C. in C. Plymouth, X.D.O. East.)

Dover dispositions for night of 18/19 April. M.Ls. 142 and 141 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs 240, 235, 24 and M.G.Bs. 114, 116 at Vergoyer Shoal route via No. 10 buoy each way. E.T.D. 2130 E.T.R. 0615/19. M.G.Bs. S2, S1 and 43 at "V" E.T.D, 2130 E.T.R. 0630/19.

(V.A. Dover, 181729B.)
My 181025B. "Device" sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 182108B)

2 Danish Trawlers. Am bringing into Humber 2 Danish Trawlers intercepted and boarded 1 mile off 62D Buoy. E.T.A. Humber L.V. 1500. Acknowledge.
(SHEARWATER, 181225B to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

X Coastal force engagement, 1 enemy trawler sunk. Preliminary report of C/F activity night 17th/18th April as follows:
1. M.T.Bs. 234, 241 and 233 on patrol to intercept enemy shipping between Egmond and Hook of Holland sighted three patrol trawlers in 52° 13' N. 04° 11' E. steering N.E. at 0415B. Weather conditions, wind W.3. sea smooth, visibility V.G. M.T.B. 233 was sent to seaward to create diversion which was successfully carried out at short range with 15" guns. M.T.Bs. 234 and 241 carried out undisturbed attack up moon from 500 yards, one trawler being hit and sunk within 3 minutes. M.T.B. 234 closed to 200 yards and engaged with Oerlikon to create diversion for 233 while 241 proceeded to seaward to change with 233 to facilitate same object, but as Commanding Officer of 233 had been killed, Coxswain

/wounded...

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal force engagement, 1 enemy Trawler sunk. wounded and port torpedo tube out of action, this attack was not carried out. When trawler sank remainder altered course to South and left at speed, no survivors seen. In addition to above casualties one other rating was slightly wounded in M.T.B.233, remaining M.T.Bs nil. Beyond damage to torpedo tube material damage was negligible. 2. M.T.Bs. 83 and 88 endeavoured to intercept northbound enemy convoy reported by aircraft off Texel at 1720. Unit ran into bad weather north of Terschelling and did not locate enemy, and were forced to return. M.G.B.s 606, 603, 610 searched from Egmond to north of Vlieland but made no contact. Enemy convoy may have entered Den Helder, a night fighter reported a convoy anchored there at 2230B.
(C. in C. Nore, 181925B.)

Exercises.

7 Your shell fire hitting land vicinity West Prawle.
1/2 (C. in C. Plymouth, 181229B, to LIMBOURNE, WENSLEYDALE, TANATSIDE, PIORUN, MATCHLESS, METEOR)

Allied Air Activity.

X Trawler blown up. Enemy shipping plotted by R.D.F. in the Dover Strait from 0900/17 to 0900/18. Track E. 44 D. Four small from Boulogne at 2325 Southbound at 12 knots, turned at Berck Buoy at 0155 and returned to Boulogne at about 6 knots entering at 0630. Attacked by three Whirlwind bombers of 137 Squadron near Berck Buoy and identified as two R. Boats and two Trawlers. One pilot claims hits on one Trawler which was seen to blow up and was left burning. Each of the other two pilots claims near misses on other vessels. R.D.F. was only able to detect three vessels in this track after the attack.
(V.A. Dover, 180938B.)

X Wastage of Seafires. To check the wastage of Seafire aircraft the following procedure is to come into force forthwith:-
(V.A.A.H.F., 181127B. to INDOMITABLE, FURIOUS, UNICORN, BATTLER, ATTACKER, HUNTER, STALKER, ILLUSTRIOUS, (R) F.O.N.A.S., Admty., R.A.N.A.S.(N))

X Bomber Command Report. Date 17th April. 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. were despatched on A/S patrols. 1 A/C sighted a fully surfaced U-Boat at a distance of 8½ miles and delivered an attack just after the U-Boat disappeared. Photographs suggest that the depth charges burst parallel to and about 50 ft from the track. 1 Whitley is missing and a search for the crew is in progress. Zeebrugge. 12 Venturas of 2 Group took off to

/attack...

672

18.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Bomber Command Report. (Contd.) attack the coke ovens and benzol plant. 10 aircraft attacked. Night 17th/18th April. Minelaying. 9 Wellingtons of 1 Group 6 Stirlings of 3 Group, 5 Wellingtons of 4 Group and 4 Lancasters of 5 Group took off and 22 successfully laid their mines in the allotted areas. (H.Q.B.C. 181600B.)

Mining.

15th M.S.F. Sweeping not possible. Am returning to anchorage. Recommencing clearance tomorrow. (LYME REGIS, 181001B.)

9th M.S.F. Q.Z.X.977. Weather permitting 9th M.S.F. are to commence clearance of Q.Z.X.977 tomorrow Monday. Fighter protection will be arranged codeword Table. Help messages on 385 Kcs. Intend programme to be signalled. (C. in C. Nore, 181044B to M/S 9.) Programme for clearing Q.Z.X. 977 beginning 19th April. (M.S.9, 181407B.)

Lowestoft Clearance Force, Q.Z.X. 978. Request you will arrange for Oropesa Trawlers to clear Q.Z.X. 978 as convenient commencing Eastward side in water cleared by 9th M/S F. (C. in C. Nore, 181049B to F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth.) Your 181049.* Following intended programme commencing A.M. (F.O.i/c Gt. Yarmouth, 181752B.) *Re request arrangement for Oropesa trawlers to clear Q.Z.X. 978.)

Operation Q.U.8 B. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.8.B tonight Sunday. Senior Officer may cancel operation if visibility is extreme. 2. Escort (A) one unit M.G.Bs. to be in position C.T.U.M. 1000 at dusk subsequently to R/V with M.Ls. (B) One unit M.T.B.'s. R.B.12 leaving patrol from vicinity Hook if visibility permits. (C. in C. Nore, 181109B to BEEHIVE (R) F.O.I.C., Harwich, F.O.I.C. Yarmouth, V.A.Dover, Admty.)

X Minelaying by Bomber Command. Night 17/18 April see H.Q.B.C. 181600B.

Q.Z.X. 962. Intend sailing PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, SUTTON, ELGIN, LYDD, SALTASH and H.M. COMMANDER EVANS and BILSDEAN at 0730 tomorrow. Monday to continue clearance of

/Q.Z.X.962...

War Diary.18.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Q.Z.X.
962.
(Contd.)

Q.Z.X.962. Ship will proceed to Plymouth on completion of days operation. E.T.A.1930
Request ROSS may be sailed to Plymouth to join Flotilla. Codeword Occasion.
(PANGBOURNE, 181926B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SOLGLIMT.

Cherbourg. Tanker SOLGLIMT T.I. M/V 360 still present in dry docks which are dry.
(R.A.F. Medmenham, 181556B.)

* Main
units.

B.2 report that on 2nd April TIRPITZ was in Lang Fiord (70° 06' N. 22° 48' E.) and two pocket battleships in Kaa Fiord. (69° 58' N. 23° 10' E.)
Comment: Two pocket battleships almost certainly refer to SCHARNHORST and LUTZOW.
(D.D.I.C., 181942B.)

U/Boats.U/B
reports.

Am over enemy S/M in 49.26 N. 19.05 W. was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C C/S? B.M.W.W.Z., 180348B to H.Q. 15 Group.)
Several U-Boats on passage to and from Bay of Biscay estimated in your immediate vicinity today 18th April.
(D.D.I.C., 180920B. to BIRMINGHAM, Escorts of S.L.127, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.)
Am over enemy S/M in 48.32 N. 21.10 W. course 045° speed 8 knots.
(A/C 7 D.M.X. 181615 to 15 Group.)

* U/B
damaged.

Am over enemy S/M in 46.57 N. 11.10 W. Enemy S/M previously reported was on the surface course 090° estimated speed 12 knots.
(A/C 5 Q.K.E., 180908/ to 19 Group H.Q.(R) F.O.S.)
Damaged on surface 0915.
(A/C of 10 Sqdn. Duty E., 180916B to A.O.C. Group 19)

Following has been read addressed 19 Group. Have attacked enemy with bombs dive and estimate four hits. Enemy S/M is still on surface.

(A/C 5 Q.K.E., 181230B.)

Technical.Oiling
at sea.

Re Sea trials with Welin Davits fitted in ATHOL PRINCE.
(C. in C.W.A. 181410B.)
Recommendation for oilers being fitted with emergency buoyant hose outfit.
(C. in C.W.A., 181853B.)

/Escort...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.

Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Technical - Contd.

Escort
carrier
tactics.

Your 161955B it is intended to allot some of these lights to Escort Carriers in your Command for operational trials.
(D.A.W.T., 181432B to C. in C.W.A.)

Casualties and Defects.

CUMBERLAND.

Hvalfjord (one) sailed CUMBERLAND and INTREPID. E.T.A. Scapa 192000B. (2) Arrived BLANKNEY and MIDDLETON. (A.C.I.C. 180009B.)

S.O.S.

170° unreliable disposition S.O.S.
(Port Patrick Radio, 180909 G.M.T.)

STORMKING.

Stopped with engine trouble in Mew (Island?) (?315°) distance 8 miles. Repairs in hand. E.T.completion 1930.

(STORMKING, 181700B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Ref. my 181700 April. Proceeding half speed. Valve connecting rod bent temporary repair effected require 24 hours for further repair. Require new rod at earliest opportunity.
(STORMKING, 182015 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

VALESCA.

Departure KROOMAN to assist H.M.T. VALESCA now in tow of H.M.D. FEASIBLE after fouling Dan Wire Mooring near 57B buoy.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 182007B.)

My 182007 returned with VALESCA in tow.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 180921B.)

SKEENA.

E.T.A. Merville 190500Z urgent defects. (details.)
(SKEENA, 182247Z to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

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18.4.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.126 D/F bearings of 12 transmission on Series 1
 H.X.233 between 1704Z and 0307Z indicate several U/B's
 in area between 47° N. and 49° N. and 19° W.
 and 25° W.
 (D.D.I.C. 180615B/4 to Escorts of S.C.126,
 Escorts of H.X.233 (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa,
 C.in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.).
 Proceed forthwith to support S.C.126 as soon as
 practicable position follows. Risks of weather damage are to
 be avoided. SENNEN should be left to follow.
 (C. in C. W.A. 180836Z to E.G.1. (R) Admiralty. escorts
 H.X.233 C.T.24, E.G.3. F.O.N.F. A.C.I.C. escorts S.C.126).
 A.M. 180615. Further D/F bearings on Series 1 including
 0610Z indicate U/B's still in contact with H.X.233.
 (D.D.I.C. 180858B to Escorts of H.X.233 (R) Escorts of
 S.C.126 . C.in C. W.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C.
 Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.).
 D/F bearings on 11068 kc/s at 1130Z indicate U/B in
 contact with H.X. 233 probably reported convoy.
 (D.D.I.C.181410B to as last).
 D/F bearings on 11068 kc/s at 1255Z indicate U/B within
 75 miles of 48° 30' N. 22° W.
 (D.D.I.C. 181700B to as last.).
 E.G.3. proceed at best speed avoiding weather damage to
 support S.C.126.
 (C. in C. W.A. 181721Z to E.G.3.(R) escorts of H.X.233).
 Proceed forthwith to position 58.30 N. 35.00 W. making
 good 13 knots. Risk of weather damage to be avoided.
 (C. in C. W.A. 181722Z to E.G.1. (R)Admty. Comtask 24,
 F.O.N.F. A.C.O.S. Escorts S.C.126 Escorts H.X.233 E.G.3).
 S.C.126. 2 U/B's in contact with convoy my P.C. and S.
 048° 22' N. 021° 30' W. 067 7½.
 (24.1.19 182202Z to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth
 3rd E.G. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax
 C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C. Connav, A.C.I.C. C.T.F.24).
 D/F bearings on 11-68 kc/s of incomplete transmission
 at 1511Z repeated at 1658Z indicate U/B with 75 miles of
 48° 30' B. 22° 30' W.
 (D.D.I.C. 182344B to Escorts S.C.126 Escorts H.X.233
 (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa,
 H.Q.C.C.).
 D/F bearings on 4070 kc/s at 2146Z/18 indicate U/B
 probably reported S.C.126.
 (D.D.I.C. 190026B to as last).

Protection of Eastern Channel convoys. My 161206* and your 171250** 19 1400 is quite convenient.
 (C. in C. Nore 181014B to C. in C. Portsmouth
 (R) V.A. Dover, Admty.).
 * re meeting to be held at Chatham
 ** No trace of receipt in War Registry.

S.D.39 (LETITIA) S.D.39. My 171952 sailed at 0408B. E.T.A. Thorshavn 2000B/19.
 (A.C.I.C. 180507B).

/Passengers...

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.D.39 Passengers etc.
(LETITIA) (S.S.T.O.Iceland 181542B).
(contd.). Intend sail LETITIA escorted by SABRE and
 SALADIN to Clyde at 2200/19th. E.T.A. 1800/21st
 April. Route.
 (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 182220B).

S.L.127 Your were probably reported by enemy aircraft
 at 0930.
 (D.D.I.C. 181117B to S.L.127 (R) C. in C. W.A.
 C.in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.).

D/F bearings on 11068 kc/s. at 1044Z indicate U/B in
immediate vicinity of S.L.127.

(D.D.I.C. 181340B to Escorts S.L.127, BIRMINGHAM
Escorts W.S.29. K.M.F. 13. CHARYBDIS (R) C. in C. Plymouth
C.in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

Revised Your 171452 it is proposed to postpone action
sailings of O.N.pending decision on your 162308.
convoys. (D.T.D. 181530B to C. in C. W.A.).

✓ Vessels in Signal 242. Your Mast 439.
North Russia. In conjunction with S.B.N.O. Archangel we will
 move all vessels round to White Sea as soon as
 possible.

(2) In order to load full cargoes considerable
and awkward restowage must be done on several vessels on their
arrival White Sea. This will mean that they will not be able
to sail in westbound convoy at short notice as at present.
No restowage will be attempted here.

(3) All cargo available here will be loaded but vessels will
not be held here merely to load.

(4) For end June sailing estimate coal bunkers required to
reach U.K. 5000 (5 groups missing). U.S.T.7500. This is after
using all British coal available except any salvaged from
OCEAN FREEDOM.

(5) Gerpssimov informed Dalgleish that Russian coal is
available Archangel. Will try and put shaft onto this port
for use but it may be difficult to get it aboard owing
draft restrictions at bunkering berth Archangel. All British
coal sent round for Icebreakers has been loaded into them.

(6) On some basis estimate oil requirements for end June
sailing fuel 4500 diesel 200 end August sailing fuel 7000
Diesel 400. Will pursue positions of local supplies and signal
later.

(7) Provided no repeat no further ships are sunk food
position should be all right.

Kala ships now here will be supplied with two months supplies
from survivors stores Murmansk. Any opportunities for
replenishing from U.K. should be taken.

(8) Considerable dissatisfaction is at present occurring in
ships anchored in Inlet to which members of OCEAN FREEDOM crew
have been assigned due to idleness, permission is requested
to place these men under authority of Masters for any work
commensurate with their rating payment therefor being adjusted
upon return U.K.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Vessels
in North
Russia
(contd.)

(9) Request early advice if independent west-
bound sailings are contemplated.
(10) S.B.N.O. Archangel concurs.
(Murmansk 181532B).

O.N.S.J. #4

← U 732
Enemy S/M sighted on surface bearing 170°
speed 18 my position 061° 00' North 022° 04'
West am chasing.
(WHITEHALL 182340Z).

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18.4.1943
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 1959B 18th.
 BAYNTUN BERRY 036° 03' 045° 09' through 036° 03' 044° 02' thence (?287°) 15.
 (2) G.U.S. 6 C.T.F. 63. 036° 52' 035° 49' through 037° 01' 036° 59' thence 283° 9.
 Gib. keep zone minus 2 time.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 18105B.)
 Situation at 2110B/18.
 U.G.S. 7 Mediterranean Section FANTOME 34.59 08.21 through T 45.06 30 thence through St. of Gib. 9. Casablanca Section (C.T.F. 69) parts company as necessary entering Casablanca daylight 19th.
 (2) MIRROR repairing cable off Tangier.
 (3) C.G. 27 P.C. 473. 34.25 06.57 through 34.25 06.56 and 35.45 06.22 to Gibraltar 6½.
 (4) ARCTIC RANGER 39.03 09.33 to R/V one merchant ship off Oporto 2100B 19th.
 (5) MALCOLM 2 Destroyers 32 (? 15) 10.02 through 33.30 09.01 to Casablanca 20.
 (6) G.U.F.7. WISHART pass Europa Point 0400B 19th to R/V with Casablanca Section in (?34) 09 08 (?26) 1900B 19th 13½ knots.
 (7) 2 Trawlers sail 1200B/19th through 35.45 06.30 to Casablanca 10.
 (8) C.G. 28 LA GRANDIERE 34.05 07.45 through 35.44 06.23 to Gibraltar 10.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 181043B 181445B).
 Situation 182002B.
 17 L.C.I. (L) S.O. L.C.I.(L) 269, 31.02 17.36 through 31.02 17.30 thence 070° 10.
 (2) M.K.S. 114(E) 42.35 14.11 through 44.01 13.40 thence 001° 8. / (? NEWFOUNDLAND)
 (3) S.R.4. ACUTE (E) 28.02 13.40 035° (?7).
 (4) R.S.4. CORINTHIAN (A) 27.06 14.23 through 26.10 15.14 thence 219° 8.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 181107B.)
 My 181107 B add new para. 5.
 DIDO 035° 54' 006° 45' through 36.20 10.01 38.01 12.01 thence 361° 19.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 181555B)

G.U.S.6A. Intend sailing (six ships). Request pendant Nos. (F.O. Gibraltar 181021B to Cdre. Algiers etc.).
 G.U.S.6A. Intend sail (7 ships) Escorts Taskfor 69, STEVENSON, STOCKTON, FOOTE, CLAYTON, CHARLES AUSBURN, RINGOLD, SCHROEDER, APENCE.
 (Commorseafron 181215Z to Com. Algiers. (R) C.in C. Med. Connav. Adm., Com. N.O.B. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Connavnav).

Landing Intend sail at 1200/19 April Flight 'B' of L.C. craft for consisting of L.C. Tank (4) 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, Gibraltar. 552, 554, 552, 578, 584, 585, 605, 607, 613, 618 L.C.F. 3 and 4. 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 554, 559, 578, 584, 585, 605, 607, 613, 618 L.C.F. 3 and 4.
 Tug EMPIRE HARRY B.D.Vs. BARMOND and BARMOND escorted by HONEYSUCKLE and H.M.T. NARVIK routed as in Admty. 1935/30 March QKA messages issued for Gibraltar only latest issue QKA.95. C.in C. Med. is requested to signal onward route from positions 'N'. Communications. Codeword for fighter /protection...

War Diary.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Landing protection "Limited".
Craft for (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 181044 to Admty. F.O.C.
Gibraltar. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Plymouth F.O.S.
(contd.). C. in C. Med., C.C.O., C.Y.R.T., M.L.C.).

U/B's. Army plane sighted two submarines submerging
33.25 North 08.38 West course 270°
0917/18 G.M.T.
(Commorseafron 181100Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar
(R) Admty. C. in C. Med. Cominch, Connawnaw).

C.G.27 My 151600 sailed less STORAAS. Gibraltar pass
to Aluslo Gibraltar.
(Commorseafron 181112Z to F.O. Gibraltar).

COWSLIP. My 121247A (re sailing of R.S.4). COWSLIP
defective did not sail.
(2) In view of Admiralty message 161226 B
(requesting additional air protection for
convoy) which is being passed to you, intend sailing COWSLIP
join O.S.46.
(F.O. Gibraltar 181115B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.).

MAURO CROCE Italian MAURO CROCE may sail Valencia April 19th.
Probably bound Genoa.
(F.O. Gibraltar 181249 to 8 S.F.).

Axis shipping Departure 17th 2000 CIUDAD DE PALMA, Spanish,
Barcelona Palma, Italian MAFINALRO CROCE (? MAURO CROCE)
clear yesterday for Valencia.
(Barcelona 181320 to Admty.).

Minesweeping Your 141600 (amplifying report ground mines
Casablanca swept) studied with interest.
Comparison with results at home suggests -
(1) First mine April 040755Z accounted
acoustic.
(2) Second mine also April 040755Z probably Magnetic Mark IV
unit which is more liable than acoustic mine to sympathetic
detonation at a short distance.
(3) Other four mines might be any magnetic unit including
Sammy, but preponderance of blue polarity suggests Magnetic
Mark IV here also.
(4) Mud and sand confirms ground mines.
(5) Place and conditions support suggestions that mines were
laid by fishing craft, which further suggests mines of old
vintage and explains presence of the now infrequent
acoustic mine.
(D.T.M. 181418B to S.N.O., C.A.,(R) C. in C. Med.).

O.S.46. Request you will reply to C.M.S.F.F.'s.
170835Z.
(D.T.D.181431B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
C.M.S.F.F.)

/DIDO...

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (contd.).

DIDO A.M. 171337. Intend to sail DIDO at 1700B/18th April for U.K. routed through.
 A. 36.20 10.01 B. 38.01 12.01
 C. 42.01 14.50 D. 43.01 15.10
 thence as routed by Admty. speed of advance 19 knots.
 (2). DIDO requests permission to proceed to Clyde to disembark passenger, mails and stores.
 (3). If approved DIDO can increase to 21½ knots S. of A. If not approved, DIDO will have to reduce to 17 knots S. of A. to make Tyne direct.
 (4) Request Admty. will inform DIDO accordingly.
 (5) Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.
 (F.O.Gibraltar 1815-1 to Admty. (R) C.in C. Med. etc.).
 My 1501 sailed DIDO.
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 181722B).
 F.O.C. Gibraltar's 181501 para 2 approved.
 (D.O.D.(F) 182243B to DIDO).

X "Chop" line A/T 171935 unless there is some over-riding consideration of which I am unaware consider proposed movement. most undesirable to bring Chop line eastwards of Azores which are so extensively used by our escort vessels, cripples, and cable ships.
 (2) Presume Portuguese susceptibilities have been given due consideration.
 (3) Is proposal conditional on agreement referred to in para.3. being first achieved? In this case it might be worth it.
 (F.O.Gibraltar 181552 to C.in C. Med.(R) Admty.).

U/B. French Fishing Vessel reports sighting periscope and part of Conning Tower West Bound 1415A/18 position 34 - 02 North 06-56 West.
 (C.M.S.F.F. 181630Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C.in C. Med. Cominch, Comnavaw).

X Gibraltar H.D.A. Unit Charles out of action due to damage H.D.A. damaged. control cables caused by Swiss S.S, CALANDA dragging anchor across them during heavy weather.
 (2) Seven core cable is severed and two core damaged approximately four cables from Rosia.
 (3) Cable ship MARIE LOUISE MACKAY is carrying out repairs but difficulty is being experienced due to cables having been dragged well to Northward of charted run and foul of Vigo telegraph cables.
 (F.O.Gibraltar 181647 191546 to Admty. (R) C.in C. Med.).

Spanish ship Valencia ENRIQUE ILLUECA may sail Valencia April (20th) for Port Vendres.
 (F.O. Gibraltar 181729 to 8 S.F.).

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals DIDO from Algiers. RHODODENDRON from escort duties Melilla. Departures ADRIAS for Algiers, SICKLE patrol to East, Q.K. 50, Q.K.B. 71. COWSLIP escort duties Almeria.
 (F.O.C.Gibraltar 181920 to Admty. C.in C. Med.).
 /U.G....

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (contd.).

U.G. Convoys Requested American authorities be asked to
M.O.M.P. reconsider decision in Cominch C and R's
(?152349) March (Corrupt reference cannot be
traced in W.R.).
(2). U.G. convoys have never been within 4
hours of scheduled time at M.O.M.P.
(3) Mediterranean route and R/V for British escorts is
consequently delayed in hope that an air sighting may be
obtained but frequently has to be based on dead reckoning only.
(4) This has always resulted in escort commanders breaking
W/T silence to ask for routeing or to state they are unable to
comply with R/V ordered. An alternative to ACIT 37 para.
2 would be for U.G. convoys to be instructed to report
P.C. and S. on crossing 25° West.
(F.O. Gibraltar 181921B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

Movements Casablanca April 18th departed P.C.(7321) and
Casablanca 473 FR COMMANDANT DELAGE with C.G.27 P.C. 481
FR LA GRANDIERE DUMONT DURVILLE with C.G.28.
(C.M.S. F.F. 181945 to C.in C. Med. (R) Cominch
Admty. F.O.C.Gib. Comnavnaw).

U/B Am over enemy submarine in 28° 03' N. 14°
02' W. was on surface and observed to
submerge.
(A/C of 233 Squad.182020F to Gibraltar).

G.U.F.7. (1) Sailing Telegram G.U.F.7 part 2 (10 ships).
Destination all ships New York. ESSO ROCHESTER
is from T.O.3. Destination New York unless
otherwise directed.
(C.M.S.F.F. 182230Q to Port Director New York,
(R) Connav C. in C. Lant, Admiralty, C.in C. Med.(W) F.O.C.
Gibraltar, N.O.B. Oran, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.O.B. Casa,
Comeastseafon Comnavnaw).

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CILICIA. E.T.A. Bahia 221200Z. Requirements.
(2) F.O.C.W.Af. pass to Com. 4th Fleet.
(CILICIA, 180330Z to F.O.C. W.Af. Com. 4th Fleet,
B.N.S.O.Rio De Janeiro)

W.S.28. Sailing telegram. (2) 0800Z/18th April.
(3) R/V Capetown section 029° 57' S. 031° 12' E.
at 0900Z/18th April. (4) 12½ knots (?5).
A.027° 10' S. 040° 00' E. Z. 020° 35' S. 042°
25' E. Y. 013° 35' S. 042° 15' E. X. 008° 15' S. 043° 30' E.
G. 004° 00' N. 051° 30' E. P. 011° 00' N. 052° 27' E.
Q. 012° 28' N. 051° 00' E. R. 011° 46' N. 046° 30' E.
(6) KENYA, NAPIER?, RAIDER, RELENTLESS, REDOUBT.
(15) K.R.D.1 to 9 codeword "Dancer", answer H.Y.Q.C.B. 160
Q.C.A.145, "Chop" 020° S. 21st April E.T.A. Aden 0300Z/30th
April, 010° N. 2000Z/27th April. (16) B.A.D. pass to Opanav.
(N.C.S.O.Durban, 180845Z to Admty. etc.)
Arrived and sailed W.S. 28 with KENYA, BULOLO, KEREN, LARGS,
RAIDER (?), RELENTLESS, REDOUBT, RACEHORSE (?). (2) KENYA,
BULOLO, KEREN, LARGS shift to W.V.T. group V.Y at 1415Z/22
April. (3) Destroyers return to Durban from 23° S.
(Cdre. Durban, 180913B to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

DEVONSHIRE R/V with convoy C.F.12 in 034° 00' S. 017° 00' E.
C.F.12. at 1330B April 19th and continue with convoy
to Freetown.
(C. in C. S.A. 180847B to DEVONSHIRE (R) S.O.
Force X, Admty, F.O.C. W.Af. Capt. (D) 4th)

QUADRANT. Arrived.
(Cdre. Durban, 180914Z)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/18th.
VIVIANA escorting Tug MASTERFUL 029° 40' 016°
40' Coastal to Saldanha Bay 5½ knots.
COVENTRY CITY, CAPE WARWICK, ARCTIC EXPLORER
039° 40' 018° 20' to Capetown 10 knots.
DEVONSHIRE 035° 05' 021° 30' by R 9 westbound 16 knots.
CECILE MAPLESON 034° 15' 022° 45' Coastal to Capetown 6 knots.
HERTFORDSHIRE, STELLA POLARIS, LE TIGER with D.C.19 034° 30'
023° 15' Coastal to Capetown 8 knots.
ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DUKE, SONNEBLOM with C.D.14 033° 50' 027° 05'
Coastal to Durban 8 knots.
FRITILLARY with C.D.14 A 030° 40' 030° 40' to Durban 13 knots.
KENYA, NAPIER, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, RAIDER with W.S. 28 028°
40' 035° 05' to 027° 10' 040° 00' 12½ knots.
JASMINE 026° 10' 034° 20' to (024°) 06' 035° 40' 8 knots.
TRUSTY 026° 00' 046° 30' to 027° 45' 040° 00' 11 knots.
WORCESTERSHIRE 037° 00' 044° 40' to 037° 59' 039° 11½ knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 181008Z)
Situation at 1820 (?01)Z April.
CORINTHIAN, WASTWATER, INKPEN, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE,
THYME, COWSLIP, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA with R.S. 4, 27.5 14.18
217° 8.
BURDOCK, CROCUS, PORTSDOWN, SMALLSER (? BUTSER) and 4 M.L's
escorting 08.48 13.(?55) 303 9.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.01 25.32
 (Contd.) 15 $\frac{1}{2}$.
 M.L.244, 256, 1252, 12.43 17.50 to 12.00 20.00
 thence 264 10.
 M.L.289 off River Jeba to Freetown 12.
 (R.A.W.A. 181155Z)

Situation at 1958Z/18th.
 P.615, M.M.S. 107, 06.49 11.50 to South east, coastal 9.5.
 COPINSAY off Marshall.
 ARRAN off Cape Palmas.
 2 M.Ls off Accra.
 PETUNIA, BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR with O.S.S.
 45.02 22.04 35 049° 8.
 ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN escorting off Lagos to Takoradi.
 BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, LA MALOUINE,
 5 M.L's escorting off (?Duala)
 (F.O.C.W.A.181340Z)

EMPIRE Following received on 500 K/cs. SSSS de BY4EZ
 BRUCE, (EMPIRE BRUCE) 06° 40' N. 13° 17' W, torpedoed.
 torpedoed. (Freetown W/T, T.O.R.181049)
 by U.123 Ref. Admty. message F. 06° 40' N. 13° 17' W.
 (Comd: Dakar) (F.O.C.W.A.181122Z to B.A.M.S. 3A)

X Troop Your 011930 and subsequent telegrams regarding
 Movements, forthcoming troop movements in Indian Ocean.
 Indian Transport requirements from South Africa are now
 Ocean. sufficiently clear for definition as follows.
 (details)
 (2) EMPIRE WOODLARK which sailed from Suez for
 Durban 15th April, and any other group B. ships
 becoming available to form convoy C.M.42 with Imperial and
 Union personnel to Mid. East calling on route at Kilindini
 with Military (? personnel) drafts from Durban.
 (P.S.T.O.Capetown, 181057B to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. India etc.)

BURAK REIS, B.N.L.O.W.Af. 160903 (N.T. in W.D.)
 COMMANDANT Intend to sail BURAK REIS escorted by COMMANDANT
 D.D'ORVES, D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S. for Pointe Noire April
 THYME. 22nd thence as ordered by you.
 (2) Request THYME may be returned to South
 Atlantic Station as soon as possible.
 (C. in C. S.A. 181155B to F.O.C. W.Af.(R) Admty.
 F.O.(S), B.N.L.O. W.Af. etc.)

M.L.'s. My 180939(N.T. in W.R.) and 171717 (171719
 intended, sailing M.L.244, M.L.256). Intend to
 sail at 190800Z.
 (Comar Dakar, 181209Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty
 etc.)

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

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War Diary.18.4.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic (Contd.)

B.Y.M.S. Sailed 1130Z April 18th B.Y.M.S, Pointe Noire
E.T.A. 1130Z April 22nd through C., 002° 50' N.
0001° 35' E. S., 002° 18' S. 008° 30' East, speed 10
knots. Requirements.
(N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 181216B to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

P.G.15,
M.M.S.107. Departure 171725Z S/M P.615 and Motor M/S 107.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 181401Z to C. in C. S.A.
N.O.I.C.Takoradi, B.N.L.O.Pointe Noire, (R) Air
H.Q. W.Af. etc.)

SATURNIA,
VULCANIA,
DUILIO,
GIULIO
CESARE. A.M. 141603B. Routes from St. Vincent to Port
Elizabeth are: (a) As in F.O.C.W.Af's 081720Z.
(b) C. in C. S.A's 071541B.
From Port Elizabeth to Guardefui Channel, vessels
will proceed as far as position (g) in C. in C.
E.F.'s 071425Z as amended by C. in C. E.F's
120730Z.
(Hd. of M.I. 181612B, to R.A.W.A. (R) Various)

M.L.289. Arrived 17th left 18th Freetown. C.O. reports
W/T receiver not sparking.
(R.O. Bissao, 181628 to Proximo)

Movements,
Takoradi. Arrival 18th April B.D/V. BARFOSS, M.L.305.
Departure B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8, Pointe Noire
22nd April.
(N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 181845Z to Admty. R.A. W.Af.
R.N.O.Lagos)

O.S.S. 45,
disposal. My 121806. (1) On arrival of O.S.S. 45 off
Takoradi BELLWORT, KUMAON, BIRDLIP and KATHIAWAR
are to continue to Lagos escorting ALLIGATOR
JENNY and EMPIRE OBERON. PETUNIA and remainder
of O.S.S. 45 are to enter? Takoradi. (2) N.O.I.C.
Lagos sail BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, escorting CAP PADARAN to Takoradi
for T.S. convoy. (3) N.O.I.C.Takoradi, sail EMPIRES CHUB,
ACE, DENNIS, to Lagos independently after fuelling. (4) N.O.I.C.
Lagos sail KUMAON and KATHIAWAR escorting ALLIGATOR towing
KELT with EMPIRE OBERZ standing by to Pointe Noire. EMPIRES
CHUB, ACE, and DENNIS to coast in company. (5) KUMAON,
KATHIAWAR are to boiler clean at Pointe Noire. Further orders
will be given for onward sailing of all ships from Pointe Noire.
(F.O.C.W.A.181910Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, N.O.I.C.Lagos,
B.N.L.O.West Africa, BELLWORT, (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

Convoy
F.T.7. List (6 ships)
(N.C.S.O.Freetown, 181959 to Admty (R) Connav,
N.S.H.Q. C.C.S.F., C.E.S.F.)

F.T.7 / ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

F.T.7.

Following ships sail in convoy F.T.7 to position F.10.21 30.02 thence independently. All positions North and West. G.C.J.V. Trinidad 2nd May, "Chop" 24th April.
(N.C.S.O.Freetown, Sierre Leone, 182227Z to Admty
(R) Connav etc.)

CHESHIRE.

(1) Unable to decypher* messages 180143Z and 180145Z. Current edition of S.P.02436 not held on board. (2) My position 22.25 S. 40.48 W. (CHESHIRE, 182359Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A., F.O.I.C.W.A., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, Com.4th Fleet.)

* Action taken by W.R.

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Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

- X Enemy Units. P.C. and S. two destroyers 39° 44' N. 13° 42' E.
(A/C FDH/X 180045B to Air H.Q.Malta.)
- Movements Oran. This is a repetition of my 171945 A. QUEEN EMMA, EGGESFORD and WILTON departed. M.T.Bs. 205, 206, 207 and 208, A.V.R.C's 9469 and 9470 arrived.
(Comnob Oran 180705A to Admty. etc.)
- G.U.F.7. Sailed ships as in my 151129 escorted by WISHART, ANTELOPE, VELOX, LIDDESDALE, ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE. Incon 352 issued to all ships bound U.S.
(Comnob Oran 180850A to Admty. etc.)
- Movements Malta. Arrived BALTARA, JERVIS, JAVELIN.
(V.A.Malta 180914 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, N.O.I.C. Libya.)
- Movements Alexandria. Arrival 17th April SPETSAI departures 17th BEAUFORT, EXMOOR, BELVOIR, DULVERTON, TETCOTT, PINDOS, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, MIAOULES.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 180918C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- E.T.18. My 151019 delete CROMARTY FIRTH. Master declared only 6 knots owing to foul bottom. Propose sailing in French Convoy detailed in my 171320 (N.T. in W.R.)
(Comnob Oran, 180919 to Admty. C. in C.Med. etc.)
- G.U.S.6A Intend sailing (3 ships) propose sailing EXCELLER and EXCHANGE ex U.G.F.7.
(Comnob Oran 180944A to Admty. C. in C.Med. etc.)
Approved (C. in C.Med. 191155A.)
- G.U.S.6A. Intend to sail to New York for orders (11 ships).
(Cdre. Algiers 181044A to Commorseafon, Comnob Oran (R) Admty. etc.)
- UNBROKEN, RORQUAL, UNISON. Your 171158 and my 171145. As P.42 (UNBROKEN) and RORQUAL arrive in area A during April 20th suggest P.43 (UNISON) wait in Southern half of Area D. until 2330/20th.
2. RORQUAL expected to lay during daylight April 21st keeping clear to seaward during previous and following nights for charging.
(S.10 181009 to S.8 (R) 8th S/F.)

/M.T.Bs...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Six M.T.Bs. will be operating south of Marittimo during night returning to Malta. Codeword "Tarmac" B.B.C. fighter protection low priority. Wireless guard on 150 k/cs. (N.O.I.C. Malta 181043A to C. in C.Med. etc.)

Bi-weekly Night 17/18 April.
Opsum No. 6 Liberators despatched to bomb tanker in
118 part 1. Catania Harbour. Tanker not seen. Bursts observed on main harbour mole and western quay in area of power station and shipyard. Other bombs in town.

West of Harbour. 72 X 500 lb. H.E. at 1900Z hours. Following delayed details received. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 181058Z, 181112Z.)

G.U.F.7. SLOTTEDICK, SIBONEY, H.F. ALEXANDER, ARGENTINA sailed G.U.F.7. (Comnob Oran 181101 to D.S.T.)

TRIBUNE, TRIDENT, Enemy "Q" ships. TRIBUNE and TRIDENT have encountered enemy "Q" ships in Tyrrhenean Sea and Gulf of Genoa respectively. Both were of about 900 tons in appearance like small tankers funnel aft asdic fitted 12 or 13 k/cs fixed and hand transmissions. These vessels patrol at about 8 knots but are capable of higher speed and carry at least 80 depth charges and can drop pattern 14. One of these was also a Flak Ship and other had at least 2-40 mm. guns. Sketches being forwarded. (Capt. S.8 181140A to Subs. on patrol (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.1., Capt. S.10., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Orders to S/Ms. Following movements are to take place.
1. Para. 1 of my 171158 (UNISON ?P.43 remain in South West portion of Zone D until 2330/20th thence keep well clear of P.42 (UNBROKEN) to P. at 0530/21st thence as ordered by Capt. S.10.
2. P.228 (SPLENDID) after passing P. at 1500/19th proceed through 038° 50' 012° 45' at 0300/20th thence course 80° to patrol in zone H. and Zone F. north of 039° 10'.
3. P.212 after passing 038° 09' 010° 01' at 2000/19th pass 039° 30' 011° 30' at 0800/20th thence through 039° 30' 013° 10' thence course 110° to patrol in zone F South of 039° 10'.
4. P.42 (UNBROKEN) after passing P. at 1500/20th proceed course 35° to patrol in southern half of Zone D. and will be ordered Zone A. when RORQUAL is clear.
5. P.51 (UNSEEN) and P.45 (UNRIVALLED) after dark 18th proceed Zone C. and B. respectively.
6. TROOPER from Zone E. pass 039° 15' 012° 37' at 2100/20th thence course 252°. *(Para. 6 cancelled see 191540A.)
*W.D.Note.
7. All positions N. and E. All times Zone minus 1. (Capt. S.8 181228A to 8 S.M.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

/Spezia...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Spezia Request you will signal latest positions of battleships at Spezia.
(D.D.I.C. 181240B to C. in C.Med.)
Your 181240. Bearings and distances of centres of ships from time sig. on Chart No. 155 (A) 198° 1150 feet stern to wall (B) 186° 3100 feet stern to wall (C) (?) 1142 2680 feet parallel to East Breakwater.
(C. in C.Med. 181904A to Admty.)

X Proposed My 171935B/April para. 2.
"Chop" For control of such shipping West of 24° W.
amendment, read "Control of such shipping East of 24° W."
Atlantic (D.O.D.(H) 181249B to C. in C.Med.)
Shipping. Amendment made.

REGENT. Amend date of passing 039° 06' 019° 38' to April 26th.
(S.10 181409 to REGENT (R) S.1., C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, S.8.)

P.37 Intend sailing P.37 1830/19th for Gibraltar
(UNBENDING) routed through A. 038° 22' N. 002° 27' E. at 1130/20th. B. 038° 22' N. 001° 10' E. at 0230 (?21st). C. 135° Cape Palos 10 at 0245/22nd. D. 180° Cape de Gata 10 at 0245/23rd.
E. 180° Cape Calaburras 10 at 0500/24th. Thence arriving Gibraltar at 1000/24th unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar.
2. S.O.A. 97 miles a day shift normal W/T watch from Algiers to Gibraltar broadcast at 0001/22nd.
3. All times Zone minus 1.
(Capt. S.8 181442A to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Cdre. Algiers, S.O.Subs. Gibraltar, P.224 (SICKLE) P.339 (TAURUS) P.217 (SIBYL) P.52.)

MOORFLY, Your 092000. Proposed to allocate mooring vessel
MOORHILL. MOORFLY completing building in U.K. 10/5/43 to Malta, this being earliest possible allocation. Delivery would be made as soon as possible.
2. If this will not meet requirements it is for consideration that MOORHILL be transferred from Gibraltar to Malta at an early date, MOORFLY then being allocated to Gibraltar.
3. Request report as to which of these alternatives is preferred and also confirmation that additional mooring vessel for Malta can be manned, including necessary mooring party from local resources at Malta.
(D. of D.Bath 181449B to C. in C.Med. (R) A.S.Malta, A.S.Gib.)
Reply 211735.

/SICKLE...

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War Diary.18.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

SICKLE Onward routing through 135° Cape Palos 5 miles at 0900/20th 120° Cape Nao 5 miles at 0215/21st 038° 50' (000°?) 15' E. at 0330/21st to patrol West of 000° 15' E., between 038° 50' N., and 040° 06' North.
(Capt. S.8., 181458A to P.224 (SICKLE) (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., P.37 (UNBENDING) S.O. S/M Gibraltar).

Italian Shipping. Arrival 18th April GRADISCA and ARGENTINE, Italian.
(C.S.A. Izmir, 181503C to M.W.T. (R) N.A. Ankara etc).

Movements, Malta. Sailed JERVIS, JAVELIN, L.C.Ts. 100, 153, M.T.Bs. 82, 61, 62 75, 313 (Operations).
(V.A. Malta, 181530 to Admty. etc).

BALTARA Transport BALTARA arrived.
(D.S.T.O. Malta, 181614 to D. of S.T. Connav, P.S.T.O. M.E.)

S/MS Malta. Departure RORQUAL, UNBROKEN.
(V.A. Malta, 181730 to Admty. etc).

MOORFLY, MOORHILL. Admiralty 181449. Alternative 2 is preferred. Mooring Vessel cannot at present be manned owing to unsatisfactory conditions of service of Yard Craft Crews. My 211737 and 211740 (not to C. in C. Med., and C.S. Gibraltar) refer.
Mooring Party may be available but acute shortage of trained men exists owing to loss of complete gang when MOOR (as received) was sunk by enemy action, absence of some men at Alexandria and normal wastage.
(A.S. Malta, 211735B to Admty. C. in C. Med., (R) C.S. Gibraltar)

MALAYA Admty. 171336. Request you will sail MALAYA on 20th (?April) escorted by 3 destroyers of Gib. escort force signalling route and time of R/V with destroyers from Plymouth direct to C, in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C. Med., 181740A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. S.O. Force H, C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Plymouth, MALAYA)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 535 C.S.R.18th April.
A. Air. Part 1, offensive. Night 17/18 poor weather and A.S.V. jamming hampered shipping strikes, 4 special equipment Wellingtons with torpedoes and 2 with bombs made shipping searches

/in...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (contd). in Sicilian Narrows and Palermo area but found no suitable target. 1 Wellington on return journey bombed railway line west of Empedocle. Shipping searches were also made in Marittimo area by 5 Albacores but no significant sighting was made. To cover these shipping strikes 3 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Cas Elvet and Trapani and Palermo. Day 18th April 8 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8 fighter Spitfires with 4 fighter Spitfires as high cover attacked Ragusa factory area scoring many hits on railway sidings and near misses on oil tanks. Enemy air activity. Night 17/18 April. 1 Beaufighter on interception patrol in Pantellaria area intercepted and destroyed 1 He. 111 over Marsala. Day 18th April, 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
 (A.H.Q., Malta, 181900Z, 181914Z, 181924Z, 182014Z).

Enemy M/V. P.R.U. reports 1 VM (medium vessel) at 13(00?)B in 038° 34' 013° 10' course 220° speed unknown (V.A. Malta, 181919B to ESKIMO, LAFOREY (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S.)

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals CARLISLE, ZETLAND, CLACTON, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA, POLRUAN, MAN O'WAR, CORIOLANUS, LASSO, NEWFOUNDLAND, LAFOREY, LOYAL, LOOKOUT, QUEEN EMMA, WILTON, EGGESFORD, RONALDSAY, French Chasseur 3, GOELAND, LE SERVANNAISE. Departures LAMERTON, ATHERSTONE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA, MAN O'WAR, L.S.T. 402, M.M.S. 184, Tug EMPIRE FRED, H.D.M.L. 1132, DIDO. (Cdre. Algiers, 182008 to Admty. etc).

Movements, Oran. Departures today ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE, VELOX, WISHART, ANTELOPE, LIDDESDALE. (Comnob Oran, 182025A to Admty. etc)

X Salvage of M/Vs. Your 160023 (Efforts of merchantmen to salve their ships after torpedoing N.T. in W.D.) The four ships in question were WINDSOR CASTLE, EMPIRE ROWAN, HALLANGER, and PRINZ WILHELM III. The last named made persevering efforts at salvage. Other ships over loss of which I am not satisfied were LALANDE, HAMPTON LODGE, and FORT BABINE. (C. in C. Med., 182026A to Admty).

Enemy Units. Following read 2 small craft bearing 000° distance 2 miles course 09° position 37.30 N., 09.18 E. (A/C 53 L/A 182038A).

/Movements,,,

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrived M.T.B. 638, M.M.S. 171, 133 M.G.B. 641
M.T.B. 633, 636, 637, 639, BLYSKAWICA, M.M.S.
20 French ANGELE PEHE (as received).
Departures QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, BADSWORTH
WILTON, LAFOREY, OOKOUT, LOYAL, M.M.S. 81.
(Cdre. Algiers, 182054A to Admty. etc).

TRIDENT,
UNBENDING.

Arrived.
(Cdre. Algiers, 182058A to Admty. etc).

Destroyer
Commands and
Staffs.

Unbalanced distribution of technical staffs
amongst Levant destroyers has been under
consideration. 2 Captains (D) Staffs have been
available for 9 Fleet destroyers while 15 Hunts
have had none. The need for Hunts to have their
own technical staff has been clearly demonstrated
in practice. With loss of PAKENHAM and defects in KELVIN and
JAVELIN rendering them non-operational need for change is
obvious. Since a complete staff cannot be accommodated in Hunt
(nor is it desirable if all are to benefit) and with a view to
holding it as spare for the Fleets, it is intended to appoint
staff of Capt. (D) 12 to Capt. (D) 5 for duty with 5th D.F.,
and 22nd D.F., to be accommodated either afloat or in WOOLWICH.
All Levant Fleet destroyers will join 14th D.F. and appointment
of Capt. D.12 will lapse temporarily.
(C. in C. Levant, 182102C to Admty).

Movements
Bone.

Bone arrival LAFOREY, LOYAL, LOOKOUT, BADSWORTH,
WILTON, QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX. Departure
BICESTER, OAKLEY, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA.
(S.O.I.S., 182108A to C. in C. Med., Admty.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

M.Ls.

Departure M.Ls. 126, 134, 135 and 462.
(?F.O.I.S. 182140A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. Levant).

Sinking of
destroyers by
PAKENHAM and
PALADIN 16/4.

D.12's 161521 is being passed to Admty. in
amplification of my 161234.
(C. in C. Med., 182209A to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant, V.A. Malta).

TROOPER

You were probably sighted by enemy aircraft at
1815 today.
(Capt. S.8., 182304A to TROOPER).

/Movements...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements
Tobruk.

Arrived EASTON, WOLBOROUGH (05?). 25 17. Sailed
FIDALGA, PROTEA, EASTON.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 182316C to Admty).

X
Enemy Units.

2 unidentified vessels in 38° 05' N., 11° 55' E.
course 020, speed 10 knots.
(A/C CXO/W 182340 to A.H.Q. Malta).

Movements,
Benghazi.

Sailed Fighting French M.Ls 1143 and 1164
REDWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 182359C to Admty).

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Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

C.X.2. Arrival 0330Z 18th VERBENA escorting C.X.2.
VERBENA. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 180332Z to Admty.).

KUTSANG. Arrival 17th.
(N.C.S.O. Vizagapatam 180505Z to C. in C. E.F.).

B.M.49 Arrived 0400Z/18th.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo 180512Z to Admty.).

J.C.10. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 180611Z to Admty.).

Movement No.55 April 18th.
summary (1) HAWKINS left Kilindini 17th due Aden 21st.
(2) RANPURA left Aden 17th due Kilindini 22nd.
(3) COMMANDANT DUBOC left Tamstave 16th April
escorting one ship due Durban 22nd.
(C. in C. E.F. 180728Z to E.F.2527, F.O.R.S.C.A. N.O.I.C. Aden,
Admty. C. in C.S.A.).

Dispositions E.F. disposition signal No. 52.
(A) WARSPITE left Durban. Others no change.
(C) No change.
(D) HAWKINS to Aden. KENYA Cape to Kilindini.
CERES at Aden. DURBAN to Bombay. Others no change.
(E) Exercising off Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 180757Z to C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant, A.C.N.B. F.O. Red Sea Canal Area, F.O. Ceylon
Admty.).

DOMINION Return passage of DOMINION MONARCH.
MONARCH. (1) N.Z.N.B. is requested to confirm length
of turn round required in New Zealand. Admiralty
091945/ April refers.
(2) If programme outlined is adhered to tanker
DOMINION MONARCH should reach Fremantle 18th May. Prior
escort duty to which SUSSEX is already committed will prevent
her proceeding to Fremantle by that date and M.O.M.P. in
about 025° S. 090°. is therefore proposed for 23rd May.
A.C.N.B. is requested to remark and nominate escorts
Fremantle to M.O.M.P.
(C. in C. E.F. 181005Z as amended C. in C. E.F. 190631Z to
N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B.).

Movements Departures TULIP and NETRAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 181026Z to Admty.).
Colombo arrivals 18th. 0456Z FALMOUTH
Departures 0812, HDXA, 0825 WUCHANG.
(F.O. Ceylon 181108Z to Admty.).

LEOPARD Repairs to F.S. LEOPARD boiler completed at
Diego Suarez and subject to successful trials
/ship...

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War Diary

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LEOPARD
(contd)

ship will sail on 22nd. E.T.A. Suez about 2nd
May. Detailed programme will be signalled.

(2) Ship has minor defects list which will be
presented at Suez. Main item is hull survey.

(C. in C. E.F. 18135Z to C. in C. Levant, (R)

F.S.LEOPARD, Admty. C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez,
A.S.Alexandria. F.N.F.L. Syria.)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies

U/B. S/M Sound contact by U.S.S. TAMPA vicinity 43° 00' N. 64° 31' W. at 172030Z.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 180110Z to G.B.7A, Connav, C.T.F. 24, C.T.G. 24.7 Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.C.N.F. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)

U.S.S. TAMPA attacked sound contact at 1015Z today in 043° 32' N. 060° 36' E.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 191300Z 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. A.C.I.C.)

CHELSEA, C.T.F. 24 111301 (N.T. in W.D.) CHELSEA and
MONTGOMERY. MONTGOMERY date of joining Western Local Escort Force 17th April.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 180126Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.T.F.24 F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. Cominch, Admty.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 17th arrivals B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185, Ex Halifax WOODSTOCK, WASAGA, Ex H.J.46.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 180246Z to Admty.)
Trinidad arrivals 18th B.Y.M.S. 11,12,20.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad ?181020Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Departure TRILLIUM to Boston for refit arrivals CAMROSE, SHERBROOKE from St. Johns N.F. ROXBOROUGH from Charleston.
(N.O.I.C. Halifax 181913Z to Admty. etc.)

ANDES. Departing New York 191230Z Ambrose. ANDES (?SUTHERLAND)* E.T.A. 0530Z/27.
(Port Director New York 180550Z to Cominch C. and R. Admty. etc.)
See Port Director New York 191430Z.
* alternative CAMBRIDGE.

S.C. 127, Preliminary bearings on transmission at 0533Z
O.N.S.2. indicate U-Boat 60 miles 042° 00' N. 058° 30' W.
O.N.177 on 7770 k/cs type Enigma 137 groups. U-Boat
U/B. is possibly homeward bound on suggested course approx. 035° true possible speed 8 to 10 knots.
(N.S.H.Q. 180630Z to S.E.S.C. 127 S.E.O.N.S.2. S.E.O.N.177, F.O.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A. (R) Admty. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

BOGUE. Navy Yard Boston's 171442 addressed to Cinclant for Action, informs as follows: U.S.S. BOGUE repairs and tests completed, ready for sea 1600 April 17th. Urdis 151225 refers.
(Comnav 180714 to Admty.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 18th.	ARGONAUT	Approaching Bermuda from Eastward. Position doubtful.		
	CILICIA	03° N. 30½° W.	188°	14
	ALCANTARA & MILFORD with A.F.D. 24 CARNARVON)	1° N. 29° W.	116°	4½
	CASTLE) CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
	(D.O.D.(F) 181015Z to Opanav (R) Comnav.)	24° S. 43° W.	067°	4

FENCER. Your 171441Z. Concur in proposals for FENCER. (D.O.D.(H) 181115B to B.A.D. (R) FENCER.) FENCER departure 1100 G.M.T. 19th E.T.A. Cape Henry* 1800 G.M.T. 23rd. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 181115R to Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Jamaica.) *as received.

You may encounter (some?) coastal traffic particularly in Straits of Florida. (?N.S.H.Q. 181605Z to FENCER, (R) Admty. S.B.N.O.W.At. S.O.I. Kingston.)

H.J. 46 Arrived.
H.J.46A. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 181257Z to Admty.)

S.C.127 1. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11 ITCHEN (S.O.) H/F D/F ST.
W.S.C.127 LAURENT H/F D/F, ST. CROIX H/F D/F, NAPANEE,
AGASSIZ, OXLIP will relieve you in position 045°
44' N. 048° 17' W. at 1500Z/20th.
2. (2 ships SS. CARMELEFJELL and SS. NORJERV)
escorted by WOODSTOCK and GRENADIER with H.M. Rescue
Tug TENACITY joining in above position.
3. "Chop" 1500Z/20th.
(F.O.N.F. 181347Z to C.T.U. 24.18.11 (R) Com.
Londonderry. C.T.G. 24.7., C, in C.U.S.Fleet,
C.O.A.C. Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. Comtask 24,
ITCHEN.) See F.O.N.F. 191312Z.

BLITMAR 1. BLITAR (Dutch). 2. Rotterdam Lloyds. 3.
torpedoed 2355Z/5th April 57.45 N. 27.30 W. 4. Approx.
5th April. 57.45 N. 27.30 W. course unknown. 5. Approx. 57.45
N. 27.30 W. 0500Z/6 course unknown. 6. Surface.
7. Vessel sank in 30 minutes. 8. 45 missing list
of survivors will follow in my 1301Z/19.
9. Approx. 800 tons, 1 gun forward and 1 aft no markings seen.
10. Torpedo. 11. Masters books dumped in perforated steel
chest, books in wireless office went down with ship.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 191410Z to Admty. Cominch (R) N.S.H.Q.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

- U/B. Guantanamo reports Submarine sighted 19° 14' N.
73° 37' W. at 1345/18.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 181415Q to Admty.)
- H.X. 234, H.X. 234 VIMY sailed St. Johns to overtake at
VIMY. 14 knots.
(F.O.N.F. 181433Z to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 (R)
C. in C.W.A. C.T.G. 24.6, C.T.G. 24.7., C. in C.
U.S.Fleet, Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A.
Admty. Cdre. Londonderry.)
- S/M estimate (C. in C.U.S.Fleet, 181450Z, 181451Z, 181530Z,
18th April 181532Z.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.
- Escort Your 091230. Considered Lieut. Cmdr. T.Gilmour
Oilers, spare R.C.N.R. can undertake these duties at Halifax.
depth charges. Suggested technical course in the U.K. is not
considered necessary.
(N.S.H.Q. 181542Z to Admty.)
- W.S.C.127. Sailing telegram (2 ships). 2. 0900Z/19th.
3. 1500Z/20th in 45° 47' N. 48° 18' W. 4. 8½.
5. As per C. in C.C.N.A. 161841.
6. WOODSTOCK, TENACITY, GRENADIER.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 181933Z, 181937Z to Admty.)
- U/B. Aircraft sighted submarine at 1936Z/18 in 49° 51' N.
047° 52' W.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 181957Z, 192235Z to G.B.7A (R)
C.T.F. 24 Connav, Admty. etc.)
- C.T.G.21.6. Passed position T.K. at 0400Z/17th.
(C.T.G. 21.6 182000Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A.
C.T.U. 21.2.3., Cominch.)
- BAZELY. Boston arrived 1600Q/17? BAZELY.
(N.S.H.Q. 182050Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D. S.B.N.O.W.At.
C. in C.C.N.A.)
- U/B. Aircraft sighted submarine in 045° 15' N. 065°
01' W. at 2000Z/18th.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 182030Z to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F. 24,
Connav, Admty. etc.)
See C. in C.C.N.A. 191252Z.

/Submarine...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

S/M attack
& sighting
summary.

All times Z. Para. B. U.S.S. TAMPA attacks
sound contacts 43° 32' N. 60° 36' W. 181015
and area 43° N. 64° 31' W. 172330.

Para. C. P.B.Y. Radar contact 38° 20' N. 67° 30'
W. 171900.

Para. D. Army plane Radar contact course 315 26°
12' N. 79° 32' W. 180659. P.A.A. plane sights
sub submerging 19° 14' N. 73° 37' W. 181345.

Navy planes attack sub area 3° 18' N. 81° 11' W.
181800.

(Cominch 182050Z to Admty.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 14.

Malaita R/C Aircraft observed 4-5 Seaplanes
Greenwich Island Lagson morning 15th. Isabel.
Allied aircraft destroyed 80 foot vessel Rekata
Bay 15th. New Georgia. Five Dauntless

attacked Vila 15th destroying large building believed power
plant. Bougainville. 2 D.D., 6 A.K., 6 patrol vessels reported
Buin Area 15th April.

(C.W.R. Wellington 180029Z to C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. Admty.
D.N.I. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

Movements.

Arrivals Townsville 17th WARRAMUNGA. Cairns
17th SWAN. Departures Sydney 16th BENDIGO,
BUNGAREE, BUNDABERG, SHEPPERTON for Brisbane,
Brisbane 16th Townsville for Sydney Townsville
16th SWAN for Cairns 17th VENDETTA for Port Moresby Thursday
Is. 17th ECHUCA for Cairns.

(A.C.N.B. 180052Z to Admty.)

Departures Espiritu Santo U.S.S. ADHARA 2100Z/17 for
Wellington E.T.A. 000Z/24 (as received.)

Departure Auckland 2150Z/17 U.S.S. KOPRA for Noumea E.T.A.
0500Z/22.

Departure Wellington U.S.S. SOLACE 2345Z/17 for Noumea E.T.A.
2300Z/20.

(D.N.I. Wellington 180150Z to Admty.)

Arrivals 17th April Townsville R.F.A. BISHOPDALE U.S.
Transport SWARTENHONDT, CREMER. Fall River U.S. Transport
BONTKOE 18th Brisbane (?Hospital Ship) CENTAUR, H.T. TAROONA
departed Townsville 16th due Brisbane 19th Royal Australian
Fleet Auxiliary KURUMBA departed Brisbane 17th due Sydney 19th
H.T. KATOOMBA departed Townsville 17th due Port Moresby 19th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 181229Z to Admty.)

/Departure...

War Diary.

18.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand

Movements
(Contd.)

Departure Wellington U.S.S. HERMITAGE for Melbourne E.T.A. 0100Z/24th April.
A. 47.48 S. 167.19 E. B. 46.27 S. 158.53 E.
C. 45.12 S. 151.40 E. D. 44.35 S. 147.07 E.
E. 44.38 S. 145.05 E. F. 40.45 S. 143.17 E.
S.O.A. 16.3 knots. S.W.Pacific 0700Z/21st.
(D.N.I. Wellington 182353Z to Admty. C.S.W.P.S.F.
(R) N.O.B. Auckland.)

Digest
Serial No.
452 17th
April.

At dusk 4 Liberators attacked Ambon Wharf area causing numerous large explosions and fires. 9 ships seen in Bay largest 5,000 tons. 10 to 12 aircraft intercepted including zeros and float-planes whereof 4 definitely destroyed and 1 damaged.

2. Negative morning shipping search Tanimbar Kai Aroe Islands by 2 Hudsons, also Kaukenau coast by 2 more Hudsons. Bombed possible seaplane base Inaroe Islands and towns of Watdek and Kolseer in Kai Islands also Timika Airfield as alternative targets.

3. Forenoon R/C Liberator bombed village on Humboldt Bay where small boat only seen. Sighted two small ships Wewak Harbour also single vessel of 1,000 tons Bogia Harbour which was unsuccessfully bombed.

4. Forenoon search Liberator unsuccessfully attacked probable gunboat 50 miles southwest Kavieng course 340° and a 5,000 ton cargo ship 90 miles southwest Kavieng course 120°. Photos Kavieng Anchorages reveal no change.

5. At dawn enemy submarine off Cape Orford course north. (G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 180730Z.)

Kiwi 15. X

Guadalcanal bombed night 16/4 slight damage. Florida Island S.S. sighted p.m. 16/4. Buin-Shortland Area Bougainville Island 6 A.K. 17th.
(D.N.I. Wellington 182339Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty.
D.N.I. A.C.N.B. G.H.Q. N.C.W. Delhi.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 181335B, 181405B.)

700

19.4.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U/B off
Butt of
Lewis.

1. A. U-boat was reported 5 miles north of the Butt of Lewis at 191910. Destroyers were ordered to search.

2. A flight of 17 L.C.T. and other small craft sailed from Falmouth for Gibraltar today.

Operation
Mincemeat.

3. SERAPH sailed from Greenock this evening for Gibraltar and to carry out operation Mincemeat, establishing a patrol for this purpose in the area between 06.30 W. and 08.00 W. and north of 36.40 N.

4. A low level air attack was made on ships at anchor at Murmansk, at 1230C today, coinciding with a fighter demonstration over the town. No damage or casualties occurred.

5. Three ground mines were detonated near 54B Buoy off Orfordness today.

Mediterranean.

Light
force
operations.

6. M.G.Bs. from Bone operated in the Bizerta area last night and M.T.Bs. carried out a sweep in the Gulf of Tunis. M.T.Bs. from Malta were in the Sicilian Channel.

C. in C. Med. today ordered V.A. Malta to arrange a sweep by M.T.Bs. in the Cape Bon area tonight, but V.A. Malta replied that he had no M.T.Bs. available. NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD sailed from Malta at 191026B for a sweep in the area: no shipping was sighted; and C. in C. Med. ordered F.O.I.S. to arrange M.T.B. sweeps in the approaches to Bizerta during the early part of the night.

Air
attack
on Spezia.

7. 186 aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched to attack Spezia last night. A strong concentrated attack by 157 planes is reported. One aircraft is missing.

10 Lancasters laid mines off the port. It was thought the Italian Fleet might be leaving Spezia for the Adriatic, and at 1835 UNITED (P44) was instructed to move her patrol to cover the Straits of Messina. However, it was later learnt that P.R.U. aircraft reported 3 battleships, the cruisers GORIZIA, BOLZANO, TARANTO and one REGOLO class in Spezia at 1240B today. The orders to UNITED were cancelled at 200913B,

19.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

8. At 0010B an aircraft reported a destroyer and a merchant vessel steering 60° in 38.05 N. 11.57 E. Air H.Q. Malta at 0045B instructed two aircraft to attack, and at 0145B one of these reported that the merchant vessel was sinking. UNRIVALLED at 0120 in 38.15 N. 12.00 E. sank a 1500 ton merchant vessel which had been stopped as the result of bombing. At 1547 ~~R-75~~ torpedoed and blew up a 3000 ton westbound tanker in 38.22 N. 12.36 E. (about 23 miles north of Trapani.)

America and West Indies.

9 U.S. Army aircraft attacked a U-boat at 1448Z today in 50.35 (or 30) N. 41.42 W. Six depth charges were dropped, 2 of which appeared to be direct hits or very near misses. C. in C. C.N.W.A. reports the U-boat was probably sunk or certainly damaged.

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.X Russian
procedure.
Graznaya.S.B.N.O. North Russia's 1235A/19th March.
Russians have now agreed to periodical inspection of R.A.F. stores at Graznaya by British personnel and have signed undertaking not to open or utilize them.
(Ad. Fisher 191652C to Admty.)M.G.B.
allocations.My 1218/27th October, 1942. Cancel the allocation of M.G.Bs. 504, 505, 506 and 508 to the 1st Coastal Force Flotilla and M.G.B. 507 to the 15th M.G.B. Flotilla.
(D.D.O.D.C. 191707B.)Movements.

PATHFINDER.

Your 162349B. Sailed. E.T.A. Hvalfjord 1700B/20.
(Cdre. Londonderry 190043B to C. in C.W.A.)S/M Move-
ments.My 181603B. Add para. G. SEVERN and TUNA escorted by HAYLING leave Lerwick 1600B/19 for Holy Loch. E.T.A. 2000B/21.
(F.O.S. 190812B.)

H.32 is to leave Sheerness as ordered by HASLEMERE Tuesday and proceed with C.W.172 to Portsmouth.

(C. in C.Nore 191157B.)

My 181603. Add new para. H. SURF escorted by SHIKARI leaving Stornoway when weather moderates for Scapa.

(F.O.S., 191201B.)

My 131902. HAKE passing through positions H. and J. at 0001Z/23 and 0200Z/26 respectively.

2. HADDOCK passing through positions M. and N. at 0200Z/26th and 0600Z/28 respectively.

3. Report if unable to comply with above times within 4 hours.
(F.O.S. 191721B to HADDOCK,*HAKE.) *(? HADDO).

Adjust speed to R/V with KINGSTON TOPAZ in position Z at 0700/23 for escort to Portland and onward routing to Portsmouth. Report if contact not made with escort by 0900/23rd.

(Capt. S.5 191718 to STURGEON.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/20 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. BLACKFISH and BARB in zones K.194 and K.193 respectively.

B. STUBBORN approx. 70° 30' N. 04° 20' W. dived as much as practicable until south of 68° 30' N. for Lerwick.

C. UNIVERSAL 62° 31' N. 02° 05' W. probably on surface to patrol vicinity 63° 55' N. 02° 55' W.

D. SEVERN and TUNA escorted by HAYLING vicinity Cape Wrath from Lerwick for Holy Loch, E.T.A. 2000/21.

E. H.43 escorted by KIHNA vicinity Coquet Island for Blyth speed 5 knots.

/F...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M F. SERAPH escorted by ACANTHUS vicinity 53° 30' 05°
 Movements 10' W. due 000° Round Island 0900/21.
 (Contd.) G.H.32 leaves Sheerness for Portsmouth with C.W.172.
 H. STURGEON 45° N. 06° W. dived by day through 49°
 02' N. 05° 59' W. daily advance 108 miles.
 J.HAKE approx. 49° 40' N. 34° 25' W. dived by day through 50° 40'
 N. 27° 41' W.
 K. HADDO approx. 47° 01' N. 39° 02' W. dived by day through 50°
 20' N. 22° 50' W.
 (F.O.S. 191823B.)
 Sailed SERAPH escorted by ACANTHUS in accordance with
 Capt. S.3 181823.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 191845.)
 Para. 2 of my 171734. To keep clear of P.57 proceed 071° 01'
 N. 004° 30' W. (?through) position B. 067° N. 003° W. thence to
 join route "Grey" in 064° 50' N. 002° 01' E.
 (F.O.S. 192212B to P.238.)
 Cancel para. E. of my 191823. This submarine and escort
 are sheltering in Loch Eriboll.(H.43.)
 (F.O.S. 192214B.)

BIRMINGHAM. Arrived BIRMINGHAM.
 (C. in C.Plymouth 191015B.)

Minesweepers A.M. 181828B. HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER detailed.
 for Med. 2. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail these ships for
 Scapa on arrival of HARRIER and SEAGULL in
 Iceland.
 (C. in C.H.F. 191133B.)

Flight B My 181044B. "Limited" sailed 1315/19 less
 of Landing NARVIK, delayed by defect.
 Craft for (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 191248B.)
 Med. My 191248B. NARVIK sailed.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 191610B.)

Russian Request approval S.54 to carry out short working
 S/M S.54. period in Clyde about second week in May, to
 comply with wish expressed by Russian F.O.during
 his visit to Portsmouth.
 (Capt. S.5 191536 to F.O.S.) Reply: 741

DIDO. A.M. 191301. Destination of DIDO is Liverpool
 and not Clyde. 2. New route from position E.
 50.01 N. 15.30 W. through H. 51.00 N. 12.00 W.
 K. 180° Fastnet 10 miles thence to Liverpool by
 Q.Z.L. 18. 4. She will be taken in hand by Cammell Laird,
 Birkenhead for work on R.D.F. equipment.
 (D.O.D.H. 191821B to C. in C.W.A.)

MALAYA. PIORUN takes MATCHLESS, METEOR under his orders
 passing gate at 0700B/20 and proceeding by Q.Z.S.
 409 and 410 to position F. 048° 28' N. 012° 17' W.
 thence to R/V with MALAYA escorted by WISHART,
 ANTELOPE and VELOX at 1600B/22 in position R. 041° 27' N. 016°
 01' W. in accordance with F.O.Gib. 191302B. 2. On meeting
 take over escort from Gibraltar destroyer and escort MALAYA
 until relieved North of Ireland by destroyers detailed by
 C. in C.H.F.

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

MALAYA
(Contd.)

3. On relief by H.F. destroyers PIORUN, MATCHLESS, METEOR are to fuel Londonderry and then return to Plymouth.
(C. in C.Plymouth 192225B.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols.

My 181025B. "Device" returned.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 190727B.)
At Newhaven M.G.B. 608, 615 short notice.
3. M.L. 309, 572 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.

4. At. St. Helens ALBRIGHTON, CHASSEUR 41. At Yarmouth LA COMBATTANTE, CHASSEUR 13.

5. M.L. 247, 269 from Portland patrolling between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W. on lat. 50° 20' N.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 191220B.)

1. Intend M.Ls. 247 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on lat. 59° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/20th.

3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 191241B.)

1. M.G.B. 312, 317, M.T.Bs. 94, 98, 227, and 239 are to patrol between 49° N. 3° 38' W. and 49° N. 3° 20' W.

2. Object, to intercept enemy shipping.

3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2030B/19, leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 20th. Route to and from patrol through 49° 53' N. 3° 15' W.

6. Codeword "Obstacle."
(C. in C.Plymouth 191549B.)
Your 191549B. "Obstacle" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 192034B.)

Exercises.

"Substance" Trials. For security reasons intend to suspend "Substance" Trials during period 22nd/28th April inclusive.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 191836B to Admty.)

Allied Air Activity.

Iceland. Your A.970 8 April. Para. 4 was taken up by Rafdel with U.S. Naval Staff who state that they do not intend to withdraw 84 Squadron from Iceland (C) but are unable to increase it to 24 aircraft.

2. No reply has yet been received from Rafdel regarding the use of Meeks Field.
(Air Ministry 191230B to Coastal Command.)

/Bomber...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber
Command
operations.

On day 18th 11 A/C attacked a motor vessel in the Outer Harbour at Dieppe. A/C bombed in two boxes, the first load was seen to fall about 100 yards to the East of the vessel and the second load across the Northern end of the Inner Channel hitting a vessel smaller than the target ship. On night 18th/19th 186 A/C bombed Spezia.
(H.Q.B.C. 191300B.)

X
Requirements
at Machrihanish and
Inskip.

The employment of A.C.Vs on Escort Duties makes the training of their squadrons in A.S.W. a matter of the first importance
2. A visit to Machrihanish by the A.A/S S.B. shows that F.A.A. training of these squadrons in A/S.W. at this station is in fact virtually at a stand-still for want of training facilities.

The matter has been put forward by the C.O. but it is strongly recommended that, failing the allocation of a S/M for training, the following should be provided as a matter of highest priority: 1. Luard-Waite towed target. 2. Two metal drifters suitably strengthened and protected against bakelite fragmentation bombs. 3. A battle-practice target with a metal "submarine" superstructure (for A.S.V. bombing, etc.)
3. Similar facilities will also be required for N.O.T.U. at R.N.A.S. Inskip and should be ready before training commences there.
(R-Ad. Mansfield 192110B to 1st S.L.)

Enemy Air Activity.

X
Convoy
Reported.

Enemy aircraft reported a convoy at 1205B/19. Probably M.K.S.11, possibly W.S.29.
(D.D.I.C. 191236B.)

LENA bombed
at Murmansk
on 13th
March.

Following is a paraphrase of Cominch's 172129 to Comnavu.
Alusna Murmansk's despatch 1430/15th March informs that Soviet steamship LENA turned turtle and berth was destroyed by bomb about March 13th. She was being salvaged at the time.
(Comnavu 191616 to Admty.)

Mining.

Nore Command.

Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore Command week ended Saturday 17th April 1943. Four British M.K. XIV Mines.
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth 190930B.)

East Coast.

Moored mine has swept in position 290° one cable from 54 B Buoy. Commence sweep of channel between 54A and number 3 buoy forthwith subsequently sweeping to the westward of channel to depth 8 cables from Western edge.
(C. in C.Nore 191020B to M/S 9.)

19.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

East Coast (Contd.) One presumed ground mine detonated by "Q" sweep in 290° 54B Buoy 1 cable at 0850. Second ground Mine exploded at same time in approx. 52° 01' N. 01° 49' E. Third ground mine exploded 4 minutes later in same approx. position.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 192218B to Admt.)

Q.U.8B. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.U.8B tonight with 51st M.L. Flotilla.
2. Escorts A. one unit 6th M.G.B. Close escort
B. one unit 17th M.G.B. additional close escort.
This unit has freedom of action to N.E'ward after M.Ls. are clear and it is to return to Yarmouth on completion of operation.
C. one unit 4th M.T.Bs. R.B.12 leaving patrol from vicinity Hook if visibility permits.
3. If E-Boats are sighted on way to Dutch coasts escorts A. and B. are to report them and engage them.
(C. in C.Nore 191203B to BEEHIVE.)

Clearance of Q.Z.X. 962. Intend sailing PANGBOURNE, ALBURY, SUTTON, ELGIN, LYDD, SALTASH and Trawlers COMMANDER EVANS and BILSDEAN at 0800 tomorrow to continue clearance of Q.Z.X. 962, ships returning Plymouth E.T.A. 201700B. Codeword "Occasion."
(PANGBOURNE 191617B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Width swept increased to 1.4 miles at eastern end of area. Increasing to 1.8 miles at western end. Two miles detonated in 50° 04' 6" N. 04° 43' 6" W. and 50° 04' 9" N. 04° 41' 9" W.
(PANGBOURNE 191647B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Operation "Tincture". Request you will carry out operation "Tincture" as soon as possible.
(D.M.S. 191854B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported. D/F bearings at 2224Z indicate U-Boat within 60 miles of 46° 30' N. 13° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 190114B.)

By H/F D/F U-Boat transmitting Naval ENIGMA in the vicinity of convoy in 060° 10' N. 019° 23' W. at 0358Z/19.

(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 190435Z to C. in C.W.A.)

D/F bearings at 0508Z indicate U-Boat within 60 miles of 48° 30' N. 11° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 190742B to LOTUS.)

A.667 19 Apr. U.S. FORTRESS sighted at 1119 G.M.T. submarine standing still on surface. True bearing from Dyce 305°. True bearing from west Freugh 335°.

(T.A.C.Prestwick 191133Z and 191401Z.)

/U-Boat...

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War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

- U-Boats reported. (Contd.) U-Boat reported in 62° 22' N. 14° 58' W. at 1300B. If endurance permits investigate on return.
(Artunshofdi 191245B to A/C B of 84 Sqdn.)
American Transit plane reports sighting submarine on surface in 062° 22' N. 014° 38' W. at 1103Z/19.
(A.C.I.C. 191347B to Ships.)
- Am over enemy submarine in 45° 50' N. 13° 40' W.
(A/C 191837 to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 50° 04' N. 13° 08' W.
Periscope only was sighted.
(A/C P5GO 191940B to 15 Group.)
Have lost touch with S/M.
(A/C P5GO 192020B to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 50.06 N. 13.55 W. Periscope only sighted. No attack.
(A/C 7VHH 192040B.)
Am over enemy S/M in 59° 04' N. 21° 36' W.
(A/C PLAP 192223B to 15 Group.)
Incomplete D/F at 1746Z/19 indicate U-Boat may be anywhere within 75 miles of 60° 00' N. 25° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 192255B to Escorts O.N.S. 4.)
- X U-Boats attacked. Am over enemy submarine in 48° 25' N. 21° 15' W.
(A/C 45 Sqdn. Duty L. 190207B to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy sub. in 48° 34' N. 21° 05' W.
(A/C 45 Sqdn. Duty L. 190230B to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 48° 30' N. 21° 12' W.
(A/C 45 Sqdn. Duty L 190341 to 15 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 45 Sqdn. Duty L. 190341B to 15 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 60° 55' N. 22° 14' W.
(A/C ZY8G 190746B.)
Enemy submarine sighted by A/C of 269 Sqdn. 60.55 N. 22.14. W. A/C attacked.
(R.A.F. Iceland 190925B to H.Q.C.C. 15 Group.)
- X U-Boat attacked by TUNA on 14th April. Your S.W.M. 14 (?traffic) report. Position U-Boat attacked on April 14th should read 070° 25' N. 006° 50' W. and not 069° 45' N. 005° 55' W.
(TUNA 191825B to S.O. S/M Lerwick)

Technical.

- ? Enemy anti-torpedo procedure. Recent reports from M.T.Bs. and submarines, confirmed in some cases by observed result of torpedo fire, indicate that enemy ships may stop in face of observed or suspected torpedo attack. Whatever reason may be for such action, torpedo control personnel should be on the look out for such a possible cause of missing ahead.
2. There is no evidence that these tactics are employed by enemy cruisers or above.
(A.C.N.S. W. 192149B A Message.)

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

- STORM KING. Arrival STORM KING.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 190020B.)
- Patrol craft lost. Arrived 17th April 1943 ex JOHN LAURANCE at Manchester Patrol Craft No. 88 with Packard Engines. One other patrol craft reported lost overboard during ocean passage.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 190931B to Admty.)
- L.C.Gs. 1,4,5 and 7. Serious leakage from fuel tank to Nos. 15 and 16 ballast tanks occurred in four L.C.Gs Nos. 1,4,5 and 7 defects being investigated and tanks of other craft being examined. Some delay inevitable. No defects in these tanks have been previously reported.
(F.O.I.C. London 191305B.)
- ARCHER. Cancel my 191024B. Sailing postponed. Owing to weather work of diving for repairs to Asdic Dome has been held up.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 191714B.)
- ? ULVEN (S wedish S/M.) My 171537. 1. Present gale is preventing progress of search operations meanwhile circumstances of loss are a mystery.
2. ULVEN together with two other S/Ms was exercising attacks against coastal defence vessel MANLIGHETEN announced noon Thursday 15th April, but failed to fire her torpedoes.
3. In the afternoon these three S/Ms carried out attacks on destroyers but again ULVEN failed to fire torpedoes.
4. ULVEN was identified on surface by 1 destroyer at 151400 but nevertheless she failed to make any surfacing signal. There is no report of her being sighted since.
5. During dark hours Thursday Friday these S/Ms were exercising independently and there was then no anxiety about ULVEN.
6. At about 160600 Friday on Meridian MARSTRAND, a German Steamer opened fire on other 2 S/Ms whilst they were on fringe of Swedish territorial waters.
7. As there is naturally bound to be considerable speculation among public as to whether ULVEN could have been sunk in this manner, I learn from Chief of Naval Staff that this may lead to a political incident.
(N.A. Stockholm 191803 to Admty.)
- CUMBERLAND. Scapa arrivals CUMBERLAND at 1753/19, INTREPID at 1742/19.
(A.C.O.S. 191815B to A.C.I.C.)

/M.T.B...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

M.T.B.71. M.T.B. 71 returned with engine defect.
(F.O.I.C., Harwich 192014B.)

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.4 Inconclusive D/F bearings at 2236Z/18 indicate
O.N.S.J.4. U-Boat may have reported either O.N.S.4 or
O.N.S.J.4.
(D.D.I.C. 190110B to Escorts.)
C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.16's 190435Z.
It is considered that transmission was from
vicinity of O.N.S.J.4.
(D.D.I.C. 191129B.)

H.X. 233. SKEENA arrived.
(C.T.G. 24.7 190906Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 181058. ARVIDA is to land survivors at
Greenock before proceeding to Belfast.
(C. in C.W.A. 191443B to SPENCER.)
SPENCER and DUANE are to proceed to Greenock at dawn/20 to land
prisoners. Thence to Londonderry.
(C. in C.W.A. 192309B to Escorts H.X. 233.)

J.W.54. Admiralty 161526. It is noted that cancellation
of convoy J.W.54 was communicated to Thirty
Mission in War Office, signal timed 1715/12th.
(Ad. Fisher, Moscow 191128C to Admty.)

X Transfer of U.K. oil stock position makes it essential to
Oil-Fuel keep close record of quantities of oil-fuel
and Depth transferred to escorts at sea in order that
Charges at export from here for that purpose may be adjusted
Sea.Reports. to proved requirements.
2. Information is also required as to what
transfer of depth charges at sea takes place.
3. N.C.S.Os. of ports of first destination of
each vessel concerned which has sailed in H.X. S.C. or O.N.
convoy are requested to report to Admiralty immediately on
arrival of each convoy in the form following.
6. It is to be noted that the alternative oiling methods are
platform, emergency outfit buoyant hose, canvas hose, American
canvas hose. Depth charges are carried in either improvised
or flotation gear racks.
(D.T.D. 191225B.)

/Abandoning...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

X Abandoning torpedoes M/Vs. A.M. 162107 para. B. after words "keeping her afloat" add new sentence beings "If however the ship is unable to proceed and no tug is available within a reasonable time instructions will be given by the escort for the ship to be abandoned. If the ship is sailing independently or has become separated from a convoy and no escort is present the Master should if the ship is disabled and unable to proceed use his own discretion as to abandoning ship". (A.C.N.S.U.T. 191648B.)

O.N. 179. BRITISH ENGINEER absent. Local escort reports JAMES WOODROW did not sail. (C.2 192100B to C. in C.W.A.)

LETITIA. My 182220. S.D. 39 sailed. (N.O.I.C. Faeroes 192310B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

H.X. 223. Following is repetition of my 192036 begins. To Cdre. Londerry. Request you sail KIRKELLA to meet H.X. 223 escort BRYONY, E.T.A. position A 1500Z/20 ends. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 192316B to C.T.G.24.1.3.)

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U.G.S.7. American escorts and 8 ships of U.G.S. 7 E.T.A. 33° 55' N. 8° 06' W. sunrise 19th. 1 Ship TIDEWATER for Gibraltar. E.T.A. of U.G.S.7 South of Europa Point is 1000Z/19th April. 22 ships for Oran. 11 for Algiers. One for Bone. E.T.A. Point U.E.0730Z/20th. Your 181550A. Request (? vessels) conform to revised E.T.A. if practicable. CIRCE has fractured main engine balance pipe but is keeping station with temporary repairs. Request relief for her from Gibraltar. Weather report. (FANTOME, 190301B to F.O. Gibraltar.)
U.G.S.7. TIDEWATER arrived.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191341)
U.G.S.7 Casablanca section arrived (list). Task Force 69 STEVENSON, STOCKTON, SCHROEDER FOOTE, CLAXTON, CHARLES POINT, AUSBURN RINGGOLD, SPENCE, ENOREE, (AO). W.H. SEWARD straggler preceding convoy was sailed in C.G.28 to rejoin U.G.S.7 Mediterranean Section.
(C.M.S.F.F., 191945Z to Port Director New York, (R) Cominch, C. and R., Admty., N.S.H.Q., etc.)

G.U.F.7. Gibraltar section arrived (5 ships.)
(F.O.Gibraltar, 190511B, to Comnob, Oran, (R) Admty. etc.)
My 182225, Casablanca section G.U.F.7 sailed 1200A/19th.
(C.M.S.F.F., 191500Z to Port Director New York, (R) N.O.B. Casablanca, Comeaseafron, Comnavnaw, Admty. etc.)

Distress. Boat distress signal at 0620Z/19th in 27.20 N. 25.08 W.
(QUEEN MARY, 190835Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959B. ARCTIC RANGER R/V with one merchant ship off Oporto at 2100B/19th and escort southward coastwise 8, Gibraltar keeping zone minus 2 time.

- (2) G.U.F.7 34.13 08.42 through 35.28 14.02 thence 271° 13½
- (3) 17 L.C.I.(L), S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 269, 32.19 13.15 070° 10.
- (4) X.K. 4 HALCYON sailed 2000B/19th to 36.40 11.05 6½.
- (5) LA GRANDIERE French Sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, P.C.481 sailing 1730/19th to Casablanca 14.
- (6) WISHART 3 M.T.Bs. 34.25 08.05 to Gibraltar 23.
- (8) French Light Cruisers ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE, 34.17 08.15 to Gibraltar 12½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191040B, 191758B, 191854B.)
Situation 2001B/19th. G.U. (corrupt grp.)(?) 34.13 08.42 through 35.28 14.02 thence 271 13½.
- (2) 17 L.C.I.(L) S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 269 32.19 13.15 70.10.
- (3) S.R. 4 ACUTE, 30.06 11.(?31) (?106 ?35) 7.
- (4) K.M.F.13, W.S.29 NEWCASTLE, WESTON 43.16 14.12 through 42.01 13.58 thence 151° 12¼.
- (5) FLEETWOOD 40.58 14.07 through 42.01 14.50 and 43.01 15.10 thence northbound 21½.

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions (6) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND* 42.57 11.58 through
(Contd.) 43.01 12.01 thence 359° 14.
(F.O., Gibraltar, 191132B.) * W.D. Note:- Carrying
P.O.W. for repatriation.

SERAPH. P.219 (SERAPH) leaves Scilly Isles at 0900B
April 21st dived by day to 043° N. as follows.
(1) Route Rose, E.T.A. 0600 April 27th 110 miles
per day. Painted blue. (2)(3) Communications
and S.Ps.
(Capt. S.3., 191131B to F.O. Gibraltar.)

ALBULA and Swiss ships ALBULA and MALOJA leave Genoa about
MALOJA. 22nd and 23rd respectively for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 191203B to F.O.I/C Gibraltar. (R)
C. in C. Med.)
Swiss ships HOOKBULA (?ALBULA) and MALOJA leaving
Genoa about April 22nd and 23rd respectively for Gibraltar. Not
to be molested this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar 192336 to 8 S.M.F.)

X Spanish Understand Shipping Attache, Madrid, when
Shipping recently at Gibraltar mentioned that Spanish
Gulf of Illueca vessels were now trading between Spanish
Lions. East Coast Ports and Gulf of Lions Ports without
sanction. (2) These voyages take them within
sinking at sight area, which necessitates
promulgating safe conduct if statement is correct.
No safe conduct is at present being given.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191213B to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Med., B.N.A. Madrid.)

MALAYA, Intend to sail MALAYA at 2200B/20 April for Scapa
WISHART, escorted by WISHART, ANTELOPE, VELOX routed through
ANTELOPE, P. 36.22 09.58 Q. 40.01 16.01 ?R 43.01 16.01
VELOX. thence as routed by Admty., S. of A. 16 knots.
2. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail PIORUN
MATCHLESS, METEOR to R/V in position (R) at 1600B/
22nd. April. 3. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C.(Passing
action being taken by W.R.)
(F.O.Gibraltar, 191302B to Admty. C. in C. Plymouth.)

Convoy C.G.27 arrived.
C.G.27. (F.O. Gibraltar, 191537B to C.M.S.F.F.(R) Admty.etc)

Axis Arrival 17th 5.24. Arrivals 18th 28. 22. 27,
Shipping, MARIE DEL CARMEN. Arrivals 19th 10, 11, 16.
Bilbao. Departure 17th 13, 17, 7, 25 MONTE AMBOTO, CASTILLO
RIAZA, Departure 18th 22 SUEVIA, MONTE ALTUBE.
Departure 19th 65, 27, 5 VILLA, READ DE ALAVA 699.
(Bilbao, 191625 to Bank Block, (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar)
W.R. Note:- 5 HENK, 24 GLYCINE, 28 LINETTE,
22 PAX-CHRISTI, 27 MARIBEL, 10 WATERWEG, 11 REGEJA, 16 LOUVETOT,
13 JEAN MAURICE, 17 OLGA, 7 BALTIC, 25 JACQUELINE, 65 SPERBER.

/SPERBER...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

SPERBER (German) 65 (SPERBER) Sailed 19th.
(Consul Bilbao, 191640 to M.E.W., (R) Admty., etc.) Passing action being taken by W.R. for H.Q. C.C., F.O.S., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.

U/Bs. Almeria, MATILDE. Following ungraded report received from Vice Consul Almeria. (Begins) 2 Submarines unknown nationality seen last night 2000/18th alongside schooner MATILDE 3 miles from Almeria. Submarines departed one bound West and one South East. Schooner bound Malaga to Almeria with petrol and oil (ends) Schooner possibly MATILDE with Auxiliary engine 58 owner Cobos Marin De Martinez signal letters E., G., A., T., trades between Malaga and Almeria.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191647B to Admty., C. in C. Med. Commob, Oran. B.N.A. Madrid.)

SPORTSMAN. Intend to sail SPORTSMAN p.m. 21st for work up patrol off (? Alicante) north of 38° N. and West of Greenwich meridian. 2. Communications. 3. Routed S. 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 212200. T. 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 222200 and unless otherwise ordered by Capt. S.8. U. 135° Cape Palos 5 at 230200. 4. Capt. S.8 is requested to assume operational control at 222200 S. of A. 10 knots 120 miles per day, times zone minus 2.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191744B to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8, (R) SPORTSMAN, TRESPASSER, UNBENDING, S.O. Force "H", V.A. Malta, S.8, Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

TRESPASSER. Intend to sail P.312 (TRESPASSER) P.M. 21st for working up patrol in Gulf of Lions. (Details)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191748B to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8. (R) P.312 (TRESPASSER). V.A. Malta. 8th S/M F. P.37. (UNBENDING). S.O. Force H. CRANE, N.O.B. Oran. P.229 (SPORTSMAN.))
Cancel my 191748.
(F.O., Gibraltar, 201803B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE. In accordance with your 191230, intend to carry out 3 laps in H Formation searching through Q.K.A.87. On completion I will instruct ALBACORE who is overdue for boiler cleaning to return to Gibraltar. ESPIEGLE will assume west of Ridge patrol.
(ESPIEGLE, 191801 to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Capt. (D) 13, ALBACORE, S.O. M/S 12.)

Convoy X.K.4. Sailing telegram. (8 ships) (2) 1900/19.
(4) 6½ (6) HALCYON, RHODODENDRON, SALAMANDER.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 191900, 191901 to Admty.)
Sailed HALCYON, RHODODENDRON, escorting convoy X.K.4. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE sailed as local escort until SALAMANDER (now defective) overtakes.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 192153B to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements,
Casablanca.

Departed T.F.66 ARKANSAS, BEATTY, DORAN, KNIGHT, MERVENEA, COWIE, TILLMAN. QUICK DAVINDON, EARLE, Fr. Chasseur II to Safi. Arrived MALCOLM WITCH and WOLVERINE, Fr. LA GRACIEUSE, T.F. 69, STEVENSON, CHARLES AUSBURN, RINGOLD, SCHROEDER, STOCKTON, SPENCIE, FOOTE, CLAXTENDUJEE, (A.O.)
(Commorseafron, 192000Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Comnavnaw, Cominch, Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Survivors
from U/B
sunk 5/4.

Your 131523. American Naval Attache states all German submarine crew disappeared April 13th probably by submarine.
(B.N.A. Madrid, 192021B to Admty., (R) S.O. (I) Las Palmas.)

Movements
Gibraltar.

Arrivals: Cable ship MIRROR. French ships LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE, and P.C.481. CIRCE ex. U.G.S.7. French ship COMMANDANT DELAGE. P.Cs. 473, 471 with C.G.27.
Departures: FORMIDABLE, FARNDALE, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, TYNEDALE WHADDON, exercises East. PENSTEMON to join U.G.S. 7. ST. NECTAN on escort duties Melilla. French ships LA GRANDIERE, DUMONT D'URVILLE, P.C.481, to Casablanca. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 192127 to Admty.)

Air
Report.

A.I.359 April 19. Op. Summ. No. 169 for 24 hours ended 1800 19 April. (G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson J./233 Agadir on A/S sweep west at 2120/18 28.05 N. 13.42 W. sighted U-boat stationary on surface. Submerged before attack could be made. Course. 045°
(Gibraltar, 192355Z.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- X U/B
attacked. American aircraft attacked submarine at 1405Z/18 in 05° 25' S. 11° 22' W. course 080°. (F.O.C.W.A. 190019Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A.).
- Convoy C.D.14 Arrived FRITILLARY with C.D.14. (Cdre. Durban 190753 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.).
- Convoy C.F.12. QUILLIAM QUEENBOROUGH QUAIL QUALITY sailed escorting C.F.12. Shifting to W/T organization for area P at 1900Z April 23rd. (C. in C. S.A. 190815B to Admty. F.O.C.W.A.).
- GOLD RANGER. Left 17th April for Kilindini. (N.C.S.O. Durban 190859Z to Admty. etc.).
- Movements Dakar Sailed CADWALLADER 190800Z escorted by M.L.256 M.L.244. French air protection until last light 19th. My 171719 refers. (2) Sailed CALAIS for Bathurst Approaches 190001Z. (Comar Dakar 190949Z to F.O.C.W.A. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.).
- BUTTERMERE Departure 1821Z/18th April, BUTTERMERE escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown 190950Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty.).
- X P.615 ^{EMPIRE} ~~BRUCE~~ lost. ^{by U. 123.} ~~by U. 123.~~ ^(C. in C. S.A.) Regret to report P.615 lost at 1000/18 in 06.49 N 13.09 W. No survivors. Consider torpedoed by U/B. EMPIRE BRUCE sunk in same vicinity 50 minutes later. MMS 107 was providing surface escort and reports P.615 blew up and sank in five seconds. Full report follows. Admty. pass to F.O.(S). (F.O.C.W.A. 191209Z to Admiralty (R) C. in C. S.A.). W.D.Note. Position about 120 miles S. of Freetown).
- ILE DE FRANCE Sailed ILE DE FRANCE to Suez. (2) (Route) (3A) 18 knots. (3B) 20 knots E.T.A. Suez 0300Z April 30th. (4). Local escorts QUADRANT to 023° South then returning Durban. (5). My 191227 give communication arrangements. (6) Days 12. (7). E.T.A. 010° North 0600Z 26th. (N.O.I.C. Durban 191212Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. S.A. Opnav, C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A. F.O.C. Ceylon, Admty.).

/Dispositions...

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19.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (contd.).

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z 19th April.
 VIVIANA escorting tug MASTERFUL 031° 30' 017° 40' coastal to Saldanha Bay 5½.
 DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F.12 032° 015° 40' to 015° 006° 16.
 COVENTRY CITY, CAPE WARWICK, ARCTIC EXPLORER 035° 40' 018° 20' to Capetown 10.
 HERTFORDSHIRE, STELLA POLARIS, LE TIGER with D.C.19 034° 50' 019° 50' coastal to Capetown 8.
 CECILE MAPLESON 034° 50' 020° 15' (?119°) to Capetown 6.
 ST. ZENO, NORTHERN DUKE, SONNEBLOM with C.D.14, 031° 40' 029° 55' coastal to Durban 8.
 QUADRANT escorting ILE DE FRANCE 028° 50' 033° 50' to 026° 30' 040° 10' 18.
 KENYA, NAPIER, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, RAIDER with W.S.28 026° 50' 040° 50' to 020° 30' 042° 15' 12½.
 JASMINE from Cape Carientes to R/V with TRUSTY at 027° 45' 040° 0800Z 20th.
 TRUSTY 027° 15' 042° to Durban 11½.
 COMMANDANT DUBOC estimated 026° 30' 043° 30' escorting ORDUNA to Durban.
 WORCESTERSHIRE 037° 50' 039° (?45') to Port Blair 11½. (C. in C. S.A. 191232B).
 CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.01 25.32 15½.
 COPINSAY escorting 06.44 11.50 to Freetown by coastal route 9.
 ARRAN 1 M/L off Cape Palmas.
 1 M/L off (?Accra) (?6) M/L searching about 06.40 13.20.
 PETUNIA, BIRDLIP, BELL (W) ORT, KUMAON, KATHIA (?WAR), with (? O) S S 45.04 12.02 (?30) to 04.50 01.44 thence 082° 7.
 PETUNIA (?westbound) off and proceeding Takoradi.
 ARMERIA, SAN ADOLFO escorting 06.00 02.38 to Takoradi 13. (F.O.C.W.A. 191455Z).
 Situation at 1959Z 19th. PRINSES BEATRIX, WASTWATER, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, THYME, COWSLIP, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA with R.S. 4. 23.37 17.18 to 23.18 17.35 thence 180 8½
 BURDOCK, CROCUS 2 M.L's escorting 10.48 16.56 to 11.01 17.18 thence 262 9.
 BUTSER, PORTSDOWN 2 M.L's. escorting (?18) 48.16 56 to 11.01 17.18 thence Bathurst 9.
 M.L's 244, 256 487 012° 43' 017° 50' to 012° 00' 018° 01' and 010° 00' 020° 00' thence 264° 10, thence Bathurst 12.
 CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.01 25.32 15½. (F.O.C.W.A. 191456Z).

Movements Departure 1505Z/17/4/43.
 Freetown. BURDOCK, CROCUS, escorting.
 (S.O.(I) Freetown 191306Z to Cdr ?4th Fleet
 (R) Admty etc.).

/ Arrivals...

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War Diary.

19.4.1943.

Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements
Freetown
(contd.).

Arrivals 1044/18 April. French submarine LE CENTAURE and one M.L. (S.O.(I) Freetown 191307Z to Comar Dakar(R) Admty. etc.).

Departure 181505Z April. PORTSDOWN, BUTSER, M.L. 1072, 1231. (S.O.(I) Freetown 191308Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, (R) Admiralty Comar Dakar).

CILICIA floating dock.

F.O.C. West Africa's 102011 April para. 4 (CILICIA to proceed from patrol to Bahia). Route for floating dock.

A. 024° S. 019° W.
B. 025° S. 006° W.
C. 025° S. 005° E.

thence Walvis Bay.

(2) 6 A/S trawlers of S.A. Station Squadron will escort from position B.
(C. in C. S.A. 191354B to F.O.C.W.A. Cdr. 4th Fleet etc.).

ILE DE FRANCE.

Sailed 19th April for Suez E.T.A. 30th April Personnel embarked. Requirements. (D.S.T.O. Durban 191403Z to S.S.T.O.Med.).

C.F.12

C.F.12 sailed 19 April. E.T.A. Freetown 28 April. BRITANNIC, STRATHEDEN. (S.T.O. Capetown 191431Z to Admty. for D. of S.T., D.S.T.O. Freetown).

SOBIESKI passenger trouble Palestine Police.

Palestine police occupying troop deck accommodation in OTRANTO were transferred at Durban to similar berths in SOBIESKI to make room for Union Troops.

(2) 67 walked off and refused to re-embark in accommodation available.

(3). High Commissioner for U.K. refuses to undertake responsibility to immigration authorities for their stay in South Africa and onward passage.

(4) Imperial Movement Control intimate they have no jurisdiction as personnel concerned are not under military discipline,

(5) As immigration authorities pressing for decision request urgent instructions.

(D.S.T.O. Durban 191452Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Capetown. U.K.R.E.P.).

GEORGES LEYGUES.

Message contained in your 160801* (Congratulations on success of sinking German Ship PORTLAND) to French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES is very much appreciated.
(Comar Dakar 191547Z to Admty).*(?132028 intended)

/Movements...

19.4.1943.

Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic (contd.).Movements
LagosDeparture 19th April ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN.
N.O.I.C. Lagos 191601Z to Admty.).

SPINDRIFT

Your 19211B (N.T. in W.D.) para 2. not understood in view of para 2. of Admiralty letter 6597/42 of 15th September 1942, and your O11348A March.

(2) All arrangements have accordingly been made to ?turn SPINDRIFT over to S.A.N.F. and to release R.N. crew.

(3) Request early reconsideration.

(C. in C. S.A. 211710B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.).

Attack
on U/B
20/5/42.Your 06140 ✓ (Request by U.S. for check of logs of COVENTRY CITY and CAPE WARWICK concerning a floating body). No entry in log of COVENTRY CITY. CAPE WARWICK's 130932 refers. (No entry in log concerning floating body-N.T. in W.D.).
(C. in C. S.A. 191719B to B.A.D.(R) Admty.).
✓061401Z (April intended).Service of
French
Warships.

B.A.D. 041655 (Re information of work now being done by French Warships in West Africa) and F.O.C.W.A.F. 101936. Preferable for F.O.C.W.A.F. or to Fenard direct if forwarded by Comar Dakar. B.A.D. should exercise censorship functions

only and not put out stories on behalf of French. Preferable for Americans to exercise censorship if this can be arranged.

Release of information in communique e.g. GEORGES LEYGUES, must of course, continue to be controlled by Admiralty and above arrangements applies only to stories handouts, etc. (Head of M. Branch I. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 191820B to F.O.C.W.A. B.A.D.).

SEMBILAN
overdue.Overdue shipping B.R.R.F. Dutch S.S. SEMBILAN ex U.S.44 expected Durban 16/4 not arrived.
(C. in C. S.A. 192355B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.F. Com. 1/c Durban).

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units M/V Attacked. P.C. and S. of one destroyer and one M/V 38.05 N. 11.57 E. course 060° speed 10. (A/C CXO/W, 190010B to Air H.Q. Malta.) Your objective is one destroyer, one M/V in 38.05 N. 11.57 E. at 0010B hours steering 060° speed 10 knots. (Air H.Q. Malta, 190045B to A/C FDH/C, FDH/K) (Air H.Q. Malta, 190118B to A/C CXO/A, CXO/J, CXO/R, CXO/W, CXO/Z)

Merchant vessel sinking.

(A/C. FDH/K, 190145B to Air H.Q. Malta)

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy destroyer 38.00 N. 11.50 E. course 045° speed 18.

(A/C CXO/W, 190230B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. two M/Vs of 1500 and 2000 tons and one war motor boat 38.26 N. 12.30 E.

(A/C, 18J/J, 191643 to Air H.Q. Malta)

JAVELIN search.

Your 181345 (N.T. in W.D.). Have not contacted ED MERIT. Request Beauforts may assist search. My position 0630A/19th will be 34.02 N. 13.24 E. (JAVELIN, 190201A to Sector H.Q. Misurata, (R) V.A. Malta, A.I.G.69)

Situation Report No.80.

Following is a repetition of my 162155 para. 3 all after "Merchant Vessel" (cancel my 181015, no trace in W.R.). Torpedoes were fired at tanker and armed Merchant Cruiser, (by SAFARI 10/4). Counter attack prevented direct observation but breaking up noises were heard from both ships.

On return to scene next day third vessel was found aground so was destroyed with torpedo. Four. H.M.S. UNSHAKEN reports obtained one hit on 4000 ton Merchant vessel in Gulf of Hammamet at 0424 8th April, ship believed sunk. At 1819 10th April, shelled road bridge over Wadi Kurba (36° 34' N. 10° 53' E.) (Ends.)

(C. in C. Med, 190941 to Admtly etc.)

Algiers Air Report.

To: C.G.8th Air Force. From: Spaatz.
For: Eaker and Brereton. From: Hydnaaf.
(R) C.G. 9th Air Force.

(1) Escorted by 36 Spitfires, 16 B.17's dropped 192 x 500 pound bombs from 21,500 feet on Ferryville Dock area. (2) Intense accurate Flak inflicted major damage 1 plane, minor damage on 5. Several enemy aircraft attacked without results. (3) 44 B.17's escorted by 36 P.38's dropped 522 x 500 pound bombs from 24,000 feet on Palermo. 6 ships received direct hits, near misses on one. All piers, 1 power house and dock area were hit, 3 large fires and 1 explosion observed. (6) Night 16/17 April, 4 Albacores (Coastal) attacked 1 large M/V and 1 4/6000 ton tanker with bombs and torpedoes. Tanker left stationary after hit by torpedo. (7) 13 Wellingtons dropped 2 x 4000, 1 x 1000, 57 x 500, 8 x 250, 1008 x 4 pound bombs from 7/10,000 feet on Bizerta.

1 Pathfinder / ...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Algiers
Air
Report
(Contd.)1 Pathfinder dropped incendiaries directly over North Quay at zero hour enabling very effective work by balance. Fires started visible for 40 miles.
(Algiers, No.T.O.O. to Etousa, Recd.0945Z)

UNISON.

Capt. (S) 8th's 181228. Onward routing from P. through Q and R to arrive Malta R/V at 0830B April 23rd.
(Capt. (S) 10, 191039B to P.43 (UNISON) (R) Capt (S) 8th Capt. (S) 1st., C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Subs on Patrol.)Movements,
Malta.Arrival M.L's 126, 134, 135, 462, departures NUBIAN, PALADIN, PETARD (operations)
(V.A. Malta, 191026B to Admty, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant)Bi-weekly
Opsum
No.118
Part 2.

17th April 15 B.24's despatched to bomb tanker in Catania. Hit on ship alongside Western Quay followed by explosion and fire, other bombs blast along Western Quay and in Town Est? and South West of harbour. 136 x 500 lb H.E. at 1700Z hours.

18th April 2 formations totalling 27. B.24s despatched to attack shipping in Catania. First formation forced to return by bad weather. Of second formation 3 returned early with engine trouble. 11 B.24s found Catania completely obscured by low cloud and bombed estimated position of harbour with unknown results. Another B.24 which lost height over target found gap in clouds and started large fires with smoke up to 1000 ft in town West of harbour in oil depot area.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 191053Z)P.L.M.16.
(French Axis
control)My 161721C. P.L.M.16 sailed for Constanza 19th April.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 191141C to S.O.(I) Levant,
(R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, D.N.I.)

G.U.S. 6A.

Your 180944 approved.
(C. in C. Med. 191155A to Com. N.O.B.Oran, (R) Admty, Connnav, Commorseafron, Cdre. Algiers)
G.U.S.6A. Oran section take pendants 41, 42,52. Gibraltar section take pendants 53, 63, 93, 103.
RHEA pendant 72, ESSO BAYONNE pendant 82. Casablanca section take pendants 21, 22, 23, 31, 32, 33, 43. Convoy Commodore Cdr. Cumings U.S.N.R. in J.E.B. STEWART.
(Cdr. Algiers, 191206A to Commorseafron, Comnob Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Connnav.)

NUBIAN / ...

War Diary.19.4.1945.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

NUBIAN, V.A. Malta's 18156. Para. (4). NUBIAN, PALADIN, PALADIN, PETARD have freedom of action. (2) Unless PETARD, previous arrangements have been made which it is M.T.B.Sweeps. now too late to alter following M.T.B. sweeps should be arranged. (3) By V.A. Malta M.T.B. sweeps passing astern of destroyers to Kelibia round to Ras Fortas between about 0001A/20th April and 0200A. M.T.B's 654, 656 subsequently proceed to Bone. (4) By F.O.I.S. M.T.B. Sweeps in approaches to Bizerta during early part of night withdrawing before 0230A to clear M.T.B.s 654, 656.
(C. in C. Med. 191214 to NUBIAN, V.A. Malta. F.O.I.S. C.S.12, H.Q. N.W.Af. Coastal A.F., C. in C. Levant, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)
C. in C. Med.'s 191214 para. 3. None available.
(V.A. Malta, 191617B to C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S. etc.)

M.T.B's. Arrival M.T.B's 82, 61, 62, 75, 313.
(V.A. Malta, 191222B to Admty etc.)

Malta Situation Report. Week ending 17th April.
(1) Enemy air. Nil alerts. (2) Own air activity. Approx. 54 A/C attacks shipping. One M/V 3/4000 tons sunk. One M/V 5000 hits claimed. (4) Convoy two storeships one personnel ship one tanker arrived A.M. 12th April total tonnage unloaded 10444 completed 17th April. (5) Small commando trained force 10 Offrs. 100 O.Rs operating from 4 Mls. carried out seizure of Kerkennah Islands without opposition. Returned to Malta 19th April.
(Govt. Malta, 191330Z to C. in C. M.E.)

X Italian Fleet, disposal of S/M's. C.O.I.S. Alexandria 191306, not to all (N.T. in W.D.) suggest that Italian Fleet may be proceeding Adriatic, Spezia having been bombed again last night. Request you will redispense submarines as far as possible to cover Straits of Messina.
(C. in C. Med. 191412A to V.A. Malta. Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10. (R) C. in C. Levant, S.O. Force 'H'. C.S.12. C.S.15, F.O.C.Gib. C.O.I.S.Alex.)
Shift patrol as necessary to cover Straits of Messina. There is a possibility that enemy main units from Spezia are en route ~~fr~~ Adriatic.
(Capt. (S) 10, 191835 to P.44 (UNITED) (R) Capt. (S) 8, REGENT, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)*
My 191412. No photographic or visual R/C of Spezia due to cloud. Air R/C arranged for tomorrow.
(C. in C. Med. 192016A to V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 10 (R) C. in C. Levant etc.)* W.D.Note. Cancelled by 200913B after P.R.U. had shown battleships still at Spezia.

Movements, Aden. Arrival 0500Z B.V. BARCLOSE.
Departures 0904Z JAN DE WAELE 1103Z DURBAN.
(Care. Aden, 191453Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R. S.C.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Admty.)

M.K.S. / ...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

M.K.S.12. Amend my 171139 as follows: ST.CLEARs now Gibraltar for U.S.A. Cancel TITUS and ZENA add- 53 GEORGE WEEMS, 54 ANTHONY WAYNE, 41 WILDWOOD, 42 CALVIN COOLIDGE, 43, 44, 31, 32, 33 all L.S.Ts.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 191441 to S.O.I.S.(R) N.O.I.C.Bougie, Admty, F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav, Algiers, F.O.I.C.Oran.)

TROOPER. Cancel para. 2 of my 171158 and para. 6 of my 181228.
(Capt. (S) 8, 191540A to 8 S.F.(R) Capt.(S) 10)

SARACEN. At 0330 today you may have been sighted west of ELBA.
(Capt. (S) 8, 191605A to P.247 (SARACEN).)

Movements, 19th April Port Said arrivals SPETSAI, PANTHER, Port Said. CUMBRAE.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 191627C to Admty etc.)

X Convoy Programme. Following convoy programme is intended. For eastbound convoy, unless otherwise indicated all dates May.

Convoy.	Gibraltar.	Oran.	Algiers.	Bougie.	Phillippe-ville.	Bone.
K.M.S.13.	April 25/26th.	April 27th	April 28th	April 29th	April 29th.	
U.G.S.7A.	3rd/4th. For Westbound convoy.					
Convoy.	Bone.	Phillippe-ville.	Bougie.	Algiers.	Oran.	Gibraltar.
E.C.19	April 25th	April 25th	April 26th	April 27th	April 28th	April 30th
G.U.S.7	4th	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
E.T.20	7th	7th	8th	9th	10th	12th
S.G.U.F.8	-	-	-	-	15th	16th
M.K.S.13	14th	14th	15th	15th	16th	5th
	6th	6th	7th	7th		
T.E.21	9th/10th	11th	12th	12th	13th	13th
U.G.F.8	11th	12th	-	-	-	-
K.M.S.14 and						
U.G.S.8	17th/18th	19th	20th	20th	21st	21st
K.M.F.14	20th	21st	22nd	-	-	-
T.E.22	24/25th	26th	27th	27th	28th	28th
18th						
G.U.S.7A.	18th	18th	19th	19th	20th	22nd
E.T.21	24th	24th	25th	26th	27th	29th
(C. in C. Med. 191715A to A.I.G.260 F.O.C. W.Af. Commorseafron etc.)						

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War Diary.19.4.1945.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- A/S Air Patrols from FORMIDABLE. No objection to adjusting aircraft complement of FORMIDABLE so as to embark full strength of 18 T.B.R. of 820 Sqdn. (2) Concur that emphasis in training should be on R/C and torpedo striking but I do not feel that on present average of sea time by Force how the maintenance of one Albacore on A/S patrol should be such a strain as your Para. 1 implies. (3) Your para. 6. From information of acute Albacore and personnel supply position given me by Admiralty I do not feel that I am justified in asking for further six Albacores for 820 Sqdn. - imperative need at the moment is provision of personnel to fill vacancies in operational Squadrons and provide adequate pool at Gibraltar. (4) Your para. 7. It is hoped to arrange deck landing training for 826 Sqdn. on completion of Tunisian operations and this should largely meet your requirement in para. 6. (5) Your 172204. H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. are prepared to provide A/S patrol for Force H when operating East of Oran subject to urgency of other operations at the time. (6) Request you will confirm that all A/S operations carried out by disembarked Naval aircraft in Oran area are carried out under the orders and operational control of N.W.A.C.A.F. This is essential to avoid confusion and H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. request you will notify your requirements to them (ref. your 171643) (C. in C. Med. 191800 to F.O.H.(R) Admty. FORMIDABLE.)
- 201 N.C. Group inadequacy. My 071057C and 112029C. A.O. C. in C. Mediterranean has signalled his opinion to Air Ministry (for V.C.A.S.) in his A.O.C.373 of 16th April. (C. in C. Levant, 191811C to Admty)
- P.R.U. April 19th visuals. 1655, Taranto, 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. (N.O.I.C.Malta, 191853C to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- 24th M.T.B.F. 24th M.T.B. Flotilla consisting of 70' Vosper boats pendant numbers 81, 85, 86, 89, 97, 226, 242 and 243 is allocated to C. in C. Med. Hoped that four boats will be shipped in K.M.S. 14 and remainder as opportunity offers. (3) Spare gear is being sent in ADVENTURE. (D.D.O.D.(C), 191857B to C. in C. Med.)
- M/V attacked. On 18th Wellington aircraft attacked with bombs a 2500 ton M/V escorted by a destroyer 3 miles N.W. of Marittimo. A hit was scored on the stern of the M/V which was later seen down at the stern and listing to port. (D.O.R. 1341 - no signal in W.D.)
- Malta Air Report. A.I.555 (Section 1, T.O.O.191930Z, N.T. in W.D. and apparently not received in W.R. as no trace up to 1100/22/4) Section 2 A.I. 555. T.O.O.191930Z. C.S.R. Malta. The other bomb carrying Wellington later observed

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air
Report
(Contd.)

a swirl in sea as if M/V had sunk. Aircraft then bombed the D/R with unobserved results. Accurate A/A was encountered from D/R and night fighters were seen. 2 Wellingtons are missing. 1 Special Albacore with bombs, 1 bomb carrying and 3 Torpedo Albacores also searched for enemy shipping in Sicilian Narrows but made no significant sighting. To cover these shipping strikes Mosquitoes made intruder patrol over Pantelleria Trapani and Palermo. 1 of them at 1956 hours strafed 1 of 8 M/Vs and escort vessels 246° Marittimo 48 miles. Day 19th April. 2 Spitfire bombers attacked Lampedusa Harbour, results unobserved owing to low cloud. Another 2 spitfires with long range tanks made offensive sweep between Cape Passero and Cape Spartivento. 4 Spitfires made successful sweeps in Pantelleria Area. At 0530 hours 2 M/Vs were sighted 15 miles West of Pantelleria course S.E. escorted by two JU.88s. Spitfires attacked the JU.88s and destroyed both of them. At 0534 hours 20 PRUs JU.52s were intercepted 15 miles N. of Pantelleria flying S.W. at deck level and 2 JU.52s were destroyed. (A.H.Q. Malta, 191959Z)

Section 3 our A.I.555. 11 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires attacked power station at Cassibile, Sicily, scoring direct hits on workshops and many hits in target area causing large column of dark grey smoke. Part 2, enemy air activity. Night 18/19th April. 1 Beafighter made interception patrol in the Cape Passero area but sighted no enemy aircraft. (A.H.Q.Malta, 192016Z)

Movements,
Oran.

Today's arrivals U.S. L.C.T.s 586, 570 British L.C.T's 616, 361, 560, 7, 537, 553, 555, 603, 557, 572, 850, 621, 619, 620, 622, 9, 619, 615, 583 Continent. Today's departures U.S. A.R.B's 39 and 40, French ANTIFER. (Comnob, Oran, 191941A to Admty etc.)

M.T.B's
M.L.
7th Flotilla.

(B) M.T.B. portion will then proceed inshore route to Bone, expected time of arrival 0930 and other sweeps to Ras Fortas returning to Sousse, E.T.A. 0830. (C) M.L.168 sails 1600 April 20th with M.T.B. Maintenance Party north of Linosa for Sousse, E.T.A. 0830. (D) Codewords M.T.B. 656 "Future", B.C.S. 7th Flotilla "Merit", B.C.U.. M.L.168 "Bosom" B.O.Z. Fighter protection low priority. (E) M.T.Bs keeping M. routine and M.Ls keeping M D routine. (N.O.I.C.Malta, 191954B to Admty)
W.R. Note: Above constitutes parts 2 and 3 of Malta's 191954. Request has been made for Part I.

Movements,
Bougie.

Codeword "Rochfield" EMPIRE GAWAIN and L.S.T. 320 and M.L.336 arrived. (N.O.I.C.Bougie, 191955A to N.O.I.C.Algiers, (R) Admty etc.)

Movements / ...

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War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Movements, Arrivals QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, BICESTER, OAKLEY, WILTON, BADSWORTH, ADRIAS, S/MS UNRULY (P.49) ULTOR (P.53)
Algiers. Departures PENELOPE, ASHANTI, ADRIAS, BLYSKAWICA, RHYL, POLRUAN, CLACTON, L.S.T.320. S/M
UNBENDING (P.37) M.L.336, M.M.S. 20 and 68 L.C.I.(L)'s 97 and 243.
(Cdre. Algiers, 192007A to Admty etc.)

Situation Sousse raided 17th April, no damage. Minesweep-
report ing in Approaches in progress. (2) My 152101
No.24. Para. 2 Operation on Gharbi Island completed.
Force withdrawn and gendarmes left in charge.
(3) Alexandria convoy of ten storeships, two tankers for Tripoli (L) and two storeships and a tanker for Malta sailed 17th April. (4) My 12/2006 Para.4
Convoy arrived 16th April no incidents. (5) DULVERTON, EXMOOR and JERVIS hunting U-Boat North of Ras El Tin.
(C. in C. Levant, 192011, 201705C to Admty.)

Movements, Bone departure QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, BADSWORTH, WILTON. Arrival EMPIRE FRED.
Bone. (F.O.I.S. 192107A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

V.A. Malta. Personal for 1st S.L. V.A. Malta is visiting me at Algiers on 22nd, returning to Malta on 23rd. C.S.15 is looking out for him during his absence.
(C. in C. Med. 192206A to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta)

Movements, Arrived GLOXINIA, FALK, KLO, PRIMULA, JAVELIN, Tripoli. L.C.T.100 and 153.
(N.O.I.C.Libya, 192216A to Admty)

Situation (1) During night 16/17th April M.T.Bs from
Report Malta operated between Hammamet and Kelibia.
No.81. M.T.B's 654 and 656 on sweep from Bone attacked
convoy of two merchant vessels and four
destroyers between Zembra and Zembretta and hit
a 4,000 ton ship which burst into flames. Escort
opened fire on M.T.B's but caused only superficial damage.
Aircraft of 826 Squadron attacked convoy in same position
shortly afterwards and estimated a hit on one merchant vessel
which appeared to stop. (2) During night 18/19th April
M.G.B's from Bone operated in Bizerta Area and M.T.B.s carried
out sweep in Gulf of Tunis. M.T.B.s from Malta were in Sicilian
Channel. (3) Algiers Harbour was raided by about 12 aircraft
on 17th April and 18 on 18th April at about 2000 each night.
No naval damage on first night, TORBAY slightly damaged on 18th
April from near miss. An unconfirmed total of four certain
and one probable claimed shot down by fighters and three by A/A
fire.
(C. in C. Med. 192245 to Admty.)

Air / ...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)X
Air R/C,
Spezia,
Genoa.G/379 19 April 540 Sqdn. P.R.Sortie D/445 1240
B.19 April shows:-

Spezia since 14 April. 1 GUEPARD Class Contretorpilleur, 1 ELAN Class Escort Vessel, 1 T/B 240 ft., 1 Escort Vessel 210 ft, 1 munition Carrier and 2 U-Boats 220 ft arrived, while 1 U-Boat 120 ft departed. Naval units present comprise 3 LITTORIO Class Battleships, Cruisers GORIZIA, BOLZANO, TARANTO and one REGOLO Class, one GUEPARD and two TIGRE Class Contretorpilleurs, eight destroyers 350ft, two destroyers 315 ft, seven torpedo boats 265/295 ft. one ELAN Class escort vessel three torpedo boats 240 ft. and two escort vessels 210 ft. The LITTORIO Class Battleship seen handled by tugs in Spezia Bay on 14 April now anchored unprotected by booms in outer harbour with stern to eastern breakwater, while other two battleships remain as on that date but both booms now closed. 8" cruiser GORIZIA moved to west wall of basin No.2 and at least two turrets of secondary armament on port side appear to have been removed. Genoa. Naval Units present comprise two CONDOTTIERI Class cruisers, type C and D, one destroyer 340 ft. one destroyer DARDO class damaged, two T/Bs ORSA type, three T/Bs 270 ft. one T/B 240 ft. In dry dock REGOLO class cruiser hull, six escort vessels 210 ft. six M.A.S. three munition carriers, vehicle transport 270 ft. and converted liners ROMA and AUGUSTUS, showing arrival since 20 March of one destroyer 340 ft. in dry dock, four escort vessels 210 ft. two T/Bs 270 ft. launched from Ansaldo shipyard and two M.A.S., while two U-boats 200/220 ft. departed. (P.R. Benson, 192245 B to Admty. etc).

WOLBOROUGH

Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 192301C to Admty).Movements,
Oran.

Your 190200, this is a repetition of my 171320 (begins) Addressed C. in C. Med., (R) Com. Algiers F.O.C. Gib. Capt. S.8. from Commob Oran. Propose sailing French ships as follows.

1. ANTIOPE to Algiers at 191500 escorted by two M.Ls.
2. MARIE LOUISE LEBORGNE to Gibraltar at 201900 escorted by LA SETOISE and CHASSEUR III.
(Commob, Oran, 192357A to Admty).

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy
B.M.50.

Departure TAMWORTH with B.M.50.
(S.O.I. Bombay, 190231Z, to Admty. etc.)
B.M.50. JALARATNA sailed 190230Z escorted by TAM-
WORTH S.A 9 knots E.T.A. Colombo 230730Z. (Route)
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 190241Z, to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival BENGAL p.m. 18th.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 190411Z to Admty.)
TULIP. Shahzada E.T.A. Colombo 0830 G.M.T. 24th.
2. NETRAVATI escorting TIRADENTES E.T.A. Madras
0330 G.M.T. 23rd.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 190629Z to Admty.)
Departure MAALOY.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 190715Z to Admty.)
Arrivals VICTORIA MARIE, and NULCHIRA.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 191240Z to Admty.)
Arrived EREBUS, CANTON left SARKA, INTEGRITY.
(F.O.E.Af. 191341Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 19th 0700Z. HINDUSTAN. Departures.
0400Z. SCOUT, 0830Z. INVESTIGATOR, 1000Z. ST.ANTHONY.
(F.O. Ceylon, 191434Z to Admty.)

X
Raider
situation
No. 30.

If Raider 'H' proceeded Japan for refit after sink-
ing or capturing EUGENIE LIVANDS on 7th Dec. 1942,
she could by now be ready for sea and may proceed
to Indian Ocean. 2. PORTLAND outbound sunk
13th in North Atlantic, ALSTERUFER and OSORNO
could by now be entering Indian Ocean.
(C. in C. E.F. 191239Z to E.F. 253Y, F.L.O.
Delhi.)

728

19.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

U/B attacked. My 181300 (U.S.S. TAMPA attacked sound contact) Corrected position 43° 26' N., 60° 39' W. Life buoy with red flag anchored on (?spot) in 43 fathoms. Oil Slick same position. (C. in C. C.N.A., 190110Z 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.)

Convoy F.H.49 F.H.49 E.T.A. Halifax 1300Z/19 5 ships only. Pendant 23 failed to join. F.V.11 returned owing to Port engine trouble. (KENTVILLE, 190120Z to C. in C. C.N.A.)

BRANTFORD E.T.A. 1130Z/19. Boiler hours. (BRANTFORD, 190230Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) Capt. (D) Halifax).

Movements. 18th April St. Johns N.F. Arrivals CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE, TRENT, ST. ALBANS, BRANDON, COLLINGWOOD, BUSTLER, LYNCEX ex O.N. 177, REPINA SUDBURY, KAMLOOPS, SHAWINIGAN, TRANSCONA ex H.X.234. Departures VIMY to H.X.234, DIGBY to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 190315Z to Admty).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CILICIA	2½° S. 31° W.	188°	14
1800 G.M.T.	CARNARVON	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
19th.	CASTLE			
	CHESHIRE with)			
	Floating	} 21½° S. 40° W.	044°	4
	dock			
	(D.O.D. (F) 191046Z to Opanav (R) Connaveu).			

"S" Report. Following from Resolution Island (Begins) 0123 G.M.T. "SSS 511" No further particulars 0129 G.M.T. continuous signal heard strength three bearing 125 approx. Strength of same signal at Belle Isle two no bearing and at Cape Hope advance strength very weak bearing 95 approx. and uncorrected signal still heard at 1230 G.M.T. no T.O.O. (ends) Connav C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F. informed. (N.S.H.Q., 191138Z to Admty).

U/B? ARRAS sighted suspicious object presumed to be S/M eight miles 182° from Sambro Island. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 191154Z to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F.24, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.T.G. 24.7. A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C.)

/U/B...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- U/B My 182030Z(A/C sighted S/M) this is now thought to be a whale. My 182051Z and 182343 (N.T. in W.D.) refers.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 191252Z to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F. 24, Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. St. John N.B., N.O.I.C. Shelburne, F.O.N.F., A.C.I.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)
- S.C.127 My 181347Z para. 1 delete NAPANEE. NAPANEE delayed by defects will sail 0330Z. 21st to overtake.
(F.O.N.F., 191312Z to C.T.U. 24.18.11(R)
C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, Comtask 24, C.T.G.24.7., Cdre. Londonderry, Admty. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11).
- B.X.44 Arrived between 182320Z and 190425Z.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 191340 to Admty).
- TENACITY Following for C.C.R.T. TENACITY sailed St. Johns for U.K. 0856/19th.
(F.O.N.F., 191401Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- Movements Summary of H.M. Ships. It is intended in future to confine Admiralty daily 1800 G.M.T. movements summary to the following.
(a) Northbound and Southbound H.M. Ships and Convoys which are routed or diverted to the westward of 26° W. and of which you would not otherwise have been informed.
(b) Westbound H.M. ships on the day they cross 26° W.
2. It is believed that on all other movements you are already fully informed and that this change will prevent unnecessary duplication.
(D.O.D. (F), 191420Z to Opanav (R) Comnav).
- ANDES Supplement to my 180550Z Fighter protection code work is "Material" with 3 letters associated B U H.
(Port Director New York, 191430Z to Cominch C. and R. Admty. etc).
- B.Y.M.S. Compliance with C. in C. U.S. Fleet's 140020 about 1200Q April 20 proceeding in company Miami via Macri convoy route. Report Cdr. Gulf S.F. onward routing Guantanamo. Guard 4410 k/cs using 3000 (?in the event) of action. B.Y.M.S.44 SOP (?and). (corrupt Group) to B.Y.M.S.43, 44, 45, 46 for action. Latest Q.J.D. message held 122.
(Cdt. 6th U.S.N.D. Charleston, 191455Z to C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C.E.S.F., Cdr. Gulf S.F., C.C.S.F., Admty. U.S.N.O.B. Guantanamo, U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad, Com. 4th Fleet, F.O.C.W.A.)

/Sub...

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Submarine estimate 19th April. U.S. Submarine Notice. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 191527Z, 191528Z, 191555Z, 191556Z, 191557Z, 192021Z, 192225Z),

G.S./S.G. convoys details. Request details as to G.S. and S.G. convoys may be passed to Admty. in form of convoy sailing Telegrams, part 1. (D.T.D., 191541B to Connav (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.W.A.)

Escort Oilers, Spare Depth Charges. Your 152157 concur. Shall appreciate early information as to how Rainey's appointment and duties are to be fitted into the organisation in New York. Desirable for direct communication to be authorised between Admiralty and B.R.L.O. on subjects mentioned in para. 3 of A.M. 091230B. 2. My 191225B para. 3. It would be convenient if B.R.L.O. New York can be empowered to carry this out. Para. 4 and 5 can you obtain concurrence for Port Director, New York to adopt the procedure asked for. (D.T.D., 191543B to B.A.D., (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)
Your 181542. Concur and in view of L. Com. Gilmour's qualification shall be grateful for his appointment. 2. Request you will consider expanding this into a full time appointment if as is thought probable a need arises for tanker crews to receive occasional instruction in oiling-at-sea methods before sailing in convoy. (D.T.D., 192242B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. N.W.C.A., B.A.I. C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy F.H.49. Arrived F.H.49 less STAD ARNHEM, put back for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 191547Z to Admty).

U/B attacked by A/C. S/M attacked by aircraft in 050° 35' N., 041° 42' at 1448Z/19. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 191605Z to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F. 24 Connav, Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C)

Oil Ships for Abadan. My 2215/29th September 1942. HOEGH SILVERDAWN expected to sail New York 22nd April, similar routes. (B.A.D., 191609Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc).

G.A.T.56 Convoy G.A.T.56 arrived minus JUANITA (Hol). straggled a.m./17. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 191621Q to Admty).

War Diary.19.4.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.Atlantic
Convoys,
"Chop"
positions.

Your 162059B, N.S.H.Q.'s 061802Z and 121619Z, Admiralty's 091205, and Cominch C. and R. 101555. Consider it necessary for satisfactory meeting procedure and to avoid convoys in adjacent waters being under control of different authorities that "Chop" should always be timed approx. 24 hours after Westomp in H.X. and S.O. Convoys and approx. 24 hours before Westomp in O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. It is acknowledged that occasions may arise when Admty. desires (over riding ?) authority for diversions west of "Chop", in which case this is to be done through C. in C. C.N.A. who should have power to modify if necessary due to local situation. Propose therefore para. (A) of your 162051B read as follows (A) "Chop" for H.X. and S.C. convoys is approx. 24 hours after time and date of Westomp and will be promulgated by authority who sails in Ocean Escort. Concur in para. (B) (C) and (D). (N.S.H.Q., 191657Z to Admty. (R) Connav, C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., C.T.F.24).

BLACKWOOD,
DRURY.

Sail BLACKWOOD when ready about 24th Boston to New York. Sail DRURY when ready about 22nd Philadelphia to Cape May for final trials thence about 24th onward to New York. When both vessels ready at New York about 25th sail to Bermuda in company for working up. Advise times of departure, route, S. of A. (Cominch, 191743Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Cdr. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, Cdr. 3rd U.S.N.D. New York. Cdr. 4th U.S. N.D. Philadelphia. Cinclant, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda Admty. S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Oiling at
Sea, gear.

My 1704A/31st March para. 2. (Removal of gear from SCOTTISH MUSICIAN, name of vessel to which gear will be embarked.) Can name of vessel yet be signalled. (D.T.D., 191835B to B.R.L.O. New York (R) D.D. of S. New York).

X
"Torch"
Tankers, U.S.
Escorts,
Entry into
Mediterranean.

Proposal para. 1, your 142220, acceptable, but do not understand necessity for two days to unload planes in view of fact that they are loaded in eight hours per ship. One day for gas freeing also not understood because aircraft should be discharged before oil cargo and by agreement gas freeing not necessary and not done on W.S.A. tankers. Please investigate possibility of reducing time required for unloading aircraft and of eliminating gas freeing. Satisfactory for U.S. Escorts of O.T. convoys to enter Mediterranean where it is assumed adequate Air Coverage will be provided. Sailing interval from Aruba will be opened amount equal to increased time in African waters. If you desire above can be made effective with O.T.4. Advise. (Cominch, 191920Z to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. Cinclant). Reply - C. in C. Med., 212123A to Cominch (See Mediterranean).

/BUSTLER...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

BUSTLER Following for C.C.R.T. BUSTLER arrived St. Johns (N.F.) 181459. (F.O.N.F., 191928Z to Admty).

U.G.S.7 Following is a repetition of N.O.B. Bermuda's
U.G.L.3. 191601 (begins) Cinclant, Cominch, Info. Admty. etc. Convoy U.G.S.7 and U.G.L.3 composed as in P.D. New York 2050/14 less L.S.T. 410 plus British L.S.T. 368 and U.S. L.S.T., 374 also plus SS. GULF DAWN and SS. EDWARD RUTLEDGE escorted by T.F.64 as composed in Cinclant 150315 plus P.C.617 and 618, departing Bermuda for Gibraltar and North African Ports about 1900Z/20. (Route). S. of A. 8.5 E.T.A. "Chop" 47 West 0400Z/25. E.T.A. "Chop" 10 West 1300Z/4. E.T.A. Point (T) 0200Z/5. E.T.A. Gibraltar examination vessel 2200Z/5. Originator C.T.F.64 in LIVERMORE. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 191938 to Admty. V.A. Gib. N.S.H.Q., F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. Med).

New Construction sailing My 071352. Weekly changes as follows. dates. (1) Amended sailing dates. B.Y.M.S.43, 40. 4th week April, ADVANTAGE A.T.R.41 2nd week May. CHASER A.C.V.10, 3rd week May. B.Y.M.S.37, 68, Y.M.S.187 209, 3rd week May. ASPIRANT A.T.R.42 4th week May. STRIKER A.C.V.19, 3rd week June. RAVAGER A.C.Y. 24 3rd week June. All destinations remain unaltered. (11) Additions. B.D.E.2 returning Boston 17th April. 2. Destination of 20th M.T.B. Flotilla now Mediterranean. (B.A.M.R., 192008Z to Admty).

Salops 16. On April 17th 22 U.S. bombers attacked Kahili aerodrome and started many fires near dumps and revetment areas. 5 hits also claimed on 10,000 tons merchant ship last seen with decks awash. 4 other merchant ships attacked and hit claimed on 1. (B.A.D., 192049Z to Admty. C.O.I.S. E.F. (R) F.L.O. Delhi, Concentric, Colombo, Capt. on Staff, Kilindini).

Sub. attack All times Z. Para. A. Plane attacks sub. and sighting 60.55 N., 22.14 W. 190546. summary. R.A.F. plane sights sub. course 10062 (as received) - 40 N., 21.18 W., 181120. Sub. on surface chased by WHITEHALL 61.00 N., 22.04 W., 182340. Para. B. Aircraft attack sub. 50.35 N., 41.42 W. 191448. Para. C. Army plane has made contact 26.42 N., 79.17 W. 190840. U.S.S. TERRY attacks Radar contact 39.01 N., 66.59 W., 190213. Army planes have made contacts 26.17 N., 79.18 W., 190140 and 26.28 N., 79.28 W., 190353. Para. D. Sub. sighted 18.27 N., 69.18 W., 190110. Aircraft sight sub. 49.51 N., 47.52 W., 181936. Plane Radar contact 13.35 N., 63.52 W., 181713. ARRAS sights suspicious object area 44.18 N., 63.34 W., 191100. Sound contact attacked 19.47 N., 75.18 W., 172220. (Cominch, 192055Z to Admty).

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

WEAZEL Sail H.M.R.T. WEAZEL Port Arthur to New Orleans when ready about April 21st for ranging, deperming, final stores and spares. Route onward to Freetown when ready about April 30th?. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. from each port. Vessel has endurance to reach Freetown from New Orleans. Economical speed is 12 knots. B.A.D. advises no objection to vessel towing barges between Port Arthur, New Orleans, Guantanamo provided no delay involved.
(Cominch, 192202Z to C.G.S.F., (R) C.C.S.F., C. in C. Lant, C. in C. E.F., S.B.N.O.W.At., Admty. F.O.C.W.A.F., Com. (8) N.O.B. Key West, N.O.B. Guantanamo, N.O.B. Trinidad, Com. 4th Fleet).

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements 18th Honolulu U.S.A.T. COLORADO.
(R.O. Pearl 190136 to Admty).
Departure Guadalcanal 0300Z/17 U.S.S. LIBRA and U.S.S. TAYLOR for Wellington, E.T.A.
2000Z/23, departure Auckland 2106Z/18 U.S.S. TAGANAK for Lyttelton E.T.A. 0500Z/21.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 190239Z to Admty).
Arrivals Milne Bay 17th WAGGA. Thursday Island 18th LATROBE, WARREGO. Cairns 18th ECHUCA. Townsville 17th BUNBURY Sydney 17th BALLARAT, COLAC. Geraldton 18th U.S. HERON.
Departures Milne Bay 17th WAGGA for Cairns, 18th WHYALLA for Survey Ground. Port Moresby 18th BOWEN, Milne Bay. Cairns 16th SS. TUJSA for Thursday Island. Townsville 18th ARUNTA, WARRAMUNGA both for Brisbane, GYMPIE for Port Moresby PIRIE for Melbourne, Brisbane 18th U.S. PHOENIX for Tona Islands, U.S. RALPH TALBOT for Palm Island area. Sydney 17th HOBART for Palm Island area.
(A.C.N.B., 192051 to Admty. etc).

Digest Serial No. 453 April 18th. ✓ Forenoon search Liberator sighted 3 ship convoy including a destroyer, 1 merchant vessel, 1 unidentified, approaching Kavieng from North. Also 2 Cargo ships and 3,000 and 10,000 tons respectively in Harbour. Larger vessel unsuccessfully bombed. 2 Zeros intercepted preventing further observation, but photos show 4 medium bombers 22 Fighters on Drome, 2 Floatplanes in Harbour.
(5) Enemy R/C aircraft over Milne Bay during morning.
(7) Forenoon photos show 6 Fighters and 1 damaged light bomber on Koepang Aerodrome also a 6,000 ton Merchantman stationary in Seamaoe Strait. Nil shipping sighted Koepang Bay.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 190940).

/GEORGE ...

War Diary.

19.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

GEORGE M.
EMBIRICOS.

My 0911z/9th (re attempts to refloat GEORGE M. EMBRICOS, unsuccessful, sunk, 3 March after collision) Vessel has now been refloated. (A.C.N.B., 191241Z to Admty).

Salops 16.

B.A.D. 192049Z. See America & West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 191401B, 191421B).

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.Support
Groups.

X 1. C. in C. W.A. sends today an outline of his intentions for the operation of the 6 supporting groups in the North Atlantic in the immediate future, subject to circumstances and the situation. A Canadian support group of 4 corvettes, strengthened by two frigates lent by the Canadians, is expected to become operational by mid-May. Its operation will be co-ordinated with those of the other support groups.

2. BOREAS is returning from escorting Convoy O.N. 179, with defects.

3. U.S. JAMES FENIMORE COOPER and LENA LUCKEN-BACH in convoy H.X.233 were in collision at 200500Z in 55.10 N. 09.40 W. (about 85 miles N.W. of Malin Head). The former was able to proceed, but the latter was abandoned at 0951Z tugs were sent and she was towed to the Clyde, arriving 230028B.

Coastal
force
operations.

X 4. M.T.Bs 34, 32 and 70 on patrol off Scheveningen last night attacked a convoy at 0239 and again at 0400 and torpedoed one or two ships. The M.T.Bs suffered neither damage nor casualties. M.T.B.624 and M.G.B.609 made 3 attacks last night on an enemy patrol of 4 vessels off the Frisian Is., one of the enemy vessels was subsequently reported to be lagging behind.

X 5. 12 aircraft of Bomber Command attacked Cherbourg today.

Operation
Q.U.8B.

X 6. C. in C. Nore, reports that this minelaying operation was carried out successfully.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA.

7. MALAYA sailed from Gibraltar this evening for Scapa, escorted by WISHART, ANTELOPE and VELOX.

/MATILDE ...

20.4.1943.
Tuesday. 755

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

MATILDE

8. It was reported yesterday that 2 submarines of unknown nationality were seen at 182000 alongside the schooner MATILDE, 3 miles from Almeria. The submarines departed, one bound west and the other southeast. MATILDE was bound from Malaga to Almeria with petrol and oil. MATILDE was intercepted and COWSLIP reported at 202340B that the schooner with a boarding party on board was being towed to Gibraltar by EMPIRE WOLFE. MATILDE was searched and the crew interrogated, at Gibraltar, but no evidence was discovered to establish unneutral conduct, and the ship was released.

At 202130B COWSLIP attacked a contact in 36.37 N. 02.24 $\frac{1}{2}$ W. and saw a quantity of oil with dark patches. Darkness prevented closer observation and no contact was gained after the last attack.

South Atlantic.

X 9. An aircraft en route to Ascension reports a freighter with a submarine on the surface steering 150° in 06.05 S. 23.32 W. at 0800 today.

10. A Brazilian shore station today intercepted a distress message from the U.S. tanker VIRGINIA who reported being followed by a suspicious merchant vessel in 18.37 S. 38.42 W. The U.S. authorities state that the suspicious vessel was probably the U.S. LEJEUNE, ex-German WINDHUK.

"Torch" Area.

X 11. A message from C. in C. Allied Forces today gives a brief report of experience gained in North Africa, of the working of captured and occupied ports.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Convoy
U.G.S.7
attacked,
2 ships
sunk.

12. FANTOME reports that convoy U.G.S.7 was attacked by U-boats in 35.59 N., 01.25 W. (40 miles west of Oran) at 0747 in fog and U.S. MICHIGAN and French SS. SIDI-BEL-ABBES were torpedoed. FANTOME at 200852 reported that the latter was salvable, but she was later reported to have sunk. She was carrying French troops from Casablanca to Oran: about 600 survivors were rescued from the two ships. FELIXSTOWE, FOXTROT and STELLA CARINA have over 500 American, French and Senegalese survivors, of which a large number are cot cases

13. Destroyers of Force K and light coastal forces from Bone, operating last night in the Sicilian Channel encountered 3 E-boats near Cape Guardia (north of Bizerta) and badly damaged one and set it on fire, and hit the others. Enemy night fighters attacked our forces but caused no damage, though they appeared to score hits on their own E-boats. Our forces suffered no casualties and only superficial damage.

14. UNRIVALLED returning to Malta from patrol off Sicily reports having sunk a 1500 ton east-bound merchant ship and a 5000 ton westbound tanker.

15. A message from F.O.(S) today gives details of the anticipated submarine reinforcements for the Mediterranean in the near future.

16. Convoy F.A.6, three troopships and a tanker, left Tripoli, Libya today for Alexandria with 3,500 enemy prisoners of war.

17. Sousse was reported clear of mines by the 14th M.S. Flotilla today. M.T.Bs. are now operating from the port through a gap of 115 feet in the entrance.

18. The H.Q. of C.C.F. have been transferred to Algiers.

19. 12 Spitfire bombers from Malta with close escort and high cover of fighter Spitfires bombed Empedocle harbour today.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

X 20. D/F at 201632Z indicates a German U-boat within 60 miles of 32.01 S. 38.02 E. newly arrived in the Indian Ocean and likely to be eastbound.

America & West Indies.

21. SASKATOON and PORT ARTHUR (the latter on detaching from convoy) were ordered at 0211Z to proceed to assist KENORA who was attacking an asdic contact in 44.06 N., 63.57 W. at 0059.

L.C.I.(L)

22. A message from B.A.M.R. Washington today gives the proposed dates of sailing of the last 3 flights of L.C.I.(L) from the U.S. (one for the Mediterranean and two for the U.K.), to complete the total of 150 L.C.I.(L).

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

X S/Ms for
Mediterranean.

Following is present anticipated reinforcements for Mediterranean in near future.

Submarine	Approx. date of leaving U.K.	Flotilla provisionally allocated.
P.225 (SIMOON)	28th April	8th
P.55 (UNSPARING)	28th April	10th
P.57	18th May	10th
P.316	20th May	1st
P.56 (USURPER)	20th May	10th

My 011919 March should be amended accordingly. (F.O.S., 201628B to Admty).

BATTLER

It is under consideration to place BATTLER under the orders of C. in C. W.A. for convoy protection until she is required by you. Request your remarks. A.M. 161028 of March, para. 2 refers. (D.O.D. H., 201816B to C. in C. H.F.)

A/S Training Centre.

My 100016B/4. After discussion with A.O.C. Egglinton would be preferable to Ballykelly as the Training Centre. Request I may be informed that it can be allocated for this purpose, and the earliest date on which it can be commissioned (C. in C. W.A., 201912B to Admty.)

Movements.

MALAYA

Sailed 0700 PIORUN, MATCHLESS, METEOR. (C. in C. Plymouth, 200907B).

S/M Movements.

My 191823 para. (E) and my 192214. H.43 escorted by KIHNA leaves Loch Eriboll at 1100/20th due to pass through Pentland Firth about 1900/20, thence to Blyth, speed 5 knots. (F.O.S., 201021B).

Intend sailing SATYR and USURPER escorted by KINGSTON BERYL from Holy Loch 1000B/21 by standard route to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1100B/23.

(Capt. S.3., 201137B and 201611B).

Intend sailing LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting SYRDIS 1200B/21 April to Clyde, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0730B/22.

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 201330B).

Request you sail 0.10 for Lerwick on 30th April.

(F.O.S., 201436B to Capt. S.7).

Your 192235. P.316 and P.65 are allocated for 14 days A/S training in W.A. Command from 29th April. Admiralty 13123 refers.

(2) P.66 and ULTIMATUM are to be sailed for A/S training at Scapa on 30th April. ULTIMATUM is to be employed on C.O. qualified course training.

(F.O.S., 201437B to Capt. S.3.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M TRUCULENT is to leave Holy Loch 30th April for
 Movements. Lerwick and patrol.
 (contd). (F.O.S., 201439B).
 TAKU exercising off Plymouth in area D between
 1000/21 and 1330/21.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 201539B).

Request you sail SIMOON and UNSPARING for Mediterranean
 about 28th April.

(F.O.S., 201621B to Capt. S.3).

Positions of submarines at 0800B/21 and movements for
 the following 24 hours.

- (A) STURGEON 46° 52' N., 06° 01' W., dived by day through
 49° 02' N., 05° 59' W, daily advance 108 miles.
- (B) SERAPH escorted by ACANTHUS due 000° Round Island 7 miles
 at 0900/21 from Northeastward thence dived by day unescorted
 through 49° 00' N., 06° 30' W. thence to southward.
- (C) H.32 with C.W.172 for Portsmouth.
- (D) SEVERN, and TUNA escorted by HAYLING 55° 50' N., 06° 59' W.
 E.T.A. Holy Loch 2000/21.
- (E) H.43 escorted by KIHNA vicinity Kinnaird Head, speed 5
 knots for Blyth.
- (F) UNIVERSAL patrolling vicinity 63° 55' N., 02° 55' W.
- (G) STUBBORN approx. 68° 26' N., 03° 33' W. probably on surface
 through 67° 01' N., 03° 00' W. and 64° 55' N., 02° 02' E.
- (H) BARB, and BLACKFISH in zones K. 193 and K. 194 respectively.
 (F.O.S., 201642B).

My 201642 add new paragraphs

(J) SYRTIS escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE leaves Liverpool 1200B/21,
 E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0730B/22.

(K) SATYR and USURPER escorted by KINGSTON BERYL sail from
 Holy Loch 1000B/21 by standard route, E.T.A. Lerwick 1100B/23rd
 10 knots.

(F.O.S., 201714B and 201736B).

Sheerness departure H.32 with C.W.172.

(C. in C. Nore, 201724B).

My 201642 para. (B) for "000° Round Island 7 at 0900B/21
 from Northeastward" read "180° Bishop Rock 10 at 1000B/21."
 Add new para. (L) TAKU exercising in area D off Plymouth 1000/
 21st to 1330/21st.

(F.O.S., 202254B).

Ships for West Africa. Anticipate ships allocated to F.O.C.W.A.F. will
 be ready to sail as follows:-

BULLDOG April 28th. BOADICEA May 6th.

AMAZON May 31st. DOUGLAS Unknown, as ship will
 not dock till BULLDOG comes out.

(2) These dates are only approximate and are calculated to
 allow a short work up where necessary before sailing.

(C. in C. W.A., 201126B to Admty)

Landing Craft A.M. 192006/March.

- (Flight D) 1. The following tugs have been detailed to
 for Gibraltar. accompany Flight D and have been ordered to
 EMPIRE ANN, assemble at Plymouth by 23rd April.
 EMPIRE SPIT- EMPIRE ANN destination Malta. EMPIRE SPITFIRE
 FIRE. to await further instructions at Gibraltar.
- 2. Tugs have an endurance of 2200 miles and
 do not carry W.T.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Landing Craft (Flight D), for Gibraltar EMPIRE ANN, EMPIRE SPIT-FIRE. (contd).
3. They are manned by runner-crews who are entitled to repatriation on completion of voyages.
4. If onward passage of EMPIRE ANN is delayed, crew should return to U.K. from Gibraltar being replaced from Naval sources. (D.O.D. H., 201343B).

Russian S/M S.54. Your 191536. ^{A 703} Admiral Kharlamoff visited Northways 19th April and requested not more than 2 days working up in Clyde area. This is being arranged with Capt. (S) 3. (F.O.S., 201433B to Capt. S.5).

DIDO My 191821. Cancel para. 2.
2. From position E pass through new position L. 51° N., 13° W. new M. 55° 20' N., 11° 30' W. N. 55° 30' N., 08° 30' W, thence to Liverpool. (D.O.D. H., 201738B to DIDO)

ORKAN Arrived O.R.P. ORKAN.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 202011B).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 191241B. "Device" returned. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 200749B).
1. Intend M.L. 269 (S.O. and M.L. 205 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S.382 and leaving Patrol line at dawn/21st.
3. Object Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland 201112B and 201423B).
M.G.B. 614, 615 short notice at Newhaven.
3 M.Ls. from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles southward of convoy route between 0° 45' E., and 0° 10' W. covering C.W.172. On patrol by 0200 and leave patrol 0630. Codeword "Advent".
M.L. 309, 346, patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.
5. GLAISDALE, Chasseur 13 at St. Helens. BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.
6. M.L. 205, 269 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201310B).
1. M.T.Bs.94, 98, 227 and 239 are to patrol between 49° N., 3° 38' W. and 49° N., 3° 20' W.
2. Object to intercept enemy shipping.
3. Execution: Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2100B/20. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 21st. Route to and from patrol through 49° 53' N., 3° 15' W.
4. Enemy E-boats may operate from Brittany, Guernsey or Cherbourg.
6. Codeword "Obstacle".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 201319B).

/Departure...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (contd.)

Departure of H.S.L. 185 and 2551 for PYB patrol Z.7 - Z.9. Boats keep close-search procedure. If ordered to the eastward H.S.L. 185 will take M.H.B.3 call sign and H.S.L. 2551 will take M.H.B.4 and carry out deep-search procedure. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 201417B).

M.Ls. 138 and 137 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 240, 24, 35 and M.G.Bs. 114 and 116 at Vergoyer Shoal route via Number ten buoy each way. E.T.D. 2130, E.T.R. 0630/21.

M.G.Bs. 43 and 40 at V buoy E.T.D. 2115, E.T.A. 0615/21.

(V.A. Dover, 201742B).

My 201112B. "Device" sailed 2100.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 202105B).

TUNA Patrol. One U-boat sunk on 7th April.

TUNA reports on return from patrol
(1) 2200B/6 April in 68° 03' N., 02° 48' W. challenged by U-boat making FFF on Aldis. Could not develop attack.

(2) 2105B/7 April in 69° 28' N., 05° 40' W. torpedoed and sank 750 ton U-boat steering 280° at 11 knots and painted khaki green.

(3) 0714B/8 April in 69° 46' N., 05° 51' W.

observed U-boat to surface and dive again.

(4) 0935B/8 April in 69° 49' N., 05° 56' W. sighted periscope.

(5) 0705B/14 April in 70° 25' N., 06° 50' W. fired torpedoes at U-boat at 5,000 yards range. U-boat combed tracks and torpedoes missed.

(6) U-boats were disposed on a line of bearing 150° from Beerenberg, 25 to 30 miles apart.

(7) Limit of ice as in M.O.M. 392A.

(F.O.S. 200921B 201029B, 201059B to Admty).

Coastal Force Engagements. One M/V hit by Torpedo from M.T.B. 34.

Following is preliminary report of C/F activity night 19 - 20th.

(1) M.T.B. 34, 32 and 70 on patrol off Scheveningen reports convoy route navigation lights were switched on at 0140. At 0208 two Auxiliary vessels were sighted which joined up with a small convoy making 8 ships in all in line ahead in order of - trawler - 1000 ton M/V - 500 ton M/V - trawler - two 250 ton M/Vs - 1000 ton M/V - trawler.

M.T.Bs. gained bearing at maximum speed on Auxiliaries (6.5 kts) but at 0235 moon disclosed M.T.Bs. to convoy and star shell was fired.

M.T.B. 34 attacked and at 0239 fired two torpedoes at 2nd ship of line from 800 yards. Hit was observed on this M/V. M.T.Bs. disengaged on mains and closed for second attack but came under heavy fire and disengaged.

At 0400 a third attack was carried out, M.T.B. 70 firing one torpedo at last but one ship of line, hit considered probable. Only 6 ships were seen in the convoy during this attack. No damage or casualties.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Engagements. One M/V hit by torpedo from M.T.B. 34 (contd).

(2) Operation Q.U. 8 B. carried out successfully When in position for lay 17th M.G.Bs. reported shapes inshore. Unit proceeded to investigate and identified land. Unit remained in vicinity in case M.T.Bs. to southward required assistance then proceeded N.E. At 0318 4 escort vessels of large trawler type were sighted off Ymuiden and harbour lights were on.

Unit endeavoured to close but were detected at long range and at 0328 star shell were fired. In the exceptional visibility prevailing unit withdrew being unable to close closer than 2 miles.

(3) Aircraft reported a northbound convoy off Katwijk at 1230. M.T.Bs. 83 and 88 from Mantis and M.T.Bs. 624, 629 and M.G.B. 609 from MIDGE sailed at about 1700 to intercept. M.T.Bs. 83 and 88 arrived in 53° 38' N., 05° 00' E. at 2330 and searched this vicinity without success. M.T.Bs. 624, 629, and M.G.B. 609 arrived in 53° 45' N., 05° 00' E. at 2330 and worked to eastward avoiding a patrol of 4 vessels in 53° 45' N., 05° 12' E. proceeded a further 10 miles to eastward, but did not sight the convoy. On returning M.T.B. 624 sighted this patrol again at 5 miles and reports it consisting of 3 large trawlers and one small Speerbrekker in rear. Unit approached up moon but enemy opened fire at 2000 yards unit replying with pom-pom and disengaging. A second attack was made with M.G.B. 609 providing diversion with flame boats, 3 torpedoes being fired from 1000 yards without result. A third attack was made with gunfire and unit withdrew. At 0355, rear vessel of enemy patrol was reported to be lagging behind.

No damage or casualties.
(C. in C. Nore, 201928B).

Allied Air Activity.

^ Requirements at Machrihanish and Inkpen.

Your 192110B. This will be treated as a matter of urgency.
(1st S.L., 200210B to A. A/S S.B)

Enemy Air Activity.

} Shipping reported.

At 0925 enemy A/C reported shipping in 46° 40' N., 15° 15' W.
(D.D.I.C., 201235B to UGANDA, LOTUS, O.S.46, K.M.S.13, M.K.S.11).

Murmansk

Low level attack on ships at anchor 1230C/19 coinciding with fighter demonstration over town. No damage or casualties.
(S.B.S.N.O. Murmansk, 201618B)

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

Search for U-boat. U-boat reported 5 miles North of Butt of Lewis at 191910. Proceed westward through Q.Z. Message L.31 commencing A/S sweep at longitude 04° 00' W. returning eastward so as to search longitude 04° 30' W., at 0800/20, then carrying out A/S patrol in Western part of practice area until further instructions.

(C. in C. E.F., 200015B to CHIDDINGFOLD, MAHRATTA)

My 200015B. P.239 escorted by SHIKARI left Stornoway 1800/19th for Scapa. SEVERN and TUNA escorted by HAYLING left Lerwick 1600/19th for Holy Loch.

(3) These S/MS may be met.

(4) Air search from Hatston arranged from 200530B.

(C. in C. H.F., 200050B to CHIDDINGFOLD, MAHRATTA).

Proceed passing Hoxa 1200 today to join CHIDDINGFOLD and MAHRATTA who are carrying out A/S patrol in western part of (?Practice) Area. When met relieve CHIDDINGFOLD and act in accordance with C. in C. H.F., 200015.

(R.A.D. H.F., 201103B to IORQUOIS).

Cancel serial 44 B, 45 and 46.

(R.A.D. H.F., 201130B to IROQUOIS, MAHRATTA).

U-boat was reported last night off Butt of Lewis. Serial 51 is to be cancelled. ANSON return to harbour on completion of serial 50.

(2) 2 destroyers are patrolling in Western part of practice area until 2130.

(C. in C. H.F., 201135B to ANSON, SCYLLA)

Request you will continue A/S Patrol with 2 destroyers in accordance with my 200015B until 2130B today at which time destroyers are to return to harbour if not in contact with S/M or acting on later information.

(C. in C. H.F., 201143B to R.A.D. H.F.)

U-boats reported.

By D/F at 0039Z, U-boat estimated anywhere within 90 miles of 56° 30' N., 22° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C., 200536B to E.G.1).

Am over enemy submarine in 46° 27' N., 13° 27' W.

(A/C 1KT 3 of 16 Sqdn. 200835B to 15 Group).

Am over enemy submarine in 50° 48' N., 12° 32' W.

(A/C 09GU 201222 to 19 Group).

× U-boat attacked.

Am over enemy S/M in 59° 04' N., 24° 08' W.

(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty R 201736 to 15 Group).

My 1736 have attacked enemy.

(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty R. 201738 to 15 Group)

O.N.S. 4. Aircraft's 201736. This U-boat was 110°

30 miles from Convoy. Consider convoy not sighted. WHITEHALL hunting. My P.C.S. 059° 27' N., 024° 37' W., 244° five. Weather 7388 9667.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 201758Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

? Operation H.S. The small outfit carried by PLOVER will prolong operations over an extended period thus accentuating the acute coaling difficulties at Milford Haven and Swansea.
Requested that if possible oil-burning sweepers may be detailed to carry out skimming sweeps in connection with above operation failing this that a good temporary collier may be allocated to Milford Haven for the period of the operation (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 201301B to Admty).

? Search of 18 Q. Z. L. In view of report of mine cut in operation "Tincture", request you will arrange for 50% search extending 5 miles East and West of Western limit of 18 Q. Z. L. over the full width of the channel using trawlers of 23rd Group and VIKING BANK. Sweeps should be adjusted to pass at least 20 feet over H.S.I. and at a least depth of 45 feet below main low water springs being recovered for re-adjustment as necessary during operation.
(D.M.S., 201902B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

X Operation Q.U.8 B. Carried out successfully.
(C. in C. Nore, 201928B) See Operations.

Sweep of Q. Z. X. 771. My 1530/5th March. Request 9th M.S.F. may be sailed to Portsmouth to repeat this operation, arriving by 29th April.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 201940B to Admty).

? Western Channel Sweep. Width swept increased to 1.85 miles at eastern end and 2.25 miles at western end. One mine detonated in 50° 04.5' N. long. 04° 42' W. and one mine found in sweep at end of lap probably picked up in vicinity of detonated mine.
This mine was chained in 50° 03.5' N., long. 04° 52.6' W. and further report follows as to disposal. Area was extended 3.4 miles 254° from position lat. 50° 04.3' N., long. 04° 44.2' W. owing to mines being found in close proximity of western limit of Q. Z. X. 962.
(PANGBOURNE, 202127B).

Q. Z. X. 977 Q. Z. X. 977 cleared. Today swept one and detonated six mines, all within a circle of 6 cable radius. Centre 067° 54 A buoy 2.7 miles.
(M/S 9., 202220B to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

GRAF ZEPPELIN, Photographic R/C of Kiel at 1100B/20 shows KÖLN. GRAF ZEPPELIN alongside at entrance to Inner dockyard basin. KÖLN alongside Northern Mole.
(D.D.I.C., 201825B).

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

JAMES FENIMORE COOPER and LENA LUCKENBACH in collision at 200500Z in 055° 10' N., 009° 40' W. JAMES FENIMORE COOPER has stern stored (sic) in forepeak flooded. Making 6 knots on convoy course. ARVIDA detached to escort her to Clyde. LENA LUCKENBACH holed between 1 and 2 holds, down head, may not stay afloat, is proceeding to Londonderry escorted by DIANTHUS. Request tugs be sent. Weather report 4771 2524.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3., 200847Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 200847Z. LENA LUCKENBACH abandoned at 0951Z but still afloat in 55.23 N., 09.10 W. BERGAMOT picked up crew and standing by. WETASKIWIN joining, awaiting tug.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3 201014Z).
Crew LENA LUCKENBACH on board SS. LIGHTNING proceeding Liverpool. DIANTHUS, BERGAMOT standing by attempting to tow. ARVIDA proceeding Clyde with JAMES F. COOPER. Request orders be sent direct to respective escorts.
(C.T.U. 24.1.3., 201320Z to C. in C. W.A.)
BERGAMOT in company with heavy towing gear. Approx. Tory Island 121° 25 miles. Attempting to tow now. Wreck LENA LUCKENBACH still well down head, no change. When may tug be expected. Wind S.W. force five, rough sea, heavy swell.
(DIANTHUS, 201429B to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you will sail Rescue Tug GROWLER at best speed to assist LENA LUCKENBACH damaged in collision and abandoned in 55° 23' N., 09° 10' W. at 0951Z/20. BERGAMOT and WETASKIWIN standing by.
(C. in C. W.A., 201506Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Your 201221Z. Continue to stand by LENA LUCKENBACH. GROWLER has been sailed from Campbeltown and should arrive daylight 21st.
(C. in C. W.A., 201547Z to DIANTHUS).
Sail GROWLER forthwith to assist LENA LUCKENBACH.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 201629B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown).
My 201429/20. BERGAMOT tow parted. Suggest one of us stand by till arrival of tug and if possible two tugs preferable. Wreck no worse, and dry from forward engine room bulkhead to aft. Estimated that good chance of bulkhead holding. Tory Island 121° approx. 18 miles.
(DIANTHUS, 201631Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Sailed GROWLER. E.T.A. position 0600B/21.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 201745B).
Connav serials 17 to 20. LENA LUCKENBACH abandoned afloat from damage collision in convoy H.X. 233 with JAMES FENIMORE COOPER April 20th position 55.10 N., 09.40 W. JAMES FENIMORE COOPER proceeding with convoy.
(Cominch C. and R. 202125/Z to Comnav).

DAFFODIL

My 191802B. DAFFODIL's boilers are overdue for cleaning. Request arrangements may be made to have this work taken in hand also that small number of defects beyond capacity of ships staff be made good concurrently.
(S.O. A.S.C., 201154B to F.O.I.C. Southampton).

/CAPE...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects. - Contd.

- CAPE PALLISER Your 0031B/20th. Delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 201243B to F.O.I.C. N.I.)
- SAINTONGE Your 152347B/4 and my 181525B/4 SAINTONGE reports
No.4 main engine cylinder-cover cracked.
Repairs beyond capacity of this base. Request
instructions as to port to which vessel should
proceed.
(A.S. Orkney 201400B to Admt).
- CUMBERLAND Proceed passing Hoxa Gate at 0100B/21 to the
Tyne, to arrive Tyne Pierhead 1830B/21.
(C. in C. H.F., 201404B to CUMBERLAND).
Intend sailing CUMBERLAND arriving Tyne Pierhead
1830B/21st April.
2. Subject to SUFFOLK remaining with Home Fleet until either
NORFOLK or LONDON is operationally available, propose
CUMBERLAND carries out refit as well as damage repairs.
3. If SUFFOLK is not available propose CUMBERLAND docks to
change propeller and to survey damage. Only such work as
survey discloses to be essential for sea-going efficiency
to be undertaken as ship cannot be spared without relief.
(C. in C. H.F., 201408B to Admt).
- BOREAS BOREAS circulation pump damaged beyond repair,
(convoy ballast pump in use. Returning to U.K.
O.N.179). (C.2., 201435A to C. in C. W.A.)
- ALYNBANK My 191230B. Ship delayed by defects in Port
engine air cooler. Delay should not be long.
(N.O.I.C. Barry, 201625B).
- GOODWIN Your 190843. GOODWIN arrived.
3. Ship has defects caused by heavy weather.
Temporary repairs can be completed in 48 hours,
permanent repairs about seven days.
4. Intend to sail ship for U.K. in R.U. 71 as she is not fit
for rescue duties in North Atlantic with long winter passage
in her present condition.
(A.C.I.C., 201948B to C. in C. W.A.)

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.233. E.T.A. 1600/20. SPENCER and DUANE in company.
FORT RAMPART Request pilots.
survivors. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.2. 200105A to N.O.I.C.Greenock.)
Your 200105A. Embark pilots off Ascog Point.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 200953B to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.3.)
(A) ARVIDA (B) S.S. FORTRAMPART (D) 6 D.E.M.S.
(E) 12 (F) 28 (N) 46.
(ARVIDA 201241Z to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Clyde arrivals SPENCER, DUANE.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 201758B.)

No. 15967 in C.B. 3060-E is due Clyde about 22 April.

2. Details of personnel known to be on board are following 7554.
Details. In addition approximately 360 miscellaneous personnel
are understood to be on board. Vessel should be ready to sail
again as convoy T.A.41 (B) on 2 May. Approximately 5,000 personnel
will embark at Tail of the Bank on 1 May and 2 May.
(D.S.T. 200213B.)

O.N.S.4. Request you sail BITER, PATHFINDER, OPPORTUNE,
OBDURATE as 5th Escort Group A.M. tomorrow to
support O.N.S.4.
(C. in C. W.A. 201103 to A.C.I.C.)

Proceed with PATHFINDER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE as Escort
Group number 5 at 1000B/20 to support O.N.S.4. 2. Convoy O.N.S.4
may have been reported by enemy submarine at 2236Z/18.
3. H.M.S. PATHFINDER is to be ordered to sail to overtake you if
she is not ready in time. 4. C. in C. W.A. 201103 refers.
(A.C.I.C. 201802B to BITER.)

W.S.29 Sailed AORANGI and CLANLAMONT escorted by ANTHONY
and (S.O.) in accordance with A.M. 141950B and 172138B.
K.M.F.13. LEWES, BRISSENDEN joining escort off Milford Haven.
X.K.4. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 201124B.)

F.O.I.C. Greenock 192324B. Estimate S.L.127 S.
will have to pass through Q.Z.L.18 by 0800B/21.
2. Do not enter Q.Z.L.18 until S.L.127 S. is clear

3. ANTHONY signal amended time of R/V for LEWES and BRISSENDEN in
vicinity of Tuskar Rock accordingly.

(C. in C. W.A. 201542B to ANTHONY, LEWES, BRISSENDEN.)

Para 2. of my 161047B. CHARYBDIS is to part company with
convoy after dark today and proceed independently to Gibraltar.
F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal route. (2) F.O.C. Gibraltar
is requested to sail CHARYBDIS as necessary to be within 60 miles
of X.K. 4 by 1200B/24 to act as cover against surface attack on
passage through Bay of Biscay area.

(C. in C. Plymouth 201345B to CHARYBDIS.)

A.M. 141950 and 172138 and F.O.I.C. Greenock's 181254. It
is urgent that ships arrive at Freetown without delay for onward
passage with W.S.29. In view of danger in Q.Z.L.18 request you
will arrange for Convoy to proceed by Q.Z.L.15 rejoining route
as requisite.

(D.O.D.H. 201834B to C. in C. W.A.)

Comply with Admiralty 201834B.

(C. in C. W.A. 202024B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

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Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

E.G.3.

Steer 290°.
(C. in C. W.A. 201231B to E.G.3.)

RETRIEVER.

Admiralty's 272224/3/41. Consider RETRIEVER expecting sailing 24th April from Southend for Clyde has especially important cargo.
(F.O.I.C. London 201245 to C. in C. Nore.)Channel
Convoys.Your 191844B/4. Concur in this arrangement. Thank you.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 201315B to C. in C. Nore.)
Your 191844. Concur in this arrangement.
(V.A. Dover 201649B to C. in C. Nore.)X Reports of
U-Boat
attacks on
convoys.Your 161330 cancelled by your 172021. It is now considered that the instructions in para. 2 might lead to too much information being broadcast and it is therefore proposed to amend para. 2 to read begins. "If considered desirable C. in C. W.A. for homeward bound convoys and operating authority West of Chop for outward bound convoys will then broadcast by B.Y.M.S. message to ships in the convoy concerned items A.B.C. and F. Item A should be in broad terms e.g. "a large number or a small number and should not quote actual numbers. The number of promising attacks on U/Bs. may also be included but no repeat no indication of the estimated number of U/Bs. sunk or damaged. Methods employed for evading U/Bs. or in countering U/B attacks should not be referred to. Ends." 2. If you concur request you will re-issue your 161330 amended as proposed.
(D.T.D. 201710B to C. in C. W.A.)X Atlantic
Support
Groups.In view of present situation in Atlantic my general intention for support groups dependent of course on circumstance are as follows. First Escort Group to cover in vicinity O.N.S.4 and working towards St. John's N.F. 5th Escort Group to cover O.N.S.4 and O.N.179 working towards Argentina. Third Escort Group is moving to a position about 056° N. 039° W. for general cover and thence St. John's N.F. to fuel. BOGUE supporting group to overtake and cover H.X.235 to U.K. 4th Escort Group will leave U.K. 24th April for Iceland (C). 2nd Escort Group will be ready for service 29th April.
(C. in C. W.A. 201712Z to Connav.)

S.L.127.

Your 201703B. My position is 51.30, 08.20, present course 066° speed 10 knots. Intend reversing course 1915B.
(FLEETWOOD 201830B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

X Collisions
in
convoy.

A.F.O. 1417/43. I agree with the views expressed by C. in C. Nore No. 1642/5831 of 8th April and C. in C. W.A. 1673/0753/55 of 16th April. I am of the opinion that should an escort vessel through bad judgment provoke a collision which might not have occurred if the merchant ship had been free to act in accordance with the rule of the road the responsibility for the resultant collision must be accepted in the greater interest of the best defence of the convoy from enemy attack. (C. in C. Portsmouth 202048B to Admty.)

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

X Sunk U/B off Tarife. Your 162013A. If U-Boat was abandoned outside territorial waters and crew reached shore by own efforts they are not liable to internment and subsequent transport by warship is irrelevant.
2. If U-Boat was abandoned inside territorial waters crew should be treated as if their ship had put into port damaged and been interned as incapable of repair, i.e. crew should be interned.
3. Spaniards should certainly have ascertained exact facts before allowing crew to be accommodated in German ship and taken off by German tug. Since details are still not clear suggest you make enquiries about whereabouts of crew and then argue on lines of para. 2 above, since it at least seems possible that U-Boat was abandoned inside territorial waters.
(Head of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 200327B to N.A.Madrid (R) Consul Las Palmas, S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
See also 202056. Reply 211000.

Convoy E.T.18 arrived (12 ships).
E.T.18. (F.O.Gibraltar 200453 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. Connav, etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1956B/20th.
U.G.L.2, C.T.G. 68.1 (026° or 030°) 49' 038° 37' 092° 8.2. Gibraltar keeping zone minus 2 time.
2. BAYNTUN, BERRY 41.11 31.35 072° 15.
(F.O.Gibraltar 201029B.)
Situation 2004B/20th. 2. G.U.F.7, C.T.F. 66, 35.28 15.02 271° 13½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 201123B.)
Situation report areaXA. at 2002B/20.
1. Fleet unit 3 destroyers sail 2200B/20 through 36.22 09.58 thence 307° 16.
2. ARCTIC RANGER, one merchant ship 38.22 09.09 coastwise to Cape St. Mary's thence through 35.56 06.20 to Gib. 8.
3. 17 L.C.I.(L)s, S.O. L.C.I.(L) 269, 33.40 08.45 through 35.50 06.45 to Gib. 10.
4. X.K. 4, HALCYON, 36.14 08.06 through 36. 40 11.05 thence 316° 6 Karachi.
5. LADY HOGARTH 2 merchant ships sailing 1700/21st through 35.56 06.20 thence Guadalquivir 8.
6. K.M.F.13, W.S.29, NEWCASTLE, WESTON, CHARYBDIS 38.17 10.55 through 36.39 09.22 where K.M.F.13, CHARYBDIS, WESTON part company and proceed through Straits of Gib. 12½. (see 201811B.)
W.S.29 NEWCASTLE proceed 192° 12½. RAPID parts company as convenient to refuel Casablanca. On rejoining VENOMOUS, LAUDERDALE proceed Gib. MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE sail from Casablanca to join W.S.29.
(F.O.Gibraltar 201151B.)

/My...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. My 201151B. Para. 6 CHARYBDIS part company 2000B (Contd.) 20th through 36.40 09.01 and 35.49 06.30 to Gib. 18.

(F.O.Gibraltar 201811B.)

Situation report area X.A.

Add to my 201151B new para. 7. G.C.5 minesweeper COMMANDANT DELAGE sails 0900B/21st through 35.45 06.30 thence $212^{\circ} 6\frac{1}{2}$.

8. SALAMANDER sails 2100B/20th to overtake X.K.4 $14\frac{1}{2}$.
(V.A.Gibraltar 201735B.)

W.S.29,
K.M.F.13.

Request you sail MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH at 2000A/April 20th to R/V with convoy W.S.29 in 35.56 N. 10.17 W.* at 1100A/April 21st. (F.O.Gibraltar 201056A to Commorseafon (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.Af. (?Admty.) Ships escorting W.S.29, 13 Group, MALCOLM.)

* See amendment 201849B.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 201056. Comply.

(Commorseafon 201505Z to MALCOLM, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib.

C. in C.Med. Admty. Escort W.S.29.)

C.M.S.F.F. pass to MALCOLM.

On crossing 39.36 alter course for new position B.O. 36.39 09.22 omitting B.G. thence Q.K.A. 87.

2. Split is not to take place until MALCOLM, WITCH, and WOLVERINE have joined, when W.S. 29 is to proceed to B.H.

3. K.M.S. 13 E.T.A. Europa Point 0200A/22nd April, Oran 1900A/22nd April.

4. Mediterranean route follows.

(F.O.Gibraltar 201241B to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.13, Ships escorting W.S.29, convoy, for Commodores, (R) Admty. MALCOLM, C. in C.Med. Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, Commorseafon.)

Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 007° W. and recovered as convenient after passing Europa Point.

2. Route from Q.K.A. 87 to 57,70,68,109 letters M.A. to M.D.

3. S.O.A. in Med. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

4. Stragglers route as convoy.

(F.O.Gibraltar 201305 to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.13 for Comdre. (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. Comnob Oran, Commorseafon.)
C. in C.Plymouth 201345. Route G.B. 36.40 N. 09.01 W.

G.C. 35.49 N. 14.30 W. through Q.K.A. 87.

2. Paravanes are to be streamed before crossing 07° west.

(F.O.Gibraltar 201807 to CHARYBDIS, (R) Escorts K.M.F. 13, Ships escorting W.S.29 Admty. C. in C.Med. Ships escorting X.K.4. MALAYA, C. in C.Plymouth.)

My 201056. Amend R/V 36.32 N. 08.53 W. at 1200B/April 21st.

(F.O.Gibraltar 201849B to MALCOLM, (R) W.S.29 Commorseafon, Admty. C. in C.Med. Escorts K.M.F.13.)

/Survivors...

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

X Survivors from Your 1819/17th. Information given in my 1530/9th U/B sunk 5/4. was obtained from first named N.O. who confirms

1. Sunk inside territorial waters 1200 metres off beach named Las Burras, between Maspalomas Point and first Headland to N.E. in 23 metres of water,
2. Crew definitely moved from coast to Las Palmas in Armed Trawler XAUEN.
3. Also informed me he considered salvage most improbable.
(Consul Las Palmas 201315 to B.N.A. Madrid, (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gib.)

MALAYA. F.O.C. Gibraltar 191302 and A.M. 171336.
Onward route through positions: T. 50.00 16.00
U. 54.00 14.00 V. 56.00 10.00 W. 180° Barra Head
10 thence to Scapa. Fighter protection code word
"Mutual."
(D.O.D.(H) 201340B to MALAYA, (R) F.O. Gibraltar,
C. in C. Plymouth etc.)

Convoy G.C.5, intend sailing at 0900/21 for Casablanca
G.C.5. CARTHAGE, LE TRAIT, JOSEPHINE LEBORGNE, ROUENNAIS
(for Safi.)
2. Route through Q.K.A. 87 thence E. 35° 45' N.
06° 30' W. thence through Q.K.A. 92. S.O.A. 6½ kts.
3. Escorts P.C. 471, COMMANDANT DELAGE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, P.C. 473.
4. Codeword "Cygnet." 5. W/T call sign VH. 6. E.T.A. 1600/22
Casablanca.
(F.O. Gibraltar 201627B to C.M.S.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

LOTUS. C. in C. Plymouth's 172219. Onward route from
N. through O. 35.49 N. 06.30 W. and Q.K.A. 87.
(F.O. Gibraltar 201659B to LOTUS, (R) Admty.)

MARIPOSA. U.S.A.T. MARIPOSA routed through K. 35 N. 37 W.
L. 34 N. 40 W. 24.02 J. 34 N. 01 W. 08.03 to
Casablanca, S.O.A. 18½. U.S.S. SCHROEDER
depart Casa. to intercept in estimated position
230800Z 34.20 N. 15.40 W. and escort Casablanca.
E.T.A. position J. 240430Z.
Comfrairwing 15 sweep track and provide normal coverage P.L.E
to harbour priority A. Mission 39.
Admty. pass to MARIPOSA (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(Commorseafron 201730 to C.T.F. 69 (R) F.O. Gib. etc.)

TRESPASSER. Cancel my 191746.
(F.O. Gibraltar 201803B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

/L.C. Is...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

L.C.Is. Flight six, 17 L.C.I. in company, E.T.A. 0830 G.M.T. 21st April. (CZRY (L.C.I.(L) 269) via Burnham Radio 201900Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.) W.D. Note: Passed to C. in C.W.A. by Burnham Radio

Movements, Casablanca. Arrive Casablanca DUMONT D'URVILLE, LA GRANDIERE, P.C. 481 from Gibraltar. Departure WOLVERINE, MALCOLM, WITCH. (Commorseafron 201906 to Admty.)

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals LAMERTON, BROCKLESBY, ATHERSTONE, QUANTOCK, KING SOL, REIGHTON WYKE, VISENDA, MAN'O WAR, M.M.S. 184 with convoy Y.T. 18 (?E.T.18) WISHART, ANELOPE, VELOX, LIDDESDALE, ex G.U.F.7. SALAMANDER from Oran. FORMIDABLE, FARNDALE, CALPE, PUCKERIDGE, TYNEDALE, WHADDON from exercises, BLYSKAWICA from Algiers. ESPIEGLE, ALBACORE ex G.U.F.7 and sweep. (F.O.Gibraltar 202005 to Admty. C. in C.Med.)

+ U/B survivors landed in Spain. My 071001. Spanish D.N.I. states bodies still coming ashore. Body of C.O. identified but name refused. Spanish not sure of number submarine but suggest 105 or 77 (I believe this ignorance genuine) Submarine was trying to reach Alicante. She could have asked help Spanish gunboat EDUARDO DATO which was in vicinity before she sank, but U-Boats clearly have instructions not to accept help from neutral warships. Survivors in fishing boat refused transfer to Spanish gunboat EDUARDO DATO. (N.A.Madrid 202056B to D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I).)

MATILDE assistance to U/Bs. intercepted by MATILDE. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 191647. Agree vessel almost certainly MATILDE referred to. Submit she should be seized for examination. If crew questioned they will probably admit it. (N.A.Madrid 202122 to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (C. in C.Med. pass to Comnob).) Admiralty please pass to C. in C.Med. and Com. N.O.B My 202122, nothing known against this vessel or owner. (N.A.Madrid 202222B to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gib.)

/Have...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MATILDE'assis-Have carried out several attacks good contact in
tance, to U/Bs position 029° 37' N. 003° 24' 30" W. Am taking
intercepted MATILDE into Gibraltar in consequence.
by MATILDE. (COWSLIP 202130B to F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C.Med.)

COWSLIP My position at 0001B/21st 036° 3' N. 002° 35' W.
MATILDE. MATILDE with Boarding party is being towed by
EMPIRE WOLFE approx. speed 8 knots E.T.A. 1800B/21.
My 202130B position should be 036° 37' N. 002°
24½ W. Contact was attacked with depth charges
and Hedgehog. A quantity of oil was observed in vicinity with
small dark patches, then darkness prevented closer observation.
No contact was gained after last attack.
(COWSLIP 202340B to F.O.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med.)

MALAYA, My 191302, sailed MALAYA, WISHART, ANTELOPE,
destroyers. VELOX.
(F.O.Gibraltar 202225A to Admty. C. in C.Plymouth
(R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.H.F. H.Q.C.C.)

SALAMANDER SALAMANDER sailed 2045B/20th April to join X.K.4.
X.K.4. 2. SALAMANDER is to report if not met by 2200B/
21st April.
3. On SALAMANDER joining KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE is
to part company and proceed to Gibraltar reporting
when 100 miles clear A. P.C. and S. of X.K.4.
B. P.C. and S. of KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, C. E.T.A. Gibraltar,
D. Weather report.
(F.O.C.N.A. 202242B to SALAMANDER, Ships escorting Convoy X.K.4.
pass to Cdre. (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.29. Following personnel arriving Freetown in convoy W.S.29 will require onward conveyance. (details.)
2. Request you arrange accordingly. My 070301B refers regarding possible use of HIGHLAND PRINCESS.
(D.S.T., 200214B, to D.S.T.O.W.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
Following troop transports sailed from U.K. on 16/4 in convoy W.S.29. List, destinations, numbers, etc.
(D.S.T., 201805B to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

Movements. Arrivals April 19th Simonstown. FOXHOUND, CATTERICK. Capetown ROTHERHAM.
(C. in C.S.A., 200929B to Admty., Com. i/c Durban)

BUTTERMERE. My 190950Z April. BUTTERMERE (escorting) returned Freetown 1510/19th April. Resailed for Bathurst alone 2259.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 201059Z to N.O.I/C Bathurst (R) Admty.)

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/20th. VIVIANA escorting tug MASTERFUL 032° 10' 017° 40' to Saldanha Bay 5½ knots.

DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F. 112, 026° 15' 012° 25' to 015° 006° 16.
WORCESTERSHIRE 035° 50' 034° 40' to East London 11½.
JASMINE escorting TRUSTY 028° 28' 037° 30' to Durban 11.
COMMANDANT DUBOC escorting ORDUNA 028° 039° to Durban 11.
QUADRANT, ILE DE FRANCE 025° 30' 040° 25' to ?18° 50' 042° 05' 18.
KENYA with W.S.28 022° 45' 041° 30' to 020° 35' 042° 25' 12½.
NAPIER, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, DAIDER 023° 15' 041° 10' to Durban 20.
(C. in C.S.A., 201140B.)
Situation 201959Z.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.01 25.32 15½.
BIRDLIP, BELLWORT, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR with O.S.S.45, 05.24 00.40 East to Lagos 8.
One M.L. off Cape Palmas.
2 M.L. searching about 06.40 13.20.
B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8 about 00.20 S. 05.40 to Pointe Noire 9½
(F.O.C.W.A., 201417Z)

CALIFORNIA. Sailed 18th April E.T.A. Takoradi 26th April. Requirements Takoradi. Passengers on board. Carrying 547 bags of mail ex Bombay.
(S.T.O. Capetown, 201426Z to Admty., etc.)

West African Station. Weekly State. 17th April, 1943. Cape Blanco area MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, CORINTHIAN. Dakar BRIDGEWATER. Freetown Area PETUNIA BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR. Freetown BLACK SWAN, LA MALOUINE, MALLOW, CAMPION, MYOSOTIS, STONECROP, BURDOCK,

/CROCUS...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.

Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

West African Station. Weekly State. Contd. CROCUS, SNOWDROP, S/M. P.615. Lagos, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, Mid Ocean Patrol CILICIA, CARNARVON CASTLE. (F.O.C.W.A., 201427Z to Admty., etc.)

U/B. Aircraft reports sighting submarine at 0915Z/20 8 miles N.W. of Cayar (Cape Verde). (F.O.C.W.A., 201511Z to Admty.)

ORFASY. Departure 0915Z/20. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 201541Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst, CHANTALA, (R) Admty.)

INKPEN Defects. Main boiler (6 gps. missing) in very poor shape. Entering Port Etienne to make repairs. E.T.A. 202100Z. (INKPEN, 201544Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R), Comar Dakar.)

Movements Takoradi. Arrival 20th April. PETUNIA, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN. Departure M.L. 271, Accra 21st April. (N.O.I/C Takoradi, 201714Z to Admty. etc.)

Cover for U.K. Convoys. W.R. Note - F.O.C.W.Af. has been added to addressees of A.M. 201717B April (see Mediterranean) at request of D.O.D.(H).

x U/B Following received from Com 4th Fleet. "Aircraft en route Ascension report freighter with submarine on surface course 150° 06' 05' S. 23° 32' W. at 0800/20. T.O.O. 2011/6." (F.O.C.W.A., 201717Z to Admty.)

C.D. D'ORVES P.614. My 181155 April. Route for F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES and P.614. (details) thence Pointe Noire. Intend sailing p.m. April 22nd speed of advance 8 knots. (2) Request T.B.R. be arranged on route in your area. (C. in C.S.A., 201718B to R.A.W.A. (R) B.N.L.O. W.Af. Admty., F.O.(S))

Movements, Freetown. Departure 0912Z/20/4/43. BLACK SWAN, F.S. LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, M.M/S 102, 103, 106 escorting S.L.128. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 201807Z to Admty.,etc.)

Movements. Bathurst. Arrivals 1845 PORTSDOWN, BUTSER, and M.L. 1072 and 1231 escorting SS. NEW (?NORTHLAND) and PINTO. (N.O.i/c Bathurst, 201900Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., Comar Dakar.)

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20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Spezia, P.R.U. Aircraft reports three battleships
Genoa, in Spezia midday 19th April.
R/C. (D.D.I.C. 200015B to C. in C. Med. etc.).
P.R.U. Spezia 191240B.
Main units present. 3. LITTORIO class
battleships. GORIZIA, BOLZANO, TARANTO and
one REGOLO class cruiser.
(D.D.I.C. 200135B to C. in C. Med. etc.).
A.M. 200135B.

Spezia. changes since 14/4. Two LITTORIO class battleships
in same berths as on 14/4, but both booms closed. One
LITTORIO class battleship now anchored in outer harbour stern
to eastern breakwater unprotected by booms. GORIZIA moved
to west wall of Bassin No.2. Following arrived one GEUPARO
class contretorpilleur, one ELAN class escort vessel, one
torpedo boat, one escort vessel, one munition carrier, two
submarines, one tanker, four merchant ships, latter anchored
in bay. Also present BOLZANO, TARANTO, one REGOLO class
cruiser. Two TIGRE contretorpilleurs, ten destroyers, nine
torpedo boats, one escort vessel.

Genoa. following present two CONDOTTIERI class cruiser C and
D one destroyer, one destroyer DARDO class damaged two
torpedo boats ORSA class, four other torpedo boats, six
escort vessels.

(D.D.I.C. 201151B to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant.).

KELVIN Sailed.
(V.A.Malta 200034B to Admty. etc.).

Enemy P.C. and S. of one enemy Destroyer F 38.13 N.
Units 11.57 E 290° 20 knots.
(A/C IBA/S via Alexandria W/T 200120B).
Five enemy vessels (type BG) in 37.15N 10.41 E.
course 045° speed 10 knots.
(A/C 632A/A 200245 via Malta W/T).

P.C. and S. of 1 Destroyer 1 medium vessel is 37.20 N.
11.20 E. course 046° speed 12 knots.
(A/C 96 J/F 200909 to Air H.Q. Malta).
Enemy previously reported is accompanied by 3 Ju.88.
(A/C 96 J/F 200925 to Air H.Q. Malta).

K.M.F.13. Convoy K.M.F.13 sailed from U.K. 16th April
comprising following troop transports (list
numbers etc.).
(3) My 161759 refers regarding future service of
NIEUW HOLLAND and CUBA. Remaining troopships should return
to U.K.
(D.S.T. 200212B to P.S.T.O. Med. (R) C. in C. Med etc.).

KING EDWIN Your 161410. Owners agree your suggestion
(fire 14/4 regarding Officers and crew. How long do you
C.T.L.). propose retaining Senior Officers mentioned?
Owners also agree survey jointly with Lloyds.

/Your...

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20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

KING EDWIN (fire 14/4 C.T.L.) (contd.). Your 171836 refers but request you repeat word before "holding"
 (2) Presume enquiry will be held but in any case request full report on probable cause of fire.
 (3) P.S.T.O. M.E. should ask McDavid to investigate loading of KING EDWIN with a view to reporting on his return with particular reference to number of tiers loaded and types of containers used.
 (D.S.T. 200218B to D.S.T.O. Malta, (R) P.S.T.O. M.E.).

Atlantic Shipping. Proposed amendment to Chop line. (B.A.D. 200257 to Admty.). See America and West Indies.

UNRIVALLED One torpedo remaining. 1500 tons eastbound M/S and 5000 tons westbound tanker sunk. Intend returning Malta through P Q and R pass P at 2100A/20.
 (P.45 UNRIVALLED) 200401A to Capt.(S) 8. (R) Capt.(S) 10, S/M's on Patrol).
 Your 200410. (?200401 intended). Arrive searched channel at 0830B 23rd P.43 (UNISON) is also arriving at this time. Good shooting.
 (Capt. S.10 201047B to UNRIVALLED (R) UNISON, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 8th S.F.).

Algiers To: Eaker
 Air Report To: Brereton.
 From: Spaatz, NAAF Adv. Hqrs.
 (2). Escorted by 20P - 38's 78 B - 17's attacked Palermo railroad yards and Zocca (?) di Falco airdrome. 336 500 pounds bombs were dropped by 301st Group from 22,500 feet well covering yards and roundhouse.
 (3). 263 500 pounds bombs from 23,500 feet and 2,766 twenty pounds bombs from 25,000 feet were dropped on Bacco (?- di Falco. Many hits on airdrome.
 (4) Escorted by P-38's, 18 B - 25's dropped 1 152 F bombs from 8,500 to 9,500 feet on Alghero- Fertilla (Sardinia) airdrome. Bomb bursts covered areas in which over 40 enemy aircraft including large transports were parked. Hangars and other buildings were hit, also a gasoline storage dump was hit and exploded. 18 B-25's escorted by P - 38's dropped 108 five hundred pound bombs from 85 to 9,500 feet on Porto Torres shipping.(Sardinia). Direct hits scored on a 350/400 M/V and on a smaller M/V. One was left sinking and one in flames. Installations were well hit. Two large fires in railroad yards and one big explosion on a dock were observed.
 (6) Night 16/17, Coastal: A Hudson dropped 3 depth charges and machine gunned a surfaced U/B 55 miles North of Cape Tenes. Four Albacores attacked jetty at Pora Farina.
 (7) Western Desert.
 (a) Day 16th:
 Kittyhawks and Spitfires destroyed 10 enemy aircraft and probably destroyed 1 and on 17th destroyed 7 and damaged 3. Two Spitfires and 2 Kittyhawks are missing.

/ (b)...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Algiers
Air
Report
(contd.).

(b) Night 17/18th.
9 Leos dropped 24,200 pounds of bombs from 10,000 feet on Laimarsa airdrome. A large fire resulted. 19 Wellingtons dropped an assorted mess on Tunis docks and railroad yards from 8,000 feet. Fires and a large explosion resulted.
(Freedom Algiers No.T.O.O. to Etousa rcd. 20/0700Z).

X U.G.S.7.
attacked.

U/B attacked in 35.59 N. 01.25 W. in fog
2 possibly 3 ships torpedoed.
(FANTOME 200747 to C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran
(R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

My 200747B. One ship torpedoed was SIDI-BEL-ABBES.
FOXTROT (? picked up 5). FELIXSTOWE screening. 1 wreck visible bow submerged, possible to salvage. Visibility 0801 to 0873.
(FANTOME 200852 to C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Oran (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar).

Rescue work completed E.T.A. Boom 1545. FELIXSTOWE estimates over 300 survivors 50 cot cases. FOXTROT 120, 30 cot cases, STELLA CARINA 100 approx. M.L's detailed to search for survivors. Request interpreter and French military representative. Survivors American French and Senegalese.
(FELIXSTOWE 201330B to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) C. in C. Med. FANTOME).

Movements
Alexandria

Arrivals 19th April, ROCKWOOD, HURSLEY,
HURWORTH, G.S. SAKTOURIS, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS
KANARIS.
Departures 19th April ROCKWOOD.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 200910C to Admt. C. in C. Levant).

UNITED.

Cancel my 191835 (re Shift patrol as necessary to cover Straits of Messina).
(Capt. S.10 200913B to P.44 UNITED (R)
C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt.(S) 8.
REGENT).

Repatriations

Departures 20th April Hospital Ship GRADISCA and ARGENTINE (Italian) and TAIREA and TALAMBA.
(Izmir 200946C to M.of W.T. (R) B.N.A.A.,
S.O.(I) Istanbul, S.O.(I) Alexandria).

U.G.S.7.

U.G.S.7. sailed.
For Bougie - L.S.Ts. 413/11th 367/11th, VILLE DE JIJELLI.
For Philippeville - L.S.T's 409/11th 364/11th MEROPE.

For Bone. BENJAMIN BOURNE.
(Comnob Oran 201042A to A.I.G. 259).

U.G.S.7.

20.4.1943
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

U.G.S.
7 (Contd.).

U.G.S.7. Intend sailing for Bougie MARS, Philippeville EMPIRE CAMERON, OCEAN VIGIL, for Bone ANTONIA, EMPIRE BAIRN. (N.O.I.C. Algiers 201737A to N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) Admty. etc.).
U.G.S.7 arrivals (list).
(Comnob Oran, 201755 to Admty. etc.).

M.K.S.12

Intend to sail calling at Gibraltar (list). Request final destinations of preceeding 14 ships. Also SAINT CLEAR, WILL WOOD Gib. for U.S.A. ALPERA Gib. for Lisbon. BACHAQUERO Gib. for U.K. GEORGE WEEMS, ANTONY WAYNE, CALVIN COOLIDGE, Oran to load ballast for U.S.A.
HOGGAR (Fr.) Gib. for Dakar.
(Cdre, Algiers 201054A to Admty. etc.)

LAFOREY,
LOYAL,
ASHANTI,
LOOKOUT,
ADRIAS.

LAFOREY, LOYAL, ASHANTI, LOOKOUT and ADRIAS leave Bone 1430A today and pass 38° 10' 11" 5' at (?21)00 thence toward Marittimo.
2. First there (?three) returning Bone on reaching 12° E. latter 2 proceed Malta through 37° 50' 11" 48' and 37° 07' 13" 14'.
3. All warned of your movements.
(Capt. S.8 201120A to 8 S.M.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

X German Material for Turkey.

Following from Adm. Kelly. My 121232 (re Turkish policy). C.Gen. Asim Gunduz informs me some German Tanks said to be of largest and latest model have arrived at Istanbul. They are all coming to Ankara to form special regiment and 1st ones may arrive here in a fortnight. He will (?permit) me to see them on arrival.
2. Germans tried to insist on some German Personnel but he flatly refused. Few Turkish mechanics have gone to Germany for training.
3. The 6 aircraft arrived from Germany now being set up at Istanbul by German aircraftmen so far appear of excellent material and construction.
4. Head of Turkish Purchasing Commission just returned from 10 months in Berlin says Turks refused to have anything but latest Caterpillar Model.
5. The material ordered is now expected to arrive regularly according to schedule.
(N.A.Ankara 201122C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant. etc.)

Orders to S/MS.

1. Three Italian Battleships LITTORIO type still at Spezia noon 19th.
2. P.51 leave zone F. at 0400/21st and return to zone C.

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

Orders to S/Ms. (Contd.)

3. TROOPER leave patrol so as to pass $038^{\circ} 42'$ $011^{\circ} 30'$ at 0200A/22nd thence course 264° .

4. Well done P.45. After passing P. at 2100/20th proceed Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10.

5. P.42 (UNBROKEN) from P. at 1500A/20th proceed on course 60° to zone B.

6. P.212 (SAHIB) is to proceed zone F. south of $039^{\circ} 10'$.

7. P.228 (SPLENDID) is to proceed zone F. and H. north of $039^{\circ} 10'$.

8. P.43 UNISON from D. pass P. at 0530A/21st thence Malta.

9. RORQUAL is to seawards of Marittimo tonight 20th.
(Capt. S.8 201124A to 8 S.M.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 118 Part 3. 19th April. 1 Hudson attacked submerged submarine off Bomba with 1 depth charge. No result observed, submarine hunt continued by destroyers.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 201139Z.)

Repatriations. SATURNIA and VULCANIA leaving Trieste 1500/22nd to arrive Gibraltar 0800/27th passing Messina about 1500/24th.

2. DUILIO and GIULIO CESARE leaving Trieste 2000/24th to arrive Gibraltar 0800/30th passing Messina about 0400/27th.

3. Ships are painted white with Italian flag on side flank by red cross and illuminated at night. They are not to be molested.
(Capt. S.10 201218B to S/M Flot. 10, (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, Capt. S.8, Capt. S.1.)

S/Ms submerged passages. Until further orders S/Ms proceeding submerged by day will dive for half an hour before sunrise to half an hour after sunset.

2. A pencil notation to this effect should be made against M.(W) C.A.O. number 16 para. 11 (4).
(C. in C.Med. 201219A to Med. Station K. message K383. (R) H.Q. N.W. Africa, Coastal A.F.)

"Chop" Atlantic Convoys proposed amendment. A.M. 171935. Fully concur with F.O.C.Gib's 181150 para. 1. If however there is some overriding reason why "Chop" line should be east of Azores suggest that 20° W. would be more suitable than 24° W. to coincide with change of W/T organisation.

2. Agree that control previously exercised by Admiralty should be through F.O.C.Gibraltar on my behalf.
(C. in C.Med. 201320 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar.)
Reply Admty. 221320.

P.R.U. April 20th Visuals. 1120 Taranto 2 battleships 3 cruisers. 1215 Messina no major naval units.
(V.A.Malta 201343B to C. in C.Med. etc.)
P.R.U. 20th April visuals 1600 Taranto 2 battleships 3 cruisers. 1700 Messina no major naval units.
(V.A.Malta 201835B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

/P.R.U....

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

P.R.U. (Contd.) P.R.U. Visuals reported 1 small merchant ship, 1 E-Boat 270 Cape San Vito (Sicily) 4 at 1600B steering westerly 5 knots. (V.A.Malta 201930B to F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C.Med. LAFOREY.)

Use of Captured Ports, N. Africa. No. 5547. 20th April 1943. To Usfor, For Chiefs of Staff. From Eisenhower. Ref. Your 2047 (circulated as C.O.S.(M.E.)363 - O.Z. 709 - T.O.O. 1810Z/10 March.) Following is a brief report of experience gained in North Africa:-

1. Following concerns British Operated Ports:

A. Algiers, Bougie, Philippeville, and Bone were not captured ports in the ordinary sense as they were handed over in working order. French pilots, tugs, barges, cranes continued to operate. Initially all ship work was done by docks operating companies with pioneers on the quay. Civilian labour re-introduced on the quay during the first week and on ship at end of November. Civilian transport used for docks clearance within 3 days. Small tugs and lighters taken over by I.W.T. owing to inefficiency of French firms and reluctance to work during air raids.

2. Answers to Questions:

A. Laid down in London by A.F.H.Q. Administrative Memorandum No. 13, dated 22 Oct. 1942, and has been successfully applied to all British operated ports. Supreme control exercised by Army and Navy but French advice and co-operation accepted from beginning.

B. Port control committees in all cases under Chairmanship of Navy (Captain Dockyard in Algiers and N.O.I.C. in other ports). Membership of committee had increased from original Navy Sea Transport M.O.V. and T.N. and Sub. Area and in case of Algiers now includes M.W.T. N.C.S.O. R.A.F. and French shipping adviser. Committees meet daily and are responsible for running the port to meet Military and Navy requirements. Port Commandant (Senior Movements Officer) is responsible for co-ordination of work of all Army Services in port and holds Port Working Committees as necessary to arrange daily detail.

C. Landing craft from assault used initially but normal work with existing port facilities possible from start.

D. Docks operating companies and port maintenance company supplemented by existing French personnel and Arab labour.

E. No attempts made at sabotage or blocking 4 British operated ports. Three French ships scuttled at Bougie avoid spread of fire from enemy action.

3. Following replies refer to Ports operated by U.S. Forces:

A. and B. not applicable.

C. Conventional L.C.V.S. L.C.P.S. L.C.M.S. Lighters, self propelled sand barges as lighters, floating cranes, shore cranes, (dock equipment), civilian shore cranes (procured), amphibian tractors, (Alligators), full-stevedoring gear for handling wheeled and cased vehicles, heavy lifts, and general cargo prepared staging for discharging from Maracaibos. No expedients of unusual nature used. One successful improvization was used of inverted metal hoods used for water-proofing tanks for sledding supplies on sand beaches. Local commercial tugs were used after entry into harbours. Local motor trucks with drivers used to the extent available.

/D...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Use of
Captured
Ports N.
Africa.
(Contd.)

D. Local operators of harbour cranes and similar equipment and truck drivers were used very soon after entering harbours, later augmented by other technicians and large numbers of Arab labourers.

E. Large number of ships in harbour were scuttled alongside piers in the harbours. Entrance to Oran Harbour was completely blocked and required about 10 days for clearing. In no case was the harbour permanently blocked but operations were seriously impeded by scuttled vessels alongside berths. At Casablanca and Port Lyautey over half of berths were unusable until wrecked vessels had been removed. Docks were undamaged. At Port Lyautey 3 spans of a bridge over the river were demolished. No attempt was made to destroy installations inshore or any of the port structures although demolitions were placed at a number of these points.
(Algiers 201512A to Usfor.)

ANTONIA.

Arrived.
(Cdre. Algiers 201543 to S.O.I.S. (R) A.I.G. 259, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

ADRIAS.

ADRIAS G.S. is to join 22nd D.F. She will be administered by Cdre. D. and maintained by WOOLWICH with accounts of liaison personnel in NILE.
(C. in C. Levant 201618C to Cdre. D. (R) Admty. Capt. D. 22nd D.F., B.A.O. NILE, ADRIAS, G.S. Greek C. in C. C. in C. Med. DULVERTON, N.O.I.C. Malta.)

Air Report.

To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz N.A.A.F. H.D.Q.S A.D.V.

1. Over target area, heavy overcast interfered with heavy and medium operations. 18 B.17s dropped 216 X 500 pound bombs from 23,000 feet on Tunis. Results not observed.

4. Night 18/19. Beaufighters and Spitfires intercepted 18 enemy aircraft attacking Algiers destroying 3 and probably destroying 1. 2 enemy aircraft destroyed by A/A. 3 bombs dropped on dock area. 5 Beaufighters intruded Sardinia for enemy aircraft returning from Algiers raid and damaged 3 enemy aircraft over Villa Cidro.

5. Night 18/19. 1 plane scored direct hits on stationary ship 600 yards off shore at D9404. Another plane reported ship on fire. Various points of activity bombed. Total 8 tons dropped. 1 Bisley badly damaged by friendly action. 1 Bisley missing. 11 tons dropped 24, 398 pounds of bombs from 10,000 feet on La Marsa starting 2 large fires.

6. B.17 pilots participating in Palermo raid 18th, when 17 were damaged reports several enemy aircraft followed them at a distance from Cap Gallo to target presumably sending course speed and altitude. Their tactics usually follow the practice of endeavouring to break up formation with anti aircraft, then with fighters, pick off stragglers.

(Allied Air Force 201619Z to Etousa.)

/Cover...

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cover for U.K. convoys To permit cruiser cover for convoys to be arranged, request you will include C. in C.Plymouth in any signal forecasting sailing of a U.K. bound convoy giving as much notice as possible. (D.O.D.(H) 201717B to C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A.)

Malta Movements. Arrived NUBIAN, PETARD and PALADIN. (V.A.Malta 201820 to Admty. C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant.)

DEWDALE, DERWENTDALE. Your 051908. Regret DEWDALE will not be available. 2. Intend to sail DERWENTDALE in K.M.S.15 to comply with your 011121. (Para. 2 cancelled. (Admty. 281625B).) (D. of P. 201829B to C. in C.Med. (R) R.A.V. C.C.O. S.O.A.S.C.)

TROOPER. My 201124. Onward routeing through 038° 42' 011° 30 mins. at 0200/22nd 038° 06' 004° 04' at 2200A/24th to R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 02' at 0615A/25th. (Capt. S.8 201832A to TROOPER (R) C. in C.M.F. 8th S.F. Capt. 10th S. Cdre. Algiers.)

Small Tankers. ?Your 172017 (?Admiralty 171720 intended). Request confirmation that the three small tankers capacity 3000 tons each being sent end of April are not the white tankers already arranged on Military account. (C. in C.Med. 201845A to Cominch (R) Admty.)

Movements Bougie. Arrival LINGE, H.M.T. RUSKHOLM French Ships VILLE DE BOUGIE, CHASSEUR III, RAIE (?) L.S.Ts. 302, 303, 304, 362, 403. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 201905A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville, N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) F.O.I.S. Admty. etc.)

Malta Air Report. A.I. 564 April 20. C.S.R. A. Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 19th/20th April. Successful intruders Sorties were made by 5 Mosquitoes 2 patrolling Trapani 1 patrolling East Coast of Sicily and 2 patrolling Toe of Italy. A railway station near Palermo, small shipping vessels East of Palermo, and M.T. in Toe of Italy were also strafed, numerous strikes being scored. A.S.V. jamming and haze hampered shipping strikes. 3 Wellingtons and 4 Albacores made shipping searches in Marittimo Area but found no suitable target. Day 20th April. 12 Spitfire bombers with close escort 4 Fighter Spitfires and high cover of 4 Fighter Spitfires bombed Empedocle harbour scoring hits near Power House and on factory buildings and railway sidings. Part 2 Enemy Air Activity.

/Day...

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanMalta Air
Report.
(Contd.)Day 19th April. 4 Spitfires were Airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta.
Day 20th April. 4 Beaufighters provided escort for incoming Naval Units.
(A.H.Q.Malta 201944.)Sinking of
Italian
destroyers
& PAKENHAM.A.M. 191957 (Circulation restricted by A.C.N.S.(F)
N.T. in W.D.)

As far as my knowledge goes I consider this was a spirited and well fought action which resulted in the sinking of one enemy destroyer and severe damage to another.

2. At risk of being considered wise after the event I consider the composition of the force unfortunate as it is not to be expected that two such miserably undergunned destroyers which are such large targets can make a good showing without sustaining considerable damage themselves against even small Italian destroyers with their small targets and considerably heavier armament.

3. In view of the circumstances i.e. the proximity of the enemy air bases and the fact that fighter cover could not be maintained one can but agree with the decision to cut the losses and sink PAKENHAM.

4. I am not aware whether any heavily armed destroyers were available but I am taking up with C. in C. Levant the question of always including at least a proportion of the heavier armed destroyers in those available for these night sweeps.
(C. in C. Med. 201957A to Admty.)Movements.
Bone.Arrivals PENELOPE, L.S.T. 401, CLACTON, STROMA, ASHANTI, ADRIAS. Departures SIRIUS, CLACTON, ASHANTI, ADRIAS.
(S.O.I.S. 202002A to C. in C. Med. etc.)Movements
Tripoli.Sailed JAVELIN, COMMANDANT DOMINE, F.S. LA MOQUESE, TREERN. Arrived and sailed EASTON.
(N.O.I.C. Libya 202007A to Admty.)Movements
Algiers.Algiers arrivals M.Ls. 555, 556, 307, 341, 443, 493, 283, H.D.M.L. 1154, 1252 SIRIUS, P.339 (TAURUS) French S/M ANTIOPE. Departures CARLISLE, OAKLEY, BICESTER.
(Com. Algiers 202011A to Admty. etc.)19 D.F. A/C
Co-operationAircraft GHA/O co-operating from 2145. 2nd aircraft at 2330 call sign signalled on departure.
(V.A.Malta 202022B to Capt. D.19th D.F. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.12th C.S.)
My 2022. G (?H) A/F departed.
(V.A.Malta 202216B.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- Movements
Tobruk. Arrived ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOTT, HARROW, RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 202128C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Movements,
Oran. FELIXSTOWE, FOXTROT, STELLA CARINA, M.M.S. 520, 81 arrived. L.S.Ts. 364, 409, 413, 367 and 407 departed.
(Comnob Oran 202135A to Admty. etc.)
- Movements
Benghazi. Arrived ROMNEY. Arrived and sailed DELPHINIUM, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 202135C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Movements
Port Said. Port Said arrivals April 20th CROOME, ROCKWOOD, EURYALUS. Departures PANTHER, CROOME, ROCKWOOD, CUMBRAE, EURYALUS, R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, QUEEN OLGA, SPETSAI.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 202235C to Admty. etc.)
- X C.C.F.
(H.Q.)
C.F.W. Headquarters of C.C.F. have been transferred to Algiers. All signals previously made to C.F.W. are now to be made to C.C.F. C.F.W. will be transferred to Malta shortly.
(C. in C.Med. 202300A to Med. Station 385K (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- Party F.
Ferryville. At present naval party organisation for moving into Ferryville is known as party F. Intend it should be known as Ferryville party and request stores for this party be addressed to Ferryville and sent to Algiers for the present.
2. Name of ship for officer, officers and men employed at Bizerta and Ferryville will be H.M.S. HASDRUBAL and this address should be used by Ferryville party for their correspondence.
 3. Dockyard personnel details Ferryville should have their correspondence addressed, Naval Dockyard, Ferryville and it should be enclosed in bags for HASDRUBAL.
 4. These mails to be sent Algiers for the present.
(C. in C.Med. 202304C to Admty. S.O.I.S. etc.)

MOST SECRET

487A.
20
4

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 Service.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

202240a APR 11

IN

(*NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad:

FROM: Algiers P " are excepted from this rule.) DATE: 21.4.43

RECD: 1430Z

ADDRESSED: Troopers, Usfor, Mideast, Britman, Washington,
Armindia, 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)
Resident Minister, Achimota
Defender, Wellington (for
Puttick)

} Passed by
Foreign
Office.
} Passed by
Colonial
Office.
} Passed by
War Office.

Ref. No. 5711 dated 20th April 1943.

LINREP No. 39.

Tunisia - Situation Report.

Summary of Operations 15th to 18th April 1943.

1. Eighth Army. Patrols were active throughout the period along the enemy's new defensive line from Enfidaville to the west. The forward concentration of our forces continued. 1st British Armored Division commenced to move to the area of First Army during the night 15/16 April.

2. First Army. Enemy counter attacks in the mountains Djebel Sefsouf area forced French Troops to withdraw slightly 16th April. Fighting continues in this area. Southwest of Djebel Mansour local advances have been made and some prisoners captured. IX Corps consisting of the 46th Infantry Division, 1st British Armored Division and 6th Armored Division has taken over the Bou Aalata-Goubellat sector. In the V Corps sector attacks continued in the Medjez El Bab - Minchar - Beja area over difficult country. The 78th Division with the 11, 36 and 38th Infantry Brigades advanced along the mountain ranges north-west of Medjez. Confused fighting took place in the area of Djebel El Ang throughout 15th April. The enemy made a successful attack on our positions but a counter attack by our troops in the evening recovered all lost ground and the hill remains in our hands. During the night 16/17 April a successful attack was made by our infantry on Djebel Tanngouche, 1 mile north of Hoidous but owing to the destruction of the mule transport bringing forward tools and blasting powder our troops were compelled to withdraw. The 4th Division advancing astride the Beja - Mateur Road reached J4055 before being relieved by the 1st U.S.A. Infantry Division.

3. 11 U.S.A. Corps. The construction of 11 U.S.A. Corps on the left flank of First Army continued. 9th on the left and First U.S.A. Infantry Division on the right are now complete in this sector with the Corps C.P. at Beja. Patrol activity only has so far been carried out. II Corps assumed command of the sector from 9 miles Northwest of Medjez El Bab to the sea during the evening 18th April. Supply in the area Northeast of Beja still necessitates pack transport.

4. Enemy: In the Northern sector the enemy maintains a stubborn defense and is employing recently arrived reinforcements in the line. In the center there has been no major change but it is appreciated that a mobile Armored Reserve may be grouped in the plain of Tunis. The enemy's withdrawal on the Northern features of the Dorsale appears to be coming to an end. Defense preparations continue on the new Southern line to Enfidaville. This line is screened by mobile patrols.

5. Naval: During the night 15/16 April 2 destroyers on a sweep to the South of Marittimo sighted 2 large Italian destroyers and sank both of them. 1 of our destroyers received some damage and was taken in tow by the other, but the ships were attacked by enemy aircraft and in view of the close proximity to enemy airfields and the long distance from Malta for fighter cover, the damaged destroyer was sunk by our own forces. Night 16/17 April an enemy convoy of 2 merchant vessels and 4 destroyers was attacked. 1 merchant vessel was sunk by M.T.B.S. and the other was hit by aircraft of Fleet Air Arm. Submarines returning from patrols report sinking 4 ships, probably sinking 3 ships and damaging 1 other.

6. Air: Night 14/15 April Bombers of Strategic Air Force attacked enemy airdromes in Sardinia. On the following day bomber missions were cancelled due to weather. Palermo was attacked by Flying Fortresses on both 16th, 17th and 18th April. Other attacks were made on Bizerta, Ferryville, and enemy airdromes in Sardinia and Sicily and Tunisia. Light bombers and fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force made many successful attacks on enemy landing grounds. Fighters carried out offensive sweeps over Northern Tunisia. On 18 April a total of 88 enemy aircraft were destroyed including 45 transport aircraft which were shot down by fighters of the Western Desert Air Force.

7./.....

MOST SECRET

767B

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 are excepted from this rule.)
7. Political: P. General Catroux arrived yesterday in Algiers to resume active negotiations on French Union Agreement. General Giraud issued a statement on Friday decrying political rather than military activities and it is expected that there will be further clarification of Giraud's position shortly.

8. Amend to read First U.S. Infantry Division instead of 11th Infantry Division. Reference paragraph 2 LINREP 38.

202248A

Received in War Registry at 0016/23.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(A)
A.C.N.S.(F)(2)
A.C.N.S.(W)
U.W.R.
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.D.I.C.(2)
D. of P.(2)
Duty Capt.(2)
Hd. of M
D.N.I.(4)
I.P.(2)
D.P.D.
C.N.I.
W.D.
Adm. Blake
D.D.O.D.(M)
D.A/W.T.
D.T.S.D.
D.G.D.

Air Ministry Distribution:-

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign secretary
First sea Lord
C.6. Tels, War office
A.M.C.S.(C)
Mr. Strang, Foreign office
Mr. Radcliffe.

EML.

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

M.B.33. Sailing telegram, (3 ships, list.)
2. 0345Z/19th. 4. 9½ knots. (Route) 6. SCOUT.
(N.C.S.O. Colombo, 200246Z, 200250Z to Admty.)

Movements. LUCIA arrived p.m. 19th.
(N.O.i/c Seychelles, 200511Z to Admty.)
Arrival HOXA, WUCHANG, M.S. (?MERAAL) at 0959Z/20th
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 201002Z to Admty.)
Arrival PATNA I.W.T. Craft MADAN, MOHAN (ROSTA?) UDAIPUR.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 201036Z to Admty.)
Colombo departure 20th April 0630Z SONAVATI.
(F.O. Ceylon, 201046Z to Admty. etc.)
Left CAIRNS.
(F.O.I.C. East Af., 201446Z to Admty.)

LL Minesweepers. Request whereabouts and expected dates of arrival
on this station of motor M/S referred to on your
041554 (Reduction in number of LL Minesweepers
allocated to Persian Gulf.)
(C. in C.E.F. 200608Z to Admty., (R) F.O.Ceylon.)

Carriage of Passengers. Simla Rules 1931 referred to in your 160903Z are
modifications of the rules of the International
Convention for the safety of life at sea 1929, by
which, "unberthed passenger" carrying vessels on
certain trades in the East are granted certificates
to carry passengers far in excess of life boat accommodation,
part of the balance being made up of life rafts and buoyant
apparatus. Copy of rules being forwarded by post.
(Com. R.I.N., 200902Z to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty.)

X Diego Suarez. Concur with N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 172356 which has
been passed to you with my 160903. Your 142229
refers. (Use of accommodation by French)
(Dep. C. in C.E.F., 200955Z to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C.
Diego Suarez.)

DEVONSHIRE. A.M. 021755A and 141302B. DEVONSHIRE will now be
taken in hand for refit and modernisation by Middle
Docks, South Shields. 2. F.O.C.W.Af. pass to
DEVONSHIRE on arrival. 3. Destination in U.K.
remains Clyde.
(D.O.D.(F) 201250B to C.in C.E.F., F.O.C.W.Af.,
(R) C. in C.S.A., C. in C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Nore,
A.S. Chatham, F.O.I.C. Tyne, C.S.4.)

Assault Force. 46.22 (47422?)/C.O.S. 20 April Nil. Your 902031.
1. To provide category "A" personnel for your
assault brigade groups and category "C" for two
assault brigade groups C.O.S. (India)*119 of 17/1/43
refers. (Composition and training). 6. On a basis of an assault
force of six brigade groups we therefore require (a) Category "A"
personnel for two assault Bde. gps. (b) Category "C" personnel for
four assault bdes.
(Arminia, 202040 to Admty. (R) C.in C.E.F.)* Circulated under T.O.O
1900Z/17 Jan. (N.T. in W.D.) Note ARMINDIA's 1145Z/29 Jan also
refers. (N.T. in W.D.)

War Diary.

20.4.1945.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements, Halifax. Departure TRAIL, TIMMINS, NORANDA to escort O.N.177, TROIS RIVIERES, WESTMOUNT escorting H.J.49. Arrivals ANNAPOLIS, KENORA, BRANTFORD, MOOSEJAW, KITCHENER ex O.N.S.2. (C. Halifax, 200016Z to Admty etc.)

U/B attacked by KENORA. KENORA attacking S/M in 44° 00' N. 64° 07' W. at 0059/20th. Proceed forthwith to assist reporting E.T.A. position. Keeping constant watch 105 K/cs. (C. in C. C.N.A. 200211Z to PORT ARTHUR (R) KENORA, C.T.F.24, Connav, Admiralty, 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.)

KENORA attacking S/M in 44° 00' N. 64° 07' (?W) at 0059/20 on detaching from convoy proceed to assist PORT ARTHUR proceeding from Halifax. (C. in C. C.N.A. 200222Z to SASKATOON (R) KENORA, PORT ARTHUR. 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., N.O.I.C. Shelburne. A.C.I.C.)

KENORA reports having carried out 2 D/C attacks on asdic contact in amended position 044° 06' 065° 57' W. and searched the area for 3 hours with negative results. Departed to join X.B.46 at 200240Z. You are to carry out A/S searches in this area and if no A/S contact obtained by 201000 return Halifax. (C. in C. C.N.W.A. 200730Z to PORT ARTHUR, SASKATOON (R) KENORA, 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., N.O.I.C. Shelburne.)

NEA HELLAS. NEA HELLAS sailed from U.K. 16 April for New York for inclusion in convoy U.G.F.8: No personnel are on board. (D. of S.T. 200215B to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York)

U/B, BAYNTUN, BERRY. D/F of transmission at 2129Z/19 indicates that you may have been reported by a U-Boat. (D.D.I.C. 20023B to BAYNTUN, BERRY (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cominch)

"Chop" line Proposed Amendment. Your 171935. Assumed that independents bound North Africa will also "chop" to C. in C. Med. similarly to U.S./African convoys. (B.A.D. 200257 to Admty)

Movements. St. John's N.F. April 19/43. Arrivals U.S.S. ALATOK, U.S.S. ARALUK ex Argentina. Departures ITCHEN, ST.LAURENT, ST.CROIX, OXLIP, AGASSIZ, WOODSTOCK, GRENADIER, TENACITY to S.C. 127. VILLE DE QUEBEC, LANCHINE, WASAGA, ESQUI-MALT escorting J.H.49 to Halifax. (N.O.I.C. St. John's N.F. 200440Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

20.4.1945.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. Boston arrived 200306Z from New York ARROWHEAD.
(Contd.) (N.S.H.Q. 201901Z to Admty)
From Cayenne U.S.S. PUMPER with escort Y.M.S.33
arrived this afternoon.
(Cayenne, 202000 to Admty)

Departures CHELSEA, MILLTOWN, escorting H.X.235, VEGREVILLE to
Louisburg arrival DIGBY from St. John's N.F.
(C. Halifax, 202158Z to Admty)

X Task Force 62 constitution, U.G.S.8. This is C. in C. Lant's 191941. Taskforce 62
Captain Wattles, hereby constituted as follows:
Desron 16 less CHAMPLIN ORDRONAU, WINOOSKI,
HERBERT SCHENCK, escort Convoy U.G.S.8 to North
African Ports Sailing from New York April 28.
Follow route prescribed by Cominch C. & R. "Chop"
to Admiralty for diversion purposes at 47° W.
Convoy consists of about 40 AK's 15 AO's and L.S.T.'s sufficient
to bring total number of vessels in convoy including WINOOSKI
to 75., On arrival North African Waters Taskforce dissolved.
Comdesron 16 with ships that Squadron WINOOSKI report Comnavnav
for temporary duty. Orders for HERBERT SCHENCK return U.S.
later. U.S. L.S.T.'s in convoy report Comnavnav for duty.
Fuel Destroyers at Sea from WINOOSKI.
(Comnav, 200716 to Admty)

U/B. Submarine sighted on surface in 046° 45' N. 054°
24' W. at 0500Z/19th.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 200820Z to B.G.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., A.C.I.C.)

BOGUE, Fuelling exercises. When may information asked for be expected.
Ref. my 141548 (Circulated under T.O.O.141611)
to C. in C. Lant and C. in C. Lant paraphrase to
BOGUE for action 142141.
(Comnav, 200924 to BOGUE, (R) Admty, C. in C.
W.A., C. in C. Lant, Opnav.)

BOGUE U.S. Destroyer BELKNAP, U.S. Destroyer GREENE, U.S. destroyer
LEA, U.S. Destroyer OSMOND INGRAM now at Base R. U.S. Destroyer
GEOR. E. BADGER at Navy Yard Boston. C.T.G.92.3 less U.S.
destroyer GEO. E. BADGER ready for sea April 22nd.
(BOGUE, 202345Z to Comnav (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, Admty.
C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S), Comtask 24, C.T.G. 24.7, Cdr.
Atlantic Fleet (U.S.), Comair Atlantic.)

X Task Force 68. C. in C. Lant 191916 addressed for action to
N.O.B. Bermuda and C.M.S.F. informs as follows:
Com. Desron 17, deliver this to Commander,
Task Force 68 (Capt. Zimmerli) for information.
C.M.S.F. sail ALMAACK as follows:

Task Force 68 Commander Madeira, ALMAACK, ARAPAHO, PILOT.
CHEROKEE, NELSON, MADDOX, GLENNON, BUTLER, HERNDON. All
proceed together to U.S. via Bermuda. When clear of submarine
area south of Azores, C.T.F.68 detach 3 destroyers, direct them

proceed / ...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Task Force 68 (Contd.) proceed to Navy Yard, New York at best speed, via Bermuda for fuel if necessary. N.O.B. Bermuda relieve remaining two destroyers with minesweepers as far to eastward of Bermuda as practicable. When relieved, remaining two destroyers proceed to New York in same manner as first three. At Bermuda, refuel task force then proceed to Base H where dissolved.
(Comnav, 200931 to Admty)

U/B's HAKE. Serial D/F bearings p.m/19 indicate U/Bs near your route between 35° 00' W. and 30° 00' W. (D.D.I.C.201005B to HAKE, (R) HADDO, Cominch, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.)

X ? U/B. attacked by A/C 19th April. My 191605Z. U.S. Army aircraft attacked S/M with 6 depth charges, 2 of which appeared to be direct hits within 10 - 15 feet oil slick and large air bubbles observed. Plane remained in vicinity for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Attack possibly successful, but certainty lacking.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A, 201030Z 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.)

3rd Escort Group. Proceed towards 056° 30' N. 039° 00' W. at economical speed.
(C. in C. W.A. 201055Z to Escort Group 3rd (R) C.T.G.24.7, C.O.A.C., Connav, A.C.I.C. C.T.F.24, Admty, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., H.Q.C.C.)

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
1800	CILICIA	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° S. 32° W.	188°	14
G.M.T. 20th.	CARNARVON	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	CHESHIRE with Floating Dock }	20° S. 38 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	044°	4
	AQUITANIA	24° S. 38° W.	269°	19
	(D.O.D.(F), 201055Z to Opnav (R) Comnav)			

EMPIRE BRONZE. ex T.B.12. Your 13/1902. Request confirmation EMPIRE BRONZE cargo, aviation spirit is to be routed independently from dispersal position of T.B.12 or instructed enter Pernambuco to await escort if former request advice approximate rendezvous position for A/S escort.
(B.R.L.O.Trinidad, 201142Q to Admty (R) F.O.C. W.Af. Cominch).
Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 301545.

Task/ ...

772

War Diary.20.4.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

Task Force 67 constitution Convoy U.G.F.8. C. in C. Lant, 191943 addressed for action to U.S.S. TEXAS informs as follows: This establishes Task Force 67 (Captain Pfaff) TEXAS, Comdesdiv 38 in HOBBY, THATCHER, HARRISON, GUEST, TERRY, BROWNSON, GILLESPIE, CARMICK, KALK and MERRIMACK. Escort Convoy U.G.F.8 ready New York 29 April to North Africa, following route prescribed by Cominch (C. and R.). At 47° W. "Chop" for diversion purposes passes from C. in C. Lant to Admiralty. Fuel destroyers at sea from MERRIMACK. Return to New York escorting Convoy G.U.F.8 in accordance with Admiralty routeing when directed by Commorseafron. (Comnaveu, 201226 to Admty)

HAMUL For information. U.S.S. HAMUL recently arrived Bermuda is depot ship for "Destroyer escort Shakedown Group" and is equipped as repair ship with instructional gear. Intention is to give full work up to American D.E.(S) number finally reaching 40 per month. Additional submarines expected at Bermuda for A/S training. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 201252P to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

UC/CU Convoys. Your 072132Z and 161652P. There are no British escorts with U.C.2. (2) Future UC/CU convoys will have American escorts and facilities for British escorts at Curacao will therefore not be required. (D.O.D.(H), 201335B to S.B.N.O. A.At. (R) B.A.D. N.C.S.O. Curacao.)

Attacks on H.X.231 on 4th and 5th April preliminary report. The following has been received from C. in C. W.A. addressed Admiralty, (Begins): Preliminary report of convoy H.X.231 escorted by B 7 Group TAY S.O. ALISMAN, PINK, SNOWFLAKE, LOOSESTRIFE, VIDETTE. (1) Convoy 61 ships in 13 Columns. No Rescue ship. 1 general! Co-operation with aircraft from both Iceland and Aldergrove was excellent and numerous attacks on U-Boats were made by them on sweep given by S.O. (2) HF/DF proved most valuable. Signals ceased when aircraft were in vicinity but were resumed directly 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 (as received) distance. (3) U-Boats maintained contact in spite of low visibility and air coverage between 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 convoy in sight. (4) All but one of attacks or attempted attacks came from ahead or on the bow. In daylight U-Boats appeared to be ahead of 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 NNW bright Northern Lights. Port side of convoy was strengthened as attack was anticipated from that direction. At 2208 SHILLONG

number / ...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Attacks on H.X.231 on 4th and 5th April preliminary report. (Contd.)

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 2305 April 4th. WAROOGA number 44 was torpedoed on starboard quarter of convoy. "Raspberry" was not ordered as escorts were not in station. Star shell was fired but nothing was sighted. WAROOGA 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 1215 April 5th. BRITISH ARDOUR number 62 was torpedoed on port side escort from position A being absent. From evidence available it is known that U-Boat dived visibility distance ahead of 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. Convoy's course at time was 087°. (9) Night of 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 convoy. 12 attempted attacks by U-Boats were beaten off in course of 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 TAY in position A obtained A/S contact and counter attacked at once the stern of U-Boat being sighted just before charges were dropped. Convoy passed over U-Boat and contact was not regained. T.O.O.121827B April (Ends) (D.A/S.W. 201401B to B.A.D.)

B.Y.M.S.

B.Y.M.S. 13 delayed, 19 and 28 departure 1235 G.M.T. April 20th E.T.A. Trinidad 24th. (B.R.L.O.Cristobal, 20141R, Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A., B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Jamaica.)

Submarine estimate 20th April. U.S. S/M. Notice.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 201511Z, 201512Z, 201554Z, 201555Z, 201556Z)

Dispositions.

Section East. G.S.22, T.U.24.8.2, 48.39 49.38 18.30 8.5 alter to 270° in 47.01 N. and for St.Johns N.F. in 52.30 W. S.C.25 TAHOMA, ALATOK, ARLUK 47.36 51.50 088° 8 alter to 037° in 51.40 W. S.C.127 Mid Ocean Escort T.U.24.1.11 46.03 47.23 062° 7.5 alter to 036° in 45.52 W. T.U.No.24 18.11 vicinity 46.13 49.30 on route St.Johns 12. J.H.49 VILLE DE QUEBEC, LACHINE, WASAGA, ESQUIMALT 46.06 55.40 222° 7.5 alter to 265° in 45.22 56.31.

JOANA / ...

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Dispositions
(Contd.)

JOANA SANTA, SANTA PRINCESSA (Port) 46.40
48.19 285° 9. on route St. Johns.
ELIZABETH BAKKE 40.01 55.43 270° 13.6.
ALVARO MARTIN HOMENS 43.21 51.51 286° 9.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 201540Z to Admty)

U/B's.
HADD0.

By D/F on 20th probably 4 or 5 U-Boats moving
westward between latitude 047° 29' and 050°
31' longitude 033° 59' and 036° 29'.
(F.O.S.201548B to HADD0 (R) HAKE, C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., Admty.)

U/B.

Santa Maria reports submarine sighted 0600 G.M.T.
19th 011° 26' 074° 05'.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 201606Q to Admty)

U/B's
attacked,
Weekly
summary.

Your 1059B/22nd July, following promising attacks
reported week ending 2400Z/18.
April 11th escorts HX.232 made several attacks,
approx. 54° 30' N. 30° 30' W. At least four
attacks considered good, no results observed
other than violent underwater explosion. One
attack April 12th CLOVER attacked submarine
49° 46' N. 43° 04' W, believed probably damaged. Details
attack not reported. April, 15th two planes patrol 83 attacked
submarine 04° 08' S. 31° 20' W. Attack made under heavy enemy
gunfire, 1 plane damaged. Submarine sunk, 30 to 50 survivors
seen in water. Rafts dropped by planes. Not yet informed
if any survivors recovered. April 18th SS. TAMPA attacked
sound contact heard screw noises 43° 32' N. 60° 36' W. Oil
slick resulted. No motion to target after attack.
(Cominch, 201611 to Admty)

X Atlantic
Operational
Control.

At A.C.C. it was agreed that after change of
Command in N.W. Atlantic, facilities for British
escorts at Argentia would be available as hereto-
fore. (2) These arrangements have hitherto
been made by British Maintenance Commander,
Argentia. (3) Requested you will clarify
proposed method of operational control when C.T.F. 24 ceases to
operate escorts of Atlantic convoys. (4) It is for consideration
whether a British Capt. (D) will be necessary at Argentia in
addition to Capt. (D) St. Johns.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 201823B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. C.N.A.
Cominch, C.T.F.24, C. in C. W.A.)

H.H.X.235.

Sailing telegram part 1.
(2) Gate 1800Z/20. (3) Homp 1500Z/21.
(5) As C.E.S.F. 2017/13.
(N.C.S.O.Halifax, 201901Z to Admty)

Escort
Vessels,
construction.

Lorsa 8688
(B.A.D. 201909Z to Admty)
See Lion Copy.

Control / ...

SECRET

A 10 1.
444A.

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

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

SECRET MESSAGE 201909Z/April. IN

From B.A.D. Washington.

Date 21.4.43.

Recd. 0530.

Flag Officers Cypher (X) By Cable.

Addressed Admiralty.

Escort Vessels - Construction Assignments.

LORSA 8628.

N.A.C. (Navy) considered today the assignment of long range escort vessels from first of October 1943 to 31st March 1944 inclusive including those completing before former date not previously assigned.

2. Summary.

(A) Ratio 1 to 1.37 and previous method of assessing ocean-going Minesweepers and Fleet Destroyers building was accepted for above period.

(B) Americans stressed that this acceptance up till 31st March 1944 must not be considered as a precedent for future assignments.

(C) Ratio must not be taken to refer to individual classes of ships in long range escort category.

(D) It was stated that Admiral King wished to retain all the eleven B.A.M's completing.

3. Decisions reached.

(A) 85 vessels to be assigned to U.K. up to 31st March 1944.

(B) Despite para. 2 (D) Committee agreed to assign 5 B.A.M's to U.K. This was accepted. It was considered better to accept five firmly at this stage than to make a higher bid which with Admiral King's directive there would be little likelihood of achieving and which might have prejudiced the entire negotiation.

4. Assignment of the 85 escort vessels will now be worked out in detail.

5. We shall try to obtain a due proportion of the fast ships and until we are assured of their value, as few of the Maritime Corvettes as possible. Request you

/will

will confirm that crews can be provided for the total assignment starting with 5 ships in August with the remainder spread as evenly as the completions permit. Thus 80 crews would be required in the 6 months September 1943 to 31st March 1944 or an average of 3 a week during the period and it is important that Engineer Officers and Engine Room advance parties should arrive in U.S.A. 10 weeks ahead of completion dates.

6. We stress that above is in addition to ships previously assigned and not yet completed.

201909Z.

pmw

1st Lord.	Dept. Contr. (3).)
1st S.L. (2).	D.S.D. (2).)
D.F.S.L.	D.N.C. (2).)
2nd S.L.	D. (4).)
Controller.	E. in C.) Bath
4th S.L.	M.F.)
V.C.N.S.	P. Branch.)
A.C.N.S. (H).	D.A.S. (4).)
A.C.N.S. (F).	S.W.R.)
A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2).		
A.C.N.S. (W).		
P.A.S. (PR).		
D. of P. (3).		
Ops. (3).		
O.D. (5).		
D.N.I. (4).		
D.N.C.		
E. in C.		
D.S.D. (2).		
D.A/S.W.		
D.G.D. (2).		
M. (2).		
M.A.S. (10).		
P. Shipments.		
D...S.		
D. of S. (3).		
D.57. O.B.		
N...2nd S.L.		
C.W. (2).		
N.		
D.P.S. (2).		
E.A.P.		
I.P. (3).		
W.D.		
D.T.D. (4).		
D.M.S.		
D.M.S. Citadel.		

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

Control of Tankers, Mediterranean. Ref. your 112018Z (A?) (N.T. in W.D. but Algiers 120922Z refers), to Marshall and Comnavau. "Control of Tankers, need of petroleum Officer for Comnavnaw". (1) All tankers owned or controlled by W.S.A., both American and allied flags, serving North Africa from Caribbean or U.S. ports, are assigned to U.S. Navy, who issue all voyage instructions. (2) Your (A) agreed, Your (B) vessels movements continue to be Navy responsibility. Your (C) agreed. (3) W.S.A. has cabled Slater confirming this situation, concluding with this sentence: "Your co-operation Navy and assistance masters is all that is necessary". (4) In view of above policy statement suggest leaving Lt. Glover in present duty. Shall advise name and rank experienced tanker Officer from Comnavnaw staff within few days. (5) Assume this meets his needs for experienced petroleum Officer, unless otherwise advised. (Cominch, 201930Z to Comgen, Freedom Algiers, Info: Comnavau, Comnavnaw, Comeastseafron. Comgulfseafron, C. in C. Lant.

FRANCIS PARSONS overdue. Canadian Schooner FRANCIS PARSONS en route Kingston Jam from Lunenburg is overdue since 11th. (N.S.H.Q. 201950Z to Admty. Connav, C. in C. C.N.A. S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) N.C.S.O. Montreal S.O.(I) Kingston.)

Stores Naval Air Stations Canada. U.K.A.L.M. from Air Min. Admiralty desire to ascertain whether arrangements can be made whereby requirements of common stores for Naval Air Stations established in Canada can be submitted to R.C.A.F. and obtained from local sources. (4) Glad of your comments. (Dominions Office, 202045 U.K. High Commissioner in Canada.)

Submarine attack and sighting summary. All times Z. (A) Plane sights submarine 59.04 N. 24.08 W. 201536. (B) Plane sights submarine course 310 59.04 N. 21.36 W. 192023. (C) Army plane made contact 26.10 N. 79.40 W. 201240. (D) KENORA sights submarine 44.06 N. 63.57 W. 200059. Conning tower reported 26.53 N. 82.21 W. 201445. Escorts attack suspicious contact 40.15 N. 69.58 W. 191635. U.S. FURY periscope and sound contact 20.01 N. 73.41 W. 192325. U.S.C.G. ALATOK sights submarine 46.45 N. 54. 24 W. 190500. (Cominch, 202100 to Admty)

L.C.I(L)'s. Intended to sail the last three L.C.I.(L) flights as follows. Dates are for leaving U.S. (1) 8th Flight (21 craft) consisting of 8th Flot. and second half of 7th Flot. (14th Div.) under Lt. Cdr. P.C. Hopkins R.N. (late FLAMINGO) for Med. about 24th. (2) 9th Flight (18 craft) 23rd Flot. and part of 22nd under Cdr. Sherwood R.N. for U.K. about 5th May. (3) 10th Flight (19 craft) 24th Flot. and part of 25th probably under Lt.Cdr. Villiers R.N.V.R. for U.K. about 15th May. This completes

total / ...

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

L.C.I.(L)'s
(Contd.)

total of 150 L.C.I.(L).
(2) If any alterations in destinations are anticipated it is requested that early notice may be given.
(B.A.M.R. Washington, 202104Z to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. C.C.O. Capt. M.L.C., C.in C. Levant, S.B.N.O. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. W.A.)

A.C.V.24.

A.C.V.24. Expected to commission as RAVAGER on 23rd and will probably be ready to leave Portland (Oregon) for Puget Sound for trials on 14th May, leaving Puget Sound for Norfolk (Vir.) about 26th May.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 202119Z to Admty (R) S.B.N.O. W.A., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, A.C.V. 24)

R.C.N.
Corvettes,
working
up and A/S
Training.

Your 192359Z. Amend para. 3 of N.S.H.Q.'s 101552 Jan. 1943 to read as follows:

Type	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Frigates	1	1	3	3	1	2	6	7	24
Corvettes	-	2	3	4	2	2	5	1	19
Algerines	2	2	1	1	4	3	3	2	18

(N.S.H.Q. 202144Z to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty. Cominch, B.A.D., N.M.C.S. Washington.)

U.G.S.7A.
U.G.L.3.

Convoy U.G.S.7A and U.G.L.3 including H.M. L.S.A. 368, 426 and 428 left Bermuda in accordance with N.O.B. Bermuda's 191601.
(S.B.N.O. W.A. 202239Z to Admty)

U/B.

U-Boat position by D/F at 2226Z/20th within 100 miles 35°N 35° 30' W. 777° K/cs Enigma 29 groups.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 202349Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet U.S. Admty. U.S. Ship MARIPOSA)

War Diary.

20.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

KIWI 16. Force of 25 A/C attacked Kahili and Ballale South Bougainville runways and shipping night 16/4 25 tons H.E. dropped also incendiaries and fragmentation bombs. Further attacks made 17/4 five hits made 10,000 ten AK which was left fired and sinking 2 hits another AK. Munta Vella Lavella. R/C A/C sighted 2 Japanese convoys N.E. Kavieng 7/4 2 DD 3 AK 00° 40' S. 153° 35' E. and 1 possible cruiser 2 DD 1 AK 00° 10' S. 154° 55' E. course 275° speed 19 knots. Convoy Ofecne (as received) DD 1 Maru, 1 unidentified vessel sighted approaching Kavieng from north 8/4. Two AK and 2 F/P in harbour, 4 M/B, 2 F. on aerodrome.
(C.W.R. Wellington 200012Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. (D.N.I.). A.C.N.B. G.H.Q. Delhi India).

DOMINION Expected to depart Wellington with 3,000 troops
MONARCH 8th May for Fremantle thence to Middle East.
E.T.A. Fremantle 16th May.
(2) Following escort arrangements are

required:-

(a) One cruiser to relieve South Pacific escort in the vicinity of 043° S. 140° E. about 12th May.

(b) A/S searching force and air escort in third out of Fremantle.

(c) Ocean escort to M.O.M.P. about 025° S. 230° E. where SUSSEX will take over ocean escort.

(3) Request names of ships detailed.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 200230Z to C.T.F.71 (R) Cdre. Western Australia, N.Z.N.B. 7th U.S. Fleet, C. in C. E.F., Admty.).

Movements Departure Tongatabu U.S.S. CYGNUS 1930Z/19 for Tutuila E.T.A. 1930Z/21.
Departure Noumea U.S.S. BRIDGE 0100Z/20 for Auckland E.T.A. 0500Z/24.
(D.N.O. Wellington 200520Z to Admty.).

Arrivals Milne Bay 18th GLENELG 19th BOWEN Port Moresby 19th VENDETTA Brisbane 19th WARJUNGA ARUNTA BUNDABERG, BENDIGO BUNGAREE Thursday Island U.S.S. TULSA Sydney (N.S.W.) 19th Townsville. Departures MILNE BAY 19th KAPUNDA BUNGAREE for Townsville BOWEN on escort Port Moresby 19th BROOME for Milne Bay Brisbane 19th BUNDABERG GLADSTONE BENDIGO all three for Sydney (N.S.W.).

(A.C.N.B. 201117Z to Admty.).

Hired transport KATOOMBA arrived Port Moresby 19th. U.S. Transport TELMER departed Townsville 19th due Port Moresby 21st. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Townsville 19th due Fall River 23rd. Hired transport DUNTROON departed Hobart 20th due Sydney (N.S.W.) 22nd.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 201129Z to Admty.).

BREEZE Departure Wellington BREEZE for Espiritu Santo E.T.A. 2000Z/27 (Route). Stock speed of advance 9 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington 200549Z to Comsopac M/S Flot. 25, Comseronsopac Port Director Espiritu Santo, (R) Admty.).

War Diary.20.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand (contd.).

Digest Forenoon R/C reported usual shipping Rabual
 Serial No. Harbour.
 455 April 19th. (2) Submarine observed proceeding on Northerly
 course past Cape Orford dawn.
 (4) Unloading activity reported Wewak harbour
 where midday reports reveal 1 merchant vessel
 8000 tons, 2 small merchantmen 3 coasters, 2 large power
 boats and 20 barges.
 (5) Morning R/C Lighting reported sighting 1 schooner Hansa Bay
 where heavy accurate A/A fire encountered, photos Nubia area
 show 32 barges also heavy track activity and construction of A/A
 positions with 2 heavy batteries almost complete.
 (6) One catalina attacked Finsch Hafen early hours scoring direct
 hit on building and bombed 80 foot ship probably same vessel
 sighted south of Cape Gretin 4 hours later.
 (7) Submarine sighted 2 miles north Normandy Island evening
 18th.
 (9) One 13.25 noon (sic) unsuccessfully attacked small vessel
 Selwassa Bay (Jamdena Island).
 (10) Ref. Digest 454 para .8. 12 Hudsons started fired and reported
 sighting possible large destroyer 2 miles North Cape Lelake.
 (5 miles west of Koepang) course 300 degs.
 (11) Enemy recce. over Darwin morning 19th.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 200806Z).

? QUEEN Your 160426B P.S.T.O. Capetown's 101759 not
 MARY understood as both Master and O.C. troops were
 prisoners fully aware type of prisoners to be embarked. This
 was especially emphasized when they requested
 limitations and high percentage of guard as
 detailed in my 0045Z fourth March.
 (A.C.N.B. 201042Z to D. of S.T.).

/ KIWI 17 Jap S.S. Sighted 2135A/19th 01 degs 30' S. 162 degs.
 20' W. Course 160 degs. Guadalcanal raided 18/4
 night alert . Slight damage. 1 Aircraft destroyed.
 Munda New Georgia Runway and blast pens bombed
 a.m. 18/4 by 4 Navy Liberators. Buin Shortland Area 2 DD,
 5 AK, 4 Patrol vessels sighted a.m. 18th.
 (D.N.I. Wellington 202342Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B.
 G.H.Q. New Delhi India).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
 (D.D.I.C. 201405B, 201410B).

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 2262

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.X Memo, on
Air offensive
against
U-boats.

1. A memorandum dealing with the air offensive against U-boats, by the First Sea Lord, The Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe and the A.O.C. in C. Coastal Command, the recommendations in which are concurred in by the British Chiefs of Staff, was sent today to Washington, to be brought before the Combined Chiefs of Staff as soon as possible.

It is agreed that the issue of the Battle of the Atlantic in the immediate future depends mainly upon an intensification of our air efforts against the U-boat. The vital point at which the air offensive should be directed, is the Bay of Biscay, the trunk of the Atlantic U-boat menace, the roots being in the Biscay ports, and the branches spreading far and wide. Other points which are stressed are that we are destroying U-boats round our convoys and nothing should be done to interfere with the development of the V.L.R. and escort vessel programmes. But the losses now being inflicted in convoy areas and in the Bay together are far from keeping pace with the additions to the U-boat fleet.

The U.S. are asked to reinforce the Atlantic theatre, from the forces already allocated to this theatre, with 72 long range A/S aircraft, as soon as possible, in order to take advantage of the period whilst the enemy is still unable to listen in to our cm. A.S.V.

Home Commands.X Iceland -
Bergen
S/M Patrol.

2. F.O.(S) does not intend to employ the small type of submarines for patrol in far Northern waters, but on A/S patrols instead. It will nevertheless, be possible to maintain a patrol of 4 submarines (but only 3 from 28th April to 5th May) against the breakout of enemy main units (See 23rd April).

In a message today F.O.(S) gives details of 3 near A/S patrols which he intends to establish between Iceland and S.W. Norway.

3. Commencing with H.X. 235, S.C.128, O.N.178 and O.N.S, 3 the "Chop" for H.X., S.C. and O.N. convoys will be 24 hours before the time and date of Westomp.

4. M.T.B. 233 was slightly damaged last night during an unsuccessful attack on a convoy between Hook of Holland and Ymuiden. There were no casualties to our forces.

War Diary.

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

Biscay
A/S Air
patrol.

5. Whirlwinds despatched to attack shipping reported in the Dunkirk to Ostend area report having destroyed an E/R boat off Blankenberg at 0255 by a direct hit with a bomb.

6. There have again been fairly concentrated air patrols by day and night in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay. These have resulted in 8 U-boats being sighted during the week, of which 5 were attacked.

7. Enemy aircraft attacked Aberdeen at 2230B today. No naval damage was caused.

8. Unexplained explosions were heard and seen by WINDSOR this morning between Southwold and Lowestoft; and mines were exploded in the area during the day.

North Atlantic.

9. 12 L.C.I.(L) arrived at Gibraltar today from U.S.A.

10. Armed Boarding Vessel SAYONARA was damaged aft in collision with SS. MONTE BUITRE (Spanish 1808 tons) whom she was about to board for examination off Punta Almina, north of Ceuta, at 0618B today.

South Atlantic.

11. U.S. JOHN DRAYTON (7177 tons) (Bandar Abbas for Table Bay) was sunk by torpedo and gunfire by, it is reported, two submarines, about 300 miles East of East London this evening. The position is variously given as approx. 31.30 S. 33.40 E. 34.00 S. 34.30 E; and 32.10 S. 34.50 E.

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

X Destroyers
in Levant.

12. C. in C. Mediterranean is asking for heavier gun destroyers for the Levant. Some of the older fleets are in no condition to operate on the enemy coast. (This is apparently the outcome of the engagement of the under-gunned destroyers PAKENHAM and PALADIN with 2 Italian destroyers on 16 April). On 23rd April C. in C. Levant stated that JAVELIN and KELVIN are on their last legs and should only exceed 25 and 18 knots respectively in emergency. This leaves him with the strange assortment NUBIAN, JERVIS BASILISSA OLGA, ISIS and two P class, which he hopes to have concentrated at Malta by the beginning of May. The efficiency of the Greek destroyer is bound to remain below that of a British destroyer; and ISIS still suffers from her refit in India.

X Black Sea.

13. N.L.O. Black Sea reports that the Russians have carried out air raids on Taman, Anapa and Kerch, causing damage to wharves and harbour installations, and sinking and damaging several landing craft. One enemy minesweeper was set on fire. No date is given for these air raids.

X 14. Destroyers of Force Q carried out a sweep from Bone last night and sank a small vessel north of Marittimo. On conclusion of the sweep ASHANTI and ADRIAS proceeded to Malta. M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. also operated from Bone.

S/M
operations.

15. UNRULY reports that she probably sank a 1000 ton merchant ship off Port Vendres (Gulf of Lions) at 1445/12. ULTOR reports that at 2255/12 she attacked two 3,000 ton merchant ships in 43.13 N., 06.52 E. (about 60 miles West of Toulon). Two hits were made on one ship and one on the other, and both ships apparently sank. At 0751/14 in 43.32 N., 07.12 E. (about 70 miles S.W. of Genoa) she sank the westbound French SS. PENERF. UNISON at 1211 today sank a 5,000 ton modern motor vessel northbound in 37.48 N., 11.32 E. TAURUS reports that at 0030/13 she gunned and then sank by torpedo a 500 ton southbound ship, apparently Portuguese, in 42.19 N., 09.53 E. (about 35 miles S. by E. of Bastia). This was the Portuguese SS. SANTA IRENE. At 1420/14. TAURUS sank by gunfire a 500 ton tanker in 42.16 N., 09.36 E. and at 2205/15 she torpedoed a 1000 ton sailing ship which blew up in 41.32 N. 10.47 E. (about 65 miles E. of the Straits of Bonifacio).

Portuguese
SS. SANTA
IRENE, sunk
by TAURUS.

SIBYL reports that she obtained one hit on a 2000 ton merchant vessel, one of 3 in a heavily escorted convoy in 38.19 N., 13.01 E. at 1554/11.

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean. - Contd.

16. 5 R.A.F. Liberators attacked Naples last night and despite an effective smoke screen, bursts were seen in the area of bases of the Vincenzo and Angioino Moles and north of the Baesonia and Vigiena Moles.

17. Jijelli was bombed at about 0500 today, One L.C.I.(L) was set on fire and two others were damaged and there were a few naval casualties.

East Indies.

X Escorts in
Indian Ocean.

18. In reply to the combined report of 30th March by C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F., on the U-boat campaign in South African waters, and the request for increase of Local escorts the Admiralty state that there is no immediate prospect of providing surface A/S escorts except from the Eastern Fleet.

The small number of U-boats at present operating in the North part of the Indian Ocean does not justify A/S escort except in focal areas such as the entrance to the Persian Gulf, off Bombay and off Colombo shipping should be allowed to proceed out of convoy in this area.

C. in C. Eastern Fleet agreed (28th April) to accept a considerable reduction in the amount of ocean A/S escort for shipping so long as the S/M threat in the northern Indian ocean remains dormant, but A/S escort for loaded troopships must continue. Rather than use available escorts to provide A/S escorts only in focal areas he prefers to use them for ocean A/S escort in the Arabian Sea - Persian Gulf - Colombo Islands area in priorities which he details.

At the request of the Admiralty C. in C. E.F. lent FALMOUTH and the remaining 4 Eastern Fleet corvettes to the South Atlantic, and he will transfer the 3 R.A.N. BATHURST's to Kilindini if a submarine threat should develop in the Kilindini - Madagascar area.

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.America & West Indies.

x U/B attack
on O.N.S. 3;
2 ships
torpedoed.

*U415, not
destroyed.*

19. Convoy O.N.S. 3 was attacked by U-boats at 210610Z in approx. 55.50 N., 44 (or 47).00 W. (about 240 miles south of Cape Farewell) in a snow storm and SS. ASHANTIAN (British 4917 tons) was sunk and WANSTEAD (British 5476 tons) was torpedoed and was sunk by POPPY after removal of crew.

A promising attack with hedgehog on a U-boat was made by HASTINGS in 55.14 N., 45.40 W. and F.O.N.F. considers the U-boat probably destroyed. Escort Group 3 was ordered at 211501Z to proceed to position 50 N., 47 W. to cover O.N.S. 3 or O.N. 178.

About 1445 MOYOLA sighted an enemy S/M in 55.14 N. 45.40 W. which HASTINGS attacked at 1549Z and, in the opinion of F.O.N.F., sank; and another U-boat was reported by HASTINGS in 54.53 N., 46.24 W. at 2235Z, LULWORTH (S.O. of E.G.40) attacked a U-boat in 54.47 N., 45.40 W. at 2355Z and reports 2 hedgehog hits. Air cover so far has been ineffective on account of failure of communications

x U/B attack
on O.N. 178
1 ship
torpedoed.

U191

20. Norwegian M.V. SCERELI (3025 tons) in Convoy O.N. 178 was torpedoed at 1705Z in position reported to be 56° 07' N., 44° 26' W. or 56.17 N. 46.35 W. (about 230 miles south of Cape Farewell) at 1745Z. The crew has been taken off. The after part of the ship is floating and salvable.

x H.X. 234

21. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 (HIGHLANDER) escorting H.X. 234 reports that a U-boat was sighted and attacked in 56.49 N., 47.48 W., at 210410Z.

22. SS. EL ALMIRANTE in convoy H.X. 235 was sunk in collision with an unknown ship at 1920Z today in 41.08 N., 64.27 W.

23. PREVENTOR made a submarine distress signal at 2307 G.M.T. in 43.28 N., 65.12 W.

784

21.4.1945.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.X S.O. Support
Group,
Force J.My 190909B (N.T. in W.R.)
Lt. Cdr. H.H. Mulleneux, D.S.C. R.N. will be
referred to as Senior Officer Support Group,
Force J (short title S.O.S.G.(J)) during his
temporary period in command of the L.C.F. and
L.C.T.(R) in the Portsmouth Command.Authorities addressed are requested to refer any matters concern-
ing these craft to him. His headquarters are in SQUID.
(S.O. Force J, 211103B)Movements.ANTHONY,
LEWIS,
BRISSENDEN.Ref. C. in C. W.A. 202119B. From position
295° Trevoise Head 5 miles proceed to 050° 01' N.
014° 30' W thence position D as in A.M.172138B.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 210057B)

BONAVENTURE.

Arrived Port H.H.Z.
(BONAVENTURE 210902B)WINCHESTER,
MONTROSE.Do not pass between 3 and 3 C buoys. If North
proceed Great Yarmouth if South proceed Harwich.
(C. in C. Nore, 211004 to WINCHESTER, MONTROSE)STURGEON,
KINGSTON
TOPAZ.Your 191631B. Intend to sail KINGSTON TOPAZ
as additional escort with P.W.327 at 0630/22nd
to Falmouth. (2) N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested
to sail KINGSTON TOPAZ as requisite to R/V with
STURGEON in 180° The Lizard 12 miles at 0700/23rd
(3) Thence to Portland by A.M. Q.Z.S. 410, 411,
391, 386, 382. (4) Codeword Falmouth to Portland "Warrant".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211103B to Capt. (S) 5,)

SARGASSO.

Intend to sail SARGASSO to join M.S.9 on
23rd April.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 211112B)

HAKE.

Estimated position of U.S.S. HAKE at 2000B
tonight Wednesday 050° 13' N. 031° 00' W.
diving by day and proceeding to (H) 050° 40' N.
027° 41' W.
(C. in C. W.A. 211352B to 3rd Escort Group,
(R) F.O.(S))

MENESTHEUS.

On completion of serial 155 tomorrow Thursday
22nd MENESTHEUS escorted by CASTLETON proceed
so as to R/V in accordance with R.A.(M)
161402B. (2) MENESTHEUS is requested to issue
necessary orders to CASTLETON. (3) MENESTHEUS and
CASTLETON acknowledge.
(A.C.O.S, 211510B)U.S.S.
DUANEArrived.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 211607B)

DIDO / ...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (Contd.)

- DIDO. A.M.211225B/April.
DIDO will be required to leave Liverpool not later than 11th June for ten days intensive work-up at Scapa before returning to Mediterranean. (D.O.D.(F) 211814B)
- 9th M.S.F. C. in C. Portsmouth 201940B not to C. in C. Nore. Request you will sail 9th M.S.F. to arrive Portsmouth on the 28th April. (D.M.S.211817B to C. in C. Nore)
- WESTMINSTER. Proceed direct to Southend from patrol A.M. tomorrow Thursday. Anchor close to south of Southend pier and return Sheerness as convenient p.m.
(Capt. (D) 21, 211932B to WESTMINSTER)
- BULLDOG,
BOADICEA,
AMAZON,
DOUGLAS. Your 201126 April. These ships are urgently required at Freetown and every effort should be made to improve upon the dates given. (Admty. 211941B to C. in C. W.A.)
- 6 L.C.F's. C.C.O.311643A March not to S.O.S.G.(J) subject to the concurrence of C. in C. Plymouth request you will sail L.C.F. 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, for Plymouth Command on 7th May.
Captain Major L.C. is requested to assume administrative control of these L.C.F. when they leave the Portsmouth Command. (S.O. Force J, 211946B to C. in C. Portsmouth, S.O.S.G.(J))
- MALAYA. F.O.C.Gibraltar 191302 C. in C. Plymouth 192225 and Admiralty 201340 passed to R.A.(D) Home Fleet. Request you will sail three destroyers to R/V with MALAYA before dark 24th April and escort to Scapa. (2) Estimate MALAYA will pass position (U) at approx. 1500B/24th.
(C. in C. H.F. 212110B to R.A.(D) H.F. (R) MALAYA, C. in C. W.A., A.C.O.S. Admty. PIORUN, MATCHLESS, METEOR.)

Operations.

- Coastal Force Patrols. My 201112B April "Device" arrived 0740. (F.O.I.C.Portland 210748B)
M.L.269 (S.O) and M.L.205 to patrol Tues.20th April "Codeword "Device".
Your 201319B "Obstacle" returned.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 210908B to C. in C. Plymouth)

M.T.B/ ...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

X M.T.B.
attack on
Convoy.

Following is preliminary report of C/F activity night 20th/21st April.

M.T.B's 234, 232, 233, 241 were ordered to patrol between Hook of Holland and Ymuiden. On approaching the Hook 5 clusters of lights were sighted spaced over 3 to 4 miles along the shore and unit closed to investigate.

At 0031B a convoy consisting of 4 small merchant ships and 5 trawler escorts were sighted bearing on a N.W'ly course. M.T.B's 234 and 232 worked round ahead of the convoy inshore while M.T.B's 233 and 241 remained to seaward. M.T.B. 234 attacked at 0053B from 500 yards the enemy opening fire just before torpedoes were fired. Torpedoes were not seen to run and it is assumed they struck the bottom. This attack threw the convoy into considerable confusion, this and avoiding action deflected the attacks of the remaining M.T.B's from various angles.

M.T.B. 241 attacked a small vessel of tanker type who took avoiding action whereupon several trawlers opened fire on the M/V and did not cease until four recognition signals (3 red stars) had been fired and several hits had been observed on her. No casualties or damage except to M.T.B. 233 who was hit twice on water line and in W/T Office and messdeck while delivering her attack.

(C. in C. Nore. 211739B)

X S/M
Patrols.

In view of comparative unsuitability of small type of submarine for patrols in far Northern waters intend to employ them on anti U-Boat patrols. (2) At the same time it will be

possible to maintain a patrol of 4 submarines (but with only 3 from 28th April to 5th May) against breakout of enemy (?main) unit. (3) Intend establishing following

patrol lines: (A) 20 miles 030° and 210° from 062° 15' 00" 15' E. (B) 20 miles North and South from 063° 50' 00" 30' W.

(C) 20 miles North and South from 064° 10' 00" 00' W.

P. (4) Intend H.M.S/M 0.56 (USURPER) to leave Lerwick 23rd April for patrol line (A) above, D.S. O.14 to leave Lerwick 25th April for patrol line (B) above, to be relieved by D.S. O.10 leaving Lerwick 2nd May.

(F.O.(S) 211806B to Admty. C. in C. H.F. (R) H.Q.C.C., A.C.O.S., Capt. (S) 3, Capt. (S) 9, Capt. (S) 7, S.O. Subs. Lerwick.)

Allied Air Activity.

X E/R boat
Sunk.

At 0155 today Wednesday 6 Whirlwinds of 137 Sqdn. were despatched to attack shipping reported in Dunkirk to Ostend Area. 1 aircraft sighted 1 E/R boat off Blankenberg at 0255 and attacked with bombs from 50 feet. Near miss with first

bomb caused E/R boat to stop. Second bomb caused direct hit and large explosion seen. E/R boat claimed as destroyed.

(V.A. Dover, 210943B)

A/S Air
Offensive.

Memo forwarded for Combined Chiefs of Staff (Air Min.211420Z) See America and West Indies.

Bomber / ...

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War Diary.21.4.1945.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity (Contd.)Bomber
Command
Report
U/B
attacked.

Night 19/20 April. No Operations.
 Day 20 April. (1) In the course of A/S patrols carried out by 8 Whitleys of O.T.U. 2 U-Boats were sighted. In one case, S.W. of Ireland, no attack was possible. In the other case, a very large U-Boat was seen at a distance of 3 miles proceeding at 15 knots. D/C's were dropped 10 seconds after the U-Boats submerged but no results were seen. (2) 3 formations, each comprising 12 Venturas of 2 Group with fighter cover, operated against the Zeebrugge Coke Ovens, the Boulogne (Outreau) marshalling yards, and shipping in Cherbourg docks. Cherbourg. 12 A/C attacked from 10,000/11,500 ft. bombs were seen to fall on quays and across basin Napoleon 111. All the Venturas returned safely.

Night 20/21 April. (2) Rostock.
 2 Stirlings of P.F. and 84 Stirlings of 3 Group set out to attack the Heinkel Works, or alternatively an aiming point in the town. The weather was clear, but the works were obscured by a smoke screen. Nevertheless several crews considered that they could identify the primary target, and 53 claim to have attacked. Later aircraft reported good fires, 16 A/C bombed alternative target, and several fires were seen. Photographs so far plotted include two on the works. 8 A/C are missing.

X Minelaying
off
Lorient
and
Brest.

(4) Minelaying.
 18 Wellingtons took off to lay mines. All the aircraft returned safely.
 (5) Leaflets.
 (H.Q.B.C.211550B)

T Abbotsinch
and
Renfrew.

Abbotsinch and Renfrew Aerodromes are temporarily unserviceable for C.A.M. ship aircraft. Aircraft should be launched in area in sight of Ayr and instructed to use Ayr Aerodrome. Weather conditions minimum visibility 4 miles cloud base 1,000 feet.
 (F.O.I.C.Greenock, 211907Z to EMPIRE DARWIN, 211908 to EMPIRE TIDE)

X Air
Escort
of "Torch"
Convoys.

AP/764 21 April.
 Present instructions for escort of K.M, M.K, S.L. and O.S. convoys are based on your 1040A/28 October, 1942 Para. 3A which requires that every "Torch" convoy should be escorted during daylight to the limit of range of available aircraft.

This involves much wasteful flying between 50° N. and 57° N. and E. of 15° W. where the normal threat is negligible. Propose that none of these convoys except those containing troopships shall be escorted in this area unless there are indications that they are threatened. All convoys south of 50° N. will continue to be considered threatened and escort provided accordingly.)
 (H.Q.C.C. 212330B to Admty)

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21.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

UGANDA At 1130 one F.W.200 reported unit or units in 45° N. 14° 15' W.
(D.D.I.C. 211240B to UGANDA, Escorts O.S.46, Escorts K.M.S.13, LOTUS, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)

Mining.

X Southwold to Lowestoft. My position 006° 3 B buoy 2 miles 2 mines exploded bearing 045° 5 cables and 294° 7.5 cables.
(BLENCATHRA, 210717B to C. in C. Nore, (R) N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C.Yarmouth, Capt. (D) 16 D.F. Capt. (D) 21, D.F., S.E.E.C.C.D.)

4 Underwater explosions heard and 1 sighted about 6 miles ahead in approx. 010° 3 B. 2.5 miles.
(WINDSOR, 210718B to C. in C. Nore.)
One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1209 in 51° 47.5' N. 01° 20.5' E.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 211306B)
Details of last.
(F.O.I.C.Harwich, 211638B)
L.L. Sweepers detonated 1 red magnetic mine at 1745 in 356° 3 B Buoy 2.1 miles.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 211809B)
BLENCATHRA has reported that at 0717B today Wednesday when in 006° 3 B Buoy 2 miles, 2 mines exploded in direction 045° 5 cables and 294° 7.5 cables, BLENCATHRA was steering 190°.
(C. in C. Nore, 211839B to Admty)
H.M.T. CONGRE and STAR OF PENTLAND detonated two red magnetic and one acoustic mine at 1900 in position 012° 010° and 006° 3 B Buoy 3 miles.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 212015B)

Q.Z.X. 978. Your 181049 and my 181752 clearance completed with negative result.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 211602B to C. in C. Nore)

Falmouth area. My 211851B* intend passing Boom at 0745B 22/4/43. SALTASH in company and proceed to carry out clearance sweep of area bounded by line joining position (A) 050° 04' 24" N. 004° 53' 00" W. (B) 050° 03' 10" N. 004° 54' 30" W.
(ALBURY, 211829B)
* No trace 220500.

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21.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

- 6 M.V's. The following has been read. Addressed: A.O.C.
18 Group CC.
Six merchant vessels bearing 090° distance
three miles course 170° position 58.22 N.
06.00 E.
(A/C.S. of 235 Sqdn, 210808)
- Convoy One medium M/V and three small M/Vs two escorts
59.05 N. 05.20 E. 180° 8 knots.
(A/C. W. of 235 Sqdn., 210815B)
- ? GRAF ZEPPELIN. A.M. 201825B. Photo R/C of Kiel at 1830B/20
showed that GRAF ZEPPELIN was no longer present.
It is possible that she may have been the large
ship escorted by six smaller seen in Fehmarn
Belt by Bomber Command aircraft at 0200B/21.
(D.D.I.C. 211525B to A.I.G.47, A.I.G.21, Cominch,
N.A. Stockholm, Adml.Fisher, Moscow, H.Q.C.C.
H.Q.B.C. S.B.N.O.North Russia, Comnavu.)

U-Boats.

- U-Boat Reported. Am over enemy S/M in 46.13 N. 10.18 W. was on
surface course 070° Speed 10 knots.
(A/C. G. of 172 Sqdn. 210405)
- + U-Boat attacked. Am over enemy S/M in 59.02 N. 25.55 W. Enemy
S/M previously reported was sighted on surface
and observed to submerge. When first sighted
was on course 210° speed 6 knots.
(A/C. I.U.H.Z 86 Sqdn. 210737B)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C. I.U.H.Z 86 Sqdn. 210740)
- U-Boat Sighted. Am over enemy S/M in 46.21 N. 27.47 W. S/M
was sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
When first sighted was on course 045° Speed
6 knots.
(A/C 2 86 Sqdn, 210800B)
- + U/B attacked 220057 March. The attack by Wellington G/172 on March 22nd
1943, has been assessed as probably sunk.
(2) Request you will give our congratulations
to those concerned.
(1st S.L. 211304B to Air Min.)
- UGANDA etc. Two or three homeward bound U/Bs are estimated
likely to cross your tracks today.
(D.D.I.C. 211136B to UGANDA, Escorts of O.S.46,
and K.M.S.13, L.C.Flight C. (R) C. in C. Ply-
mouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. W.A.
H.Q.C.C.)

U/B / ...

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats (Contd.)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 63.06 N. 10.24 W. S/M was
sighted. observed to submerge. When first sighted was
on course 240° estimated speed 10 knots.
(A/C. YF 8Z, 211152B)

A/S My 221059 July.
Offensive. (1) At 142031B TUNA reports having sunk a
German U-Boat South of Jan Mayen Island.
(2) At 171150Z U.S.S. SPENCER while escorting
convoy H.X.233 sunk U.170 which had surfaced
after depth charge attack in 47° 58' N. 21° 12' W. 44 prisoners
were taken. (3) There have again been fairly concentrated
air patrols by day and night in the Approaches to the Bay of
Biscay. These have resulted in 8 sightings during the week
of which 5 were attacked.
(D.A/S.W. 211306B)

U/B Am over enemy S/M in 63.45 N. 09.15 W. Sighted
sighted. on surface and observed to submerge. When
first sighted was on course 230° estimated
speed 8 knots.
(Duty Z 304 Sqdn. 211320B)
Am over enemy S/M in 63.29 N. 09.50 W. reported on surface and
observed to submerge. First sighted on course 045° estimated
speed 8 knots.
(A/C YF8/V 211644B to 18 Group)

Casualties and Defects.

CUMBERLAND. Departed, Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 210102)
Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 211831B)
Your 201408B. Further delay to SUFFOLK joining the Eastern
Fleet is not acceptable. (2) It is approved therefore to
carry out work on CUMBERLAND in accordance with para. 3 of
your signal.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 220010B to C. in C. H.F.)

LENA Arrived H.M.C.S. ARVIDA with survivors.
LUCKENBACH. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 210728B)
GROWLER arrived 210730 Z. and is connecting now.
Have ordered BERGAMOT stand by and escort. Am
proceeding Londonderry. GROWLER requests
assistance of another tug as soon as possible.
(DIANTHUS, 210845Z to Admty, Connav, N.S.H.Q., S.O.(I) Callao,
Commander Panama Sea Frontier, Panama, N.O. Wellington,
Cdre Londonderry, N.O.I.C. Campbelltown.)
Position casualty LENA LUCKENBACH at 0900Z/21 was 25
miles 012° from Tory Island. Setting N.E.
(DIANTHUS, 211050Z to C. in C. W.A. Cdre. Londonderry,
N.O.I.C. Campbelltown, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24., Admty.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7,
H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)
LENA LUCKENBACH secured to GROWLER at 1000Z. P.C. and S.
at 1100Z 025° Tory Island 16 miles 090° 2.5 knots.
(BERGAMOT, 211150Z as former)

Arrived / ...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

LENA Arrived DIANTHUS.
LUCKENBACH. (Cdre. Londonderry, 211535B)
(Contd.) Sail DESTINY forthwith to assist GROWLER with
S.S. LUCKENBACH. BERGAMOT standing by D.R.
position of tow at 1600B is 55° 35' N. 7° 20' W.
proceeding Clyde.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 211554B to N.O.I.C.Campbeltown
(R) C. in C. W.A. Admty.)
Report P.C. and S. forthwith. (2) DESTINY is being sailed
from Campbeltown to assist and has been given your D.R.
position at 1600B as 055° 35' N. 007° 20' W. DESTINY keeps
watch on 500 K/cs.
(N.O.I.C.Greenock, 211556B to BERGAMOT, (R) C. in C. W.A.)
Sailed DESTINY to R/V with GROWLER, BERGAMOT and LENA
LUCKENBACH. D.R. position of Tow given as 55° 35' N. 7° 20' W.
at 1600B.
DESTINY is maintaining constant W/T watch on 500 K/cs.
(N.O.I.C.Campbeltown 211613B to F.O.I.C.Greenock, (R)
C. in C. W.A., Admty R.T., Cdre. Londonderry.
Amended D.R. position of tow at 1600B today Wednesday 55°
30' N. 07° 51' W. S. of A. 2.5 knots.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 212005B to DESTINY (R) C. in C. W.A.
Admty. N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, BERGAMOT.)

WORCESTER. Port Main thrust wiped. Max.speed 18 knots.
Returning harbour. Cork L.V. abeam at 1015B.
(WORCESTER, 210914B)

GOOLE X. Following from Master of Tug GOOLE X. At
about 1340/23rd (sic), we collided with the
East Pier, doing damage to one pile and turning
tug stern slightly to port.
(R.N.O.Shoreham, 211320B to N.O.I.C.Newhaven.)

BAYNTON Engine defect causing excessive waste in
lubricating oil. Intend to proceed direct to
position Queen at 2100 BERRY in company.
P.C.S. 46.19 22.50 0221 3. Weather report 4471
0677.
(BAYNTON 211333Z)

BURRA,
THERESA
NOMIKOS. Collision between BURRA and SS. THERESA NOMIKOS
in 53° 52' N. 35° 23' E. at 0520C/20 while
latter was in convoy. BURRA probably at
fault. Damage to BURRA will be repaired in
two days. Damage to other vessel slight.
(BURRA 211723C)

SCOTT,
Suspected
Sabotage. Case of suspected sabotage reported on SCOTT.
Oil pipe to the sighting glass on port LP main
engine apparently cut through by hacksaw.
Damage not serious and now repaired. No
evidence but suspicion falls on Stoker I Samuel
Aitken. C/KX 114877. Written report follows.
(R.A.(M) 212338B)

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- 5th E.G. (for O.N.S.4) C. in C. W.A.201103. Intend sailing escorting group at 1000B/21st. (A.C.I.C.210109B)
BITER is not to proceed beyond (? exercise) area unless 3 escorts are available.
(C. in C. W.A. 210906B to A.C.I.C. (R) BITER.)
HVALFIORD departure 1045 BITER with PATHFINDER, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE in accordance with my 210109.
(A.C.I.C. 211112B 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.Halifax, C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C. Escort H.X.234 and O.N.S.4, E.G.One.)
- 3rd E.G. Percentage of Oil Fuel remaining OFFA 84, IMPULSIVE 81, PENN 74, PANTHER 77. Depth Charges no change. My P.C.S. are 052° 30' N. 022° 15' W. X 295° 13.8 knots. Weather Report 6480 0474.
(E.G.3,210900B)
My P.C.S. are 052° 40' N. 026° 35' W. (S) 259° 15 knots.
4688 0464.
(E.G.3, 212000B)
- X F.N.1.(F). Sailed 210813B. 21 ships.
(N.C.S.O.Thames, 210952B)
- UGANDA O.S.46. My 161347B para. 3 not to all addressees. Discontinue covering duty when O.S.46 passes 42° N. and return to Plymouth passing through position R 049° 40' N. 013° 15' W.
S 180 Bishop Rock 10.
H.M.S. UGANDA is not to be East of the Lizard during dark hours.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 211037B to UGANDA, (R) F.O.S. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Escort O.S.46, PIORUN, N.O.I.C. Falmouth, LOTUS, HONEYSUCKLE, C. in C. W.A. Admty.)
- 4th E.G. My 211940B. Sail Capt. D.8 in FAULKNOR with ORIBI, ONSLAUGHT, INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE as 4th escort group on completion of topping up after exercises. (2) This escort group is to proceed to Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. W.A. 211044 to Cdre. Londonderry)
- 1st E.G. Proceed through position 056° N. 047° W making good 13½ knots weather permitting.
(C. in C. W.A. 211619B to E.G.1)
- SS. QUEEN MARY. D/F bearings on 11068 K/cs at 1543Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 50° N. 21° W.
(D.D.I.C.211845B to SS. QUEEN MARY, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)
- S.D.39. Cancel my 211605B/4. Amend to read S.D.39 arrived 1550/21.
(D.S.T.O.Greenock, 211920B)

Reports/ ...

21.4.1945.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Reports re transfer of oil fuel and D.C's at sea.

My 191225B. Ref. para. 4, Port Director New York or C. in C.N.A. or C. in C. W.A. are requested to send the separate message asked for. A.M.191543B para. 2 refers. (2) In para. 5 for H.X. substitute O.N. It is assumed that all ships fitted for oiling at sea and included in H.X. or S.C. convoys will rank as escort oilers and will carry unlimited fuel for transfer. (D.T.D.211930B)

4th E.G.

My 211940. Sails Capt. D.8 in FAULKNER with ORIBI, ONSLAUGHT, INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE as 4th Escort Group on completion of topping up after exercises. (2) This escort Group is to proceed to Hvalfiord. (C. in C. W.A. 211944 to Cdre. Londonderry)

X "Chop" for Atlantic Convoys.

Commencing with H.X.235 and S.C.128 "Chop" for H.X. and S.C. convoys will be 24 hours after time and date of "Westomp". (2) Commencing with O.N.178 and O.N.S.5 "Chop" for O.N. and O.N.S. convoys will be 24 hours before time and date of "Westomp". (3) It is requested that authorities sailing the relieving escorts will promulgate time and date of "Chop" and any subsequent amendment thereof in ample time for appropriate action to be taken by controlling authorities. (4) It is requested that signals from controlling authority may be addressed to both mid-ocean and Western local escorts until it is known that the change-over of escorts has been effected. (D.T.D. 212125B to C. in C. W.A. Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., C.T.F. 24.)

War Diary.

21.4.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders.

- X Intelligence. My 131215. 1. The only raider at present operational is Raider "H". Assuming Raiders "E" and "J" to have been sunk. Absence of raider activity since December 1942 suggest Raider "H" may have been refitting in Far East.
2. No further reports of inward bound blockade runners. ORSONE probably on passage to Far East and ALSTERUFER could both now have reached latitude of Cape Town.
3. HIMALAYA and TANNENFELS in Bordeaux may both at present be available to sail for the Far East. DRESDEN possibly loading. (D.D.I.C., 211547B to A.I.G. 13 etc.)

North Atlantic.

MARIPOSA Preliminary D/F bearings on 7770 kcs. at 2227Z
U/B. indicate U/boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 210031Z to U.S. Transport MARIPOSA,
(R) Cominch, Commorseafon. C. in C. Med.,
N.S.H.Q.)

Your 200800. MARIPOSA. A. 33.59 09.02 B. 34.30 20.05
C. 34.49 31.58 D. 35.32 47.01 E. 37.00 60.10 F. 38.09 70.15
(D.O.D.(H) 210920B to C.M.S.F.F.)

MAURO Italian (?MAURO CROCE) arrived Valencia 20th
CROCE. April.
(S.O. (I) Gibraltar, 210155B to S.O.(I)
Mediterranean, V.A. Malta, S.8.)

Convoy G.C.5 sailed as in my 201626B. (201627B
G.C.5. intended.)
(F.O., Gibraltar, 210928B to C.M.S.F.F.)

Convoy My 192153. (re sailing HALCYON, RHODODENDRON
X.K.4. and KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE to escort X.K.4.)
SALAMANDER sailed to join.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 210937B to Admty., etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 2002B/21st.
Fleet unit 3 destroyers 37.35 12.01 through 40.01
06.01 thence 000° 16.
(2) MATCHLESS, METEOR, NERISSA 45.37 13.52 to
R/V Fleet unit, in 41.27 16.01 at 1600B/22nd and relieve present
escort who then proceed 131° 12.

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. (3) K.M.S. 13 O.S. 46 LEITH 42.39 13.34 through
(Contd.) 42.01 13.01 to 39.46 13.01 thence 150° 7½
UGANDA covering.
(4) Coastal craft convoy 2 tugs LOTUS, DIANELLA
42.30 (?13) 59, 152° 8.
(5) X.K.4 HALCYON 37.02 11.32 316° 6½. (6) W.S.29 NEWCASTLE
34.55 09.27 through 30 (?01) 11.05 thence 230° 12½. (7) KINGSTON
CHRYSOLITE 36.35 10.21 Gibraltar 10.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211016B as amended 211358B)
Situation at 2003B/22nd.
G.U.F.7, C.T.F.66, 35.46 28.31 through 36.03 (?35) 10
thence 277° 13½ (ii) U.G.L.2, C.T.G.68.1, (?30) 37 (?31) 08
095° 8.2 Swedish relief ship WIRIL 36.40 (?35) 01 091° 11.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211151B.)

Swiss Shipping. Swiss ships GENEROSO and SAENTIS leave Genoa
24th and 26th April for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 211125B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.(R)
C. in C. Med.)

Following is a repetition my 211147 (begins)
Swiss ALBULA 1220 G.T. speed 7½ knots National colour and
Switzerland painted on side, expected to leave Genoa for
Gibraltar 26th April by approved route. Not to be molested
this voyage T.O.O. 211147. (Ends.)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211246B to 8th S/M F.)
Your 211125. GENEROSO still at Gibraltar awaiting
approval of bunkers.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 211705B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

K.M.S.13 A.T. 172227. Propose BRISK, WILLOWDALE and
BOLISTA proceed direct to North African Ports in
K.M.S. 13 and that META be sent forward to
discharge coal after 35 tons of R.A.F. stores
have been landed at Gibraltar.
(C.S. Gibraltar, 211156B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty., P.S.T.O.
Med.)

MATILDE Your 202122B. MATILDE intercepted and being
Intercepted. brought into Gibraltar.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211239B to B.N.A. Madrid.
(R) Admty.)

U/B attacked D/F fixed at 2112Z/20 and contact attacked by
by COWSLIP. COWSLIP indicating enemy S/M may be damaged and
returning toward P.37 (UNBENDING) from position
36.37 N. 02.24 W. at 2130B/20. P.229 (SPORTSMAN)
may also be met routed as in my 191744B.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 211258B to P.37 (UNBENDING)(R)C.in C.Med.Capt.
(S) 8 P.224 (SICKLE)).

Axis Shipping Arrival 21st SPES, COURDANNES, JEUNE DENISE, LE
Bilbao. VIOLENT, TIM, BANKA, MONTE CASTELLO. Departure
20th GLYCINE, LINETTE, LOUVETOT, TRIANTHA, REGEJA.
(Bilbao, 211305 to Bank Block, (R) S.O.I. Gibraltar)
Passing action being taken by War Ref. for C. in
C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.

/L.C.(L)s...

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.

- L.C.(L)s. Arrived (? L.C.I.) (L) 114, 117, 185, 187, 249, 250, 253, 263, 269, 273, 275, 296, 297, 298, 299, 314, 317.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211453B to Admty., C. in C.Med.
(R) Cominch, C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.C.
Commorseafon, N.O.B. Bermuda, Comamphornaw,
Comlan crabnaw.)
- ACUTE Convoy. E.T.A. (group incomplete) Rosia Bay 22nd April, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, CONVOLVULUS, PIROUETTE, and 7 ships of convoy (group incomplete). Request pilots may be procured.
(ACUTE, 21153B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.C.S.O. Gibraltar, Capt. D., C.S.)
- O.S.46, K.M.S.13. (1) Following ships sailed U.K. in O.S.46/K.M.S.13 List details.
(D.S.T., 211611B to S.T.O.I/C Gibraltar, (R) P.S.T.O. Med., M.W.T.R. Gibraltar.)
- VENOMOUS. E.T.A. 0100B. My P.C.S. 35.45 N. 08.10 W. 088° 24. Weather report.
(VENOMOUS, 211940B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals: ST. NECTAN from escort duties Melilla. COWSLIP from duties Almeria.
Departures: U.S.P.C. 473, 471, French AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE, with G.C.5. SPORTSMAN patrol east, Q.K.50, Q.K.B.71.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 211957B to Admty., etc.)
- X Gibraltar, Congestion. A.M. 151915 April. Very complete information re all Merchant ships including Fleet auxiliaries at Gibraltar is contained in local report of M.W.T.
(2) Six copies of this report are sent daily by priority air mail to M.W.T. London. (3) Saturday's issue of this report includes a section K which ? deals with Fleet and Mercantile auxiliaries. (4) Suggest information required can best be obtained from this report and that M.W.T. London be asked to send one daily to Trade Division. (5) Report does not differentiate between ships in harbour and in Bay as they are constantly changing.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 212010, to Admty.)
- Movements, Casablanca. Casa arrivals (Fr) CHASSEUR II from Safi. RAPID from W.S.29 sailed to rejoin departures EGOREE (AO) D.D. CHARLES AUSBERN and SPENCE for Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. pass to Comavnaw.
(C.M.S.F.F., 212105 to Admty.)
- LAUDERDALE. E.T.A. 1100Z/22. My present position 034° 45' N. 008° 50' W. Weather report.
(LAUDERDALE, 212201Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Capt. D. Gibraltar.)

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Convoy W.S.29 List, fuel, requirements.
(D.S.T. 210116B to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

U/B. D/F bearings at 1632Z/20 on 14577 k/cs, indicate
U-Boat in approx. 32° S. 38° E. T.O.O. 1742/20,
Naval Enigma.
(D.D.I.C. 210957B to C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)

Dispositions. Situation at 1958Z/21st.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.03 25.30 15½.
ARRAN one M.L. off Cape Palmas.
PETUNIA, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN with (T?) S (?22 or 36
or 31) (?02 or 04).31 01.42 to 04.25 01.42 thence 256° 12.
One M.L. off Accra.
B.Y.M.S. 5,6,7 and 8 03.14 S. 09.43 E. to Pointe Noire 10.
(R.A.W.A. 211015Z to A.I.G. 150.)
Situation at 2001Z/21st.
CORINTHIAN, THYME, WASTWATER, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, French Sloop
SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, DUNKERY, AIR (?FRANCE) IV, with R.S.4, 017° 40'
017° 36' 180° 6¼.
BURDOCK, CROCUS, escorting 010° 20' 023° 58' 270° 9.
M.L. 272, M.L. 209, 009° 13' 015° 11' to Freetown 11.
M.L. 302, M.L. 285, 009° 37' 015° 08' Adra 11.
M.L. 244, M.L. 256, about 012° 45' 017° 42' to Bathurst 12.
BLACK SWAN, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, STONECROP, CAMPION,
with S.L. 128, 010° 40' 016° 05' to 011° 00' 017° 30' 356° 7.
ORFASY? 011° 01' 017° 10' to Bathurst 8.
(F.O.C.W.A. 211026Z.)
Position at 2000Z/21st.
DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F. 12,
020° 30' 009° 00' to 015° 00' 006° 00' 16.
WORCESTERSHIRE 033° 45' 029° 40' to East London 11½.
COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. escort ORDUNA 035° 40' 033° 50'
to Durban 13.
JASMINE, TRUSTY (?029°) 30' 032° 15' to Durban 11.
NORTHERN DUKE 028° 45' 032° 20' to 026° 00' 038° 00' 10.
NAPIER, REDOUBT, RELENTLESS, RAIDER 028° 00' 034° 10' to Durban 20.
(?QUADRANT) 026° 10' 037° 55' to Durban 20.
KENYA with W.S.28 (?017°) 45' 042° 20' to 013° 35' 042° 15' 13.
(C. in C.S.A. 211216B.)

MANAAR. (B.C.T.D.) MANAAR due Durban p.m. 18th not arrived.
Air search has been ordered.
(C. in C.S.A. 211254B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.
Cdre. Durban, C.S.A. Beira.)

/Escorted...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Escorted
M/Vs
Bathurst.

Estimated time of sailing SS. JUNCTION, NORTHLAND, DANAE II and KANA escorted by PORTSDOWN, BUTSER, BUTTERMERE and M.L. 290, 220600Z. "Green" route S.O.A. 9 knots. E.T.A. Freetown p.m. 24th. M.L. 256 and 244 will be sailed as additional escort if ready.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 211504Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Comar Dakar, Admty.)

COPINSAY.

Arrival. 1857Z/20th April COPINSAY from Marcit. (S.O.(I) Sierra Leone 211512Z to R.O.Monrovia, (R) Admty.)

X
A.F.D.
Escort.

A.H.Q.W.A. state they are unable to provide adequate air A/S escort for A.F.D. 14 without abandoning other important escorts. A.H.Q.W.A. have requested Air Ministry in their A 29/21st April for re-inforcement of four flying boats for period 7 days from 25th April. Maximum surface escort is being provided. Future utility of Freetown depends so much on arrival of this dock that provision of adequate air escort is of considerable importance.
(F.O.C.W.A. 211527Z to Admty.)

Movements,
Lagos.

Arrival 21st April BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, KATHIAWAR, KUMAON, departure M.L. 261, 277, Takoradi 0800Z/25th. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 211535Z to Admty.)

X
TRAMONTANA
suspicious
conduct.

Your 271759 Sept. 1941 and 081218 Sept. 1941. Spanish trawler TRAMONTANA reported by French to be always in Port Etienne area when convoys are approaching and always sighted in water too deep for fishing.
2. Request information A. whether further change in fishing ground is reasonable. B. any suspicious circumstances known about her. C. port from which vessel operates. D. whether fitted with R/T in addition to W/T and D/F.
(F.O.C.W.A. 211707Z to N.A.Madrid Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar.)
Reply Gibraltar 231537.

AQUITANIA.

Rio de Janeiro arrival 21st 1600Z H.M.T.AQUITANIA. (B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 211905Z to Admty.)

JOHN DRAYTON
torpedoed.

Following has been received from JOHN DRAYTON, position 34.00 S. 24.30 E. torpedoed. (Simonstown W/T T.O.R. 211930Z to Admty.) JOHN DRAYTON, U.S. 7177 tons, left Bandar Abbas 4/4 for Table Bay, position about 300 miles E. of East London.

/GLOIRE...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.GLOIRE,
CARNARVON
CASTLE.

1. Request F.Cruiser GLOIRE may be sailed to carry out blockade runner patrol in area bounded by A. 011° N. 027° B. 009° N. 025° W. C. 006° N. 028° W. D. 008° N. 030° W. from 0800Z/25th April to prudent limit of endurance returning Dakar.
2. Intend CARNARVON CASTLE to leave patrol a.m. 25th April to return Freetown.
(F.O.C.W.A. 212024Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Cdr. 4th Fleet, Admty. CARNARVON CASTLE.)

X U-Boat
Campaign,
S.African
Waters and
Indian Ocean.

Your 301228 March, para. 5A.

There is no immediate prospect of providing surface A/S escorts except from Eastern Fleet.

convoy in this area.

3. C. in C.E.F. is therefore requested to consider (A) Lending FALMOUTH and remaining E.F. corvettes to S.A., *
(B) Redisposing R.I.N. sloops, Bathursts and A/S Whalers, to operate from East Africa or Madagascar should U-Boat threat develop in that area.
4. Separate signals will be made regarding para. 5B to F. inclusive and 5G.
(D.O.D.(F) 212320B as amended 221037B to C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F.)
W.D.Note. 301228 March gave a precis of a combined report by C. in C.S.A. to C. in C.E.F. on the U-Boat campaign in South African waters, together with recommendations.
Para. 5A of the above asked that local escorts should be increased by 9 corvettes and 3 trawlers and stated that the permanent allocation of 6 destroyers was very desirable.
Paras. 5B - 9 deal with aircraft. (* Orders for this, 250901Z, page 958)

CHESHIRE.
A.F.D.

Amend E.T.A. Bahia Friday 23rd p.m. or Saturday daylight. Docks in company.
(CHESHIRE 212353Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.Af. Com. 4th Fleet, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. & S. of two small M/Vs. 38.08 N, 12.00 E. 090° 15 knots.
(A/C G.H.A/F. 210135B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
C.S. & P. of one medium M/V 180° 10 knots.
35.55 N, 16.28 E.
(A/C F.A.C/O 210430A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. & S. at 0803Z of 1 enemy M/V and 2 destroyers
37.16 N, 11.35 E. 045° 12.
(A/C 77 G/J. via Malta 210805Z.)

Vessel sunk by D.19 (LAFOREY) Left ASHANTI at 0012A in 037° 50' N. 011° 19' E. Sank small vessel N. of Maritime. (? Marittimo) Position 0500A 037° 58' N. 009° 59' E, 29 knots, through D. (Capt. D.19, 210215A to C.S.12, V.A. Malta, F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C. Med. (Message passed Admiralty for information by Gibraltar.)
2 destroyers are to proceed to Philippeville, 1 to Bone. (F.O.C.12, 210501A to Capt. (D) 19 (R) C. in C. Med. for S.O. I.S., N.Os.i/c. Bone, Philippeville.

Movements, Alexandria. Departure 20th April HENRIETTA MOLLER M.Ls. 359,11,49.
(S.O. (I) Alexandria 210906C to Admty. etc.)

+ Naval Air Squadrons with R.A.F. Admiralty have requested information about activities of Naval Air Squadrons operating in Middle East under operational control of R.A.F. 2. Information required embraces movements of Squadrons, nature of duties on which engaged, Operational methods, tactics and weapons employed, special difficulties either technical as otherwise encountered and lessons learnt as a result thereof. Results achieved and any other matter of interest, particularly in relation to work of Nos. 821 and 826 Naval Air Squadrons in co-operation with units of R.A.F. in Western Desert 1941/42. 3. In respect of R.A.F. Squadrons much of the above information would be contained in operations records books. Understand that these are not kept by Naval Air Squadrons. You may however keep other records containing this information. If so, request you extract information required and forward by microgram service. If you could include a short appreciation of the operational use which has been made of the Naval Air Squadrons this would be helpful. (Air Ministry 210913Z to H.Q. Middle East.)

+ Survivors from U-Boat sunk 5 April. Your 131523 to Las Palmas. Spanish D. of N.I. states S/M sank inside territorial waters but exact position not yet known here. Crew reached shore on floats and life belts. They were evidently under orders to say nothing whatever and refuse name

/rank...

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Survivors
from U-Boat
sunk
5 April
(Contd.)

or birth place or even what they were naval personnel and from S/M. They only admitted they were German sailors from sunk vessel. Spaniards placed watch by German speaking agent who learnt some names and ranks (not yet received here) and following details. S/M had been attacked about 24 hours before she sank and very slightly damaged. (assumption is attack was by gunfire from aircraft) but enough to prevent diving. She tried to reach Las Palmas on the surface but was attacked again next day damaged and could not be kept afloat long enough. Crew spoke amongst themselves of having sunk British corvette.

(Madrid 211000B to Admty. (R) S.O. (I)).

ASHANTI,
ADRIAS.

Arrived ASHANTI, ADRIAS.
(V.A. Malta 211033B to Admty.)

P.L.M.16.

My 161721. Report C.4, P.L.M. 16 will return Istanbul beginning May to load chrome, for Trieste.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 211035C to S.O. (I) Levant
(R) S.1, S.10, D. of N.I.)

X German
Motor Craft,
Istanbul.

Reported 3 German motor craft expected Istanbul from Black Sea on 22nd or 23rd. C.4? further bound for Aegean Sea.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul 211105C to S.O. (I) Levant
C. in C. Levant (R) (S) 1, D.N.I.)
Comment by N.I.D. On 25.2.43 two motor craft stated to be respectively 20 tons and 4 tons passed through the Straits westbound. That the last time such vessels were reported until present instance. No action was then possible as vessels were reported to be unarmed.

X Black Sea.

1. Several enemy S/Ms. sighted off Caucasus coast. 2. Air attacks:- (A) Russians have raided Taman Anapa and Kerch causing damage to wharves harbour installations and sinking and damaging several landing craft. One minesweeper set on fire. (B) Enemy R/C aircraft have been over coastal area daily. A few bombs dropped at various places along coast. 3. (A) No change in situation (?around) Novorossisk. (B) Russia attempt to cut off enemies retreat to Taman peninsula has been met by strong enemy counter attacks and enemy has brought up reinforcements in this area. Some local successes reported from other parts of this front.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 211115C to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- E.T.19. S.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy E.T.19 at 1800 April 25th. (2) Speed of ships, $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots, of advance $6\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (3) Route through 96.36 43.51 14.100 39.93 86.13 10.16 to Gibraltar letters O to Z. Stragglers route as convoy. (4) Section join and detach with local escort Philippeville in 37.14 N. 07.00 E. at 0200 26th April, Bougie in (736) 58 N. 05.09 E. at 1600/26th April. Algiers enter Bay sail again at 1100 April 27th. Oran in 35.56 N. 00.45 W. at 1700 April 28th Gibraltar E.T.A. 0700 April 30th. (5) First two letters W/T callsign T.X. (6) Fighter priority adjusted by day 2 by night to Algiers then 3. Codeword "Hankey". (7) Escort LAMERTON, BRIXHAM, STORNOWAY, KING SOL, VISENDA and HOLCOMBE. (C. in C. Med. 211129A to A.I.G. 260.)
- Bi-weekly Opsum No.118 Part 4. Night 19/20 April. P.40 bombers on armed R/C Gulf Tunis Cape Bon area attacked barge south of La (Goulette?) scoring one hit. Also bombed bridge and buildings near Korba with unobserved results. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 211131Z.)
- Destroyer Organisation. PALADIN, PETARD, ISIS, G.S. QUEEN OLGA joined 14th D.F. Office of Capt. (D) 12 is to lapse forthwith. Cdr. B. Jones is to join ISIS on the latter's arrival at Malta. (C. in C. Levant 211141C to Levant Station 484B. (R) Admty., C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta.)
- K.M.F.13. Onward route from position 109 through 17, 036° 41' N. 001° 18' E. 100, Letter M.E. (to?) M.G. to Algiers. E.T.A. 0700A April 23rd. 2. Out section details in position 109 with local escort at 1700A/22nd April. 3. Fighter priority 1 Special Codeword "Sateen". Navals by day, Beaufighters by night. (C. in C. Med. 211147A to Escorts of Convoy K.M.F.13. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Algiers, Admty., CARLISLE, N.O.I.C. Oran.)
- ANTIOPE. Intend sailing French Submarine ANTIOPE 1830/23rd route through:- 1. 038° 08' 003° 28' at 0500/24 2. 042° 24' 008° 00' at 0500/27th. 3. 042° 45' 008° 00' at 1300/27th, thence patrolling East of a line 180° from French Italian (?border) and N. and W. of a line 225° from Tino Island Light, Spezia. 2. ANTIOPE carries S.P. 02364 and will only decypher signals addressed to her. (S.8. 211240A to C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. S.10, 8th S/F Cdre. Algiers.)
- SPORTSMAN. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 191744. Onward routing through 038° 00' N. 000° 20' W. at 0400A/23rd to patrol area. (Capt. S.8, 211310A to P.229 (SPORTSMAN). (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gib., P.37 (UNBENDING) Force H, Com. Nob, Oran.)

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- X P.R.U. 21st April. Visuals. 1045 Taranto obscured
1130 Messina no major Naval Units.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 211311B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
P.R.U. April 21st visuals. 1625 Taranto 2
Battleships, 3 Cruisers. 1440 Castellamare, 1 Cruiser.
1432 Messina, 1700 Naples no major Naval Units.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 211824B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Convoy A.B. 7. Sailing telegram.
2. 1400Z/21 April. 3. E.T.A. Sunk Rock
0400Z/26 April. 4. 16 knots. 5. (Route)
6. HAWKINS.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 211419Z, 1425Z to Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Aden. Arrivals 0530Z HAWKINS and RESOURCE 0545Z
ORISSA. Departures 1125Z BALUCHISTAN. 1423Z
RESOURCE 1503Z HAWKINS.
(Cdre, Aden 211505Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.
R.S.C.A. S.O. (I) Kilindini, S.O. (I) Colombo,
S.O. (I) Bombay, Admty.)
- Movements, Philippeville. Arrived VILLE DE BOUGIE, CHASSEUR 3.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 211512A to Admty.etc.)
- Convoy P.A. 33. Arrived less P.J. GOULANDRIS stragglers and
BELPAREIL to Masirah.
(N.C.S.O. Aden 211512Z to Admty.)
- X SANTA IRENE (Portuguese, sunk night
12-13 April.) N.A. Lisbon's 161840A. Request you will state
whether any S/M operating under your orders
was responsible for sinking of SANTA IRENE.
(Head of M.I. 211514B to C. in C. Med. (R)
F.O.I.C. Gib. N.A. Lisbon.)
- SHAKESPEARE. Leave on patrol to pass 38° 37' 10° 01' at
1400A/23rd 38° 37' 4° 40' at 1400A/25th to
R/V escort Algiers in 36° 57' 3° 15' at
0615A/26th.
(Capt. S.8, 211526A to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) (R)
8th S/M.F, C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers.)
- TACTICIAN. Intend sailing P.314 (TACTICIAN) at 1830/23rd
routed through 038° 17' 004° 27' at 0515/24th
042° 34' 008° 30' at 2315/26th thence round
Cape Corse to patrol East Corsica.
(Capt. S.8, 211556A to TRITON, (R) 8th S/M.F,
F.O.I.C. Gib. Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

/CHARYBDIS...

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War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

CHARYBDIS.

Arrival.
(F.O. Gib. 211603B to Admty. etc.)

M.T.B.6.

Sailed M.T.Bs. 62, 75, 26, 4. M.L. 168.
(V.A. Malta 211639B to Admty. C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant.)Supply of
Oils.

Your 181745 (N.T. in W.D.) and my letter number 715/MED. (W) 284/5 of 27th March. If first supplies of these oils and lubricants have now been shipped request shipping in ADVENTURE be considered. 2. Following supplies of torpedo oils are urgently required at Algiers. 3. Change over to use of oil T.L.U. cannot be carried out immediately as many ships still hold oil T.L.R.
(C. in C. Med. 211651A to Admty.)

TURKISTAN.

Following Naval Armament Stores shipped to Alexandria in S.S. TURKISTAN sailed U.K. loading port 12th April 1943 (list).
(D.D.A.S. (L) 211656B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Transport
of Poles.

Arrangements have been made for EMPIRE D(?ACE) to be sailed to Gibraltar in M.K.S.12 arriving p.m. 26th April for purpose of embarking 300 Poles from Villa Real and conveying them to Gibraltar whence they can be sent to England in SCYTHIA. First 200 expected to be at Villa Real by 26th April. Foreign Office telegram to Resident Minister Algiers 569 of 18th April and Madrid message 144 of 17th April to M.T. Gibraltar refer. Resident Minister Algiers informed.
(C. in C. Med. 211706A to Admty. etc.)

Situation
report No.82.

1. During the night 19/20 April destroyers of force K carried out sweep in Sicilian Channel. M.G.B.644 and M.T.B. 640 operating from Bone encountered three E boats in vicinity of Cape Guardia. One E Boat was badly hit and retired on fire under smoke screen others also hit and proceeded to cover badly damaged boat. Enemy night fighters attacked unsuccessfully but appeared to score hits on E boats. No casualties only superficial damage to our boats. 2. At 0747/20 French ship SIDI BEL ABBAS and S.S. MICHIGAN in convoy U.G.S.7 were sunk by U-Boat in 35.59 N. 01.25 W. about 600 survivors recovered. SIDI BEL ABBAS was carrying French troops from Casablanca to Oran. 3. During night 20/21 April destroyers of Force Q proceeded on sweep from Bone and sank small vessel North of Marittimo. ASHANTI

/and...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Situation and ADRIAS proceeded to Malta. M.G.Bs. and report No.82. M.T.Bs. were also operating from Bone.

4. UNRULY reports probably sank 1000 ton M/V off Port Vendres at 1445/12. 5. ULTOR reports at 2255/12 attacked two 3000 ton merchant vessels in position 43.13 N. 06.52 E. Two hits were obtained on one ship and one on the other. Both apparently sunk. At 0751/14 in position 43.32 N. 07.12 E. sank westbound French ship PENERF. 6. TAURUS reports 500 tons ? southbound ship apparently Portuguese gunned and then sunk by torpedo at 0030/13 in position 42.19 N. 09.53 E. 500 ton tanker sunk by gunfire in position 42.16 N. 09.36 E. at 1420/14. At 2205/15 torpedoed 1000 ton sailing ship which blew up in position 41.32 N. 10.47 E. 7. SIBYL reports obtained one hit on 2000 ton merchant vessel convoy of three ships heavily escorted in position 38.19 N. 13.00 E. at 1554/11.
(C. in C. Med. 211710A to Admty.)

SANTA IRENE
520 G.R.T.

U.G.S.7.

Algiers section arrived 12 ships less L.S.T. 402 plus L.S.T.364 (?18)). Algiers section sailed as in my 201737A. Also THOMAS STONE for Bone.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 211744A to F.Os.i/c and N.Os.i/c. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca), F.O. Gibraltar. Admty. Connav.)

UNSEEN.

Leave zone C after dark 22nd and proceed through zones E.D. and (?A) to arrive position P. at 0500A/24th thence Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.
(Capt. (S) 8. 211746A to P. 51 (UNSEEN) (R) 8th S/M.F. Capt. (S) 10.)

ADRIAS.

Sailed.
(V.A. Malta, 211813, to C. in C. Med.)

Malta
Air Report.

A.I.573 21st April. (A) Part 1 Offensive. Night 20th/21st April. Successful intruder sorties were made by 6 Mosquitoes 3 patrolling over Castelvetro 1 patrolling Sicilian narrows 1 over North East Sicily and another over Toe of Italy. Day 21st April. 14 long range Spitfires sorties were flown in offensive sweeps S.W. of Sicily and in Pantellaria area. Part 2 Enemy Air Activity. Night 20/21st April. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols S.W. of Sicily. 1 Ju. 88 was intercepted and destroyed near Marsala.
(A.H.Q. Malta 211815Z.)

/G.U.S.6A...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.S.6A. Sailed as in my 181044A in accordance with C. in C. Med. 171728Z. APHIS, R.F.A.DINGLEDALE, FORT ELLICE and H.M. Tug HENGIST towing S/M for Gibraltar, total 15 vessels.
(Cdre. Algiers 211828A to Commorseafron, Connob. Oran (R) Admty. etc.)

Section 2. Day 21st April. 4 Spitfires provided escort to incoming Naval Units. (B) Army. Nil. (C) Naval. 3 destroyers carried out a sweep S. of Marittimo on night of 19th/20th April. No shipping was sighted and ships returned to Malta yesterday afternoon.

(A.H.Q. Malta 211841Z.)

Destroyers, My 201957.
Levant. Lack of heavy gun destroyers in Levant is a serious disadvantage especially as some of the older Fleets are I understand in no condition to operate on enemy coast. C. in C. Levant will perhaps confirm this. (2) If C. in C. Levant concurs, could P. Class destroyers be exchanged with heavier gun destroyers possible from Eastern Fleet. (3) Ideal in present circumstances is 6 Fleet destroyers working from Malta and 6 from Bone.
(C. in C. Med. 211937 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. EMPIRE MIGHT ex W.S. 28 carrying important stores for you has been delayed in West Africa by fire damage and is continuing voyage in W.S.29. Cargo is intact.
(D.O.D. (F) 211945B to D.N.C.X.F.(R) C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Arrival LAFOREY, LOOKOUT.
Philippeville. Departure (? LAFOREY).
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 212001A to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Bone departures LAFOREY, STROMA.
Bone. (S.O.I.S. 212006A to Admty. etc.)

DZIK, Arrived S/M DZIK (P.52), departures TORBAY in
TORBAY. tow of HENGIST.
(Cdre. Algiers 212007A to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. V.A. Malta.)

Movements, Arrived. RHYL, POLRUAN, CLACTON, NIMBLE, FANTOME,
Algiers. WHEATLAND, BUDE, PENTSTEMON, CASLISLE, OAKLEY
L.S.T.364 RUSKHOLM, H.D.M.L.1233. Departures
FANTOME, RHYL, BUDE, EGGESFORD, PENTSTEMON,
HENGIST, CLACTON, WILTON, WHEATLAND. 555, 556
H.D.M.L. 1241,1163, 1227 M.G.B. 641, M.T.B. 651 (As received.)
M.L. 273.
(Cdre. Algiers 212011A to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

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Movements,
Haifa. Arrivals and Departures. 21st April Greek (D)
PANTHER, CROOME, ROCKWOOD, CUMBRAE. M.Ls. 350,
385.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 212021C to Admty,
C. in C. Levant.)

M.K.S.12. Your 201054. Sailing destinations. (list).
(D.T.D. 212110B to Cdre. Algiers.)

"Torch"
Tankers Your 191920. Fully seized with need of ensuring
U.S. Escorts, all possible delays. Rate of discharge of
Entry into aircraft is unfortunately dictated by limited
Med. means at our disposal but figure quoted is
maximum period anticipated. Grateful for
further information concerning agreement by
which gas freeing of U.S. tankers not considered
necessary. Specialist opinion here regards it as essential for
safety of ship particularly in an area where liability to air
and submarine attack is always present. Availability of U.S.
escorts much appreciated. Should be pleased to have extended
turn round effective with O.T.4.
(C. in C. Med. 212123A to Cominch (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

Oran Re-encypherment my 1042/20th U.G.S.7 sailed
Movements. Bougie L.S.T.413, 407, 367 VILLE DE JIJELII
Philippeville L.S.T. 409, 364 Merop Bone
BENJAMIN BOURNE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 212133 to A.I.G. 259 (R)
N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville, S.O.I.S.)

Benghazi, Sailed ROMNEY and REDWOOD.
Movements. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 212225C to Admty. (R)
C. in C. Levant.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Your 191231A (N.T. in W.R.) Sailed OXFORDSHIRE
to Bone. (2) Route through 34, 100, 37.20 N.
06.30 E, 96. (3) S. of A. 14 knots. (4) E.T.A.
Bone 230700A.
(N.O.I.C. Oran 212300A to P.S.T.O. Med. (R)
Admty.)

Movements, Arrived JERVIS, DULVERTON, EXMOOR.
Tobruk. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 212344C to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

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Movements. Departure CAPETOWN.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 210341Z to Admty.)
Departure HOXA from Trincomalee 0700Z/21st.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 210729Z to Admty.)
FROBISHER left. Arrived CHALLENGER.
(F.O.E.A. 211141 to Admty.)
Departure TEWERA at 1212/21st for Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 211215Z to P.S.T.O.I.)
Arrival MAALOY.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 211236Z to Admty.)

Ceylon Move- 1. BOMBAY escorting P.B. 26 due Bombay 22nd.
ment Summary Leaves Bombay escorting B.P. 78 28th.
No. 47 21st 2. BALUCHISTAN escorting one (?M/V) left Aden
April. 21 for Bombay.
3. HINDUSTAN arrived Colombo 19th.
4. IPSWICH and PUNJAB escorting B.P. 77 leaves
Bombay 22.
5. KONKAN and HIRAVATI escorting P.B. 37 leaves Bandar Abbas 22.
6. LAUNCESTON escorting P.A.34 leaves Bandar Abbas 22nd.
7. RAJPUTANA escorting B.P. 76 $\frac{1}{2}$ left Bombay 17, due Khor Kwai
23rd.
8. SCOUT escorting M.B. 33 left Colombo 19 due Bombay 23.
9. SOEMBA escorting B.P. 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ leaves Bombay 25.
10. SONAVATI left Colombo 20 due Addu Atoll 22.
11. TAMWORTH escorting B.M. 50 left Bombay 19 due Colombo 23.
12. TULIP escorting one M/V left Calcutta 18 due Colombo 24.
13. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN escorting B.M. 51 leaves Bombay 24.
14. NETRAVATI escorting one M/V left Calcutta 18 due Madras 23
thence Cochin.
15. SHILLONG left Calcutta 19 due Madras 23.
16. VERBENA escorting X.C.I expected to leave Addu Atoll 21.
17. ST, ANTHONY escorting C.49 left Colombo 19 due Madras 22.
(F.O.Ceylon 210754Z to Admty. etc.)

STRATHAIRD, Para. 2. Admiralty 071953B. STRATHAIRD and
STRATHMORE. STRATHMORE should be ready to sail from Bombay 4th
May.
(P.S.T.O.I. 210804Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.
Ceylon D. of S.T. P S.T.O.Capetown, D.S.T.O.Durban.)

W.S.28, 1. W.S.28 escorted by CANTON E.T.A. Aden 0300Z/30th
CANTON, in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban's 180843.
CHITRAL. E.T.A. may be advanced.
2. CHITRAL also escorting to vicinity of Socotra
proceeding thence independently to Bombay and
Colombo.
3. CHITRAL will be available to escort RAJULA from Colombo to
M.E. with (corrupt group) Basra refers in P.S.T.O. India's
160812.
(C. in C.E.F. 211033Z to F.O.C.R.S.F. N.O.I.C. Aden, F.O.Ceylon,
(R) F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C.Levant, Admty. C.S.4.)

/Reserve...

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Reserve Water Carrier. So long as Addu Atoll remains a fleet base it is imperative that a reserve water carrier be readily available in either Bombay or Ceylon. Taking up of a tanker in an emergency as suggested by you in your 200022 is not considered practicable, observing that before being available, tanks would require cleaning, an operation usually taking three weeks to complete.
(C. in C.E.F. 211415Z to D. of S.T. (R) F.O.Ceylon, P.S.T.O. India)

DAUNTLESS. A.M. 051738. On arrival in U.K. about mid June DAUNTLESS will now be taken in hand at Chatham. (D.O.D.(F) 211532B 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. Gibraltar, F.O.I.C. Tyne, C. in C.Nore, C.S.4.DAUNTLESS.)

M.O.I.R.I. amendment. Amendment No. 11 to Meiri, Section 1. (C. in C.E.F. 211559.)

Motor Minesweepers	Your 200608. M.M.S.	Where-abouts	Expected on Station.
	107	Takoradi	June
	100, 101, 108	New York	July
	196, 197, 198	Canada	August
	199, 200, 201	Canada	September
	145, 146	Ceylon	Unknown.

2. If routed through Mediterranean should arrive approx. one month sooner.
(D.M.S. 211700B to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon.)

JOHN DRAYTON torpedoed. Following has been received S.O.S. JOHN DRAYTON Position 34° 00' S. 34° 30' E. torpedoed 1919 G.M.T./21 DE ZSQ DE ZSD (Colombo T.O.R. 211940 G.M.T.)

U-Boat Campaign, S.African Waters & Indian Ocean. Admty. 212320B. See South Atlantic. Reply: C. in C.E.F. 280801Z.

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EL ALMIRANTE E.T.A. H.X. 235 at H.O.M.P. 211300Z. P.C. and S. sunk in at 202400Z 045° 76 miles from C.P.045° 8.5. collision with ELIAS Following is repetition of message received from BOUDINOT. Commodore on 500 at 202031 G.M.T. S.O.S. from pendant 102 no other particulars. Pendant 102 not in sight at 1830 G.M.T. T.O.O. 201700Q (ends) NEW WESTMINSTER sent back to investigate.

Weather report.

(C.W.L.E.T.U. 24 18.8 210115Z to C. in C. N.A. (R) C.E.S.F. CHELSEA, Comtask 24. Connav. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q.).

Total number survivors 56. 12 men including 5 U.S. Navy gunners missing. Search of vicinity completed. Intend proceeding Halifax now.

(NEW WESTMINSTER 211525Z to L.C.C.N.W.A. (R) C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8. Cominch Cmt. 3rd U.S. N.D. New York, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q.).

B.X.45 detach ARROWHEAD forthwith best speed to carry out search for survivors of EL AMIRANTE sunk by collision with unknown ship at 1920/20 in 41° 08' N. 64° 27' W. 56 survivors were picked up by NEW WESTMINSTER now en route Halifax, 12 still missing ARROWHEAD carrying out search of area until 1800 22nd report situation then proceed to Halifax.

(C. in C. N.A. 211749Z to W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4. (R) C.E.S.F. Cmt. 3rd U.S. N.D. N.Y. Cominch C & R N.S.H.Q. Comtask 24, W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8. Admty.).

One merchant ship sunk in collision by unknown vessel at 201920Z 41° 08' N. 64° 27' W. 45 survivors picked up, 12 still missing.

(C. in C. N.A. 211829Z to GB7A (R) C.T.F.24 A.C.I.C. 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.).

FORMOSA Swedish Government intimate that safe conduct vessel FORMOSA and YARRAWONGA will sail from YARRAWONGA safe conduct. St. John N.B. for Piraeus 0700 hours April 24th.

(2) Vessel will follow reverse route in My 2129/12 March and should not be molested while following above routes. Air authorities concerned should be informed.

(Head of M.I. 210200B to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.B.N.O.W.A., C. in C. N.A. Connav, C. in C. Med, C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.S.).

Movements

St. Johns N.F. 20th. Departures U.S.S. TAHOMA U.S.S. ALATUK, U.S.S. ARLUK escorting S.G.23 to Greenland. M.L. 078, M.L. 061, to carry out A/S patrol at Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. John 210325Z to Admty.).

Arrival SASKATOON ex QNS 2 and XB 46.

(C. Halifax 211352Z to Admty.).

Departure 21st M.L. 378 and 1172 Port of Spain 22nd.

(B.R.O. St. Lucia 211726Q to Admty.) As amended B.R.O.

St. Lucia 211732Q.

U.S.S. PUMPER and Escort Y.M.S.33 departed this afternoon for Georgetown.

(Cayenne U.S.S. 211700 to Admty.).

/CUBA...

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(contd.).

CUBA and ALGONQUIN both U.S.A.T. arrived New Orleans 20th.
(N.S.H.Q. 211907Z to Admty.).
Arrivals LINCOLN, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE, LETHBRIDGE ex O.N. 177.
(C. Halifax 212244Z to Admty.).

H.X.234
U/B attacked

H.X.234. One U/B sighted and attacked in 056° 49' N. 047° 48' W.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 210410Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F.34 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. Ships escorting O.N.S.3).

S/M attacked by escorts of H.X. 234 56° 49' N. 47° 48' W. approx. 0400Z 21st.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 210845Z to Admty. (R) S.O. Present afloat Greenland Ships escorting O.N.178).

O.N.S.3.
U/B attack

O.N.S.3 attacked in 055° 33' N. 047° 20' W.
(LULWORTH 210610Z to C. in C. W.A. C. in C. N.A. F.O.N.F. Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. N.S.H.Q. (R) Escort H.X.234).

My 210610Z ASHANTIAN (41) sunk. WANSTEAD (31~~3~~) torpedoed, POPPY ordered to sink after removing crew. Attack occurred from starboard bow in snowstorm. No contact gained by escorts but 51 reported at daylight that submarine escaped 340°. Weather now clear request air support. My P.C. and S. 055° 40' N. 047° 25' W. 250° 6. Weather.

(LULWORTH 210810Z to C. in C. W.A. C.O.A.C. F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C. America and West Indies, N.S.H.Q. (R) H.X.234).

One enemy submarine sighted by MOYOLA 55° 14' N. 45° 40' W. dived and is being (?attacked by) HASTINGS now. My 210610Z position should be amended by subsequent observation to 55° 50' N. 44° 00' W. (WD Note - look see 240029Z, page 925)

(LULWORTH 211445 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. 40th Escort Group).

1 S/M bearing 034° 3 miles my position 054° 53' N. 046° 24' W.

(HASTINGS 212235Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) A.C.I.C. 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.).

One submarine sighted and attacked in 54° 47' N. 45° 40' W. 2 Hedgehog hits reported at 2355Z. Air cover so far ineffective due to entire dislodgement of communications. (S.O. 40th Escort Group 212356Z to A.I.G. (?303)).

U.S.
Dispositions

This is Cominch 201430, serial 70, changing his 131510, location of fleet unites. Pacific. LONG ISLAND - South Pacific, TRENTON - Valparaiso, PHOENIX - At Sea, COPAHEE, NASSAU - San Diego, MINNEAPOLIS - Seattle, NEVADA, IDAHO SANTA FE - Alaskan Area.

/Atlantic...

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U.S. Dispositions (contd.). Atlantic.
OMAHA, MEMPHIS - Bahia, ARKANSAS, MILWAUKEE, CINCINNATI - At Sea, TEXAS - Norfolk, MARBLEHEAD - Recife, ALABAMA, SOUTH DAKOTA, RANGER, BOGUE, AUGUSTA, TUSCALOOSA - Argentia.
(Comnaveu 210646 to Admty.).

H.F.49 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.B. 210750Z to Admty.).

Convoy escort arrangements
OTTAWA could sail May 6 with A3 Group escorting O.N.182. This would allow either DUANE or SPENCER to be relieved in Argentia about May 16. About May 30, when the second U.S. ship could be relieved and returned to U.S. KOOTENAY could sail to meet H.X. 240 in mid Atlantic. Please inform if this is satisfactory. Admiralty informs as above ref. C. in C. Lant 150008.
(Comnaveu 210849 to C. in C. Lant, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. Opanav).

This is the C. in C. Lant's 150008 April to Comnaveu: Where will SPENCER and DUANE be when they are released. Refer to Cominch 132002 March, para (G).
(Comnaveu 211941 to Admty.).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 21st.	CILICIA	12 S. 36½ W.	237	14
	CARNARVON			
	CASTLE	07 N. 36 W.	Patrol	Blank.
	CHESHIRE with) Floating Dock)	18½ S. 37½ W.	031	4
	AQUITANIA	Arriving Rio de Janeiro.		

(D.O.D.(F) 211030Z to Opanav (R) Comnaveu).

U.G.S.7A. Following received for information from N.O.B.
U.G.L.3. Bermuda (begins) Addressed: Cominch, Cinclant, My 191601. Convoy U.G.S.7A and U.G.L. 3 departed 1700Z320. Add U.S. L.S.T. 359 and 381. Y.M.S. 12 did not sail. 210122Z (Ends).
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 211056P to Admty. V.A. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q. F.O.C. W.Af. C. in C. Med.).

Following is repetition of my 202239 (Begins) Convoy U.G.S. 7A and U.G.L.3 including H.M. L.S.T. 368, 426 and 428, left Bermuda in accordance with N.O.B. Bermuda 191601/4.
(S.B.N.O. W. At. 21124 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Air Offensive against U/B's Bay of Biscay. OZ 1132. 21st April 1943. C.O.S.(W) 587. British Chiefs of Staff concur in recommendation in attached paper and request that it may be brought before Combined Chiefs of Staff as early as possible for the reason given in

/ para...

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Air para.10 of the memorandum.
Offensive (Begins).
against U/B's Memorandum by First Sea Lord, Commander
Bay of U.S. Naval Forces in Europe, and Air Officer
Biscay (contd.) Coastal Command.

(1) Offensive operations by aircraft against U/B's in Bay of Biscay have been the subject of a number of papers which we have recently submitted for consideration of Anti-U/B Committee of War Cabinet. These papers (A.U. (43, 84, 86 and 98) have been transmitted to C. in C. U.S. Fleet by Admiral Stark, and no doubt will be available, if required, for consideration of Combined Chiefs of Staff

(2) We are agreed that the issue of the Battle of the Atlantic in immediate future depends in the main upon an intensification of our air efforts against the U/B; and that an addition to our present anti-submarine air forces in the Bay, of the order recommended in the studies referred to above, might well result in our inflicting so high a rate of loss on the U/B's as to break their morale and cripple their offensive. We agree also that the place where any available reserve of Allied striking power should be deployed is the Bay.

(3) We are killing U/B's round the convoys, and confidently expect to kill more as our combined V.L.R. and escort vessel programmes in the North Atlantic come to fruition. We regard it as vital that nothing should be done to interfere with the development of these programmes; on the British side they have already been accelerated, in accordance with the recommendations of the Atlantic Convoy Conference (A.C.C. 3/1 - Para.1) by diversion from other planned deployments. But in themselves they are not adequate to deal with the U/B menace. And the losses now being inflicted in the convoy areas and in the Bay together are far from keeping pace with the additions to the U/B fleet. The one place where we can always be certain of finding U/B's is the Bay. Setting side the relatively small proportion that pass into the Atlantic North-about, the Bay is the trunk of the Atlantic U/B menace, the roots being in the Biscay ports and the branches spreading far and wide, to the North Atlantic Convoys, to the Caribbean, to the Eastern seaboard of the North America, and to the sea-lanes where the faster merchant ships sail without escort.

(4) The Battle of the Atlantic is a matter of vital interest both to Great Britain and the United States; and the problem before us is to deploy our combined anti-submarine resources in the manner most effective, and in the area where they can strike most directly at the common enemy.

The British have already some 150 first line aircraft engaged in an unremitting offensive in the Bay. To these they will in the near future be able, by various means and at the expense of other commitments, to add between 30 and 40 long and medium range aircraft. They have neither the A.S.V. the aircraft nor the trained crews to do more, except at a cost to other commitments which we consider unacceptable at the present time.

(5) The requirement is for long-range aircraft equipped, if possible, with centimetre A.S.V. and manned by trained crews.

/We...

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(contd.).

We cannot find them at the expense of convoy protection. The enormous value of the V.L.R. cover to threatened convoys in the North Atlantic has been conclusively proved, both in the form of U/B's killed and in the direct saving of valuable ships. It may be that, when we have reached our full combined strength as planned for the North Atlantic, the British will be able to divert a proportion of it to the Bay

offensive, should it turn out that the losses we are able to inflict on the U/B packs in the convoy areas compel them to abandon their present tactics and leave the convoys for the safer but less profitable areas beyond our range. But that time has not yet, and may never, come. And in any event the numbers that could be made available from this source would be inadequate for our purposes in the Bay.

(6) The only other source in the United Kingdom of A.S.V. and aircraft with adequate range is the Bomber Command. Already a large proportion of the British centimetre A.S.V. equipment (H2S) has been diverted to the Coastal Command, leaving barely enough for the Pathfinder Force, on which the accuracy of the Bomber offensive so largely depends. We are convinced that under existing conditions neither for A.S.V. nor for aircraft can any further inroad upon the strength of Bomber Command be accepted. The Bomber offensive is our only means of exerting direct pressure on Germany, and we know from Marshal Stalin himself the valuable effect it is having in encouraging the Russians.

(7) The Admiralty and Admiral Stark, in the memoranda referred to above, arrive by somewhat different methods of calculation at the same requirements of 260 suitable aircraft in the Bay to break the U/B morale and cripple their offensive. That requirement, in our view, can only be met by concerted and co-operative action by the Air Forces of Britain and the United States in this area which is of such vital concern to us both. It is a strategic problem which can only be solved by an appropriate deployment of our joint resources, designed to concentrate the necessary force at the decisive point in the battlefield of the Atlantic. We are aware that the United States, like Great Britain, has not enough aircraft to meet in full their many commitments and to afford really adequate protection to the coastal shipping on their long coast-lines. But if we can strike a decisive blow at the trunk in the Bay, the branches in the Atlantic will wither.

(8) We do not recommend any diversion of American aircraft from other strategic functions or from theatres of war other than the Atlantic. We do however, strongly urge that appropriate deployment of the combined air forces already allocated to the Atlantic theatre, on the lines recently agreed by our representatives in Washington at the Atlantic Convoy Conference last month.

In the report of that Conference (A.C.C. 3/1 - para. 8.) the U.S. representatives placed on record the U.S. policy, with which we are in full agreement, that A/S aviation should not

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(contd.).

be frozen to any particular area, but should be regarded as available for shifting from time to time to areas where the need is greatest. In our view the Bay of Biscay is such an area second only to the convoy routes. Moreover, we would point out that, although the strategic mobility of air forces has in practice certain definite limitations, the one area from which the U/B's cannot shift if they are to sustain effectively

their Atlantic offensive, is the Bay.

(9) When the additions referred to in paragraph 4 above become effective, Coastal Command will dispose in the Bay a first-line strength of 108 long and 79 medium range aircraft, of which a total of between 50 and 60 will be equipped with Leigh Lights for night operations. We therefore recommend that the United States give earnest consideration to making available for the Bay offensive, from the forces already allocated to the Atlantic theatre, six Squadrons of (72) long range anti-submarine aircraft, to join with Coastal Command in an all-out offensive against U/B's in the Bay on the lines proposed by the Admiralty and Admiral Stark.

(10) Even when the enemy are able to receive our cm. A.S.V. the addition of these 72 aircraft would enable effective operations to be carried out against U/B's in the Bay. It is important, however, to make these squadrons available at the earliest opportunity so as to take the fullest advantage of the period while the enemy is still unable to listen in to our cm. A.S.V.

(11) We observe in the Report of the Atlantic Convoy Conference (Annex A to Appendix A to A.C.C.3) that the combined tentative deployments as of July 1, 1943, should exceed by 56 V.L.R., (this includes one Canadian V.L.R. Squadron for which the aircraft have been allocated by the R.A.F. since the report of the A.C.C.) 113 L.R. and 48 M.R. a total of 216 aircraft, the immediate minimum requirements of the North-West Atlantic and U.S. Atlantic zones; this is after providing for 36 V.L.R. and 24 V.L.R. respectively in these zones. We realise that these figures are only tentative and arrived at through independent and uncoordinated planning, we are obviously not in a position to judge whether in fact that full numbers of aircraft shown in the table will actually be available with trained crews by July 1. But even if the numbers actually available when the time comes fall short of those forecasted, it still seems a fair assumption that they will be adequate to provide the mobile reserve we suggest to take part in the Bay offensive. These six squadrons could be accommodated at bases in South-West England this summer, and we believe a reinforcement on this scale to our present offensive in the Bay might well have results decisive to the issue of the Battle of the Atlantic (ends).

(Air Ministry 211420Z to Britman Washington).

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (contd.).

O.N.178 Transmission by D/F at 0832Z 21st 100 miles
 O.N.S.3. 52° 30' N. 50° W. 7640 kc/s series LX and relay
 H.X.234. at 0952Z on unusual frequency 99.65 150 speed
 U/B's. 55° N. 45° W. another at 1036Z 100 miles 56° 30'
 N. 45° 45' W. 11068 kc/s series 1 all indicate
 3 sighting. Another at 0954 100 miles 55° 45'
 N. 46° W. 10300 kc/s series 7. Another at 1030Z 150 miles 56°
 30' N. 45° W. 11068 kc/s.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 211143Z to Admty. (R) Ships escorting
 O.N. Convoy 178, O.N. S.3. H.X.234. S.O.P.A. Greenland).

Between 1010Z and 1126Z four transmission on Series 1 have
 been heard. Inconclusive bearings indicate area S. of
 Greenland.

(D.D.I.C. 211440B to Escorts H.X.234 Escorts O.N.S.3. Escorts
 O.N.178 (R) C. in C. W.A. A.C.I.C. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C.).

Transmission on Series 8 at 1332Z and on Series 1 at
 1400Z. and 1414Z indicate contact reports.

No positions obtainable.

Since 1004Z all transmission from your general area have been
 on Series 1 and Series 8.

(D.D.I.C. 211650B to Escorts H.X.234 Escorts O.N.S. 3
 Escorts O.N.178 (R) C. in C. W.A. A.C.I.C. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.
 H.Q.C.C. C.T.G. 24.7.).

My 211448 activity continues Preponderance on series 8
 series 1 use when communication unsuccessful on series 8.

(N.S.H.Q. 212125Z to Ships Esc. O.N. S.3. O.N. 178, H.X.234,
 (R) C. in C. N.A. F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, A.C.I.C.
 S.B.N.O. West At.).

"S"
 report.

Intercept 1145 G.M.T. SSSS de WAZK = KUTC.
 (No signification held by W.R.) 55° 45' N
 46° 35' W. de VCE.
 (Halifax 211203Z to Admty.).

BAZELY

Your 130947.
 As BAZELY only had one weeks work up propose she
 return to Bermuda for full work up on completion
 of repairs.
 (Cdre. I.C. Bermuda 211245 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.
 C. in C. WESTERN ISLES, S.B.N.O. W. At.).

H.X.234
 O.N.S.3.
 U/B's.

D/F bearings between 0811Z and 1004Z on Series
 8, Series 7 and Series 3 from general vicinity
 of convoys indicate either one or both have been
 reported.
 (D.D.I.C. 211305Z to Escorts H.X.234, Escorts
 O.N.S.3. (R) C. in C. W.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.
 A.C.I.C. C.T.G.24.7. H.Q.C.C.).

/ X.B. 46...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

X.B. 46. X.B. 46.3 Cape Cod Canal 1315Z/21. Boston section arrived 1205/21. (Cdr. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, 211320Z to Cominch C. and R.)

λ Floating Docks, allocations. Your 030035Z and 070047Z. Our main anxiety has been the sparseness of capital ship docking facilities in whole area between Pearl Harbour and Africa. The American dock was requested as one of the ways of improving the situation by the time Germany is defeated.

(2) The news that at least two capital ship docks are to go to this area is therefore good. To which bases are they going? Their intention to hold the third dock in reserve against casualty to either of the others is sound and the refusal to give a final decision is in the circumstances easily understood. It is a relief to hear that they look upon this dock as being mobile.

(3) Until agreement has been reached on our combined strategy in the war against Japan after the defeat of Germany, we are not in a position to argue the relative merits of the Indian Ocean and S.W. Pacific as a destination for these docks. The American attitude must therefore be accepted at present.

(4) As to the 18,000 ton dock, the dock for Durban is being built at Durban and should complete about mid 1944. As stated in Salor 4999, the American dock would be very welcome at Kilindini where we are rapidly establishing repair facilities. If the situation permits we may be able later to provide a small cruiser dock or destroyer dock at expense of Eastern Med. otherwise until our capital ship dock completes in 1944, we shall have no dock whatsoever there. (Admty., 211332B to B.A.D.)

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 211500Z, 211501Z, 211556Z, 211557Z.)
21st April,
U.S. S/M
Notice.

Escort Group O.N.S. 3,
O.N. 178. Cancel my 211124Z. Proceed direct to 050° N. 047° W. making 15 knots if weather permits to cover O.N.S.3 or O.N.178. (C. in C. W.A., 211501Z to Escort Group 3, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. N.A., C.T.G. 24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., Ships Escorting O.N.S.3, O.N.178.)

DASHER lost 27th
March Your 031354. Information is being received in U.S.A. by a friend of member of crew indicating his safety but giving names of casualties. Request I be informed if loss of ship is now being released if this is being done it is desirable B.A.M.R. should have an early list of casualties as crew had many friends in U.S.A. (B.A.D., 211525Z to Admty.)

/Passengers ...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- X Passengers in U.S. ships - numbers to be carried.
- Your 221647Z/March. In general U.S. rules are acceptable for U.S. operated ships in waters under British strategical control with the following exceptions.
2. Para. 2 (b) We are most reluctant to permit this in British zones especially now that relief and/or reinforcement of Iceland (C) and Newfoundland will be carried out by Trade convoy under British escort.
 3. Recent experience of H.X. 229 shows the disastrous results of escorts having to leave the convoy to engage in rescue work. A.M. 311028/March para. 11 (b), (not to Ottawa) refers.
 4. The present difficulty in providing rescue ships renders this inevitable in the event of submarine attack. If survivors are in boats, as opposed to floats and rafts, their plight is relatively less desperate and C.Os. of escorts will feel less compunction in leaving them, temporarily, in order to press home the counter attack.
 5. These considerations together with those of A.M. 061701/February para. 1 (b) (not to Ottawa) compel us to the view that in Trade convoys ships carrying troops or passengers to capacity can only be regarded as a menace to the whole convoy.
 6. Request you will therefore make a further effort to induce Americans to adjust total numbers in ships in Trade convoy in British controlled waters to 75% boat repetition boat capacity.
 7. The necessity of relieving troops in Iceland and Newfoundland is appreciated. Exact numbers required for this are not known here but is it not possible that in actual practice this requirement could be met and the limit of 75% boat capacity still be observed.
 8. We can find no trace of U.S.A. having actually embarked more than about 600 in any ship in Trade convoy but we prefer to set a definite acceptable limit.
 9. Para. 2 (e) and your 261351Z/March. By not allowing more than 500 prisoners of war even in ships of over 20 knots the U.S. rules may have serious results on numbers which D. of S.T. had hoped to move. It is appreciated that it may be difficult for you to ask for increase when the reason given is internal security in U.S. ships. The words "for the present" in your 261351/March give a hope that it may be possible to reverse American ruling.
- (V.C.N.S., 211528B to B.A.D. Washington).

War Diary.

21.4.1943.

Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Passengers
numbers.~~(Hd. of M.II 211528B to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
See Lion Copy.~~

Dispositions Section East O.N.S.3 40th Escort Group E. 54.33
48.28 168° 6 alter to 192° in 51.00 N.
S.C.23 U.S.S. TAHOMA, ALATOK, ARLUK 49.57 49.02
037° 7.5 alter to 339° in 50.01 N.
S.C. 127, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11, 48.47 49.11 336° 7.5 alter to
360° in 50.01 N.
U.S.S. MOJAVE, MODOC, MOHAWK, ALGONQUIN vicinity 46.37 53.03
en route Argentina 8.5.
J.H. 39 A SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD depart St. Johns 2000Z/21 speed 13.5
U.S.S. L (2 corrupt groups) IE escorted by U.S.S. STORIS 45.55
54.51 248° 8.5.
H.J.47 TROIS RIVIERES, WESTMOUNT 44.51 56.45 091° 7.5. alter
to 059° in 56.10 W.
J.H. 49 VILLE DE QUEBEC, WASAGA, LACHINE, ESQUIMALT 45.11 59.19
265° 7.5 alter to 246° in 60.50 W. SS. FREDERICK LYKES 40.14
46.20 265° 14.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 211545Z to Admty.)
Amended see C. in C.C.N.A. 220112Z.

S.C. 127 S.C. 127 in my 191312 NAPANEE sailed.
NAPANEE (F.O.N.F. 211627Z to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11.)

L.C.I.(L)s. My 202104Z. My 302248 and C.A.F.O. 365/43 refers.
(B.A.M.R. 211646Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C.C.O.
Capt. M.Ls. C. in C.Levant, S.B.N.O.W.At. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, F.O.I.C.W.Af.)

Convoy B.X.45 B.X.45 escort group. ARROWHEAD sailed as an
ARROWHEAD. additional escort to Halifax.
(Comdt. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston 211714Z to Connav,
C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. etc.)

O.N. 178 O.N.178. 1 ship torpedoed 056° 07' N. 044° 26' W.
SCEBELI (I.C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15 211745Z to C. in C.W.A. (R)
torpedoed. A.C.I.C. Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F.
C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.)
My 211745Z. SCEBELI number 41 torpedoed from port
bow convoy but after part floating and salvable
crew taken off. U-Boat hunted by HURRICANE and KALE, HURRICANE
now harassing. 2 other U-Boats in contact. Weather report.
(C.T.U. 24.1.15 212142Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Connav, C.T.F. 24.
A.C.I.C. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C.
Sec. O.N.S.3, Sec. O.N. 178, Escort Group 3.)

B.Y.M.S. This is N.O.B. Trinidad's despatch 211255 action
Connav begins: Alusnob Belem's 201231 "N.O.B.
Trinidad for action, Com 4th Flt for infor.
B.Y.M.S. 9,10,26,27 arrived Belem 19." Ends.
(Radio Washington 211750C to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
N.S.H.Q. S.B.N.O.W.At.)

/Canadian...

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21.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- X Canadian Support Groups. Personal from C.N.S. Admiralty's 172349B personal from 1st Sea Lord. Canadian Support group expected to become operational mid-May. Composition four corvettes. Concur that co-ordination with other support groups to be by direct arrangement (?) between C. in C.W.A. and C. in C.C.N.A. Temporary loan of two frigates to strengthen this force is much appreciated. (C.N.S.Ottawa 211843Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D.)
- X Collision Fishing Schooner presumed sunk. Fishing Schooner presumed sunk in collision by merchant ship at 0800Z/21st 43° 33' N. 61° 44' W. 8 survivors picked up 14 still missing. (C. in C.C.N.A. 211843Z to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F.24. A.C.I.C. 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.)
- H.X. 232. H.X. 232. Average speed 9.31 knots. Arrived off Oversay 1600Z/15. FRESNO CITY, ULYSSES, PACIFIC GROVE torpedoed sunk. EDWARD B.DUDLEY not arrived. (D.T.D. 211905B to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)
- S.C.125. S.C. 125. Average speed 8.31 knots. Arrived off Oversay 140700Z. All arrived. (D.T.D. 211906B to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.)
- * Frigates & corvettes building in Canada. Salor 7125. Lorsa 7910 last para. presume penultimate sentence should read "standardisation of design between R.C.N. frigates and corvettes and R.N. frigates and corvettes building in Canada." Please confirm. (Head of M.A.S. 211929B to B.A.D.) Confirmed B.A.D. 222023Z to Admty.)
- Information for Russia. CO.S. (W) 588. 21st April, Ref. C.O.S. (W) 585. (Re smoke screens.) (Air Min. 211940Z to Britman Washington.)
- ? 1st Escort Group. 1st E.G. has been ordered to proceed to 056° N. 047° W. making good 13.5 knots weather permitting. Estimated position at 2000B/21st 059° N. 027° W. (C. in C.W.A. 212049Z to Connav, (R) A.C.I.C. 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. Sec. H.X. 234, 1st E.G. Sec. S.C. 127, Sec. O.S. 4, 5th E.G.)

/Shipping...

War Diary.

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Serial 21. EL ALMIRANTE sunk in collision with
Casualties. unknown ship convoy H.X. 235 at 1920Z/21. 41°
08' N. 64° 27' W. (12?) men missing.
ASHANTIAN WANSTEAD torpedoed sunk in convoy O.N.S.3.
position unknown 21st.
HENRY S.GROVE and TORTUGUERO in collision convoy O.N.177 20th
about 42° 10' N. 61° 02' W. both proceeding, details lacking.
(Connav 212112Z to Comnav.)

S/M attack All times Z. para. A. Surface craft attack sub.
& sighting 56.49 N. 47.48 W. 0400/21. R.A.F. plane sights
summary. sub. on surface course 045, 59.21 N. 27.47 W.
0600/21 R.A.F. plane sights submarine course 270,
59.02 N. 25.35 W. 0537/20.
Para. D. Submarine sighted 12.50 N. 66.17 W.
1815/21. B.24 had made contact 27.10 N. 79.27 W. 0150/21. U.S.S.
RODMAN attacks sound contact 47.12 N. 54.15 W. 2005/20.
Submarines reported 11.26 N. 74.05 W. 0600/19.
(Cominch 212122Z to Admty.)

EMPRESS OF Departing New York 221400Z Ambrose. EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND. SCOTLAND British. Casablanca. E.T.A. 300630Z.
(Route). Anots A 19.5 B. 21. Days 22. Service
personnel. 1st "Chop" 25, 18,30Z. Operational
control changes from Connav to British Admiralty.
2nd "Chop" 292230Z. Operation control changes from British
Admiralty to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Communication plan same as my
0550Z/18th fighter protection codeword "Numerical" with 3 letters
B.U.D. Ship will employ normal merchant ship recognition procedure.
(Port Director New York 212132Z to Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q.
C.E.S.F. Cdr. N.W.African S.F. (R) C. in C.Lant, C. in C.Med.
F.O.C.Gib. Com. 35d U.S.N.D. New York, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)
As amended Port Director New York 221401Z.

AQUITANIA. Ref. QM/167 of 20 April agreed 2670 Italian P.O.W.
on AQUITANIA be retained U.S.A. and balance
capacity of ship used for Eighth Air Force from
U.S.A. and air gunners from Canada. Sailing
to be delayed as little as possible as ship has already lost time.
Agreed.
(W.O. 212200B to Milstaf Washington.)

"Chop" A.M. 212125 request "Chop" time and date for
times and O.N.S.3 H.X. 235 and subsequent convoys may be
dates. promulgated accordingly.
(D.T.D. 212235B to Connav, (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in
C.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C.T.F. 24.)

/U/B...

War Diary.21.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U/B sighted Owing to repeated snow fall storms ^{to} L. message
by A/C since 130 L received. Am shifting to 107 k/cs
H.X. 234. at 0001Z/22nd leaving Greenland on 105 k/cs.
Request re-broadcasting of necessary messages
addressed group. 1 U-Boat sighted by Liberator
at 1930Z/21st in 57° 03' N. 43° 43' W. VIMY
searched till 2135Z/21st. H.X. 234 P.C. and S. 57° 30' N.
42° 54' W. 047° 9 weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 212302Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) A.C.I.C.
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.)
As amended C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15 220020Z.

PREVENTOR
"S"
Report.

Received 212253 G.M.T. SSSS PREVENTOR 43° 28' N.
65° 12' W. DE VCS.
(Halifax 212307 G.M.T. to Adm. Liverpool 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.)
As amended by C. in C.C.N.A. 212356Z to C.T.F.24.

21.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Convoy
C.O. 90.

Sydney section convoy C.O. 90 sailed 21st comprising five ships. NELLORRI and CALIFORNIA STANDARD for Melbourne. ALF J. KELLY, RUSSELL, A. ALGER for Aden. THEODORE BARKER for Bombay. (N.C.S.O. Sydney 210713Z to Admty.)

Movements.

Arrival Port Moresby 20th GYMPIE, Thursday Island 20th CASTLEMAINE. Maryborough 19th PIRIE. Cairns 20th WAGGA. Departure Port Moresby 20th VENDETTA for Downsville. Brisbane 20th BUNGAREE for Downsville. 19th BUNDABERG, GLADSTONE, BENDIGO for Sydney (N.S.W.). (A.C.N.B. 211159Z to Admty.)

R.A.A.F. Store ship WANAKA departed Brisbane 20th April due Sydney N.S.W. 22nd. Hired transport KATOOMBA (?departed) Port Moresby 20th due Cairns 22nd. Armament Store Issuing Ship YUNNAN departed Townsville 21st for Palm Island. (?U.S.) Transport CREMER arrived Port Moresby 21st. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 211414Z to Admty.)

PIRIE
Damaged
by A/C.

PIRIE damaged by air attack Orobay 11th. Estimated date completion repairs 12th May. (A.C.N.B. 211406Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 211405B, 211445B.)

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22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

X Operation
V.P.-R.

1. M.T.B's 620 (S.O.) 626 and 627 sailed from Lerwick at 1200B today for operation on the coast of Norway, but were compelled to return owing to the weather.

H.M.T.
HERRING
sunk.

2. H.M.Trawler HERRING in Convoy F.N.108 was sunk in collision with S.S. CASSARD (British 1602 tons) in the same convoy in the early hours of today 2 miles North of 20 E Buoy (N.E. of Blyth. CASSARD got her leak under control and made for the Tyne after picking up all complement of HERRING.

Several U/boats were sighted and/or attacked today N.W. of the Faeroes and in the Derange area of the Bay of Biscay.

South Atlantic.

4. A French aircraft reported attacking a submarine at 1945Z in 14.50 N. 17.48 W.

Mediterranean.

X Proposed
minefield on
North African
coast.

5. C. in C. Levant proposes to lay a deep minefield on the north African coast between Benghazi and longitude 26 degs. 20' E. where depth of water permits laying in less than 200 fathoms, with the object of destroying enemy submarines operating against our shipping on this route.

C. in C. Med. does not consider that the effort involved in this project is justified. The Admty. view is in 071114B May.

BADSWORTH
damaged

6. BADSWORTH, who had left Bone to escort M.K.S.12 was mined at 1655A today off Cap de Garde (north of Bone) and was taken in tow by CLACTON. The ship was berthed in Bone. There were no serious casualties.

/7. SARACEN...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean (contd.).

7. SARACEN (P.247) is returning from patrol off the east coast of Corsica. She reports having sunk 3 ships.

America and West Indies.

X U/boat
attack on
H.X.234 one
ship
torpedoed.

Convoy H.X. 234 was attacked at 0020Z in 57.30 N. 42.50 W. (about 150 miles S.S.E. of Cape Farewell) and M.V. AMERIKA (British 10218 tons), out of position and probably a straggler was torpedoed and apparently sunk.

Further U/boats were sighted during today. The escorts' fuel is getting low.

9. EL ALMIRANTE in Convoy H.X.235 was sunk today in collision with ELIAS BOUDINOT S.S. FANAD HEAD in the same convoy returned to Halifax today with survivors of the schooner FLORA ALBERTA out of Lunenburg with which she was in collision in 43.25 N. 61.47 W.

10. The schooner FRANCIS PARSONS is reported to have sunk today in approx 37 N. 67W.

11. An aircraft escorting Convoy O.N.S.3. attacked a fully surfaced U/boat at 0904 in 54.17 N. 48.19 W; E.A.C. Halifax gives a preliminary assessment as seriously damaged, possibly sunk.

12. EMPIRE BITTERN, in Convoy O.N.178 which was attacked by a U/boat yesterday reports striking a submerged object at 0125Z today in 56.15 N. 45.58 W.

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BATTLER. My 201816 and C. in C. H.F's 212100. When ready for service BATTLER is placed temporarily under the orders of C. in C. W.A. My 161028 of March para. 2 refers. (D.O.D.(H), 221159B.)

Movements.

Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic. (D.O.D.(H), 220959Z.)

KINGSTON TOPAZ, STURGEON. Intend sailing KINGSTON TOPAZ at 0400/23 to R/V with STURGEON in 180° Lizard 12 miles at 0700/23 thence to Portland. Communications. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 221037B.)

6 L.C.Fs. S.O. Force J 211946B, concur. Destination Plymouth. (C. in C. Plymouth, 221135B.)

ASCANIA. Arrangements sailing ASCANIA from Needles 230730 for Clyde. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221202B.)
W.D. Note: See Operations.

105th & 112th M.S.F. Request you will sail 105th M.S.F. (eight ships) to Plymouth as soon as convenient. On arrival of 105th M.S.F. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail 112th M.S.F. four to Dover, four to Harwich. Base spares should also be transferred. (D.M.S., 221258.)

AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, CASTLETON & NEWARK. Sailed R.A.M's 200904. (TRELAWNEY, 221330B.)
R.A.(M) arrived in AGAMEMNON with MENESTHEUS, CASTLETON and NEWARK in company. (TRELAWNEY, 222140B.)

MALAYA. IROQUOIS with ST. MARYS, STEVENSTONE proceed passing Switha 1500B/23 to comply with C. in C. H.F's 212110B.
2. When met relieve PIORUN, MATCHLESS, METEOR.
3. C. in C. H.F. 212110B, Admty.'s 201340B, C. in C. Plymouth's 192225B and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 191302B attached.
4. Constant W/T watch on broadcast B.N., Port Wave and a guard on Fleet Wave.
(R.A.D., 221500B to IROQUOIS, ST.MARYS, STEVENSTONE (R) C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., D.3, C. in C. W.A., Admty., MALAYA, PIORUN, C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Admty. ...

War Diary.

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- MALAYA. Admty. 201340. Request A/S air escort for
(Contd.) MALAYA until arrival in position (W). Codeword
"Cravat".
(C. in C. H.F., 222009B to C. in C. W.A.)
- S/Ms. Position of S/Ms at 0800/23rd and movements for
following 24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 221726B.)
- Home Fleet. Intend following movements.
27th April S.O. 2nd B.S. in ANSON with JAMAICA
sail for Hvalfjord. 28th April HOWE and GLASGOW
sail for Scapa.
2. FURIOUS and SCYLLA will sail with ANSON and JAMAICA and will
take part in an exercise with the force from Hvalfjord. Details
follow.
3. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail 6 destroyers to screen
ANSON's force. 3 destroyers will return to Scapa with FURIOUS.
(C. in C. H.F., 222001B.)
- Flight E of A.M. 192006 March and C.C.O. 011523 April.
L.C.G.(L). It is very improbable that Flight E of L.C.G.(L)
will be mustered at Falmouth, stored, fitted with
ammunition lockers as in A.M. 022123 April
and ready for sea by 1st May.
2. Adequate time will clearly not be available for a full
working up programme.
3. Weather on passage is considered the paramount factor and
therefore intend that flight should be sailed as soon after 1st
May as it is assembled in a correct state of seagoing efficiency,
and the weather is propitious.
4. Re gunnery efficiency, opportunity will be taken to do as
much as possible, but it is not intended that the flight should be
delayed for working up practices which I consider must be completed
after arrival at destination.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 222050.)
- UGANDA. My position and S. of A. at 2200B 049° 34' N. 012°
34' W., 19 knots. E.T.A. 1600B/23rd April. Boom
at 1645B. Acknowledge. My 161500B now considered
minimum 6 days necessary to clean 2 boilers, refit
evaporators and carry out essential repairs.
(UGANDA, 222305B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

827

War Diary.

22.4.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- X Training of ships which can carry L.Cs. DURBAN CASTLE and CIRCASSIA should be available at Tail of the Bank to D.S.T.O. MONCK for training purposes by not later than 1st May and 10th May respectively.
(D. of S.T., 220246B.)
Arrangements should be made for ASCANIA to be sailed from Southampton for Clyde to arrive not later than 1st May where she will come under D.S.T.O. MONCK for training purposes.
(D. of S.T., 221545B.)
Arrangements should be made for DERBYSHIRE, LLANGIBBY CASTLE and MARNIX ST. ALDEGONDE to be sailed from Liverpool for Clyde to arrive not later than 1st May where they will come under D.S.T.O. MONCK for training purposes.
(D. of S.T., 221605B.)
- X New Iceland - Bergen S/M Patrol. F.O.(S) 211806. Request you will sail P.56 at 1800B/23 and D.S. O.14 at 1800B/25 routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 thence direct to patrol line (A) and (B) respectively.
(Capt. (S) 9, 221015B to S.O. Submarines Lerwick, (R) F.O.(S), A.C.O.S., C. in C. H.F., Capt. (S) 3rd.)
- Coastal force patrols. (1) Weather permitting intend M.Ls 269 (S.O.) and 205 to patrol tonight Thursday 22nd April on lat. 50° 20' N. between long. 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
(2) Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S.382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/23rd.
(3) Object - anti E-Boat patrol.
- (4) Constant W/T watch on 2300 k/cs usual books to be landed.
(5) Codeword "Spaniel".
(6) Request air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 221135B to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty., N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
Portsmouth night movements and patrols 22nd/23rd April.
2. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.608, 615 patrolling southward from Newhaven.
 3. M.Ls 309, 572 patrolling southward of E.A.5 Buoy.
 4. Chasseur 15 at St. Helens. BLEASDALE, MELBREAK, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth. Constant watch on 2450 k/cs. BLEASDALE and MELBREAK on broadcast C.N. in addition.
 5. M.Ls 269 and 205 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N. between 1° 45' W. and 2° 25' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221315B.)
1. Tonight 22nd/23rd April. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.608, 615 to proceed to patrol as follows weather permitting.
 2. Object. Destruction of enemy shipping.
 3. Leave Newhaven so as to pass through passage two not before 2145 and carry out search in area off the coast Cap D'Antifer to Le Havre.
 4. Return by passage two so as to be within 20 miles of our coast by daylight.

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
force
patrols.
(Contd.)

5. Codeword "Advent". Constant watch on 1700 k/cs. Collective call sign 3FIM. Carry pages of Loxod for 22nd and 23rd April and A.V.S.B. only.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 221317B.)
Patrol 22nd April.1. M.T.Bs 98, 239 and 227 are to patrol from position (A) 115° Roches Douvres Lt. 7' through position (B) 180° Barnovic Lt. 4.5' to position (C) 360° Heaux Lt. 2'.
2. Object to intercept enemy shipping.
3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2115B/22. Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light 23rd.
4. Information. Enemy. E-Boats may operate from Brittany, Guernsey or Cherbourg.

5. Collective call sign 3SCR. Constant watch 2300 k/cs.

6. Codeword "Bailey".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221443B.)

Dispositions for night April 22nd /23rd.

Patrol 3 - WINDSOR. Patrol 4 - MONTROSE. Patrol 7 - MALLARD.

Patrol 5 - HOLDERNESS. Patrol 6 - MENDIP.

(C. in C. Nore, 221603B.)

Cancel my 221443B owing to weather.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 221605B.)

Dover dispositions for night of 22nd/23rd April.

M.Ls 140 and 143 patrolling at Newcome Buoy.

(V.A. Dover, 221649B.)

Ref. my 221135B patrol cancelled owing to weather. Boats remaining in harbour in short notice.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 222001B.)

Operation
V.P.-R.

My 161140B. M.T.Bs 620 (S.O.) and 626 and 627 sailed 1200B/22nd. Para. 4 for 10 read 5. (A.C.O.S., 221225B.)

X Patrol
"White".

Possibility of S/Ms in area of patrol "White" must be accepted. On a U-Boat being reported the normal practice has been to shift the unit patrol the other side of minefield or about 100 miles in the other direction. Proposal in your 171625 April not approved.

(C. in C. H.F., 221233B to F.O.C. 10th C.S.)

Exercises.Exercise
X.C.J.

"Blue" Force HOWE (S.O.), GLASGOW and 3 destroyers representing German Battleship ADMIRAL VON TIRPITZ and German Cruiser PRINZ EUGEN are to attempt to break out to cross latitude 60 N. and reach the open sea. "Red" Force ANSON (B.S.2), FURIOUS, SCYLLA, JAMAICA and 6 destroyers detailed by R.A.(D) H.F. Details of exercise. (C. in C. H.F., 222223B, 231219B.)

War Diary.

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

X Training of
carrier-
borne
squadrons.

Intend to hold a meeting at Naval Air H.Q. Largs at 271500B to discuss methods of training carrier-borne squadrons for S/M attack with a view to co-ordinating this training now carried out at Machrihanish, Ballykelly and in the Clyde. Request you will be represented.
(V.A.A., 221922B to C. in C. W.A., Machrihanish, Admty., R.A.N.A.S.(N), (R) F.O.N.A.S.)

Enemy Air Operations.

Aberdeen.

Enemy aircraft attacked Aberdeen 2230B/21, bombs dropped in town and outskirts. No damage harbour area or naval vessels. No casualties naval personnel as far as known at present.

(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 220115B.)

My 220115B. It is confirmed that there were no casualties to naval personnel.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 221712B.)

Mining.

S.N. 123.

My 121600B. It is expected that an attempt will be made today on the programme intended for Thursday 15th. A further signal will be made as soon as possible.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 220845B.)

My 220845. Operation is proceeding satisfactorily.

(N.O.I.C. Stornoway, 221430B.)

978 Q.Z.X.

One 'R' type mine sinker recovered in 978 Q.Z.X. by EASTBOURNE and landed at Parkeston Quay.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 221144B.)

Off St.
Anthony's
Head.

Have cut mine in 128° St. Anthony's Head 7.6 miles. Mine is floating. Consider it a 'T' mine or very similar. Am standing by mine. Request instructions.

(ALBURY, 221445B.)

My 221445. On closer investigation consider mine is not 'T'.
(ALBURY, 221528B.)

Your 221545B. Mine recovered and in tow by M.L.1025 and proceeding to Falmouth. SALTASH and M.L.1025 in company.

(ALBURY, 221830B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Southwold ...

830

22.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Southwold to
Lowestoft.
M.M.S.1005
slightly
damaged.

Ref. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 211809. Details of mine
detonated at 1745/21 by M.M.S.1005 in 3B Buoy
2.1 miles, laid night of 14th/15th April.
Slight damage to galley.

(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 221517B.)

Ref. F.O.I.C. Yarmouth's 212015. Details of
mines detonated at 1900/21 by STAR OF PENTLAND
in 52° 23'08" N. 01° 54'22" E. No damage caused.

(Cdr. M/S & P. Lowestoft, 222231B.)

Ref. F.O.s I.C. Yarmouth 212015. Details of acoustic mine
detonated at 1901/21 by CONGRE in 52° 23'10" N. 01° 56'54" E.
No damage.

(Cdr. M/S & P. Lowestoft, 222247B.)

Brimness
minefield.
(Iceland C).

Proposed position of minefield. Eastern line
mines 180° from position 1.84 miles 270° from
Brimness. Only suitable site land loops northern
shore determines position. Guard loops about 7
cables to eastward. Maximum depth mine loops 48
fathoms guard loops 49 fathoms. Good site control
station agreed.

(ALCA, 222300B to A.C.I.C., Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER,
GRAF
ZEPPELIN.

P.R.U. Swinemunde 22nd April shews SCHEER along-
side railway quay and GRAF ZEPPELIN with four
escorts off Swinemunde.

(D.D.I.C., 221827B.)

U-Boats.

+ U/Bs
reported &
attacked
N.W. of
Faroes.

*no
details
required*

Following received via Rosyth, Am over enemy
S/M in 63 N. 12 W.

(YF8T, 220300A to 18 Group C.C.)

Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on
surface on course 240° speed 12 knots, but
subsequently submerged. Have attacked enemy with
depth charges.

(A/C C/S YF8T, 220305B.)

N R 1 63.30 N. 11.44 W.

(A/C Duty 'T' 190 Sqdn., 220510B to A.O.C. 18 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 63.09 N. 11.37 W. Enemy S/M previously
reported was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge.
When first sighted was on course 270° speed 10 knots.

(A/C 190 Sqdn./S, 221222B to A.O.C. 18 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 62.28 N. 12.00 W. was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge. When first sighted was on
course 305° speed 3 knots.

(A/C 190 Sqdn./E, 221241B to A.O.C. 18 Group.)

/Am

831

22.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U/B reported & attacked N.W. of Faroes. (Contd.)
Am over enemy S/M in 62° 33' N. 12° 00' W. submarine was on surface when first sighted on course 220° speed 4 knots. (A/C 190 Sqdn./E., 221340B.)
Note: Message passed to F.O.(S).
Am over enemy S/M 63.10 N. 11.54 W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Was sighted on course 270° speed 10 knots. (A/C 'S' of 190 Sqdn. via Rosyth, 221429B to H.Q. 15 Group.)
Enemy S/M previously reported has surfaced 63.10 N. 11.54 W. Have attacked enemy with depth charge. (A/C 'S' of 190 Sqdn. via Rosyth, 221529B.)
Am over S/M in 62.58 N. 12.07 W. Enemy S/M previously reported sighted on surface and observed to submerge 150, 05. (A/C 206 Duty 'D' via Liverpool W/T, 222203.)

* U/B reports and attacks:- North Atlantic.
Am over enemy S/M in 59.51 N. 29.18 W. (18 Flight attached 15 Group Duty 'B' via Iceland, 221355B to A.O.C. 15 Group.)
Am over enemy S/M in 58.05 N. 39.30 W. (A/C 5URH via Iceland W/T, 222242B.)
Am over enemy S/M in 58.19 N. 39.36 W. (A/C 5URH via Iceland W/T, 222308B.)

?
Periscope only was sighted of enemy S/M previously reported 4180 5 kts. (Aircraft 3MLB via Iceland W/T, 221615B.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 9HZD via Liverpool, 222220B.)

→ U/B reports & attacks:- Biscay area.
Am over enemy S/M in 46.33 N. 09.54 W. (A/C C/S 37HT via Plymouth, 221814B to 19 Gp. H.Q.)
Enemy submarine previously report was on course 060° speed 10 knots. (A/C C/S 57HT, 221835B.)

Navigational.

→ Portsmouth.
Portsmouth western entrance closed owing to fog. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221230B.)
Cancel my 221230B. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 221325B.)

Gale warning.
S. to S.S.E. gale expected this evening 35 - 40 knots, gusts 45 knots veering S. to S.W.
Hoist South cone. (A.C.I.C., 221644B to Ships N. of 60° N. between longitudes 10° and 30° W., Admty., A.C.O.S., S.O.N.T., C. in C. H.F.)

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

H.M.T. Tیره Radio reports 111° grade one CASSARD F.S.
 HERRING (Port Patrick Radio, 220204B.)
 sunk in 0009 G.M.T. CASSARD S O S south of 20 E Buoy in
 collision damaged unknown vessel sunk. Amended
 with SS. position approx. 2 miles north of 20 E Buoy.
 CASSARD. (Humber Radio, 220219.)
 CASSARD reports making water picking up
 survivors trying to put into Blyth.
 (Wick Radio, 220254 B.D.S.T.)

0200 G.M.T. de CASSARD will endeavour to make Tyne, picked up
 all survivors we can find, leak now under control. Master
 acknowledged by Cullercoats Radio.
 (North Foreland Radio, 220400, Wick Radio 220404.)
 0204 GJJ de CASSARD position now 55.15.12 N. 1.18.36 E.

Ends.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 220404.)
 My 220247* CASSARD reports leak under control and making
 for Tyne. All crew of sunk ship picked up. Rejoin convoy.
 (C. in C. Rosyth, 220425B to WOLSEY.)
 * N.T. in W.R.
 Intercept de 0234 G.M.T. de CASSARD escort now arrived.
 (Wick Radio, 220434.)
 H.M. Trawler HERRING was sunk in collision with SS. CASSARD
 at 0300/22 approx. 2 miles north of 20 E Buoy. No loss of life
 and all crew picked up and taken to Blyth by CASSARD. HERRING
 was bound for Methil from Humber in F.N.100 and CASSARD in the
 same convoy also for Methil had been diverted to Tyne with D/G
 trouble.
 (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 221031B.)

Mine Mine Barge No.3 with 32 Mk.IV mines on board has
 Barge sunk at moorings off Netley. Admiralty Salvage
 No. 3. Officer has been informed. Operation J.S.A. is
 affected by this.
 (F.O.I.C. Southampton, 221013.)

CUMBERLAND. C. in C. H.F.'s 201408 and Admty. 220010 dock not
 available for CUMBERLAND before p.m./28 or a.m./
 29 April. No estimate of time can be given until
 ship has been examined in dry dock.
 (N.O.I.C. Newcastle on Tyne, 221050B to C. in C.
 H.F.)

UNTIRING, J.4446. Explosion occurred on board early this
 UNSWERVING. morning. Full extent of damage not yet known but
 apparently not serious. Removal of battery will
 be necessary.

/J.4456 ...

833

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.UNTIRING,
UNSWERVING.
(Contd.)

J.4456. Yesterday afternoon Wednesday, ship fell partly off blocks and now lying at an angle. Details of damage not yet available. Further reports will be forwarded. (P.870)
(W.P.S.N.E. Area, W.E.S.N.E. Area, 221230B.)

* ULVEN.
interest German mines off Swedish coast

(1) Search for S/M ULVEN will be discontinued p.m./23rd.
(2) Though no evidence has yet been found to account for her loss Admiral Tamm expressed his personal view at Chiefs of Staff meeting this afternoon April 22nd that he believed ULVEN had been lost due to exploding a mine..
(3) Chief of Naval Staff desires me to express gratefulness of Swedish Navy for helpful weather reports.
(N.A. Stockholm, 221651 to Admty.)

FREEBOOTER,
B.P.T. 25.

FREEBOOTER with B.P.T.25 in tow grounded on leaving harbour. Tug and target refloated and now alongside at Montrose. Target has sustained slight damage. Port screw of tug fouled further report will be submitted after examination by P.E.R.O. Dundee.
(R.N.O. Montrose, 222021B.)

BRYNHILD.

Rescue tug is being sent to your assistance. Call sign 2MIM keep me informed of your position.
(A.C.I.C., 222047Z to BRYNHILD.)
BRYNHILD ex R.U.71 has main engine defects in 130° Reykjanes 6 miles. Report her position if sighted and stand by her if she is in danger. Rescue Tug SAUCY is being sent to assist her.
(A.C.I.C., 222250B to HAZARD, (R) SHARPSHOOTER.)

LENA
LUCKENBACH.

Request you will assume charge of LENA LUCKENBACH towing operation and when BERGAMOT can be released sail her for Liverpool.
(C. in C. W.A., 222148B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

War Diary.

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

x H.X. 234,
U/B attack
AMERIKA
torpedoed.

H.X. 234 attacked 57° 30' N., 42° 50' W.
Correct my 212302Z. For O.N. 176 read H.X. 234.
Weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 220020Z to C. in C. W.A.
(R) Connav, C.T.F.24, A.C.I.C., Admty. N.S.H.Q.,
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)
W.D. Note - amendment made.

A.C.1 Article 39 para. 5. (A) 0020Z/22nd 57.30 N., 42.50 W.
(B) One on the surface. (C) Suspected port beam or quarter
(D) TH(OR?)SON (74) out of position probably straggling. About
60 survivors in ASPHODEL. (E) No. (F) VIMY, ASPHODEL now
rejoined. (G) Fuel getting low. May have to detach VIMY,
ASPHODEL and ABELIA to Iceland as ordered weather improve next
48 hours. Weather report 4571 9788.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 220730Z to A.I.G.303, C. in C. W.A.,
(R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, C. in C. N.W.A.,
C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C., F.O.N.F.)

My 220730Z. (D) (?for) THORSOV (74) read AMERIKA (75).
THORSOV present. H.X.234 P.C. and S. 58.03 N., 41.04 W. (X)
060 9. Straggler SCHOHARIE. Weather reports 9370 9986.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 221436Z).

H.X. 234 reported at 2030Z/22nd. One U-boat sighted 058°
09' 039° 40'.

My P.C. and S. 058° 25' 039° 51' 090° 9 knots; altering course
to 053° at 2300Z/22nd.

(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 222035Z to C. in C. W.A., E.G.1
PELICAN, (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa,
F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

My 292035Z. 2 additional U-boats sighted 058° 16' 039° 36'
My P.C. and S. 058° 25' 039° 12' 053° 9 knots.

(C.M.O.E.T.U., 24.1.18, 222301Z to C. in C. W.A., E.G.1.
PELICAN (R) Connav, C.T.F.24., Admty. N.S.H.Q., Ottawa,
F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C. Halifax, C.T.G.24.7., H.Q.C.C.)

O.N.179

My P.C.S. at 0700Z 058° 03' 021° 40' 275° 8½ knots.
4 hours late at R/V. Transmit your call sign
on 4400 k/cs every hour commencing 1000Z.
(BROADWAY, 220735Z to U.S.S. SYMBOL).

"Chop".

Cancel W.A.G.M. 595N (051050) Commencing with
H.X.235 and S.C.128 "Chop" for H.X. and S.C.
convoys will be 24 hours after time and date of
Westomp.

2. Commencing with O.N. 178 and O.N.S.3 "Chop" for O.N.S. and
O.N. Convoys will be 24 hours before time and date of Westomp.
(C. in C. W.A., 221036Z to S. and A. W.A. Comd).

x Reporting:
names to be
given.

The practice by escorts and Commodores of
referring to ships in convoy by their pendant
numbers only when reporting casualties or other
matters leads to uncertainty as to the identity
of the ships concerned. It is therefore proposed
that Escorts and Commodores be instructed

that when making relevant reports by coded signals addressed to
authorities outside the convoy both the pendant numbers and the
names of the ships should be stated. Request your remarks.

(D.T.D. 221158B to C. in C. W.A., Connav, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, (R)
C. in C. N.A., C.T.F., F.O.N.F.)

/Reporting...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- Reporting Pass to N.C.S.Os. In future the standard Convoy Form M (S.1.1542) is invariably to be used. It should be correctly and completely filled in and a copy sent to Trade Division, Admiralty as early as possible.
2. Questions re speed, bunkers and consumption are particularly important.
(D.T.D., 221518B to A.I.G. 21).
- M.K.S.11 My 111914B/4th.* M.K.S.11 in 055° N., 010° W. approx. 0030B/23rd escorted by E.G.44.
(C. in C. W.A., 221532B to R.A.F. Ballykelly for F.A.A. Unit (R) Escorts M.K.S.11.
(Re Swordfish aircraft of Fleet Air Arm may close any inward bound escorted convoy, for exercise purposes.
- Fuelling BOGUES escort. It seems probable that H.X. 235 may be routed similarly to H.X. 233 or even further South in which case fuelling at sea for BOGUE's escorts will be essential. Desirable that BOGUE's request for fuelling escorts astern as given in BOGUE's 151130 may be met before she is required to sail on probable date p.m./23rd to join H.X. 235 p.m./24th or as soon after as practicable. BOGUE and her group of 4 destroyers should be at 4 hour's notice from 0800/23rd.
(C. in C. W.A., 221604Z to C.T.F. 24, (R) Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G. 24.7. H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, Comnav).
- O.N.S.4 Your 221708 and 222038, local evidence suggests none of these transmissions were near O.N.S.4. My P.C. and S. at 2000Z 058° 26' N., 032° 19' W. (X) 234° 6. KIRSTEN MAERSK absent since 1800Z/21 believed returned to U.K. Weather reports 5578 8778.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, 222016Z to Admty. (R) 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., Escorts H.X. 234, A.C.I.C., 5th E.G.)
- E.G.1., 5
O.N.S.4,
H.X. 234. Incomplete D/F of a probable sighting report on 10265 k/cs at 1740Z indicates that a U-boat has reported one of the addressees.
(D.D.I.C., 222038B to Escort Group, Escorts of Convoy O.N.S.4, 5th Escort Group. Escorts of Convoy H.X. 234, C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
- SS. Arrived Clyde.
QUEEN MARY. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 222216B).
Arrived 2208/22.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 222230B
- DIANELLA, LOTUS Enemy A/C report convoy at 2125B/22. Probably Escorts O.S. L.C. Possible O.S. 46 and M.K.S.13. (D.D.I.C. 222235B to C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

G.U.S.6. Inconclusive D/F bearings on 9965 kc/s at
U-Boat. 2206Z/21 indicate U-Boat may be in vicinity
of convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 220230Z to Escorts G.U.S.6. (R)
Cominch, N.S.H.Q. Commorseafron.)

G.U.S.6A. Departures LIDDESDALE, BOREAS at 212300 for
K.M.F.13. Oran thence G.U.S.6A. ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE,
220300 to join K.M.F.13.
(F.O. Gib. 220330B to Admty. C. in C. Med.
Comnob. Oran.)

K.M.F.13. DUNNOTTAR CASTLE. arrived.
(F.O.C. Gib. 220346 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy S.R.4. arrived.
S.R.4. (F.O.C. Gib. 221026B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C.M.S.F.F.
Admty, Connav, C. in C. Med.)

Arrived ACUTE, PIROUETTE, CONVULVULUS, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR
escorting convoy S.R.4.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 221210B to F.O.C. W.A. Commorseafron.
(R) Admty. Comar, Dakar. C. in C. Med.)

SALAMANDER. Your 212200B to F.O.C. Gib. Report if not met
by 1200B/22nd April. (2) Attention is called to
A.C.I. Article No. 28 para No.3 and 4.
(F.O.C. Gib. 221039B to SALAMANDER (R) Admty,
S.E. Convoy No. B.X.X.4, C. in C. W.A.)

Dispositions. Situation at 221959B.
O.S. (746) (G) CIRCE sails 0201B/23 through
35.48 06.30 thence 261° 7½. (2) G.U.S.6A.
EGGESFORD passes Europa Point 1900B/23 westbound
8½. (3) KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE probably returning
to Gibraltar from X.K. (?4). (4) H.M.S. CHARYBDIS sails Gib.
2100B/22 through 36.35.10 (?46) to 37.01 12.01 thence 346° 19.
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 221131B.)

Situation at 222002B.
Fleet of three destroyers 42.28 16.01 359.16. 2. WISHART two
destroyers 40.57 15.11 130.12. 3. K.M.S.13, O.S.46, 334° 39.46
12.57 150.7½. (See amendment 222129). 4. Coastal craft convoy,
two tugs, LOTUS, DIANELLA 40.27 12.32 152.8. 5. W.S.29,
NEWCASTLE 30.28 10.57 through (?30) 01.17.05 to 28.10 13.40
thence 230.11 (?7). 6. X.K. 4 HALCYON 38.52 13.45 through
39.58 15.10 thence 002° 6½. 7. CHARYBDIS sails 2100B/22nd
through 36.35 10.01 to 37.01 12.01 thence 346.19.
(F.O.C. Gib. 221205B.)

/My...

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War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. My 221205B. Amend para. 3 to read K.M.5. 13,
(Contd.) O.S.46, LEITH (E) 039° 11' 012° 16' 153° 8.
One merchant ship, VIOLET, are stragglers.
(F.O. Gib. 222129B.)

My 221205B. Add new para 8. Coastal Craft convoy, one
tug, 2 hauls, HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK, 44.40 14.01 through 42.30
13.59 thence 152° 8.

(F.O. Gib. 22345 B.M.)

ST. NECTAN, Intend to sail ST. NECTAN (SO) LADY HOGARTH to
LADY HOGARTH. Casablanca at 1100A/April 24 E.T.A. 1100A/April
25 to escort HEBE II to Ponta Delgada.

2. Route through Q.K.A.87.

Q.K.A. 92 S. of A. 9 knots. 3. Request you will sail HEBE II
through P. 35.01 N. 10.01 W. Q. 37.35 N. 25.01 W. and return
by reverse route.

(F.O.C. Gib. 221230 to C.M.S.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.
ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH.)

CHARYBDIS Intend sailing CHARYBDIS at 2100B (?22nd) to
X.K.4. comply with C. in C. Plymouth 201345

(2) Route (A) 7(36) 35 N. 10.01 W.

(B) 37.01 12.01 (C) 42.50 14.01 S. of A. 19
knots (3) X.4 in estimated position 42.48 N.

15.00 W. at 1200B/24th.

(F.O.I.C. Gib. 221233B to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty.

C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med., H.Q.C.C. CHARYBDIS, Escorts of
X.K.4.)

My 221233, sailed, Q.Z.H. 332, L.52, S.411, X.980, Y.386.

(F.O.C. Gib. 222157Z to C. in C. Plymouth (R) Admty. H.Q.C.C.
C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med.)

Swiss
Shipping.

Swiss ST. CERGUE and Swiss chartered Spanish
MULHACEN leave Genoa 29th and 30th April
respectively for Gibraltar.

(D.E.W.D. 221259B to F.O. Gib.)

SAYONARA,
collision
damage.

SAYONARA in collision with Spanish MONTE BUITRE
210618B in position 025° Almina Point 4.5.

(2) SAYONARA having signalled MONTE BUITRE to
stop proceeded ahead of her to drop boarding
boat but underestimated amount of way of
MONTE BUITRE. (3) SAYONARA rammed aft causing

considerable damage. Slight damage believed to stem of MONTE
BUITRE.

(F.O. Gibraltar 221215B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

/Survivors...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

Survivors
of U-Boat
sunk
5 April.

Your 200327. Minister of Marine today confirmed information given by Spanish D.N.I. in my 211000 exact position of S/M not established. He states he had no news of disappearance of crew who must still be in islands. Number of S/M not known. Interpretation of law is that crew having reached Neutral territory unaided are entitled to repatriation to own country as shipwrecked sailors but these surreptitious removals by S/M would be illegal. He would not accept my argument in accordance with para. 2 of your 200614. He maintains sunken S/M could not be considered as interned. Embassy had put in note yesterday to M.F.A. requesting internment of crew. Consul Las Palmas please report if crew's disappearance is confirmed.

(N.A. Madrid 221506B to Admty. (R) S.O. (I) Gib. R.O. Las Palmas)

O.S.46.
K.M.S.13.

P.C. and S. O.S.46 and K.M.S.13 at 2000 B.
(x) 39.11 N. 12.16 W. 153° 8. ALMENARA straggler from 1400B/22 April escorted by VIOLET with boiler defect. Special weather report.
(S.O. Group 38, 221533Z to C. in C. W.A., F.O.C. Gib. Commorseafron.)

Eastney portion O.S.46 5 ships escorted by Mediterranean escort K.M.S.13 CIRCE (S.O.) BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, ALBACORE, ESPIEGLE, MAN-O-WAR, GAVOTTE, REIGHTON WYKE. R/V in position (E) 35.17? 10.20 at 1200B/24th. 2. On R/V being made K.M.S.13 escorted by Mediterranean escort is to part company and proceed through (MA) 35.49 06.30 through Q.K.A. 87 to (MB) 36.01 05.21 (MC) 36.10 03.00 (MB) 36.02.01? 27 (ME) 35.53 00.38 thence as routed by C. in C. Med. Fleet, S. of A. 8 knots in Mediterranean. All positions N. and W. 3. P.Vs. are to be streamed before crossing 07 W. and recovered as convenient after passing Europa Point. 4. Speed is to be adjusted to pass Europa Point at 0300B/April 26. E.T.A. Oran 0800B/April 27.

(F.O.C. Gib. 221655B to Com. O.S.46, Escorts of K.M.S.13 (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. C.M.S.F. Com. N.O.B. Oran, CIRCE.)

Detach ships bound for Lisbon on reaching position (BF).

2. Ships remaining proceed to Cape St. Vincent escorted by one of escort detailed by LEITH thence coastwise to Lisbon.
3. Escort is to part company on ships entering Lisbon and proceed with all dispatch to rejoin O.S.46 reporting (A) P.C. & S. of Escort. (B) E.T.A. O.S.46. (C) Percentage fuel stocks remaining. (D) Weather report.

(F.O. Gib. 221735B to Ships escorting Convoy O.S.46, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.13 for Cdre. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.)

One unidentified aircraft 290° my P.C. & S. are 039° 00' N. 012° 07' W. 153° 8.

(LEITH 221932Z to F.O.I.C. Gib.)

Your 221441 and 221533 my 221735 refers. Ship for Huelva to proceed Gibraltar with K.M.S.13 my 221655 para. 1 amend R/V to read (EA) 34.11 N. 10.01 W. at 1300B/April. (2) FINISTERRE for Dakar and FORT MACLEOD for Takoradi from Casablanca escorted by P.Cs. 473, 475, 480, 481 R/V in position. (EA) at 1300B? 24th. (3) Casablanca ships part company when R/V has been made escorted by P.Cs. Ships are to adjust speed to arrive Casablanca 0900B/25th.

(F.O.C. Gib. 222323 to Ships escorting O.S.46 for Com. (R) Admty. Ships escorting O.S.46G, C.M.S.F. C. in C.Med.)

/ as amended 231512B.

/U-Boat...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

U-Boat. Am over enemy S/M in 31.18 N. 30.35 W.
(A/C 3 M.L/B. via Iceland W/T 221620.)

VENOMOUS, Arrived VENOMOUS, LAUDERDALE, ex K.M.F.13.
LAUDERDALE. (F.O.C. Gib. 221625A to Admty.)

French My 131935 April and Your 140803. Destination
Refugees required is port of disembarkation.
Portugal. 2. Admiral Delaye suggests Casablanca.
(F.O. Gib. 221951 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.
Reply: 232156.

MALAYA, P.C. and S. of MALAYA at 1600B/22nd 40.04 N.
WISHART. 16.00 W. 000° 16 knots. My P.C. and S. 40.18
N. 14.44 W. 128° 16 knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar
0800B/24th. Weather report.
(WISHART 222000B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., C. in C.
H.F., R.A. (D) H.F., A.C.O.S.)

Gibraltar My 181647. (H.D.A. unit out of action) Repairs
H.D.A. completed and unit in operation.
(F.O. Gib. 222041 to Admty.)

Movements Arrivals ARCTIC RANGER ex escort duties Oporto.
Gibraltar. U.S.S. SPENCE, CHARLES AUSBURN, escorting U.S.
Tanker ENOREE from Casablanca.
Departures KING SOL, BRIXHAM, STORNOWAY, VISENDA
for Bone.
(F.O. Gib. 222141 to Admty. etc.)

G.U.S.6A. Sailing telegram.
(2) From Casablanca (?0700A) 24th April.
(3) R/V Mediterranean Section position 33.42
08.06 1600A/24th position A.A. 0630Z/26 S. of A.9.
All positions N. and W. (4) First chop 10 W.
(?0200Z/24) second chop 47 1530Z/3 May. shift of radio watch 20 W.
0930Z/27. (5) A.A. 35.00 15.04 A.B. 34.58 27.02 A.C. 36.59
37.00 A.D. 39.03 47.56 A.E. 40.00 60.06 A.F. 39.58 71.00
(6) Taskfor 69 STEVENSON? STOCKTON, FOOTE, CHAXTON, SPENCE,
CHARLES AUSBURN, RINGOLD, SCHROEDER, ENOREE.
(C.M.S.F. 222250 to Port Director New York (R) Connav, C. in C.
Lant, Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.C. Gib. N.O.B. Oran, C.T.F. 69,
N.S.H.Q. N.O.B. Casablanca, C.E.S.F.)

/Casablanca...

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22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Casablanca
Movements.

Arrivals P.Cs. 473 and 471 from Gibraltar.
(Fr.) ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ and COMMANDANT DELAGE
with G.C.5. Departed U.S.S. SCHROEDER to join
MARIPOSA.
(C.M.S.F.F. 222255 to Admty.)

SEMINOLE,
FORT PASKOYAC.

1. As soon as possible after arrival of L.C.
Flights (B) and (C) request you will sail
S.S. SEMINOLE and S.S. FORT PASKOYAC in tow
to U.K. 2. Tugs EMPIRE LARCH and EMPIRE HARRY
are to tow S.S. SEMINOLE and tugs HUDSON and
SCHELDE are to tow FORT PASKOYAC. 3. Escort will be provided
by LOTUS, DIANELLA, HONEYSUCKLE and NARVIK. 4. Destination of
FORT PASKOYAC is Milford Haven. Destination of SEMINOLE will
be signalled later.
(D.O.D. (H) 222305B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.
C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CORINTHIAN, NELEUS. Pass to Comar Dakar. Your 191000Z (N.T. in W.D.) NELEUS states her destination Freetown. Request confirmation. (CORINTHIAN, 220201Z to F.O.C.W.A.F.(R) Comar, Dakar.)

W.S.29, AORANGI, CLAN LAMONT. Ref. A.M.201805B. Following sailed from U.K. 20/4 to join convoy W.S. 29 at Freetown: (a) Troop Transport, AORANGI. (b) CLAN LAMONT M.T.Ship. (Details). (2) P.S.T.O.Capetown should arrange for on-carriage from South Africa of personnel ex AORANGI for East Africa and Middle East and P.S.T.O.India for Iraq and Ceylon. (3) Further signal will follow regarding possible turn-round of AORANGI in South Africa and giving disposal instructions. (D. of S.T. 220259B to F.O.C. W.Af. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., N.O.I.C.Durban, F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

Movements. Arrived TRUSTY, COMMANDANT DUBOC. (N.O.I.C.Durban, 220653Z to Admty) Arrivals 21st Capetown, CECILE MAPLESON Saldanha Bay tug MASTERFUL towing BENALDER. (C. in C. S.A. 220932B to Admty)

Convoy T.S.36. Sailed 0630Z April 22nd PETUNIA (S.O), ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN escorting T.S.36 E.T.A. Freetown 1500Z April (? 25th) Brown route. (N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 220751Z to Admty etc.)

ALMANZORA. ALMANZORA sailed 220600Z. Number embarked and cargo space remaining as according to agreed telegram. Requirements Freetown. (S.S.T.O. Takoradi, 220900Z to D.S.T.O. W.Af. (R) D. of S.T.)

+ U/Boat Campaign, Indian Ocean. A.M.212320 April. Cancel para.3(b) and substitute: "(b) Redisposing R.I.N. Sloops, Bathursts and A/S Whalers to operate from East Africa or Madagascar should U-Boat threat develop in that area." (D.O.D.(F) 221037B to C. in C. S.A., C. in C.E.F) Amendment made.

Dispositions. Situation at 2001Z/22nd. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, CORINTHIAN, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, THYME, DUNKERY with (?R) (?S) 4, 14.43 17.34 to 10.35 17.12 7 $\frac{3}{4}$. WASTWATER, AIR FRANCE 4 escorting to 14.43 17.34 to Dakar 6 $\frac{3}{4}$. VICTORIA, one M.L.15.52 17.04 coastal to Port Etienne.

INKPEN / ...

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22.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) INKPEN about 19.30 17.16 to Dakar (corrupt group).
BUTTERMERE, PORTSDOWN, BUTSER 3 M.L's escorting to 11.56 17.20 to 11.01 17.18 thence Freetown (?9).
M.L.302 escorting to about 09.08 14.23 to Freetown 13.
BLACK SWAN, MALLOW, MYOSOTIS, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION, with S.L.128, 13.00 17.42 to 14.00 17.55 and 14.30 17.44 thence 356 7. (See amendment 222211)
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.30 (?06).29 15½.
BURDOCK, CROCUS escorting to 10.21 28.32 to (?10).21,30.02 9½ thence 192 12½.
(F.O.C.W.A.221046Z)
My 221046Z. Amended position S.L.128 012° 14' 017° 39' 351° 6.4.
(F.O.C.W.A. 222211Z)
Situation at 2001Z/22nd.
CARNARVON on patrol about 07.30 25.29 14½.
ARRAN ONE M/L off Cape Palmas.
One M/L off Accra.
PETUNIA, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA with T.S.36, 03.53 03.58 to 02.55 07.49 thence 305 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 221152Z)
Position at 2000Z/22nd. REDOUBT, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F.12, 015° 00' 006° 00' to Freetown 16 knots.
(? COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES) P.614 033° 50' 017° 10' to (?025°) 00' 012° 40' 8 knots.
REDOUBT searching Southward of 034° 00' 034° 30'.
PRUDENT 033° 00' 033° 15' 12 knots to search with REDOUBT.
NORTHERN DUKE with D.N.34 A, 027° 15' 035° 40' to 026° 00' 038° 00' 10 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 221135B)

C.D. Simonstown departure 0600Z April 22nd COMMANDANT
D'ORVES. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES and P.614 for Boma. S. of A.
P.614. 8 knots. E.T.A. Banana Point 0600Z May 3rd.
Routed as in my 201718. Shifting to W/T organization P at 1200Z 1st May.
(C. in C. S.A. 221050B to Admty etc.)

Trawler Admiralty 201559 (Requesting information
Movements. movements of trawlers), to F.O.C. Gib. and
C. in C. Mediterranean's 201853 (N.T. of either
in W.D.). (?ST.DAY) and PANORAMA now at Dakar
with orders to sail to Gibraltar by Cape Brette
Light route. Speed 4 knots. No.W/T. Departure delayed
awaiting information from Commorseafron whether coal available
at Safi in case of adverse weather.
(F.O.C.W.A. 221232Z to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.Gibraltar,
Commorseafron, Comar Dakar)

Air / ...

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22.4.1945.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.+ Air Escort
identifica-
tion.

The S.O. of convoy escort is to make himself known to aircraft which are approaching to act as air escort by the following means. He is to burn a searchlight on his largest signal projector on the approach of aircraft. The aircraft after identifying himself to the convoy will then close and receive any instructions which the S.O. escort may have for him.
(F.O.C.W.A.221233Z to W.A. Command 87L)

- Spanish
Trawlers,
Suspicious
Conduct.

My 211707 April. On 20th April following observed by R.A.F. aircraft from Port Etienne: (A) Spanish Trawler TRAMONTANA stationary with hatches open in 022° 11' N. 016° 42' W. St. Cyprians Bay. (B) Spanish Trawler MISTRAL and SS. SEVILLA in 022° 20' N. 016° 41' W, northbound. (C) 5 sailing vessels anchored in 025° 07' N. 016° 10' W. throwing large drums overboard. Tents ashore in vicinity. (2) SEVILLA believed German owned. Request confirmation. Ref. N.I.O. report 002883/41 on Spanish fisheries, request information whether these vessels continue practice of reporting in cypher to Madrid all shipping seen.
(F.O.C.W.A.221538 to N.A. Madrid (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar, F.O.C. W.Af.)
Reply: S.O.I.Gibraltar 261905)

Movements,
Lagos.

My 211535 M.L.277 returned Lagos on 1 engine. (N.O.I.C.Lagos, 221515Z N.O.I.C.Takoradi. (R) R.A.W.A.F. Admty.)

U/B.

American aircraft reports sighting submarine in 5° 58' N. 13° 5' W. at 201243Z course N. changed to W. and submerged.
(F.O.C.W.A. 221604Z to Admty.)

W.S.30.
K.M.F.15.

Convoy W.S.30, consisting of about 6 personnel ships is due to leave U.K. for India and M.E. via Cape on 19th May. Convoy will probably be joined in West Africa by 2 personnel ships. D. of S.T.s 161759B/April, refers.
(2) Convoy K.M.F.15, consisting of 10 personnel ships for North Africa and one for Gibraltar, will leave U.K. in company with W.S.30. (3) There will be no K.M.F.14, the policy being for numbering of K.M.F. convoys to keep in step with that of K.M.S. convoys. (4) Further signal will be made about escorts.
(D.O.D.(F), 221815B to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med., F.O.Gib., C. in C. S.A. (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. Levant, F.O.C.R.I.N. D.N.C.X.F.)

INKPEN
defects.

Regret to report boiler tube leaking. Necessary to use salt water boiler feed. Intend following coast as close as safe navigation permits. Speed now 7 knots.
(INKPEN 221831Z to Comar Dakar (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Report / ...

War Diary.

22.4.1945.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic (Contd.)

Report
of
Suspicious
M/V.

Distress message, from VIRGINIA U.S. Tanker, was intercepted by Brazilians Shore Station on 20th April reporting being followed by Suspicious Merchant vessel position 018° 37' S. 038° 42' W.

U.S. authorities inform me that suspicious vessel was probably U.S. ship LEJEUNE ex German WINDHUK.

(B.N.S.O. Rio De Janeiro, 222031Z to Admty (R)
B.A.D., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C. W.Af.)

AQUITANIA.

Rio de Janeiro departure 22nd 2000Z H.M.T.
AQUITANIA.

(B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro, 222036Z to Admty (R)
A.S.O.(I) Recife)

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 enemy war motor boats 38.25 N. 13.26 E. course 250°. (A/C ANY/S 220120B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
- SARACEN. My position at 0500A/22nd 041° 50' ? 010° 25'. One torpedo remaining 3 ships sunk. Returning East of Sardinia. (P.247 (SARACEN) 220210A to Capt. S.8, (R) C. in C.Med. 8th S/M F.)
Your 220210 well done. Pass 038° 39' 010° 00' at 1600/24th thence 265°. Onward route follows (see 221534A.)
(Capt. S.8 220602A to P.247 (SARACEN) (R) Capt. S.10, 8th S/M F.)
- U.G.S.7. U.G.S.7 arrived MARS, VILLE DEDJILELLI, T.L.C. 367, 407, 413. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 220255A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) S.O.T.L.S. Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav.)
- D.14. Dense fog. Unable to leave harbour at present. (Capt. D.14 220658C to EURYALUS (R) A.I.G.72.)
Sailing now. (Capt. D.14th D.F. 220722C to EURYALUS, (R) A.I.G.72)
- Movements, Alexandria Arrivals 21st April EURYALUS, WOLBOROUGH, Tug NEPTUNE, RELAY (?ISLAY intended) M.L. 348, QUEEN OLGA, SPETSAI. Departures 21st April M.L. 1032, EURYALUS, SPETSAI. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 220908C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- G.U.S.6A G.U.S.6A E.T.A. Oran R/V 1820A/22nd. HENGIST and tow have speed less than 8 knots. (FANTOME 220910A to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gib. LIDDESDALE.)
- Movements Malta. Arrivals WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON. (V.A.Malta 220916B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant.)
- P.31 1. P.31 leaves patrol through 042° 19' 004° 38' at 0330/25th, 040° 01' 004° 38' at 1400/26th thence SOKOL. R/V SOKOL and escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 01' at 0615/28th.
2. O.R.P. SOKOL leaves patrol through 042° 19' 005° 50' at 0230/25th 040° 01' 005° 14' at 1000/26th 038° 02' 004° 00' at 2015/27th thence R/V at same place and time as P.31.
3. All positions north and east. All times zone minus 1. (Capt. S.8 220944A to P.31 (SOKOL) (R) 8th S/M F. Cdre. A. F.O.C. Gib. C. in C.Med.)

/B1...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly Night 20/21 April. Operations Battle Area
Opsum No. cancelled owing to bad weather. 6 Liberators
119 part 1. despatched to attack Naples Harbour. One
returned owing to oxygen failure. Remaining 5
found effective smoke screen over Harbour. Bursts
seen in area of bases of Vincenzo and Angioino
Moles and North of Baesonia and Vigiena Moles. 2 fires started
in area West of Agip Oil storage installations. 60 X 500 lb.
H.E. at 2224Z hours.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 220959Z.)

OCEAN VULCAN. OCEAN VULCAN taken up for Sea Transport Service
at 1900 hours 21st April 1943, with 820 tons
coal, 300 American, 320 Indian 200, South Africa.
(S.S.T.O. Port Said 221015 to D.S.T.)

M.K.F.13. Request you will sail M.K.F.13 at 1900A/24 April.
2. S.O.A. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
3. Route through 100, 44, 84, 13, 83, 37 lettered
C. to H. From H. through Q.K.A. 87, stragglers
route as convoy.
4. Standard ocean route lettered K. to O. stragglers lettered U.
to Z.
5. Sections join and detach with local escorts - Oran in 36° 02'
N. 00° 56' W. at 1000A/25 Apr. Gibraltar in 37 at 0330A/26 April.
6. First two letters of W/T call sign WX. Incon. 318.
7. Escorts WESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, EXE and NESS.
8. Fighter priority 2 until 0700A/25 April then 3, codeword
"Untrue".
(C. in C.Med. 221035A as amended 231007 to Com. Algiers, (R) Connob
Oran, F.O.C.Gibraltar, Admty. Connav, C. in C.Plymouth.)

UNSEEN. Capt. S.8's 211746. Onward routeing P, Q and R
to arrive Malta 0830B/26th.
(Capt. S.10 221112 to P.51 (UNSEEN) (R) Capt. S.8
C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.1.)

SPORTSMAN My 211310 passing 038° 00' N. 000° 20' W. at
2000A/23rd.
(Capt. S.8 221134A to SPORTSMAN, (R) C. in C.Med.
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, UNBENDING, Connob, Oran.)

SPLENDID, My 220602. After dark tonight P.228 (SPLENDID) moves
SAHIB. to patrol between 041° 40' N. and 043° 00' N. The
western half of this area is likely to prove
profitable.
2. P.212 (SAHIB) has freedom action on the surface
zone F.
(Capt. S.8 221154A to 8th S/M F. (R) C. in C.Med.
Capt. S.10.)

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

U.G.S.7. U.G.S.7. EMPIRE (corrupt), OCEAN VIGIL, MEROPE, WILLIAM JOHNSON, GEORGE SHERAS, R.P. GATLING and L.S.T. 409 arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 221203A to F.O.Oran, Cdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S. Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav.)

+ Enemy Q Ships. Following from S.8 (begins): Addressed Submarines on Patrol (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, S.1., S.10, F.O.C.Gibraltar From S.8.
TRIBUNE and TRIDENT have encountered enemy Q ships in Tyrrhenean Sea and Gulf of Genoa respectively.

Both were of about 900 tons in appearance like small tankers funnel aft Asdic fitted 12 or 13 k/cs fixed and hand transmissions. These vessels patrol at about 8 knots but are capable of higher speed and carry at least 80 depth charges and can drop pattern of 14. One of these was also a flak ship and the other had at least two 40 mm. guns. Sketch being forwarded.
(C. in C.Med. 221230A to Admty.)

Movements, Arrived 21st M.L. 1164, 1143, TREERN. Arrived and Tripoli. left 22nd BEAUFORT, BELVOIR, TETCOTT, PINDOS, MIAOULES.
(N.O.I.C. Libya 221235A to Admty.)

"Chop" Your 201320.
Atlantic It is emphasised that the "Chop" line has no Convoys, bearing on the division of strategic areas and proposed amendment. only affects the routeing and diversion of shipping.
2. Routeing of shipping to Azores area from east of proposed "Chop" line will be initiated by British authorities who also have the right to recommend routes and diversions for shipping west of "Chop" line.
3. Shipping proceeding direct between two ports, both of which are east of "Chop" line is controlled throughout by British authorities regardless of whether "Chop" line is crossed or not.
4. As far as merchant shipping W/T organisation is concerned it is considered immaterial whether the "Chop" is on 20° or 24° W.
5. Therefore decided to grant Cominch's request in view of fact that Cominch has so recently agreed to "Chop" line in North Atlantic being on 47th Meridian.
6. At same time, Cominch will be informed that we reserve right to re-open this question should experience prove that new arrangement has any serious disadvantages.
(D.T.D. Approved by 1st S.L. 221320B to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gib.)

/H.X.235...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- H.X. 235
G.B.
McCLELLAN
suspected
sabotage. H.X. 235 arrived Halifax 21st April. British FANAD HEAD put back from H. H.X. 235 in collision with Schooner U.S. ELIAS BOUDINOT, collision damage. Arrived Halifax 22nd April Belgian ESSO BELGIUM U.S. GEORGE B McCLELLAN, ordered in suspected sabotage to steering gear. (?New York) pass to Cdre. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 221350Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)
- G.U.S.6. G.U.S.6. Sailed for Gibraltar CITY OF CHRISTIANIA, M.M.S. 20, for U.S. WILLIAM STEWART, FLUOR SPAR, EXCULLER, EXCHANGE, GEORGE DAVIS. (Comnob Oran 221355A to Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav.)
- M.T.Bs. A. Your 220912 (N.T. in W.R.) 34. Para. B. of my 211034 is cancelled. B. M.T.Bs. 634 and 656 will be operating between Cape Bon and Ras Mahmur during night, return to Sousse. They have orders not to approach within 20 miles Sousse until daylight.
C. At 1915/23rd sail section to arrive position A 3 miles South of Zembretta about 23.45 168 then sweep South to Ras Fortas whence inshore to Bone E.T.A. 0930/24th S.O.A. 20 knots. Request route may be kept clear for them.
D. Codeword "Virus" fighter protection low priority, wireless guard on 150 k/cs.
E. Weather too bad for other M.T.Bs. (V.A.Malta 221506 to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.S. H.Q.N.W. Africa Coastal Air Force, A.I.G. 67, Negative N.Os.I.C. Sfax, Libya, H.Q. R.A.F. W.D. N.W. A.T. A.F.) Sailed M.T.Bs. 634, 656. (V.A.Malta 221654B to Admty. etc.)
- SARACEN,
SICKLE My 220602 not to F.O.C.Gibraltar. Onward routeing P.247 (SARACEN) passing 038° 39' 010° 00' at 1600/24th 038° 14' 004° 28' at 2045/26th thence R/V P.224 (SICKLE) and escort to Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 07' at 0615/27th.
2. P.224 (SICKLE) leaves patrol through 038° 50' 000° 15' at 2200/25th 038° 10' 002° 47' at 2300/26th thence R/V as in para. 1.
3. All positions north and east. All times zone minus 1. (Capt. S.8 221534A to P.247 (SARACEN) P.224 (SICKLE) (R) C. in C.Med. 8th S/M F. Cdre. Algiers, F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

/UNRULY...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNRULY,
DOLFIJN. Intend sailing 1. P.49 (UNRULY) at 1900/24th
routed through 038° 15' 003° 04' at 0400/25th
038° 15' 011° 19' at 0300/29th thence through
position P. to Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10.
2. P.47 (D.S.DOLFIJN) at 1830/24th routed
through 038° 15' 004° 45' at 2000/25th 038° 15' 010° 01'
at 0230/28th thence patrol in Tyrrhanean Sea.
(Capt. S.8 221606A to C. in C.Med. Capt. S.10, (R) 8th S.F.
Cdre. Algiers.)

BADSWORTH BADSWORTH mined or torpedoed in position 036°
damaged. Cape De Garde 4.3 miles.
(ROTHESAY 221655A to N.O.I.C. Bone (R) S.O.I.S.
C. in C.Med.)
BADSWORTH in tow by CLACTON.
(ROTHESAY 221725A to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) C. in
C.Med.)

Movements, 22nd April Port Said arrivals PANTHER, CUMBRAE,
Port Said. SPETSAI departures H.M.T.ST. MONANCE, SPETSAI.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 221724C to Admty. etc.)

Fighter Direction Exercises. Continuous fighter direction exercise can now
be arranged for ships with qualified fighter
direction officer in harbour or at sea near
Bone, Philippeville, Jijelli and Algiers.
(C.A.F.O. 96/43.)
2. Prearranged exercises can be obtained by
requesting exercise Woodcock by signal to N.O.I.C. concerned
giving details required in C.A.F.O. 96/43. para. 9.
3. N.O.I.C. concerned is responsible for informing local
R.A.F. Sector Commander and confirm exercise by signal to ship
concerned.
4. Impromptu exercises on passage can be arranged in accordance
with C.A.F.O. 96/43 para. 10.
5. In all exercises call sign of directing ship is invariably
to be "Squander" during exercise.
6. Attention is drawn to Med. (W) C.A.O. Number 1 para. 5.
(C. in C.Med. 221737A to Med. Station 388K (R)AQ.N.W.A. Coastal
Air Force.)

PR.U. 22nd visuals. 1540 Taranto, 2 battleships, 3
cruisers. 1615 Messina, no major naval unit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 221741B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

KING EDWIN. Your 200218. Propose retaining Senior Officers
(fire) until ship is raised and turned over to dockyard
or position otherwise clarified. Anticipate time
about 1 month. Magisterial enquiry with
Nautical assessor held. Copy of finding and
full report leaving by Air Mail first opportunity. My 171836
states RUTAJAR proposes conjointly with Master holding survey.
(D.S.T.O. Malta 221743B to D. of S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E.)

/M/V...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- X M/V repairs in Spain or Portugal. My 151135. Ministry of Marine states they would like to assist with repairs to allied merchant ships but owing to repair requirements of Portuguese vessels mostly suffering from lack of repairs due to present acute shipping position regret unable to accord facilities at present.
(N.A.Lisbon 221813B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. N.A.Madrid.)
- Malta Air Report. A.I. 583 22 April 1943. C.S.R.
A. Air. Part 1 offensive. Day 21st April. 12 Long range Spitfires made offensive sweep in Pantellaria area night 21st/22nd April. Successful intruder sorties were made over Sicily and Southern Italy by 6 Mosquitoes, 3 patrolling Trapani Area 1 patrolling Comiso Catania and 2 patrolling Toe of Italy. 1 special equipment torpedo carrying Wellington on shipping search between Palermo and Gulf of Tunis experienced A.S.V. jamming and made no significant sighting. Day 22nd April. 2 Long range Spitfires made offensive sweep S.W. of Sicily. Another 2 long range Spitfires on offensive sweep off the East Sicilian coast destroyed 1 Ju.52 off Catania.
(End of Section 1 Section 2 follows).
(A.H.Q. Malta 221915Z.)
- X Proposed Minefield off Libya. Propose laying deep minefield on North African Coast between Benghazi and 26° 20' E. when depth of water permits laying in less than 200 fathoms.
2. Object, destruction of enemy submarines operation against our shipping on this route.
3. Field to be laid in single lines of 2/3 mark XIV and XVII set 45 feet, and one third M. mark I set 90 feet.
4. Propose using TEVIOTBANK and PROME to whose loan C. in C.E.F. has agreed.
5. If approved. Request arrangements be made to ship 2500 mark XIV and XVII mines and 1500 M. mark I as soon as possible to Haifa.
6. Intend using FORELAND as mine carrier between Haifa and Tobruk provided as is mentioned in my 1748/16 March is not required by C. in C.Mediterranean.
(C. in C.Levant 221922C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F.)
Reply Admty. 261005, see also C. in C.Med. 281310A.
- DULVERTON S.N.O.Inshore Squadron Eastern Mediterranean
EXMOOR. 210910 (N.T. in W.D.) E.T.A. position 240° from Grand Port EXMOOR in company at 1030A/23rd. Request ROMNEY and tow be ready. N.O.I.C. Tripoli acknowledge.
(DULVERTON 221932B to N.O.I.C. Libya, (R) S.N.O. Inshore Squadron, E.Med. DERWENT, ROMNEY, C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta, Cdre. D.)

22.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Sfax. Arrived SEAHAM, POOLE, SKUDD (4) KAI, M.Ls. 459, 121.
(N.O.I.C. Sfax 221939 to Admty.)

Bone Movements. Bone. Arrivals: LAFOREY, BADSWORTH, OAKLEY, WILTON, WHEATLAND, ROTHESAY, CLACTON, POLRUAN M.T.Bs. 641 and 651 harbour defence M.Ls. 1163 1227 and 1241.
Departures OAKLEY, WILTON, WHEATLAND, ROTHESAY, CLACTON, POLRUAN L.S.T. 401 motor minesweepers 70 and 118.
(S.O.I.S. 222017A to C. in C.Med. etc.,)

SANTA IRENE (Portuguese) sunk. Your 211514. SANTA IRENE was sunk by TAURUS in (042°) 18' N. 009° 52' E. at 0030 on April 13th.
(C. in C.Med. 222009A to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

LAFOREY Departures LAFOREY.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 222021A to Admty.)

Movements Oran. Arrivals none. Departures OXFORDSHIRE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 222050 to Admty. etc.)

Algiers Movements. Arrivals M.L. 295, L.C.I.(L)s 177, 247, French Chasseur 32 departures M.T.Bs. 633 (?637).
(Com. Algiers 222123A to Admty.)

ZINGARELLA. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Benghazi 222153C to Admty.)

Movements Tobruk. Sailed JERVIS and EXMOOR.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 222241C to Admty.)

K.M.S.12. K.M.S.12 sailed less CALVIN COOLIDGE and L.S.Ts. Now only L.S.T. 409 for Bougie.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 222247A to F.O.I.S. B.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, A.I.G.259.)

E.T.19. Intend to sail (2 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 222251A to N.Os.I.C. Admty. etc.)

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22.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival ST. ANTHONY ? J C 49.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 220526Z to Admty.).
Arrival INVESTIGATOR with EMPIRE FLOVER .
(N.O.I.C. Madras 220557Z to Admty.).
Arrival JAN DE WAELE.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 220936Z to Admty.).

Arrivals - RUKMAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 221216Z to Admty.).
Departure ST. ANTHONY escorting ISABEL MOLLER.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 221241Z to Admty.).
Arrived RANPURA.
(F.O. East Africa 221716Z to Admty.).
Arrival 221312Z SONAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 221954Z to Admty.).

Convoy P.B. 36 Bombay portion arrived less BARON INCHCAPE
proceeding to Karachi and Jalayamuna.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 220532Z to Admty.).

P.A.61 Sailing telegram.
P.B.37 (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 220640Z, 220651Z to Admty. etc.).

Movement (1) KENYA left Durban 18th escorting convoy W.S.
summary No.56 (728) routed through Mozambique Channel speed 12½
April 22nd. knots.
(2) CAPETOWN left Bombay 21st due Colombo 23rd.
(3) FROBISHER left Kilindini 21st due Diego
Suarez 23rd April.
(4) HAWKINS left Aden 21st escorting convoy A.B.7 to Bombay 16½
knots.
(5) DURBAN left Aden 19th due Bombay 23rd.
(6) CANTON, CHITRAL leaving Kilindini 23rd April to relieve KENYA
as escort to convoy W.S.28 due Aden 30th. Chitral parts company
south of Socotra thence Bombay. On being relieved KENYA to
Kilindini due 25th.
(7) CAIRNS left Kilindini 20th escorting one transport to Aden due
29th. The following Y messages are cancelled (?244) Y of 8th
248 Y of 14th.
(C. in C. E.F. 220847Z to E.F. 225Y Admty. etc.).

Convoy B.P.77. Sailing telegram.
(2) 0930Z/22nd April.
(3) E.T.A. position (H) Karachi R/V 0730Z/24th
April.
(3A) Expected time of crossing 062 degs. 0930Z/25th April.
(3B) E.T.A. West of Quoin Is. 2030Z/26th April. (Route).
(6) IPSWICH, PUNJAB.
(8) Q 022 degs. 07' 068 degs. 11'. R. 024 degs. 16' 066 degs 32'
S.024 degs. 05' 061 degs 09' thence P,G.(?W) (T) to (Y).
(13) A. Cmdre Hare R.N.R. NEVASA, Hormuz.
(14) All ships 23, 24 and Ind.7.
(15) C.B.906 3.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 220947Z to Admty.).

/ CITY...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy (1) CITY OF LONDON
 B.P.77 (2) NEVASA
 (contd.). (3) EMPIRE TROOPER sailed 22nd. Requirements.
 (P.S.T.O. I. 221139Z to D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf,
 R.S.H.D.).

P.B.36 Arrival 0425Z BOMBAY with B.P.36 departure 0920Z
 B.P.77. IPSWICH, PUNJAB with B.P.77.
 (S.O.(I) Bombay 221124Z to Admty.).

C.49 Arrived and sailed less UMTALI.
 (?N.C.S.O. Madras 221242Z to Admty.).

U.S. My 151320. Changes in dispositions U.S. Pacific
 Dispositions forces.
 LONG ISLAND - South Pacific.
 TRENTON - Valparaiso.
 PHOENIX - At Sea.
 COPAHEE, NASSAU - San Diego.
 MINNEAPOLIS - Seattle.
 NEVADA, IDAHO - Alaskan Area.
 SANTA FE -
 (D.O.D.F. 221251B to C. in C. E.F.).

X Indian Your A.302 6th April (T.O.O. 061845) not to
 Ocean Admiralty. Have now discussed matter with Air
 Aircraft. Ministry.
 (2) Amphibians. There are at present no suitable
 landplanes in S.Africa to undertake duties now
 carried out by amphibians. This will be remedied when the new
 type Venture P.V.1. comes into service. Allocations for S.
 Africa will be 7 per month ex American factory in April May and
 June and 10 per month thereafter. Average time lag from factory
 to arrival in S.Africa is six weeks. This aircraft has
 performance 12 hours endurance at 140 knots with 1850 lbs. depth
 charge or bomb load and has latest type A.S.V. Until these new
 Ventures arrive it is most desirable that the Amphibian element
 of 321 Squadron should remain in S.Africa. Whether the
 maintenance personnel etc., is required in S. Africa for this
 comparatively short period is a matter for your discretion.
 (3) Boat Squadrons. One additional Catalina boat squadron will
 be sent to Durban from U.K. in due course. Until that squadron
 arrives it will be necessary for one Indian Ocean boat squadron
 to remain in S. Africa in addition to 262 squadron.
 (4) Request your remarks.
 (C. in C. E.F. 221341B to 222 Group (R) Admty. Air Min.
 A.H.Q.E.A. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. Ceylon F.O. Ceylon).

~~W.P.B. W.P.B. sailed escorted by LUNDY. Less EMPIRE CROCUS,
 NETTIE, DOGGERS BANK.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 221631B to GOATHLAND).~~

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

M.L. allocations. **Lorsa 8722** Your 1814/29th August 1338/3rd Oct., for Information, H.D.M.L. Allocations as follows:
 (A) Trinidad 118th M.L. Flotilla H.D.M.L. 1171 - 1178. (B) Jamaica 116th M.L. Flot. H.D.M.Ls 1179 - 1182 and 1360 - 1367. (C) New Zealand, H.D.M.Ls 1183 - 1194. (D) Australia or New Zealand as shipping opportunities permit H.D.M.Ls 1358 - 1359. (E) Ref. Para. (D) above it understood New Zealand requirement only ten boats out of these 22 can you confirm.
 (B.A.D. 220003Z to Admty.)

Movements. **WISCONSIN** (Pan.) U.S.A.T. arrived San Diego, Cal. April 9 sailed same day, for Bora Bora and Tutuila. (N.S.H.Q., 220037Z to Admty.)
 21st St. Johns N.F. Arrivals - **ST. FRANCIS DUNDAS**, **FREDERICTON**, **BADDECK MINAS** Ex. SC.127. Departures - **BATTLEFORD**, **SHEDIAC** escorting **J.H.49A NAPANEE** to SC.127. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 220314Z, to Admty.)
 Arrival 21st **KENKORA** from Guantanamo. (San Juan, 221058Q to Admty.)
 Following is re-cypherment of Port Director New York 211550 repeated to you by Cominch C. and R. (Begins) - U. (?S.) A.T. **MONTEREY** arrived New York 211010Z. (Ends.) (Radio Washington, 221315Z to Admty., C. Moroccan S.F.F.)
 Departures - **CAPE MARIATO**, **LORD MIDDLETON**, for Louisburg.
 Arrivals - **SWIFT CURRENT**, **NEW WESTMINSTER** ex H.X.235. (C. Halifax, 221337Z to Admty.)
 Departure 22nd **CLARKIA** for Trinidad. (Harbour Master Barbados, 221505Q to Admty.)
 Halifax departure 22nd **LORD KELVIN**. (C. in C. C.N.A., 222103Z to Admty.)

Dispositions. My 211545 section east amend O.N.S.3 (E) 55.02 45.40 192° 6 S.C.127 M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11 (E) 47.45 48.41 090° 8 altering to 030° in 48.19 W. thence to 50.00 N. 50.00 W. as conditions permit. (C. in C. C.N.A., 220122Z to Admty.)

U/B Aircraft sighted S/M 049° 15' N. 053° 30' W. at 212200. (C. in C.C.N.A., 220118Z to G.B.7A (R) C.T.F. 24 Connav, Admty., C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O. C.O.A.C., C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

PREVENTOR "S" Report. My 212307 and 212356. Periscope sighted moving north east. (C. in C.C.N.A., 220250Z 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.24.7., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

/T.A.41...

War Diary.

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. - Contd.

T.A.41
(PASTEUR)

Convoy T.A. 41 comprising PASTEUR sailed from U.K. 21/4 for New York. 2. Details of personnel on board are being communicated by W.O. to Milstaf Washington and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. (D. of S.T., 220250B to B.A.D., B.M.W.T. New York (R) N.S.H.Q.)

U.S.
Submarine
notice.
S/M
Estimate
22nd
April.

(C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 220525Z, 221524Z, 221525Z, 221625Z, 221626Z 221627Z, 221082Z.)

HAKE,
HADDO
U/B.

D/F bearings at 0745Z indicate U-Boat within 45 miles of line joining 51° N. 29° W. and 49° N. 34° W. (D.D.I.C., 221047B to HAKE, HADDO, Cominch, C. in C.W.A., H.Q.C.C., F.O.(S))

BADDECK.

Temporary allocation to date 21st to the Mid Ocean Escort Force from Western Local Escort Force BADDECK. (C. in C.C.N.A., 221129Z to N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24. F.O. N.F. C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

U/B
attacked
by A/C.

Aircraft sighted submarine 54° 11' N. 47° 58' W. at 0904Z/22nd. (C. in C. C.N.A., 221131Z to G.B.7 A., (R)C.T.F.24 C.T.G.24.7., Connav, N.S.H.Q., C.C.N.F., Admty., H.Q.C.C., C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C.)

My 221131 S/M attacked while fully surfaced corrected position 54° 27' N. 48° 19' W. (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 221155Z to G.B.7A, C.T.F.24.)

EL
ALMIRANTE
sunk in
collision
with ELIAS
BOUDINOT.

H.X.235 EL ALMIRANTE Panamanian in collision with ELIAS BOUDINOT and sank in 8 minutes 56 survivors landed Halifax by NEW WESTMINSTER. List of survivors and missing follows for U.S. Authorities from A.L.U.S.N.O.B. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 221230Z to Admty., (R) Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, N.S.H.Q., Comtask 24, S.B.N.O.W.At., C.E.S.F., P.D. New York, W.L.E.T.U.24.18.8 for Com. B.R.L.O. New York, N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

SACKVILLE.

My 211815 April SACKVILLE delayed, anticipate will arrive U.K. about 9th May. (C. Halifax, 221300Z to Admty., (R) F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., D. Halifax, STADACONA, CANADA, P.553. SACKVILLE.)

/Movements...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Movements summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800	CILICIA	Arriving Bahia		
G.M.T. 22nd.	CARNARVON CASTLE	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	CHESHIRE with)	15° S. 38° W.	355°	5
	Floating dock)			
	(D.O.D.(F) 221309Z to Opanav (R) Comnav)			

NAPANEE
SACKVILLE.

NAPANEE in group C one due for refit and will be relieved in U.K. by SACKVILLE.
SACKVILLE will be sailed direct from Halifax to U.K. to arrive 9th May.
Request NAPANEE be sailed direct to St. Johns as soon as possible after arrival of T.U. 24.1.11 in U.K.
(F.O.N.F. 221313Z to C. in C.W.A.(R) C.T.F.24, C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, C. and R., C.T.G.24.7 Comdre, Londonderry, Admty., C.T.U. 24.1.11, NAPANEE.)

"Chop"
time
and date.

Request you comply with Admiralty's 212125B and 212235B.
(Cominch C. and R. 221401Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Comtask 24, Admty.)

H.X.223.

H.X.No.233 arrived Halifax 22nd U.S.S. HANNIBAL HAMLIN lost convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 221402Z to Admty., (R) Port Director New York, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Cominch C. and R.)

FANAD HEAD,
FLORA ALBERTA
collision.

H.H.X. 235 FANAD HEAD returned after collision in 43.25 N. 61.47 W. with Schooner FLORA ALBERTA out of Lunenburg. Following survivors landed. Guy Hanner (Capt.). John Reindhardt, Garth Reindhardt, Douglas Reindhardt, Walter Corkum. John Knickle, William Grandy landed dead - James Malloy.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 221410Z to Admty., Connnav. (R) N.S.H.Q., N.C.S.O. Montreal.)

U/B
sighted
by A/C.

In 59.51 N. 29.18 W. aircraft from Iceland sighted sub at 22155Z.
(Cominch, 221411 to Admty.)

LIVERPOOL
LOYALIST.

My 161617. LIVERPOOL LOYALIST now arrived Louisburg.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B., 221507Z to Admty.)

ARGONAUT

ARGONAUT capable of 11 knots in calm weather awaiting escort at Bermuda escort expected to be available 27th.
(B.A.D., 221521Z to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O. W.A.)

/"Chop"...

War Diary.22.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

- "Chop" line change. The change of "Chop" line from its present position to that proposed in your 101715Z is concurred with. 2. Proposed date for change is 1st May. 3. C. in C. Med. has pointed out certain drawbacks to this arrangement consequently we must reserve the right to re-open the question if the disadvantages prove to be serious. (1st S.L., 221702B to Cominch, (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q., Cinclant.)
- U/B. S/M sighted 058° 29' N. 044° 20' W. at 1230Z/22. (C. in C. C.N.A., 221740Z to G.B.7A. (R) C.T.F.24 Comnav, etc.)
- CALDWELL. CALDWELL ready to sail 6th May. Request destination. (B.A.M.R. 221804Z to C. in C.N.A. (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Comtask 24.)
- X Pendant numbers. Concur recommendations Your 221158B. Referring to ships in convoy by their pendant number. (N.T. in W.D.) (Connav 221837Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., C. in C., C.N.A.)
- ARROWHEAD. Search carried out in accordance with (?your) 211749Z. In position 40.57 N. 64.26 W. considerable wreckage and oil found also carley float. Area thoroughly searched no trace of survivors. Proceeding toward Cape Sable thence Halifax. No aircraft sighted during search. E.T.A. Halifax 1600/23rd. (ARROWHEAD, 221945Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) C.E.S.F., Cominch C. & R., Admty., N.S.H.Q., W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4., Com 3rd, U.S.N.D., New York, Comtask 24.)
- EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Admiralty pass via cable to Cdr. N.W.Af. Sea Front, for Action. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND British departed Ambrose 1400Z 22nd for Casablanca. Speed of advance 19.5 knots. E.T.A. 0630Z/30. (Port Director New York, 222040Z to Cominch C. & R. Admty., N.S.H.Q., Comeastseafont, (R) C. in C.Lant Cmdt. 3rd U.S. Naval District New York, U.S.Naval Op. Base, Bermuda.)
- X Operational Control, Atlantic. On 30th April at 1200Z Operational control of U.S. Naval Surface Craft and Aircraft as covered by the provisions of A.C.C.1 appendix A paras. 5(E) and 6 passed to the Admiralty and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa. On that date C. in C.U.S. Atlantic Fleet is relieved of all duties in connection with H.X., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. And all directives issued to him by me in

/connection...

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Operational control, Atlantic. (Contd.) Connection with the management of these convoys are cancelled. In so far as U.S. Fleet is concerned all other provisions of appendix A not already implemented effective at time command passes.
(Cominch, 222015Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.in C. Atlantic Fleet. C.E.S.F., (R) C.O.F.S., C.A.F.H.C. in C.W.A., C. in C., C.N.A., Comtask 24 U.S. Army, A.O.C.E.A.C.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial 22. MICHIGAN U.S. Torpedoed sunk 20th convoy U.G.S.7 40 miles west of Oran. SCEBELI torpedoed 21st convoy O.N.178 56° 07' N. 44° 26' W. after part floating salvable. THORSHOV (should be M.V. AMERIKA) torpedoed sunk 20th (should be 22nd.) position 57° 30' N. 42° 50' W. probably straggler from H.X.234. Request information of EDWARD B. DUDLEY from H.X.233.
(Cominch C. and R. 222019Z to Comnav.)

Frigates and Corvettes building in Canada. Lorsa 8752. Ref. Salor 7125. Confirm your reading penultimate sentence 7910.
(B.A.D. 222023Z to Admty.)

X "Chop" Independents. Your 200257 "Chop" of independents bound N.Africato C. in C. Med. (N.T. in W.D.) this is confirmed (D.T.D., 212207B to B.A.D.)

Small Tankers. Your 201845A negative. Three small tankers are those originally requested by C. in C.A.F. and are not additional to them.
(Cominch 222304Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

BOGUE. Request you will sail BOGUE and escorts P.M.23rd to join H.X. 235. Ships should proceed with due regard to economy of fuel and should avoid risk of weather damage.
(C. in C.W.A. 222315Z to C.T.F.24 (R) Connav, Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

22.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

KIWI
No.18. D/F Tand sightings of SS indicates eastward movement Fiji Samoa Phoenix unidentified 12,000 ton vessel 2° 01' S. 174° 25' E. course 300° 1140M/20. Enemy SS Supplying Vila S. Kilombagara 20/4 Kietahkahili Tonolei Bougainville Island bombed 19/4 one A.K. damaged Tonolei.
(C.W.R. Wellington, 220011Z to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B. Admty., D.N.I., G.H.Q. New Delhi India.)

Digest
Serial
No.457
April 21st. Morning R/C Fortress reported sighting probable salvage craft alongside damaged AOBA class heavy cruiser and several small unidentified vessels in Kavieng Harbour also sighted 1 medium merchant vessel 31 miles S.W. by South Kavieng course 160°. 3. 1000 ton merchant vessel another smaller sighted 69 miles east by South Wewak course 273° with cover of 3 Zeros forenoon. Photos 1 hour later reveal 2 merchant vessels 1000 tons, 2 coasters, 3 large power boats, 40 barges in Wewak Harbour. 10. Another Hudson attacked Watdek (North of Langgoer) and luggers east of Toeal midday and later struck Wailoetoeqm (24 miles N.W. of Saumlaki).
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 220810Z.)

Movements. Arrival Townsville 21st U.S. Destroyer RALPH TALBOT
Departure Sydney 19th STUART for Melbourne.
DELORAINÉ for Brisbane Port Itua 21st INVEREL
sailed for Darwin Brisbane 31st U.S. Destroyer
PATTERSON for Sydney.
(A.C.N.B., 220816Z to Admty.)

Movements. AASE MAERSK arrived Cairns 22nd KURUMBA departed
Sydney 21st due Townsville 26th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 221222Z to Admty.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 221407B as amended 221837B, 221409B.)

860

23.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

X Denmark
Straits S/M
Patrol
instituted.

1. F.O.(S) anticipates that if enemy main units attempt to break out into the Atlantic they will do so through Denmark Strait between Iceland (C) and the southern limit of the ice, taking advantage of the prevailing low visibility. He intends to maintain a submarine patrol in the above area where weather prevents regular air patrol. Details are given today of new patrol lines which are established. SATYR, BLACKFISH and BARB are to proceed to establish the patrol tomorrow.

X 2. C. in C. Nore expects that the enemy will take advantage of the shorter hours of darkness to attempt mining of the Dover coastal routes on the scale experienced from June to August 1942, in view of the changing of the Channel convoy programme; and he asks for further small craft to combat this.

X Bomber Command aircraft laid 80 mines in Bay of Biscay ports last night.

? Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND arrived at Avonmouth today, with prisoners of war repatriated from Italy.

X 3. BERRY and BAYNTON, the first of the Captain Class frigates arrived at Londonderry this evening from U.S.A.

X U/B sunk

4. An R.A.F. Liberator V/120 attacked a U-boat today in 59.50 N., 34.43 W. (about 300 miles E. of Cape Farewell,) and sank it leaving about 30 to 50 men swimming in the water.

South Atlantic.

A.F.D. ex
Montevideo.

5. It has been decided that as soon as adequate escort can be provided the 5000 ton floating dock ex Montevideo shall proceed from Bahia to a north African port via Freetown, and not to Walvis Bay for the Cape. Whilst waiting to escort it CILICIA is to be employed on blockade runner patrol.

M.L. 251
sunk.

6. F.O.C. West Africa reports that M.L. 251 was ramméd and sunk by BURDOCK on 6th March in approx. 09.01 N., 14.28 W., in mistake for a U-boat. There were no casualties.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean.

MAURO CROCE
attacked.

7. SICKLE at 0830 today attacked the Italian SS. MAURO CROCE north of Valencia; her torpedoes ran under, but hits with shell fire were obtained before the ship escaped into territorial waters. MAURO CROCE was subsequently reported in Segunto, damaged.

Air
Operations.

8. At 1625A, aircraft reported a medium merchant vessel on fire in 38.23 N. 12.00 E. This information was passed to submarines of the 8th Flotilla at 1729. The vessel appears to have been set on fire by U.S. Fortresses escorted by U.S. Lightnings, and to have been sunk later by Malta Beauforts.

X
9. Three German type Q mines were swept today in the approaches to Bone.

East Indies.

X
10. In order to avoid the delays to shipping which are inherent in any convoy system the Admiralty are asking C. in C.E.F. to consider allowing outward bound shipping from Hormuz to sail independently during periods when the situation appears to permit such action.

America & West Indies.

X
O.N.S.4.

11. HESPERUS attacked a U-Boat and obtained one hit with a hedgehog at 1730Z. An aircraft from BITER sighted a second U-Boat astern of the convoy 8 minutes later. At 2200Z the convoy was in 55.55 N. 34.20 W.

12. PENN (Escort Group 3) reports several splits in the ship's side on and below the waterline, and is being sent to Argentinia with M.O.E.T. Unit 24.1.15 (O.N.178). At 240803Z C. in C.W.A. instructed the entire group to proceed to St. Johns (N.F.) forthwith.

U.191 sunk

23. 4. 1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.America & West IndiesU/B attack
on H.X. 234:
ship
torpedoed.

X 13. M.V. SILVERMAPLE (British 5313 tons) in convoy H.X. 234 was torpedoed by a U-Boat at 1356Z today in 59.05 N. 35.40 W. (250 miles E. by S. of Cape Farewell). She continued with the convoy. A ship in convoy H.X. 234 reported that she had been torpedoed or sabotaged at 1632. There is no mention of this in a report by C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 at 232103Z. HIGHLANDER estimated at 232103Z that at least 6 U-Boats were in contact, and he asked for air cover from daybreak, to enable the escorts to fuel.

H.X. 235.

X 14. Cominch at 2122Z reported to Comtask 24 that the U-Boat estimate indicated the necessity of air coverage near and to the eastward of H.X. 235.

Australia & New Zealand.X Ellice Is.
attacked.

15. Fulafuti (Ellice Islands) reported being attacked by enemy aircraft at 0225M today. (Note. This is said to be the first intimation that the Ellice Islands are still in Allied Hands.)

16. The U.S. tanker WESTERN SUN was unsuccessfully attacked by U-Boat 170 miles east by north of Tutuila (Samoa) at 0916M/23.

X 17. A Japanese midget submarine has been located off Visale (N.N.Coast of Guadalcanal) only slightly damaged and may be salvaged.

X 18. Four P.25s and 4 Bostons attacked Nassau Bay area this morning, causing extensive damage. A U.S.Liberator hit and left sinking a 7000 ton merchantman 50 miles S.E. of Kavieng today.

863

23.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.QUEEN OF
BERMUDA.

My 191158/4* Amend date of paying off to 4th May.
(F.O.I.C. Southampton, 231147)
*QUEEN OF BERMUDA to pay off 3rd May.

L.C.T.(R)
Unit.

(1) Propose L.C.T.(R) be known as 1st L.C.T.(R) Flotilla.
(2) Organisation. (3) L.C.T.167, 141 and 147 are commanded by Lieutenants R.N.
(S.O. Force J, 232127B)

Defence of U.K.Sleat
Boom.

Work of laying new sets of Sleat Boom is seriously delayed by lack of Bar vessel which Aultbea is unable to provide. Request provision of a vessel of this type for about one week.
(N.O.I.C. Lochalsh, 231212 to Admty)

Movements.

CONQUEROR.

Cancel my 201800B. Sail E.R. 637* to Methil when ready for sea, to join F.S. Convoy to Thames, for onward passage to Plymouth as ordered by C. in C. Nore.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 231025B to N.O.I.C. Leith and Granton) *CONQUEROR.

BULLDOG.

Cancel A.M.172145. (2) F.O.I.C. Greenock is to sail BULLDOG on 28th April to join command of F.O.C.W.Af. fuelling at Casablanca and proceeding thence to Freetown.
(D.O.D.(H), 231116B)

NEWFOUNDLAND.

Arrived NEWFOUNDLAND (Hospital)
(N.C.S.O. Avonmouth, 231151B)
(W.D. Note: Carrying P.O.W. repatriated from Italy.)

THRASHER.

Your 221144. Request you will sail THRASHER for Portsmouth when ready on 4th May. C. in C. Nore pass THRASHER
(F.O.S.23159B to C. in C. Nore.)

HAKE
HADD0.

Onward route for both submarines through position P 056° 30' 018° 01' and Q 180° Barra Head 5 miles. (2) L.N.726 (HAKE (U.S.)) is to proceed diving by day to pass through position P at 0400/27th April thence on surface at C.O.'s discretion to R/V in position Q at 1200/28.
(3) L.N. 725 (HADD0) is to proceed on surface at C.O.'s discretion from position N to pass position P at 0001/29th April

and / ...

864

23.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.HAKE,
HADDU,
(Contd.)

and to R/V in position Q at 0800/30th.
 (4) Submarines are to report if unable to comply with above schedule within four hours.
 (5) Consubron 50 is requested to arrange escort of Submarines from position Q to Rosneath.
 (6) All times zone minus two.
 (F.O.(S), 231308B to L.N.725, HADDU (U.S.)
 L.N.726 HAKE (U.S.) Consubron 50, (R) Admty.
 C. in C. W.A., Comnavu, Capt. (S) 3, N.O.I.C. Greenock)

S/M
Movements.

My 221726 para. (F). These S/M's leave patrol probably on the surface at 0001/24th, speed 10 knots to west south westward.
 (F.O.(S), 231431B to Admty)

Battle
Fleet
Screen.

Your 222001B. Latest 3 destroyer detailed as follows. (A) For ANSON Capt. (D) 3rd in MILNE, INTREPID, ECHO. (B) For FURIOUS, FURY, ACTIVE, TROUBRIDGE.
 (F.O. Dest. Flotilla H.F. 231600B to C. in C. H.F. etc.)

Positions of S/M's at 0800B/24th and movements for following 24 hours.
 (F.O.(S) 231736B, 232314B, 241034B)

ARCHER.

ARCHER is proceeding to sea on 24th April to embark 892 Squadron and 819 Squadron less 4 crews detailed for special training at Machrinhanish. On completion to Clyde.
 (C. in C. W.A. 231718B)

UGANDA.

Arrived.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 231719B)

H.M.T.
GLATIAN.

H.M.T. GLATIAN now at Invergordon no steam available has to be taken to Fort William for use as hulk by ST. CHRISTOPHER. Will be ready to sail middle of next week. Request tug ST. CHRISTOPHER is requested to send runner crew 26th April to prepare.
 (N.O.I.C. Invergordon, 231858B)

Operations.

USURPER.

USURPER (P.56) leaving Lerwick 1800B April 23rd routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence patrol in vicinity of 062° 15' N. 002° 15' E. Muckle Flugga and Out Skerries light will be shown for 5 minutes every half hour from 2230B April 23rd till daylight.
 (S.O.S/Ms Lerwick, 231045B to STUBBORN (P.238))

USURPER / ...

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.USURPER
(Contd.)USURPER left Lerwick 1815B/23 unescorted.
Proceeding on the surface at C.O.'s discretion.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick, 231911B to S/M's)Denmark
Straits
S/M
Patrol.

North Russian convoy has been cancelled for present. (2) Appreciate that if enemy main unit attempts break out to Atlantic they will do so through Denmark Strait between Iceland (C) and Southern limit of ice taking advantage prevailing low visibility. (3) Intention is maintain S/M patrol in above area where weather prevents regular air patrol. Object of S/M to attack and report enemy main unit. Very early information any enemy movement is of vital importance. U-Boats may also be attacked provided salvo is kept for heavy ships. This means 8 torpedoes in (corrupt group) S/M. (4) Following patrol line established - WV Latitude 067° 30' and 068° 30' on longitude 016° W.

XV Patrol W and North coast Iceland on longitude 016° W.

YV Latitude 068° N. and Kolbinsey 067° 08' 018° 38' W.

ZV Kolbinsey and Grimsey 066° 32' 018° 01' W.

(F.O.(S) 231214B to S/Ms operating N. of 51° N. (R) Admty.

C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C. Comnavu.)

My 231214. (1) S.O. Subs. Lerwick is requested to sail (P.214) SATYR when ready 24th April for patrol line Z as routed Capt. (S) 9. S.O. Subs. Lerwick reporting E.T.A. on patrol.

(2) U.S.S. BLACKFISH and U.S.S. BARB leaving present patrol at 0001B/24th April and proceeding to patrol line Y and X respectively routed as follows: U.S.S. BLACKFISH through (A) 070° 30' 008° 06' W. at 1000B/26th April. (B) 068° 20' 012° W. at 1400B/27th April.

U.S.S. BARB through (P) 069° 35' 004° 01' W. at 0001B/26th April. (Q) 067° 02' 011° 58' W. at 1200B/27th April.

(3) TUNA, TRIDENT sighted U-Boats dispersed on approx. line of bearing 150° from Beerenberg, Jan Mayen 30 to 40 miles and sank one. (U.S.S.) BLACKFISH and (U.S.S.) BARB proceed sub-

merged as much as possible between longitude 003° W. and 010° W. (F.O.(S), 231428B to Subs operating North of 51° N., S.O. Subs. Lerwick. (R) Admty. C. in C. H.F., A.C.I.C., A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C. (U.S.) Comnavu.)

F.O.S.231428. Request you will sail (SATYR) at 1400B/24. routed through (L) 090° ordered 5. (M) 063° 50' N. 006° 15' W. (N) 067° 01' N. 013° 01' W. thence direct to patrol line Z.

(Capt. (S) 9, 232241B to S.O.S/M Lerwick)

Coastal
Force
Patrols.

(1) Weather permitting intend M.L's 247 (S.O) and 233 to patrol to-night Friday 23rd April, on latitude 50° 20' N. between longitudes 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/24th. (3) Object: Anti E-Boat patrol.

(4) / ...

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols (Contd.) (4) Constant W/T watch on 2300K/cs. Usual books to be landed. (5) Codeword: "Match" (6) Request air protection be arranged. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 231214B) Portsmouth Patrols and Night Movements 23/24 April Patrols. (1) M.G.B.608, 614, 615 short notice at Newhaven. When ordered to sea constant watch on 1700 K/cs. Collective call sign 3 F I M pages from Loxod for 23rd and 24th April and A.V.S.B. only to be carried. (2) M.L.309, 346 patrolling southward of E.A.5 Buoy constant watch on 2450 K/cs. (3) Chasseur 41 at St.Helens. LA COMBATTANTE, KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth. Constant watch on 2450 K/cs. LA COMBATTANT broadcast C.N. in addition. (4) Portland M.L's 247, 253 patrolling 50° 20' N. between 2° 25' W. and 1° 45' W. Constant watch on 2500 K/cs. Movements. (5) 6 trawlers 1 tug with tows pass Beachy Head 0705/24th westbound by inshore route. (6) 8 L.C.I.(L) leave Spithead East Gate 2359/23 on exercises southward of Isle of Wight returning Needles 0700/24. Constant watch on 2450 K/cs. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 231325B to X.D.O. East. N.O.I.C.Newhaven, F.O.I.C.Portland, (R) Admty, C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, R.A.F. Tangmere R.A.F. Thorney Island C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth H.Q.B.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C. 10 11 16 19 Groups.) Dover dispositions for night of 23/24 April. M.L.'s 142 and 159 at Newcombe Buoy. (V.A. Dover, 231802B) My 231214B "Match" sailed 2057. (F.O.I.C.Portland, 232108B)

Operation VP-R My 221225B. M.T.B. 620, 626 and 627 returned Lerwick owing to weather. (2) 2 boats will sail same patrol tomorrow Saturday 24th weather permitting. (A.C.O.S.231308B)

Mining.

Search of 18 Q.Z.L. Your 201902B, operations completed negative results. (F.O.I.C.Milford Haven, 230511B to Admty.)

S.N.123. My 220845B and 221430B. Operation completed satisfactorily late on 22nd. (N.O.I.C.Stornoway 230830B) Re full scale tests of equipment. (N.O.I.C.Stornoway, 231005)

Berry Head. R.N.O.Brixham reports: At 1030 today when in 178° Berry Head 12 miles Belgian Trawler H.24 exploded a mine in her trawl. Trawling gear blown away but no casualties and no damage to ship. 231245 ends. (N.O.I.C.Dartmouth 231320B)

867

23.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining (Contd.)X Brimness
minefield.

Alca's 222300. Concur in proposed position for minefield and guard block loop. Intend to proceed with installation accordingly. (A.C.I.C. 231558B)

X Expected
mining
of Dover
Coastal
routes.

C. in C. Nore 191844 April. Shorter hours of darkness and the changing of channel convoy programme may be expected to lead to attempted mining of Dover Coastal Routes on the scale experienced from June to August 1942. Of the gunboats now allocated to Dover it is rarely possible to maintain as many as seven operationally efficient at one time and at least twice this number would be required to maintain effective anti E-Boat patrols, irrespective of offensive operations. Some relief can and has been afforded to M.G.B's by employing Motor A/S boats in such daylight roles as mine-searching and occasionally for Anti E-Boat patrols at night. To give fuller effect to this policy it is requested that a further motor A/S boat may be allocated thus bringing the total to 8 for which number it is considered there is ample training facilities at Dover. (V.A.Dover, 231730B)

S.N.111A.

Intend to carry out operation S.N.111A as follows begin (A) deep minefields from north to south (D) (1) MENESTHEUS Flag of R.A.M. AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, CASTLETON, NEWARK, 2 other destroyers as detailed by Admiralty and SCOTT. (2) C. in C. H.F. is requested to detail one cruiser (E) A/S air escort is requested when outside the North Minch. (F) from 064° 08' N. 010° 42' W. to 063° 47' 30" N. 010° 28' W. (G) 1830B/29th April. (I) 059° 44' N. 005° 30' W. at 0700B/30th. (J) Through positions (A) 059° 45' N. 005° 30' W. (B) 060° 30' N. 005° 30' W. (C) 062° 22' N. 006° 00' W. (D) 063° 13' N. 008° 00' W. (E) 064° 12' N. 010° 20' W. (K) 12½ knots. (L) 0800B/1st May. (N) Through position (F) 063° 50' N. 010° 00' W. to position. (D) 063° 13' N. 008° 00' W. thence the reverse of the outward passage. (O) Port ZA 2315B/2nd May. (R) 2100B/28th April. (R.A.M.231852)

My 231852B. As I have only two destroyers available request ST.MARYS at present operating under C. in C. H.F. and another destroyer may be detailed to complete the screen and that they may arrive Port ZA by 0800B29th so that C.Os can attend preliminary conference. A ship capable of manoeuvring by W/T on fleet waves would be preferable.

(R.A.M. 231854B to Admty.)

4th M.S.F.
Sweep.

Width of Area swept extended to 3.0 miles at Western end decreasing to 2.3 miles at Eastern end. One mine detonated in 50° 06' 33" N. 04° 29' 27" W. one German T type mine cut and sunk in 50° 07' 27" N. 04° 24' 39" W. Sinker and mooring of latter mine recovered. (M.S.4, 231951B)

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining (Contd.)

Portsmouth Cancel my 111836/4/43.*
Inshore (C. in C. Portsmouth 232112)
Route. * Portsmouth inshore route "A" is closed.

Enemy Intelligence.

German Parts of two Davis type escape apparatus of
Escape German manufacture have been found in the river
Apparatus. Clyde. It is thought that these parts
emanated from the same ship which occasioned
the report of a similar case in F.O.I.C.
Greenock's 121508B April, and no local action
is thought to be necessary. The ship was recently up river
for several weeks.
(F.O.I.C.Glasgow, 232231 to Admt)

U-Boats.

X U/B reports Am over enemy submarine in 58.17 N. 39.16 W.
and attacks: (A/C 5 URH via Liverpool 230030B)
North Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on
Atlantic. surface and observed to submerge. When first
sighted was on course 090° 6 knots.
(A/C 5 URH, 230035B)
Am over enemy S/M in 59.45 N. 34.36 W.
Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and
observed to submerge.
(A/C 5 UZJ via Iceland, 231907B)
My 1907. Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in
59.45 N. 34.36 W.
(A/C C/S 5 UZJ, 231910B)
Am over enemy S/M in 59.53 N. 34.48 W. Was on surface .
and observed to submerge. Was on course 100° speed 10 knots.
(A/C C/S 5 UZV via Liverpool, 231926B to Artunshofdi W/T)
Am over enemy submarine in 59.47 N. 34.27 W. S/M was sight-
ed on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C 5 UZJ via Liverpool, 231929B to Artunshofdi W/T)
My 1929 have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 5 UZJ, 231930B)
Am over enemy S/M in 59.57 N. 33.47 W. S/M was sighted
on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C 5 UZT via Iceland, 232051B Shore Stations keeping
watch on convoy H/F wave.)
Am over enemy S/M in 59° 50' N. 34° 43' W. S/M was on
surface at 2105.
(A/C 5 UZV via Liverpool, 232125 to Artunshofdi)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C C/S 5 UZV, 232150)
Am over enemy S/M in 59.49 N. 34.49 W. S/M was sighted on
surface and observed to submerge course 080° speed 10 knots 2105
B.
(A/C 5 UZU via Iceland 232200B)
Am over enemy S/M in 59.49 N. 34.49 W. Enemy S/M
previously reported was sighted on the surface and observed
to submerge course 081° speed 10 knots at 2104.
(A/C 5 UZV via Liverpool, 232200B)

Am / ...

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

X U/B reports and attacks: North Atlantic. (Contd.) Am over Enemy S/M in position X N D V (? DC or ZV) 5717 Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on the surface and observed to submerge. (A/C 5 UZJ, 232051B)

X U/B reports and attacks: Biscay Area. Am over enemy S/M in 46.22 N. 08.35 W. S/M was sighted on surface and observed to submerge course 080 speed 15. (A/C VM5R, 230057B)

Following read: Have attacked enemy with depth charges number of hits unknown. (A/C VM5R in Plymouth W/T, 230130B to A.O.C.19 Group)

Am over enemy S/M in 46.50 N. 07.50 W. course 270 speed 10. (A/C AN8M, 230250B)

Am over enemy S/M in 46.00 N. 07.55 W. S/M sighted on surface course 300 speed 10.

(A/C AN8M, 230313B)

Am over enemy S/M in 45.44 N. 08.08 W.

(A/C AN8M, 230330B)

Am over enemy S/M in 46.21 N. 08.31 W. When first sighted was on surface on course 180 speed 10.

(A/C AN8S via Plymouth W/T 230509B to 19 Group)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges result unknown.

(A/C AN8S 230518B)

E.G.1,5
O.N.S.4.

Inconclusive D/F of a probable sighting report was made on 4,070 K/cs at 2159Z/22 probably from vicinity of 1st Escort Group, but possibly from vicinity of O.N.S.4.

(D.D.I.C. 230250B to 1st E.G. Escorts O.N.S.4, 5th E.G. (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. H.Q.CC., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

HONEYSUCKLE.

By D/F on 4,413 K/cs at 0004Z U-Boat, probably outward bound, estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 45° 40' N. 14° 00' W.

(D.D.I.C. 230330B to HONEYSUCKLE, (R) MALAYA, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F. A.C.O.S., H.Q.C.C., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B
Sunk by
TUNA
7 April.

We congratulate TUNA on the destruction of a German U-Boat on 14th April, 1943. (D.A/S.W. 231925) W.D. Note: Presumably this refers to the U-Boat which TUNA reports that she sank at 2105B/7 April (see F.O.S.200921B, 201029B, 201059B)

Navigational.

Gale
Warning.

My 221644. Cancel gale warning. (A.C.I.C.230528B)

870

23.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational (Contd.)

Firth of
Forth.

Following are the latest searched approach channels in Firth of Forth.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 23144B to Ships proceeding Rosyth next 24 hours.)

Casualties and Defects.

SS. LENA
LUCKENBACH.

Clyde arrivals in tow of GROWLER and DESTINY escorted by BERGAMOT.
(F.O.I.C.Greenock, 230028B)

UNSWERVING.

Messrs Vickers Armstrongs Ltd., High Walker, report damage to J.4456 due to partly falling off blocks. Damage occurred p.m. 21st April 1943. Will be subject of claim on Admiralty under the indemnity. Request permission to instruct the firm to proceed with repairs forthwith. Report on extent of damage will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(P.S.O.Vickers Armstrong, High Walker, 230950 to D.N.C.)

UNTIRING.

Messrs Vickers Armstrong Ltd., High Walker report damage to J.4446 due to explosion in No.1 battery tank. Damage occurred on 22nd April, 1943 will be subject to claim on Admiralty under the indemnity. Request permission to instruct the firm to proceed with repairs forthwith. Report on extent of damage will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(P.S.O.Vickers Armstrong, 231010 to D.N.C.)

L.C.G's.

My 191305B.* L.C.G's 1-3 and 5 - 8 inclusive defects to oil fuel tank bulkheads made good. No.4 involves removing of electrical gear and not expected to complete until 27th April.
(F.O.I.C.London, 231205B)
* Re defects in L.C.G's 1, 4, 5, 7.

DELHI.

DELHI's 131644. Hull vibration has decreased with running and does not now cause unacceptable vibration of after gun but spare trunnion should be provided as soon as possible. New Port fan in A boiler room and additional stiffening to seating required. Propose fan be fitted at Devonport before ship proceeds on service. Ship will be ready to sail from Scapa a.m./26 after deperming.
(C. in C. H.F. 231216B to Admty)

BRYNHILD
(R.U.71.)

Returned engine trouble.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 231220B)

M.V. SILVER-
ELM.

BX 4 RU Stopped 061° 20 miles G. engine disabled Request (? assistance)(corrupt Grp) advise owner main engine pump Lever Saddle block smashed new cast imperative.
(SILVERELM, 1300G.M.T./23 to Admty, C. in C.W.A.)
GOLDFINCH / ...

871

23.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects (Contd.)

GOLDFINCH. My 091116A* March. Considerable urgent work for GOLDFINCH has since arisen in Portsmouth command and she will not be available for operations in the Liverpool area for some time.

It is requested that some other vessel be detailed for this work. My 081915B* to Admiralty only refers.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 231702B to Admty)

* Re GOLDFINCH.

* Reports explosion in Portsmouth Harbour possibly due to mines.

RODNEY.

A.M.161739/April not to C. in C. W.A.

RODNEY will be required to leave Devonport by 1st June to proceed to Scapa to work up.

No extension beyond this date can be accepted.

(V.C.N.S. 232332B to C. in C. Plymouth (R))

C. in C. H.F., C. in C. Med., A.S. Devonport.

C. in C. W.A., F.O. Force H.)

Shipping and Convoys.

4th Escort Group.

Sailed ONSLAUGHT in accordance with my 221122B* and C. in C. W.A. 211940B,

(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 230800B)

* Re intended sailing ONSLAUGHT to R/V Capt. D.8 D/F in FAULKNER.

Sailed Capt. D.8 in FAULKNER with INGLEFIELD and ECLIPSE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 231038B)

Your 2230B/23rd April my position Course and Speed 022° INISHTRAHULL 3 miles 294° 20 knots.

(ONSLAUGHT, 232301B to Capt. D.(8))

H.X.234,
O.N.S.4,
O.N.179.

D/F activity on Series One indicates that a convoy is being shadowed. Very poor bearings indicate that this may be H.X.234, O.N.S.4 or possibly O.N.179.

(D.D.I.C.230901B to Escorts of H.X.234, O.N.S.4, and O.N.179, (R) C. in C. W.A. A.C.I.C, H.Q.C.C. Cominch, OTTAWA.)

F.N.1.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 231015)

GEORGE E.
BADGER.

CR No.106. This is GEORGE E. BADGER A.V.D.3's 212332 addressed to Comtaskfor 24 and Com.1 for action and Cinclant, Comnavu, Cominch, Bogae, Comcortdiv 1 and Comenwa for information. The following is a re-encypherment of my 211615. Departing afternoon 22nd expect proceed R.
(Comnavu, 231029)

23.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.234. To clarify situation report if you consider
O.N.179. you are being shadowed.
O.N.S.4. (C. in C. W.A.231115Z to Escorts of H.X.234,
O.N.179, O.N.S.4. (R) Connav, C.T.F.24,
Admty., N.S.H.Q.. Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C.
Halifax, C.T.G.24.7, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)
Your 231115Z O.N.179 no.
(C.2, 231215Z)

X U/B attack 2 unidentified S/MS on surface bearing 095 dis-
on H.X.234. tant 12 miles position 59° 15' N. 36° 7' W.
SILVER- (HIGHLANDER 231230Z to Whitehall W/T)
MAPLE H.X.234 attacked one merchant ship torpedoed
torpedoed. position at 231400Z 059° 12' N. 035° 32' W.
(ANEMONE, 231512Z 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. Halifax. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)

Following has been read from SFDRL (H.X.234).
We have been torpedoed or sabotage, funnel filling.
(Iceland W/T No.T.O.O.Recd.1632)

Following from DE FIOI*. Torpedoed.
(?Iceland W/T No.T.O.O. Recd. 1632)

* Undecipherable, but possibly ship mentioned in other
signal.

H.X.No.234. A.C.I.39 Para. 5:

(A) 1356Z/23rd 059° 05' 035° 40'. (B) 1 submerging.
(C) Starboard bow. (D) Blank. (E) SS. SILVERMAPLE. (101)
Holed in after tank but continues with Convoy.
(F) HIGHLANDER and VIMY hunted two U-Boats in 053° 50' 035°
30'. ANEMONE and ABELIA hunted attacker. (G) Estimated at
least six U-Boats in contact. Request air cover from daybreak
to enable escort to fuel. (H) 93.80 88.62.
(C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.18, 232105Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav,
C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.
H.Q.C.C., C.T.G.24.7.)

X O.N.S.4. Search completed 231115A. (?4) transmission
on series 1 (one) in the vicinity O.N.S.4 heard
between 0825Z and 1000Z 1 (one) of which
probably sighting report. Convoy is steering

180° till dark to evade. My position 057° 49' N. 033° 29'
078° (?estimated) at 1300Z.

(HESPERUS, 231302Z to A.I.G.303 (R) E.G.5)

Estimate 4 U-Boats in contact with O.N.S.4 at 1700Z.

My position at 1800Z is 057° 10 N. 033° 30' W. 030°. Z.Z.38
miles. Weather report 7690 2925.

(BITER 231800Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, Ships
escorting O.N.4, C.T.F.24., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C. Admiralty,
N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, F.O.N.F., C. in C. N.A., C.T.G.24.7)

O.N.S.4. P.C. and S. at 2200Z/23rd April 035° 55' N.
034° 20' W. (S) 217° Six.

U-Boat sighted and attacked by HESPERUS at 1730Z. One hit
with Hedgehog but no visible result. 2 U-Boat sighted
astern of convoy by Aircraft from BITER at 1738Z.

(HESPERUS, 232342Z)

U.191 sunk

Reporting / ...

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)Reporting
Ships'
Names.Your 221158B.
Concur. It is considered that if both name and pendant number are given it will frequently clarify the situation for Shore Authorities. (C. in C. W.A. 23140Z to Admty)X Reporting
results
of attacks.

As soon as a convoy which has been attacked is considered finally clear of U-Boats C. in C. W.A. will normally signal by B.A.M.S. to ships in convoy a general summary of results. Should S.O.s escorting wish any particular points included with regard to convoy discipline which has assisted or detracted from safety of convoy, they are to signal these in time for inclusion in the B.A.M.S. (C. in C. W.A. 231420Z to W.A.G.M.622 N except A.C.O.S., F.O.I.C.Gib., C. in C. Med. R.A.W.Af.)

O.N.179.

O.N.179. Merchant ships reported (attacked?) in convoy. Nothing found considered doubtful. (C.2 231630Z)

O.N.179 A.P.93 SSSS periscope on port quarter at 1545 G.M.T. (unread) Col's 8.A.N.9 ends. (P.P.Radio, 231801B to Navy Charge Greenock)

NAPANEE.
Uneconomic
use of
escorts.

F.O.N.F.'s 221313/April.* Request the attention of Canadian Authorities may be drawn to the uneconomic use of escort ships when sailing them independently direct to and from U.K. It is preferable that these ships should reinforce an escort during their passage. (C. in C. W.A. 231638B to Admty)*NAPANEE.

SYMBOL.

SYMBOL arrived 1900Z/23rd from O.N.J.179. (C.T.G.26.6. 231942Z)

Escort
Group.

Your 171706/April. Concur in para. (A) and in view of this, one of the American ships in A.5 Group should be released to return to U.S.A. as required by Commaveu. Request you will arrange with C.T.G.24.7.

(2) The relief of both American ships in A.5 Group by 1st May is urgently required by U.S. Authorities. Request you will consider what other arrangements can be made to replace the second American ship.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 232115B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MAURO
CROCE.

Italian MAURO CROCE expected to leave Valencia at 0700B today 23rd for Genoa.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 230255 to S.O.(I) Med. S.O. (I) Malta, S.8.).

MARIPOSA

E.T.A. is 0700 April 24th.
(U.S.S. MARIPOSA 230905 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Dispositions

Situation at 2001B/23rd.

O.S.46 (G) CIRCE 35.02 08.06 to R/V O.S.46 and K.M.S.13 at 1300 24th in (?34) (?11) 10.01.

CIRCE 7 miles (corrupt group) then return through

Straits of Gibraltar with K.M.S.13 E.T.A. Europa Point 0300 24th.

(2) O.S.46, K.M.S.12 LEITH (36?) 15 (10?) 32 to R/V. O.S.(G) in 34.11 10 (?58) at 1300B 24th where K.M.S. 13 (2 destroyers) CIRCE part company and proceed through Straits of Gibraltar 8.
(3) K.M.S. 13 Lisbon Section detach with one escort in 36.45 10.40 at approx. 1630 30 B 23rd to St. Vincent thence coast wise to Lisbon. Escort then to rejoin O.S.46 with all convenient despatch.

(4) G.U.S.6 and FANTOME passing Europa Point 1945 23rd through 35.46 06.25 to R/V Casablanca section in 34.12 07.47 at 1700 B 24th thence 277 degs. 8½ FANTOME and escort return Gibraltar after R/V.

(5) Coastal craft convoy 2 tugs LOTUS DIANELLA 37.40 10.38 through 36.40 10.02 to Gibraltar 8.

(6) LORD NUFFIELD 36.36 08.10 direct to R/V 2 merchant ships off Tagus at 2100B 24th 9.

(7) WISHART, ANTELOPE, SILVERTON exercising vicinity 36.40 07.40 at approx. 2130B 23rd thence Gibraltar E.T.A. 0800B 24th 4 P.C. 2 merchant ships 33.55 07.59 to R/V 0546 in 34.11 10.01 at 1300B/24th. P.C's then escort 5 merchant ships to Casablanca 8.

(9) ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH sailed 1200/24th through 36.45 06.30 thence to Casablanca 8.

(11) BROCKLESBY QUANTOCK 35.42 06.25 to R/V K.M.S.13 in 34.11 10.01 at 1300/24 and escort through Straits of Gibraltar.

(F.O.Gibraltar 231028B).

(1) 23/1958 B ANTHONY LEWES BRISSENDEN 2 Merchant ships 44.45 14.28 through 42.01 14.25 thence 182 13.

(3) Coastal Craft convoy 1 tug? 2 B.D.V. (? H.M.S. HEARTSEASE) NARVIK 41 (?40) 13.24 152 8. (?4) CHARYBDIS 38.40 12.33 through (?42) 50.14 01 thence covering X.K.4 within 60 miles of.

(5) K.M.S.13, O.S.46 LEITH 36.15 10.32 to R.N. O.S.46 (G) H.M.S. CIRCE and O.S.46 (Casablanca) 4 P.C.S. in 34.11 10.01 at 1300B/24th proceeding through 34.04 09 (58?) thence 204 degs.8.

K.M.S. 13 S.O. CIRCE part company R/V and proceed 061 degs. 8.

(6) X.K. 4, HALCYON 41.32 15.05 02 degs. 6½.

(7) W.S.29 NEWCASTLE (E) 26.56 15.20 through 25.28 17.15 thence 192 degs.12.

(8) Port Slp. PEDRO NUNES sailed Funchal 22nd April bound Lisbon.

(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 231138B).

/ Situation...

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd.). Situation 2002B/23rd.
U.G.L. 2, C.T.G. 68.1 30.20 27.29 095 degs. 8.2.
(2) Sweden Relief Ship WIRIL, 36.35 29.33 through
36.30 25.30 thence to Ponta Delgada 11.
(N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 231154B).

Situation 231958.
G.U.F. 7 C.T.F. 66, 36.03 35.12 277 13½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 231212B).

Suspected U/B attacked. Am investigating suspicious object possible periscope course 075 degs. speed 23 knots have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C W.L.7/N 231115B to R.A.F. Gibraltar).

Swiss shipping. Swiss ST. CERGUE 4260 g.t. speed 9 knots. National colours, ships name and Switzerland on hull. Expected to leave Genoa 29th April for Gibraltar.
(2) Spanish MONTE MULHAVEN 4648 g.t. speed 7½ knots. National and Swiss colours and Switzerland on hull. Expect to leave Genoa 30th April for Gibraltar.
(3) Both following approved routes. Not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.Gibraltar 231217B 231224B to S. and A. in Area G513 H.Q. N.W. Africa Coastal Air Force, A.O.C. Malta, 8th S.F. ANTIOPE F.S.)

Dakar Convoy O.S.46. Intend sailing DUNKERQUE and S.S. QUERCY (both for Dakar) escorted by French Sloop M.S. COMMANDANT DELAGE and AMIRAL MOUCHEZ at 240800A via Q.K.A.92 to R/V with O.S.46 in 31.36 North 10.42 West at 250700A. S. of A.9. Escorts return Casablanca after R/V. Convoy guard 800 kc/s escort guard 375 kc/s N.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to Senior escort O.S.46. Comfairwing 15 provide daylight coverage, mission 41, priority Baker.
(Commorseafron 231251 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. etc.).

X French refugees via Portugal. My 141900 (re date of arrival of refugees at Portuguese frontier). 1st contingent consisting of 105 arrives Setubal Tuesday 27th. 2nd contingent of 120 arrives Setubal Thursday 29th. These 2 contingents will be accommodated in Setubal. Last contingent consists of 678 arrives Setubal p.m.

Friday 30th. Total 903.
Ships should pick up pilots on Setubal at 1000 G.M.T. 30th. and embarkation will take place during afternoon. If all goes well hope to be able to sail ship by midnight tide.
(N.A.Lisbon 231252B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.).

X TRAMONTANA suspicious conduct. Your 211707 (Originated by F.O.C.W.A.F.) (Suspicious behaviour of Spanish Trawler TRAMONTANA). Nothing known here to give cause for suspicion. Most recent information available is being obtained from Canary Isles and will be

/passed....

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.TRAMONTANA
suspicious
conduct
(contd.).passed to you.
(Gibraltar C.C.O. 231537B, 041911B May to
F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.).CLAN
LAMONT,
AORANGI.A.M. 141950, para. 6, request you will sail
(1) CLAN LAMONT and AORANGI for Freetown escorted
by LEWES and BOREAS routed as in A.M. 172136.
(2) BRISSENDEN and ANTHONY to Gibraltar on
completion fuelling.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 231616B to Comorseafront (R)
Admty. etc.).

MATILDE

Spanish auxiliary Schooner MATILDE. My 211239
refers. Ship has been thoroughly searched and
crew interrogated. No evidence discovered to
establish unneutral conduct. Ship has been
released.
(F.O.Gibraltar 231742B to Admty.).SEGUNDO
EFFIGENIAYour 161125.
Ministry of Food have no use for tins in U.K.
They suggest Consul General be asked to ascertain
from Ministry of Food representative there whether
tins would be of use in North Africa.Letters follows in reply to your No. 14 of 16th April.
(D.E.W.D. 231831B to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

G.U.S.6A.

Sailed U.S. Ships CHARLES AUSBURNE, SPENCE, ENOREE,
to join G.U.S. 6A.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 231857B to Admty. etc.).G.U.S.6A. ships sailed as in my 181021 plus
TIDEWATER (T) J.C. HARRIES. All for New York in ballast.
(F.O. Gibraltar 231945 to Cdre. Algiers C.M.S.F. Com.N.O.B. Oran
(R) C. in C. Med. Connav, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).G.U.S.6A arrivals FINGLEDALE, FORT ELLICE, CITY OF
CHRISTIANIA.

(F.O. Gibraltar 232202B to Cdre. Algiers.).

COITY
CASTLE.COITY CASTLE broke down in position 037 degs. 08'
North 009 degs. 56' West. RAVENS POINT and CAMERATA
detached, proceeding independently to St. Vincent
then coastwise to Lisbon. Intend remaining with
COITY CASTLE and take in tow if defect cannot be
repaired. Further report follows.
(AUBRETIA 231945Z to F.O. Gibraltar (R) S.O. Escort Group 38,
Admty.).

O.S.46

Departure Casablanca P.C.473/475 481/480 to make
R/V with O.S.46.
(Commorseafron 232025Z to Admty.).

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - (contd.).

HEBE II Intend sail HEBE II 251800 April for Ponta Delgada escorted by ST. NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH. Routed via Q.K.A. 92 thence 35.01 10.01 and T 7.35 25.01 (as received) S. of A. 9, return be reverse route after unloading. Comfairwing provide incidental coverage, mission, 40.11. (Commorseafron 232037 to F.O. Gibraltar).

Air Report O.S. No. 173 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours. 23rd April. (G) Sightings and attacks. Catalina N/202 on escort O.S.46 attacked with D/Cs possible periscope at 1115B/23 35.07 (09') N. 06.33 W. or 0927.

No. details. (Gibraltar 232205Z).

Movements Departures CIRCE, ALBACORE, ESPIEGLE, GAVOTTE, Gibraltar. REIGHTON WYKE, MAN O'WAR to R/V K.M.S.13, LORD NUFFIELD. Escort Duties LISBON, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK. To R/V K.M.S.13. WHADDON L.C.I. (L) 269, 299, 297, 250, 263, 249, 298, 185, 114, 117, 275, 296, 187, 314, 317, 253, for Algiers. Arrivals TORBAY in tow of tug HENGIST, M.M.S.20, ex G.U.S.6A, L.C.D.(L) 207 returned with defects. (F.O. Gibraltar 232247Z to Admty. etc.).

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War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- X Movement of Annamites. High Commissioner for South Africa has been instructed by Dominions Office to contact you with regard to shipping for movement from South Africa to Madagascar of approx. 1500 Annamites. 3. Request report of your proposed arrangements. Suggest you might make use of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE subject to para. 2 of my 172017B. (D.S.T. 230040B to P.S.T.O. Capetown (R) D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F. D.S.T.O. Kilindini, S.T.O. Diego Suarez.)
- X U-Boat attacked. French Aircraft reported attacking S/M at 1945Z/22nd in 014° 50' N. 017° 48' W. (F.O.C.W.A. 230141Z to Ships in Area P. (R) Admty.)
- M.L.251 lost. Regret to report the loss of M.L. 251 in approx. 009.01 N. 014.28 W. on 6th March, 1943, M.L.251 was rammed and sunk by BURDOCK in mistake for S/M. No casualties. Board of enquiry has been held and minutes will be forwarded. Delay in reporting this is regretted. (F.O.C.W.A. 230233Z to Admty.)
- Convoy D.C.20. Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z on 23rd April. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay K.T. 6. ST. ZENO, SONNEBLUM, LADY ROSEMARY. 12. E.T.A. Capetown 27th, E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. 25th. E.T.A. East London p.m. 24th. (N.C.S.O. Durban 230716Z to Admty. etc.)
- B.Y.M.S. Arrivals Pointe Noire 2000Z/22nd B.Y.M.S. 5,6,7, and 8. (B.N.L.O. Takoradi 230900A to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. etc.)
- GLOIRE. Your 2024/21st. Intend to sail Fr. Cruiser GLOIRE 0200Z/24th to position B. S. of A. 19 knots, E.T.A. 0800Z/25th thence to patrol area to prudent limit of endurance. 2. GLOIRE will return to Dakar direct from B, reporting E.T.A. 6 hours after leaving area. 3. French air protection until last light 24th April. (Comar, Dakar 230939Z to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/23rd. DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F. 12 010° 20' 001° 45' to Freetown 15 knots. F.S. CMDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES P.614 030° 50' 015° 35' to 025° 012° 40' 8. ST. ZENO, LADY ROSEMARY, SONNEBLUM with gunboat C.20 031° (corrupt group) 030° 10' coastal to Capetown 8. REDOUBT, PRUDENT searching vicinity 027° 00' 034° 30'. NORTHERN DUKE 026° 55' 036° 30' to Durban 10. (C. in C. S.A. 231231B.)

/Destroyers...

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Destroyers. C. in C. S.A. 231256 (Hush distribution.)
Reply: see Admty. 241820B.

Movements, Departure 23rd April BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, M/L
Lagos. 277 to Takoradi 251000Z.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 231507Z to Admty.)

BULKOIL, S.O. Escort reports that Tanker BULKOIL in
breakaway convoy F.T.7 detached herself without orders in
from F.T.7. position (A) 11.01 17.18 and proceeded at 16
knots. Attempts (? by) escort to recall BULKOIL
were ignored. Request this breach of discipline
may be investigated on arrival Trinidad and
report signalled.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 231707Z to B.R.L.O. Trinidad N.O.B. Trinidad.
M.W.T.R. Trinidad (R) S.O. (I) Kingston. Connav. F.O.C. W.A.
M.W.T.R. Freetown.) W.R. Note. This message is referred to in
Cominch C. & R's 261441. Reply. N.O.B. Trinidad 292105.

CARNARVON Leave patrol area at 0800Z/25th and return to
CASTLE. Freetown through position (Z) 012° N. 019° W. S.
of A. 15½ knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 231717Z to CARNARVON CASTLE (R)
Comar Dakar, Admty. Com. 4th Fleet.)

A.F.D. ex My 061734/4. Paras. 3 and 4 are cancelled.
Montevideo. Now decided by M. of W.T. that as soon as
adequate escort can be made available, the
5000 ton Floating Dock ex Montevideo shall
proceed from Bahia to a North African port via
Freetown and not to Walvis Bay for Cape. 2. F.O.C.W.Af. is
requested to concert arrangements for escort with Com. 4th Fleet
and F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. 3. Difficulty of providing escort is
appreciated and reasonable delay in departure of dock from
Bahia can be accepted, CILICIA being employed meanwhile on
blockade runner patrol. 4. D. of S.T. will make further
signals to C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. Med.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 231744Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R)
C. in C. S.A. Com. 4th Fleet, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.
CILICIA, CHESHIRE.)

Movements, Arrivals p.m. 23rd April M.M.S.102, 103 and
Bathurst. 106 escorting S.S. NEW CHWANG.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 231830Z to F.O.I.C. W.Af.
(R) Admty.)

FERNMOOR. Your 021225. Fitting of N.D. nets not approved.
2. In view of your para. (c) request report
when vessel can be released from Saldanha Bay
for other boom work.
(D.B.D. 232152B to C. in C.S.A. (R) FERNMOOR.)

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War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Air Report. To: C.G. 8th Air Force. To: C.G. 9th Air Force.
To: Eaker and Brereton. From: Spaatz, H.Q.
N.A.A.F. Adv. Cite: A-1398.

1. Heavy and medium operations prevented by weather.

4. Coastal night 20th/21st, made four separate contacts north of Algiers - Jijelli and Bone and destroyed 4 Ju.88s.

Intrusions made by Beaufighters over Sardinia. Jetty at Mussoliniv de Sardign was strafed. Fires spread rapidly among jetty buildings.

9. Attack by 18 B.25s on Porto Torres* in which 108 500 lb. bombs were dropped resulted in following damage, per photo interpretation:

(a) Severe damage to main Quay Pontili del Faro.

(b) 3 direct hits on 375 foot merchant vessel.

(c) 2 probable direct hits on 250/300 foot merchant vessel.

(d) 1 near miss on 250 foot merchant vessel.

(H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv., no T.O.O., Recd. 0545Z/23.)

* W.D. Note:- Attacked 18th April.

BADSWORTH Doing 8 knots, E.T.A. Bougie R/V 1230, Algiers
(in tow swept channel 240100.
after (ROTHESAY, 230715 to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre.
damage Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bougie.)
22nd April).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of one large vessel and one destroyer
40.38 N. 12.30 E., 175°, 15 knots, at 0915.
Position based on a fix obtained by observation of
terrestrial objects at 0900.
(A/C 99K/J, 230823 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 1 enemy M/V and 1 destroyer at 0916Z is 39.52 N.
12.10 E., course 100°, 15 knots.

(A/C 99K/Y, 230913Z to Air H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of one large vessel of 12,000 tons, 1 destroyer
and 3 aeroplanes 39.54 N. 11.58 E., course 210°, speed 10 knots.
Position based on a fix on terrestrial object at 0900.

(A/C 99K/D (via Alex.), 231000A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

My 1000A. Enemy craft previously reported are 1 large
vessel 1200 tons, 1 destroyer, and 3 planes.

(A/C 99K/D, 231100A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, 22nd April arrivals SNOWDRIFT. Departures BURRA.
Beirut. (N.C.S.O. Beirut, 230850C to Admty., (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

Movements, Arrival 22nd April CROOME, G.S. COUNDOURIOTIS,
Alexandria. ROCKWOOD. Departure 22nd April WOLBOROUGH.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 230907C to Admty., C. in C.
Levant.)

23.4.1943.

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

- M.K.S. 12. Sailed TORE JARL, OCEAN LIBERTY.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 231031A to N.O.I.C. Algiers,
(R) F.O. Gibraltar, Admty., etc.)
- EMPIRE
MIGHT. Your 201805 para. 4. In view of importance of
EMPIRE MIGHT's early (? arrival, omitted) in
Middle East request consideration may be given
to sailing her unescorted if situation permits.
(D.N.C.X.F., 231031C to Admty.)
Reply: Admty. 241715B.
- UNITED. Leave patrol by reverse of outward route to
arrive Malta 0830B April 27th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 231039B to P.44 (UNITED), (R)
Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med., C. in C.
Levant, (Subs. on patrol?).)
- M.K.S.12,
M.K.F.13. Pass my 221035 my 231007 and my 181715 to
H.Q.C.C.
(C. in C. Med., 231110A to Admty.)
W.R. Note: Above signals refer to sailing and
routeing of M.K.S.12 and M.K.F.13. Passing action
has been taken by War Registry.
- Movements,
Malta. Arrived EURYALUS, JERVIS 0942. BEAUFORT, PINDOS,
BELVOIR, TETCOTT, MIAOULES, merchant vessels
OVULA, SHAHJEHAN J. HENRY, 1030. UNISON,
UNRIVALLED 1110.
(V.A. Malta, 231131B to Admty., etc.)
- K.M.S.13. Destinations as follows (list).
(C. in C. Med., 231158A.)
K.M.S.13. Intend to sail: For Philippeville (2).
For Bone (1).
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 231513A to Admty., etc.)
- Coastal
Craft
Spares. Your 191837A and C.C.F. 151644B. Following
spares are being despatched by air this week to
Gibraltar (list).
C.F.M.S.O. Med.'s 020601 March refers.
4. One Engineer Officer and 14 ratings for stores
duties will be accompanying the consignment.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 231219B to C. in C. Med., F.O.C.
Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Levant, C.C.F. Med.,
ADVENTURE, ISKRA, C.F.E., C.F.W.)
- E.T. 19. My 211129. Sailing postponed 48 hours.
(C. in C. Med., 231225A to F.Os. I.C., etc.)

/Boiler ...

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War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Boiler
Cleaning,
destroyers
etc.

To reduce time spent in captured ports on boiler cleaning of older destroyers, sloops and escort vessels, four outfits of power driven boiler tube cleaning apparatus are being despatched, one to Oran, two to Algiers and one direct to Malta. Details.
(D. of P., 231325B to C. in C. Med.)

AURORA,
sweep.

AURORA and 2 destroyers from Bone pass 038° 05' 010° 40' at 2100A today thence towards Marittimo, returning to Bone on completion of sweep.
(Capt. (S) 8, 231404A to 8 S/M.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

Enemy
Units.

P.C. and S. 1 large enemy vessel 12,000 tons, 1 destroyer, 5 aeroplanes, 1 He.115, 1 Me.110 38.16 N. 11.54 E., course 190°, 5 knots.
(A/C 99K/B, 231525A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Position at 1625A of one medium merchant vessel ablaze, one destroyer and 6 aeroplanes 38.23 N. 12.00 E. course 090°, speed 2 knots. Position based on fix obtained on terrestrial object at 1600.

(A/C 99K/C, 231635A.)

P.C. and S. of large merchant ship on fire 038° 23', 012° 00', 090°, 2 knots at 1635A.

(Capt. (S) 8, 231729 to 8 S.M.F.)

M.K.S.12.

Arrived SHUNA, T.L.S.401, T.L.S.409.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 231530A to F.O.I.S., etc.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers searched channel E.T.A. 0600A/24th STORNOWAY, BRIXHAM and VISENDA in company.
(KING SOL, 231550B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Levant
Destroyers.

C. in C. Med.'s 211937. Fully concur.
2. JAVELIN and KELVIN are on their last legs and should only exceed 25 and 18 knots respectively in emergency.

3. This leaves me with NUBIAN, JERVIS, Grk. Dest.

BASILISSA OLGA, ISIS and two P Class. I hope to have this strange assortment concentrated at Malta by beginning of May.

4. BASILISSA OLGA's keenness is undoubted, but her efficiency is bound to remain below that of a British destroyer.

5. ISIS still suffers from her refit in India.*

(C. in C. Levant, 231625C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.)

* Admty. inquiry about this, see Controller 281529B.

/K.M.F.13 ...

23.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.F.13. Algiers section arrived (8 ships).
(Cdre. Algiers, 231713A to Admty., etc.)

Movements, 23rd April Port Said arrival and departure M.T.B.
Port Said. 20, 30.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 231721C to Admty., etc.)

EMPIRE A.M. 102100B April.
MINNOW. Tug EMPIRE MINNOW is required to tow tug MUSTARD
POT from Bathurst to Freetown. Request EMPIRE
MINNOW be routed accordingly.
(D. of S.T., 231740B to C. in C. Med.)

P.R.U. 23rd April visual. 1625 Taranto - 2 battleships,
3 cruisers.
(2) Passed to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant,
F.O. 12th C.S.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 231844B to F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.O.
Force H, F.O. 12th C.S., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in
C. Levant.)

ALBA JULIA. My 151710 C ? para. 2.
ALBA JULIA expected to complete loading April 24th
and sail for Aegean April 26th or April 27th.
T.O.O. 23100?2C. B.4.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 231845 to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

20th 20th M.T.B. Flotilla building in U.S.A. and
M.T.B.F. consisting of 70' Vosper M.T.Bs pendant numbers
287 to 290 and 295 to 298 is allocated to C. in
C. Med.
2. Hoped that four boats will be shipped from
America this month and four early next month.
3. Requisite spare parts, etc. will be shipped with Flotilla.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 231910B to C. in C. Med.)

CUBA, Your 161759 and D.S.T.O. W.Af. 212153.
NIEUW CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND will be sailed to Gibraltar
HOLLAND. in M.K.F.13.
Com. Algiers and Comnob Oran are requested to
route.
F.O.C. Gibraltar is requested to arrange onward
routeing to Freetown where vessels should arrive not later than
24th May.
(P.S.T.O. Med., 231912A to D.S.T., (R) C. in C. Med., etc.)

/DIDO ...

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

DIDO. Your 211814 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool (DIDO required to leave Liverpool not later than 11th June for 10 days work up at Scapa) and my 171842 (Company of DIDO to remain on ship). It is hoped that a considerable improvement on this date will be made. (C. in C. Med., 231923A to Admty.)
Reply: Admty., 251929B.

Malta M.T.Bs. Departures M.T.Bs 309, 313, 261, 268 on operations. (V.A. Malta, 231940B to Admty., etc.)

Situation Report No. 25. Sousse clearance completed by 14th Minesweeping Flotilla 20th April. Motor torpedo boats now operating from port, gap in entrance 115 feet.
2. Sfax, working of port going well, 1800 tons of cargo discharged on 20th April.
3. My 152101, para. 6. Initial sweep completed. Four mines cut. M.S.2 reports having destroyed his 100th mine on 16th April.
4. My 192011, para. 5. U-Boat escaped. D/F bearings and times of messages intercepted indicate that U-Boat may have been damaged.
5. My 192011 para. 3. Convoys arrived Tripoli Libya and Malta 22nd and 23rd April respectively no incidents.
6. F.A.6 Convoy of three troopships and a tanker left Tripoli Libya 20th April for Alexandria with 3,500 enemy prisoners of war. (C. in C. Levant, 231945C to Admty. as amended 241121C.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.592. C.S.R. 23rd April (A) Air. Night 22nd/23rd April. Low cloud and electrical storms curtailed offensive operations.
Day 22nd April. 4 Beaufighters provided escort for friendly shipping approaching from the South.
Day 23rd April. 19 Spitfire sorties were made to provide escort for incoming convoy which arrived in Harbour at 0730 hours. (A.H.Q. Malta, 231947Z.)

Movements, Tripoli. Sailed DERWENT in tow to Malta. GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, FALK, KLO and (group omitted) arrived. Sailed ROMNEY, DULVERTON, EXMOOR (N.O.I.C. Libya, 231959A to Admty.)

M.T.Bs. Bone arrivals M.T.Ss (? M.T.Bs) 633 and 637. (F.O.I.S., 232002A to Capt. (S) 8, Admty., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/TACTICIAN ...

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

TACTICIAN, ANTIOPE.	Departure S/M P.314 (TACTICIAN) French S/M ANTIOPE. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 232023A to Admty., etc.)
Movements, Algiers.	Algiers arrivals WESTON, ATHERSTONE, WELLINGTON, EXE, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, MOLCOYE (as received ?MOYOLA), CARLISLE, NESS, L.C.I.(L) 243. Departures H.D.M.L.1145, 1251, R.M.T.B.635, 639. (Cdre. Algiers, 232026A to Admty., etc.)
Movements.	Departure SEAHAM, POOLE, SKUDD IV. (35th Escort Group S.O., 232029A to Admty.)
Enemy Battleship.	P.C. and S. of one large vessel (uncertain whether battleship or battle cruiser) 38.25 N. 12.10 E., 090°, 0 knots. (A/C FFU/G via Alex., 232133 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
battleship or battle cruiser	P.C. and S. of one large vessel (uncertain whether O Knots. (A/C FFV/R via Alex. W/T, 232143 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Movements, Oran.	Departures P.T. 205, 206, 207, 208, H.M.T. RESTIVE, H.M.T. EMPIRE NED, FELIXSTOWE, FOXTROT, H.M. L.C.T.586, 637, 553, 556, 557, 572, 603, 615, 583, 850, 570, 621, 561, 616, 619, 622, 613, 583, 620, H.M. L.S.T.402, H.M. L.C.F. 7 and 9. Arrivals none. Add to list H.M. L.C.T.(560?). (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 232150 to Cominch, Admty., etc.)
French Refugees, Portugal.	Your 221951 to C. in C. Med. and Admty. only. Conform that Port of Destination should be Casablanca. Request you will act in accordance with B.N.A. Lisbon 231252B. (C. in C. Med., 232156, 242052 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Madrid.)
Movements, Benghazi.	Arrived HENRIETTA MOLLER, 150359, M.I.1032, M.L.1149. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 232222C to Admty.)

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Arrival NETRAVATI escorting TIRADENTES.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 230158Z to Admty.)
Arrivals 0400Z SCOUT with M.B.33 0830Z DURBAN.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 230838Z to Admty.)
Departure PATNA.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 230951Z to Admty.)
EMPIRE SAM arrived.
(N.O.I/c Seychelles, 231145Z to C. in C.E.F.)
Arrival SHILLONG.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 231244Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 23rd April. 0150Z HOXA 0213 TAMWORTH.
0600 CAPE TOWN
(F.O. Ceylon, 231318Z to Admty.)
Arrived BARSTOKE, INTEGRITY.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 231410Z to F.O.I.C. East Af.)
Left DEVON CITY, CHALLENGER, CANTON, CHITRAL.
(F.O.I.C.E.Af. 231416Z to Admty.)

Landing craft state. Following is repetition of my 011123 (Begins)
Landing craft state 1st April.
Type of craft. Effective. Unserviceable or under repair.

LCA	30	8
LCM(I)	12	5
LCP(L)	9	6
LCP(L)	3	16
LCS(M)	6	1
(Ends.)		

2. This was repeated in my 040003Z. 3. Kilindini
C.C.O's 141218 191542 and my 101007Z and 170303Z refer.
(D.C.O.I., 230201Z to Admty., for C.C.O. (R) C. in C.E.F.,
C. in C. Levant C.C.O. Mid-East F.O.C.R.I.N.) Originally
received undecypherable and repeated under T.O.O. 040003. There
is no trace in W.R. of reference quoted in para. 3.

BENGAL. Departure BENGAL. E.T.A. Colombo 2330 G.M.T.
27th April.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 230243Z to Admty etc.)

TEWERA. Arrival.
(N.O.I.C., Madras, 230249Z to Admty., etc.)

Convoy M.B. Arrived.
33. (N.C.S.O. Bombay, 230402Z to Admty.)

Convoy Arrived 0200Z/23.
B.M.50. (N.C.S.O. Colombo, 230615Z to Admty.)

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. - Contd.

P.A.36 Intention for escort. CARNATIC P.A.36 sailing
 P.A.37 0900Z 1st May Ocean route No. 3. MADRAS P.B.39?
 Escorts. BATHURST P.A.37 sailing 0700Z/4th May Ocean
 route number 2.
 (S.N.O. Persian Gulf, 230741Z as amended 251847Z
 to C. in C.S.A., F.O. Ceylon, Com. R.I.N. Comdre
 I/C Aden N.O.I.C. Hormuz C. in C.E.F., N.O.I.C.
 Karachi.)

Disposition Japanese. One probable by sighting 021° S. 087°
 U-Boat. E. 16th April. German: one by D/F near 031°
 No.11. 30'S. 037°E. 20th April now believed about 500
 miles south of Madagascar.
 2. Following Y messages cancelled:- 204Y of
 Feb. 12th, 215 Y. of Feb. 26th.
 (C. in C.E.F., 230756Z to E.F. 256Y, (R) Admty. etc)

GAMBIA In the interests of Colonial goodwill etc.,
 Visit proposed that GAMBIA should pay a brief visit to
 to Gambia. Bathurst en route to U.K. subject to operational
 requirements. 2. If approved, suggested that
 C.O. should arrange for guests selected by
 Governor to visit the ship. No reports should
 be permitted to appear in the press.
 (C. in C.E.F., 230800Z to Admty., (R) GAMBIA
 R.A.W.A.F., C.S.4.) Reply: Admty., 011832B.

RESOLUTION, Intend to sail RESOLUTION escorted by QUICKMATCH
 REVENGE. and NIZAM for Durban on Monday 3rd May. My
 191328 refers. 2. RESOLUTION will remain at
 Durban for 4 weeks. (A) To progress dockyard
 work on such items as will not conflict with her
 long refit in U.K. as requested in C. in C.S.A. 091502 April.
 (B) To assist R.A.T.E. in training of Gunnery Ratings in the
 absence of EREBUS. (C) to recreate the ship's company.
 3. Half yearly docking to be carried out as convenient during
 this period. 4. Arrangements for return of RESOLUTION to
 Kilindini will be made later. 5. Intention is that REVENGE
 should follow RESOLUTION at Durban for similar programme.
 (C. in C.E.F., 230825Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) R.A.E.F., Com D.,
 Admty., Com i/c Durban, R.A.T.E.)

Troop My 131113Z April. Your 011930A April para. B.1.
 movements. Regret cannot provide any ship for movement of
 600 E.A. to Ceylon before about 1st June. Suggest
 one of the ships mentioned in my 121212Z April
 to P.S.T.O. Capetown be used for this move if delay
 to move not accepted. Para. B.2. Intend using CITY OF PARIS
 for move of 1,000 Ceylon to E.A. sailing about 22nd May.
 Para. A. Suggest following ships for first flight of East
 African Brigade to Ceylon LANCASHIRE due Suez about 14th May,
 DEVONSHIRE due Suez about 20th May, EMPIRE TROOPER ex Karachi
 about 14th May with Polish families to East Africa, ARONDA ex
 Bombay about 20th May. Expect to complete EASTERN PRINCE

/about...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Troop
Movements.
(Contd.)

about 14th May and will despatch ship to East Africa with Polish families ex Karachi. (P.S.T.O.I., 231123Z to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O.M.E. C. in C.E.F. F.O. Ceylon, P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, D.S.T.O. Kilindini.) Reply: D.S.T. 262117B.

Fleet
Oilers.

Confirmed CEDARDALE fitted for buoyant hose. Your 221325 refers. (2) EAGLESDALE was taken hand for refit at Bombay about 17th April, date of completion not yet known. The only tanker in Eastern Fleet with buoyant hose on board and thus capable of safely fuelling cruiser or larger ships at sea in Eastern waters. Her transfer on conclusion of refit will reduce Eastern Fleet oilers below minimum given in para 3 of my 130913 April. (3) In this connection, BRITISH ENERGY has now developed engine defects requiring 2 months to make good, ARNDALE, OLYNTHUS and OLCADES are refitting. EASEDALE now overdue for refit was to be taken in hand on completion of EAGLESDALE. (4) Request confirmation EAGLESDALE is to be surrendered. (5) Policy with regard to the five chartered oilers surrendered as in para. 2. of my 130913 April is not clear. C. in C. Levant's 212011 April (Hush distribution) requests that they be sailed for Levant, but ALCIDES and ATHEL MONARCH with oiling outfits on your orders are being sailed for Australia. Request information on what approx. date these and remaining chartered tankers are required on Levant Station. (C. in C.E.F., 231512Z to Admty.(R) C. in C. Levant.)

Aircraft
Bases,
Indian
Ocean.

A.X.567. Since receipt your A.372 19th April we have discussed with C. in C.E.F. provision of bases for flying boats and G.R. Wellingtons in Indian Ocean excluding India and Ceylon. As a result of discussion and receipt of Plans Records showing airfield and works programme East Africa under cover of letter AHQEA/S/905/A1 April (to A.M. only) following bases have been agreed as desirable. 2. Major Flying Boat Maintenance. Kisumu 2 Sqdns. Diego Suarez 2 Sqdns. Durban 2 Sqdns. 3. Permanent Flying Boat Bases. Aden 1 Sqdn. Mombasa 1 Sqdn. Dar-es-Salaam 1 Sqdn. Durban 2 Sqdns. (to operate from St. Lucia) Diego Suarez 1 Sqdn. Mauritius 1 Sqdn. Jiwani 1 Sqdn. Major Maintenance Base for latter to be Karachi. You should discuss question of accommodation and maintenance facilities for 2nd F.B. Sqdn. at Durban and St. Lucia with Union Liaison Officer. 4. Temporary Bases for Detached Flying Boats. Pamanzi 3 A/C. Seychelles (Mahe) 9 A/C. Mahe Island 3 A/C. Addu Atoll 6 A/C. Diego Garcia 6 A/C. Tulear 9 A/C. 5. Provision of G.R. Wellingtons may not be before mid-1944 but following bases selected as guide to building and improvement of airfields programme using accommodation already built for fighter squadrons where this exists.

War Diary.23.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Aircraft
Bases,
Indian
Ocean.6. Main Bases. Aden 1 Sqdn. Mombasa 1 Sqdn.
Dar-Es-Salaam 1 Sqdn. Andrakaka (Diego Suarez)
1 Sqdn.7. Advanced Bases. Masira 16 A/C, Socotra
16 A/C., Tulear 8 A/C, Obbia 8 A/C, Mogadishio
8 A/C., Majunga 8 A/C.

8. Obbia and Mogadishio on lower priority than remainder. Majunga subject to whether existing runways can be made suitable. Second addressee asked to report on this.

9. Advanced bases for Venturas on high priority are as follows. Lindi 6 A/C. Dar-Es-Salaam 6 A/C, Mombasa 8 A/C, Kosi Bay 6 A/C.

10. Para. 5. Our A.X.555 11 April is superseded by the above.

11. In view of para. 1 suggest above proposals be used as basis for your discussions with A.O.C. East Africa.

12. Executive action to provide bases where this has not already been done is to be taken after discussion. Air Ministry to be consulted if any alterations to paras. 2 - 9 above are necessary.

13. Reference para. 3 your A.372 19th April our telegrams A.X. 523 7th March and A.X. 498 10th April referred.
(Air Ministry, 231742Z to 222 Group and A.H.Q. East Africa, (R) A.H.Q. India, H.Q.R.A.F.M.E.)

+
Independant
sailings
Hormuz.

M. 212320 para. 2. To save delays to shipping which are inherent in any convoy system request you will consider allowing outward bound shipping from Hormuz to sail independently during periods when the situation appears to permit such action.
(D.T.D. 232016B to C. in C.E.F.)

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

AQUITANIA My 131319/March para. F. Following is revised programme of AQUITANIA:-
Sailed Capetown 13th April. Arrived Rio de Janeiro 21st April. Sail Rio de Janeiro 22nd April. Arrive New York 4th May. Sail New York 6th May. Arrive U.K. 12th May. Sail U.K. 27th May. Arrive New York 2nd June.
(D.S.T. 230045B to C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., Connav, Cominch, Cinclant).

BOGUE C. in C. W.A.'s 221604 (Re H.X. 235 may be routed similarly to H.X. 233. Fuelling at sea for BOGUE's escorts therefore essential)
Regret BOGUE 151130 not addressed to nor received by me until now. Equipment desired by BOGUE not available this base. Submit that escorts can be fuelled from escort tankers if latter are properly equipped, or by using equipment available in BOGUE for astern fuelling which despite its slow rate can and has been accomplished successfully in past. Intend sailing BOGUE and escort April 23rd to join H.X. 235 in 47.39 N. 43.21 W. at 1000Z 25th.
(C.T. 24, 230125Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Cominch C. and R. Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., Escort Control Londonderry, Cdr. U.S.N. Forces in Europe, BOGUE, C. in C. U.S. Fleet).

Movements St. Johns N.F. April 22/43. Departures BADDECK escorting WHX 235 (H.X. 235).
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 230219Z to Admty).
VILLE DE QUEBEC, ESQUIMALT, WASAGA ex J.H.49
SHEDIAC, BATTLEFORD ex J.H.49 A.
(Halifax, 231356Z to Admty).
M.L. 379 sailed E.T.A. Trinidad 1430Z/24th.
(B.R.O. St. Lucia, 231720Q to N.O.B. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc).

U/B Montserrat reports B.O. submarine sighted daybreak today Friday 4 miles west of North Point.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica, 230947Q).

Convoy Curacao section U.C.2 consisting of F.W. U.C.2. SINCLAIR, ESSO PHILADELPHIA, ESSO PATERSON, COLINA. Escorted by U.S.S. MADISON, U.S.S. HUGHES U.S.S. UPSHUR, U.S.S. PORTLAND 23rd April 2000Z.
(C.A.F.A.C., 231045 to Connav, (R) Admty. Cinclant, Comcaribseafron Comnav, N.O.B. Trinidad)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T./22nd.	CARNARVON	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	BURDOCK	07° N., 31° W.	192°	12.
	CROCUS			
	2 tankers)			
	(D.O.D. (F), 231125Z to Opanav (R) Comnav).			

/Convoy...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

- Convoy T.B.12. (1) T.B.12 (2) 1300Z/23 April (4) 8 knots (5) (Route) (6) U.S.S. BARRY, U.S.S. EC. 490, P.C. 493, U.S.S. SPRY. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 231132Q, 231136Q to Admty).
- B.X.49 CALDWELL. Your 221804Z requests CALDWELL be sailed to Halifax as addition escort of B.X.49. (C. in C. C.N.A., 231147Z to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty. etc).
- B.Y.M.S. Trinidad departures April 23rd B.Y.M.S.11, 12 and 20. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 231202Q to S.B.N.O.W.At).
- J.H.49 A Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 231350Z to Admty).
- B.X.45 Arrived B.X.45 between 0115Z and 0343Z April 23rd. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 231410Z to Admty).
- Identification Pendant numbers. Your 221158 (N.T. in W.D.) Concur in necessity for proposed amended instructions. Canadian shore authorities have frequently been in doubt of identity of ships in O.N. convoys when referred to be pendants only. (N.S.H.Q., 231420Z to Admty. (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.)
- Air Report U/B attacked. Ops. 22nd April Times G.M.T. Enemy sightings 1 Canso A "Dog" of 5 BR on escort for O.N.S.3 sighted submarine at 0904 in position 5417 N., 48.19 W. Attacked while still fully surfaced and 3 D/Cs dropped submarine course 167° T. aircraft attack made 200° T first and second D/Cs fell close to hull 2 thirds of way back 3rd hung up 4th fell out of lethal range. Preliminary assessment seriously damaged possibly sunk. (E.A.C., Halifax, 231434Z to Air Min. (R) Admty. etc).
- F.H.50 A. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 231510Z to Admty).
- Submarine estimate 23rd April. U.S. Submarine notice. (Cominch, 231517, 231518Z, 231551, 231552Z, 231553Z).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N.S. 3, U/B considered sunk by HASTINGS. Following received from E.G.40 (begins). Examination of evidence consider unknown U-boat was sunk by HASTINGS Hedgehog attack at 1549Z/21 (ends).

(F.O.N.F., 231530Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C.T.F.24 Cominch, Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. N.A. C.T.G. 24.7., H.Q.C.C., F.O.C. Iceland).

Convoy
C.A.N.1

This is C.A.F.A.C.230150. Part 1. Convoy sailing. C.A.N.1. Curacao - Aruba to Windward Passage, thence all ships independent to New York. (Convoy Route).

B. Curacao section departing 23rd April 1300Z.

Aruba Section (ESSO HARTFORD and COLORADO) departing 1600Z.

E.T.A. R/V five miles East COLORADO point Aruba 1700Z same date.

E.T.A. dispersal point (P) 25 April 1200Z. E.T.A. New York, all ships, 29 April.

C. Task Group 61.1, ELLIS, DUPONT, DICKERSON.
(Connav, 231639Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

H.X. 235

H.X. 235. Comdre. anticipates being 14 hours late at Westomp. My P.C. and S. at 231800Z 43.46 N., 52.40 W. 082° 9.5 33 ships in company. Weather report.

(C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8., 231701Z to C. in C. N.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., Cdre. C.N.F., Cdre. U.S. Naval Force in Europe, Comtask 24, C.E.S.F., C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, BADDECK, BOGUE).

H.X. 235. F.O.N.F., 231355Z (N.T. in W.D.) Considered essential that convoy should not be east of 47° West before Mid-ocean escort joins and that they should be south of 43° N., when crossing 46° W. Request therefore that Westomp may be moved to westward and if necessary convoy turned to westward to effect this.

(D.T.D., 231836B to Cominch C. and R. (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q.)

S/M estimate indicates necessity of air coverage vicinity and to eastward of H.X. 235.

(Cominch, 232122Z to Comtask 24 (R) Admty. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, C. in C. N.W.A., Cinclant).

SAN ADOLFO

SAN ADOLFO in O.N. 178 is expected to refit in or near New York. During that period request arrangements be made for completion of partially built oiling at sea platform. Master is

fully conversant with line to be taken by the platform and rail which is straight and direct.

2. Following items will be required (list).

(D.T.D., 231736B(amended D.T.D.251727B) to B.A.D.)

PENN
defects.

PENN reports several splits in ship's side on and two feet below waterline. Intend sending her to Argentia with C. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.15. Request arrangements for survey and repair on arrival may be made.

(E.G. 3 231759Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., R.A. (D) H.F.)

/U.G.F.8...

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.G.F.8 Convoy U.G.F.8 expected ready sail New York April 29th for North Africa with following ships (list). Plus British A.C.V. TRACKER carrying non operational U.S. army aircraft and Fleet tanker MERIMACK. Total 24 ships. C. in C. Med., pass to C. in C. A.F. Comeastseafon pass to Com. 3 and P.D. New York. Admiralty pass to Comnaveu. Commoroccanseafon pass to Comnavaw. (Cominch 231802Z to Cinclant (R) Admty. etc). Amended Cominch 261611Z.

CHOLET, Water Carrier. Desired to move small tanker CHOLET 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots from Jamaica to Trinidad to serve as water carrier. Request this may receive early consideration. Present time seems propitious for movement in regard to U-boat situation. (D.T.D., 231809B to Cominch C. and R. (R) B.A.D. S.O.(I) Jamaica, B.R.L.O. Trinidad).

BAZELY Your 211245. Ship will return to Bermuda on completion of repairs. (B.A.M.R., 231832Z to Cdr. i/c Bermuda (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Convoy H.J.47 H.J. 47 arrived less DALWARNIC and PRINCESS ARLENE. (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 231939Z to Admty).

BLACKWOOD BLACKWOOD departure Boston at 0600Q April 24th en route New York via Cape Cod canal and Long Island Sound. Speed 15 knots. (C.T.G.2.1., 232042Z to C.E.S.F.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 23. MEVANIA Serial 6 floated April 22nd due Recife under own power April 24th. MANAAR torpedoed sunk April 18th 31.15 S., 33.10 E. (Cominch C. and R., 232111Z to Comnaveu).

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. My 222140. Substitute AMERIKA for THORSHOV. Surface craft and planes sight six subs. area 58.15 N., 39.30 W., 2030/22 to 2230/22. HIGHLANDER sights two subs. 59.17 N. 35.44 W. 1039/23. Para. B. U.S.S. MANHASSET sights sub. on surface 54.07 N., 45.46 W., 0119/23. Sub. sighted 58.29 N., 44.20 W., 1230/22. Para. D. C.G.C.83305 attacks sound contact 39.52 N., 73.58 W. 1525/23. Surface craft attack sound contact 23.16 N., 82. W. 0415/23. S.C.715 sound contact 39.02 N., 74.25 W., 1500/22, surface craft sights periscope course 170 21.55 N., 85.01 W., 1645/22. Army plane Radar contact 23.51 N., 82.14 W. 1724/22. R.C.A.F. plane sighted wake 49 N., 53.35 W. 0051/22. Plane sights sub. submerging course 210 05.42 S. 28.44 W. 1413/22. (Cominch, 232123Z to Admty).

/U/B...

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Friday.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

- U/B sunk 15th April survivors. (corrupt group) Comsolantfor reported to Cominch that survivors of U-boat sunk in 003° 23' S., 030° 28' W., on April 15th. may have been picked up by MONTE SOLLUBE or MONTE ISABELLA due Las Palmas April 25th, and 28th. respectively and/or NORTE (Argentine) or RIO GUALEENAY due Buenos Aires 28th April and 1st May respectively. (B.A.D., 232139Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Buenos Aires) Reply: S.O.(I) Buenos Aires 291415Z.
- B.Y.M.S. This is re-encipherment of N.O.B. Trinidad's 231756
"(Radio Washington pass to Cominch C. and R. for Action)
B.Y.M.S. 811, 812, and 820 departed Port of Spain 231500 route coastal via Serpents Mouth to Belem E.T.A. off Salinad Point 291500Z knots 10. In area 2B guard (A) Washington and Balboa B.A.M.S. H/F Routines. (B) Until arrival Belem Guard 4155/8310 k/cs then (C) 4295/8590 k/cs Single Operator on ship-shore wave. In area 3A read all B.A.M.S. H/F Routines below 12000 k/cs ship to shore in accordance C.A.F.C. S.3/42 article one and table 31, 3000 k/cs R/T U.S. Aircraft co-operation. Signal letters 11 BQWP 12 BQWQ 20 BQWZ". (Radio Washington 232200Z to Admty).
- "Torch" Tankers, U.S. Escorts Entry into Mediterranean. Comply last sentence C. in C. Med., 212123. (Cominch 232202Z to C. in C. Lant (R) Admty. C. in C. Med).
- LORD KELVIN LORD KELVIN left position A at 2030Z/23rd for position B passing through 040° 53' N., 067° 53' W. S. of A. 10 knots. Weather report. (DIGBY 232205Z to C.C.N.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F. Connav,)
- ?U/B Possible periscope sighted by A/C at 1802Z in 43° 48' N., 63° 10' W. (C. in C. C.N.A., 232205Z to G.B.7 A).
- U.S.A.T. U.S. Army Transport STATE OR VIRGINIA arrived Aruba April 21st. (N.S.H.Q., 232216Z to Admty).
- Aircraft Assignments after 1944. We are being asked for indication of our follow on requirements of aircraft assignments after current ones are due to complete in latter half of 1944. Confirmation of current assignments in 1944 has been given verbally.
2. Ref. No. 87/43 of 4th March, we reiterate our view that it would be a grave mistake not to ask for further assignments.
3. (Reasons).

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Aircraft
Assignments
after 1944.
(contd).

4. U.S. Navy would welcome our support in its efforts to gain an adequate share of this country's productive capacity.
5. Request your early remarks.
(B.A.D., 232249Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

X KIWI 19.

Funafuti (Ellice Islands) reported being attacked by aircraft 0225 M/23. American Tanker WESTERN SUN unsuccessfully attacked by submarine 170 miles east by north of Tutuila at 0916M/23. X Japanese midget submarine located off Visale (N.W. coast of Guadalcanal) only slightly damaged may be salvaged. 20 aircraft dropped 27,000 pounds of bombs on Munda, Lembeti and Gurasai (Solomons) 21/4. Heavy damage to runways and installations. One AK sighted S.W. of Buka passage and one AK down by stern in Bougainville Strait 21/4. (C.W.R. Wellington 230049Z to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Admty. G.H.Q., New Delhi).

Convoy
S.U.2.

Sailed from Sydney 23rd April comprising four ships ORMISTON, DUNTROON, for Townsville FRANCISCO CORONADO for Noumea BEAU for San Pedro. (N.C.S.O. Sydney, 230606Z to Admty).

Digest
Serial No.
458 April
23rd.

Morning R/C Fortress reported sighting one large Merchant vessel 30 miles west by south Kavieng course 300° and 1 large 1 medium Merchant-man off Kavieng. 5 vessels sighted this area midnight 22nd - 23rd.
(2) Photos Rabaul morning reveal 46 vessels including 27 Merchant Vessels totalling 105,000 tons, 2 tankers totalling 16,000 tons, 1 light cruiser, 2 destroyers, 6 submarines, 3 submarine chasers, 1 minesweeper, 1 submarine tender, 2 destroyer tenders, 1 hospital ship, 15 medium, 9 light bombers, 17 fighters at Vunakanau. 7 medium, 17 light 6 dive bombers, 36 fighters Lakunai. 14 medium 5 light bombers, 4 transports Rapopo.
(3) Submarine sighted proceeding south past Cape Orford afternoon.
(6) Reported that enemy in Saidor area concentrated Et Wilwy An (2 miles east by South Saidor) while another report states Japanese at Salamaua area starving and sick and that marines have been withdrawn.
(7) Four P.25s four Bostons attacked Nassau Bay area morning causing extensive damage.
(9) Photos Kaimana, morning 21st reveal 1 merchant vessel 250 tons, 2 probably serviceable Floatplanes.
(G.H.Q., S.W.P.A., 230726)

/Movements...

War Diary.

23.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

Movements Arrivals Milne Bay 22nd BROOME. Cairns:
22nd KAPUNDA, BOWEN. Townsville 21st GLENELG,
SHEPPARTON. 22nd VENDETTA. Sydney 22nd LE
TRIOMPHANT, BENDIGO, GLADSTONE, BUNDABERG.
Melbourne 22nd DALGOURLIE. Departures Port Moresby 22nd GYMPIE
for Milne Bay Thursday Is. 22nd WARREGO for Merauke, U.S.
Patrol Gunboat TULSA for Townsville. Cairns 22nd BOWEN for
Milne Bay. Townsville 22nd SHEPPARTON for Port Moresby.
Brisbane 22nd ROCKHAMPTON for Maryborough.
(A.C.N.B., 231014Z to Admty).

Arrivals 22nd April Townsville YUNNANVSIS. Sydney (N.S.W.)
Hired Transport DUNTROON. Fall River U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT
Dutch Naval Store Ship MINJAK arrived Tanah Merauke, 20th
departed 21st for Thursday Island. Hired Transport KATOOMBA
arrived and departed Cairns 22nd due Brisbane 25th.
(C.S.W. P.S.F., 231142Z to Admty).

X KIWI 20. Funafuti attacked 3 aircraft 0230M and 0430M/23rd
April, bomb O/T, minor repairable damage SS
passed through Blakett Strait evening 22nd April
last seen course W 2200M/22. Sopac A/C attacked
? Cape Alexanush Choiseul, Poporang Island Faisi. Fires started
in storehouses, radio buildings, two probable hits on AK
Bougainville. St. SS indicated off Llana Island, North San
Cristobsa night 21st - 22nd. Japanese evacuated from Guadal-
canal now on Bougainville at Numa Numa to Cape Mambari N.E.
Coast. Poor supplies and arms.
(C.W.R. Wellington, 232341Z to C. in C. E.F., Admty. etc).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 231435B, 231448B).

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

/ H.X. 234.

1. At 0601Z this morning the Escort of Convoy H.X. 234 reported that at least 10 U-Boats appeared by D/F bearings to be all round the convoy in 59° 33' N. 30° 43' W., and 4 U-Boats were sighted during today by A/C in those waters of which one was attacked with depth charges.

X U/B sunk.

2. A Fortress aircraft of Coastal Command from Iceland (C) attacked a U-Boat at 1730 today in 61.25 N. 19.48 W. 120 miles south of Iceland (C) and apparently destroyed it. Wreckage and some 20 to 25 men were seen in the water after the attack.

3. Hampdens of Coastal Command this afternoon torpedoed two merchant vessels 4 miles S.E. of Obrestad.

/ Biscay A/S
Air Offensive

4. In the special A/S air operation in the Bay of Biscay during the last 10 days aircraft have sighted 20 U-Boats and attacked 13. The Admiralty estimate that this amounts to sighting 44% of the U-Boats crossing the Bay. Maintenance of U-Boats in Biscay ports appears now to be taking longer, as the result of the effects of bombing of the U-Boat bases.

X 5. Murmansk was bombed at 1400C on the 22nd without British or American damage or casualty.

? Operation
S.N. 111A

6. In view of the impossibility of providing the two additional destroyers required to complete the screen for operation S.N.111A until after the 1st May, C. in C.H.F. has requested that the proposed laying of a deep minefield in the Denmark Straits on that day may be postponed accordingly. This was arranged accordingly.

898

24. 4. 1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

- X 7. M.T.Bs. from Malta and Sousse operated last night in the Sicilian Channel. Other M.T.Bs. proceeding from Sousse swept the eastern shore of the Gulf of Tunis and returned to Bone. M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. from Bone carried out a sweep to Bizerta Roads and shot down one Ju.88 which attacked them at 0120 today.
8. An aircraft from Malta reported at 0047 having sunk a merchant vessel in 38.27 N. 12.05 E.
9. A surfaced U-Boat which was sighted by a Hudson aircraft of the North African Air Force last night killed the pilot of the aircraft by its gunfire; the crew bailed out and the aircraft crashed. !!
- X 10. The Russians claim to have sunk an enemy S/M off the Caucasian coast today.

America & West Indies.

11. A ship, believed to be U.S. SANTA CATALINA (6507 tons) reported being torpedoed at 0048 in 32.42 N. 70.58 W.
12. An unidentified ship reported about 1105 being missed by torpedo in 32.57 N. 76.55 W.
13. SS. EL ESTERO (Pan. 4219 tons) laden with explosives caught fire off Bayonne N.J. today and is resting on the bottom in 45 ft. of water after extinguishing the fire by flooding.

Australia & New Zealand.

14. SS. KOWARRA (British 2125 tons) was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat at 0900Z today in approx. 24.15 S. 153.40 E. (about 190 miles N. by E. of Brisbane.)

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

X Administration Proposals in your 021106, approved. Appointing of Escort Carriers. action is being taken. (1st Lord, 241127B to C. in C. H.F.)

3rd L.C.T. Flotilla. Your 23127 para. 2 approved. 2. Para. one not approved because of likelihood of confusion with 1st Flotilla. L.C.T. (R) unit is to be known as 3rd L.C.T. Flotilla or optionally when security considerations permit as 3rd L.C.T. (R) Flotilla. (C.C.O., 241812B to S.O. Force J).

Movements.

MALAYA Following from MALAYA via aircraft begins. My position 2000B, 48.13 N., 15.56 W. T.O.O. 232115. Ends. (C. in C. W.A., 241027B to IROQUOIS).
Following from MALAYA via aircraft begins my position 1200B, 052° 20' N., 014° 50' W. T.O.O. 241201 ends. (C. in C. W.A., 242158 to IROQUOIS).

S/M Movements. TAKU exercising off Plymouth in area D between 1000/25 and 1630/25. (C. in C. Plymouth, 241145B). Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/25 and movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.S., 241657, 250208B, 250824B, 251847).

H.F. destroyers. Owing to screen required for passage of KING GEORGE V and RODNEY I regret I must ask for the return of 3 H.F. destroyers to arrive Scapa p.m./30th April. (2) They will be required for about 8 days during which period there would otherwise be only one Fleet destroyer available at Scapa. (C. in C. H.F., 241745B to Admty).

Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. My 231214B. "Match" returned owing to weather. Boats remaining at immediate notice. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 240032B) Weather permitting intend M.Ls. 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W., and 02° 25' W. 2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/25th. 3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Prize". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 241037B).

/Denmark...

900

24.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.X Denmark
Straits S/M
Patrol.F.O.(S) 231428 para. (1). SATYR expected to arrive on patrol 1500B/27. Estimated speed made good 9 knots.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 241135B to F.O.S.)
Positions of submarines at 0800B/25 and movements for the following 24 hours.

(A) BLACKFISH approx. 70° 57' N., 02° 30' W, proceeding through 70° 30' N., 08° 06' W., at 1000/26.

(B) BARB approx. 69° 56' N., 00° 55' W., proceeding through 65° 35' N., 04° 01' W. at 0001/26, and 67° 02' N., 11° 58' W., at 1200/27.

The two above submarines will be diving as much as practicable between longitudes 03° W., and 08° W.

(E) SATYR 62° 38' N., 04° 00' W, probably on surface through 63° 50' N., 06° 15' W, and 67° 01' N., 13° 01' W.

(F.O.S., 241657 to Admty).

Allied Air Activity.U-boat sunk
on 25th
March.Attack by Fortress L of 206 Sqdn. has been assessed as known sunk.
(1st S.L., 241330B to Air Min).X A/C for
Kaldadarnes.
BATTLEER.

Accommodation is now available at Kaldadarnes Airfield for reserves of Swordfish A/C for Escort Carriers operating from Iceland (C) and for the personnel required to maintain them.

2. It is intended to deliver A/C by flight from the next Escort Carrier proceeding from U.K. to Iceland (C).

Presume this would be BATTLEER and request approx. date for her to embark these aircraft, together with the personnel.

3. As the A/C must be carried as deck-cargo the Carrier would be immobilised for flying operations, but it is considered that this can be accepted since the passage would be made under cover from shore-based A/C.

(D.N.A.O., 241659B to C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy A/C
shot down.Ju.88 shot down by U.S. fighter at 1559 6 miles west of Kleifavatn 063° 55' N., 022° 00' W., after carrying out R/C of airfield at Keflavik. One of crew captured.
(A.C.I.C., 242029B to Admty).Enemy Air Activity.X Murmansk
bombed on 22nd
April.One raid on southern part of town 1400C/22. No British or American damage or casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk, 240821B to Admty).

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

4th M/S F.
Sweep.

N.O.I.C. Falmouth's 230955. Intend pass boom at 0940 today and proceed to Western end of area to R/V M.S. Four.
(ALBURY, 240845B to C. in C. Plymouth).
ALBURY and SALTASH sailed to comply with S.O. M/S 4 2322B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 241147B to C. in C. Plymouth)

Search of
Q.Z.S.151
and 117.

Admiralty 211817B. All available ships of 9th M/S. F. are to leave Harwich as requisite on 27th and proceed to Portsmouth. 2. Route.
3. Oropesa search of Q.Z.S. 151 and 117 is to be carried out whilst on passage.
4. Pass Sand Head Buoy at 2245B/27 and arrive at E.A.5 at 0545B/28.
(C. in C. Nore, 241053B to M/S 9).

S.N.111 A.

My 231852B and in view of para. 2 and 8 of my No. 173/M.L. 01000 of 5th April 1943, confirmation is requested that this operation is to be carried out.

2. Substitution of 500 pounds for 320 pounds charge case in Mark XXII Star mines raised the probability figure for destruction or serious damage from the order of 8% to that, of 13% in which respect attention is invited to paragraph 6 of the above mentioned letter to which no reply has yet been received.
(R.A.M., 241300 to Admty).

R.A.M.'s 231854B. It will not be possible to release ST. MARYS or to provide any other destroyer for S.N.111 until after movements ordered in my 222001B completed. This will be on 1st May.

2. Propose S.N.111 be postponed accordingly.
(A.C.H.F., 241747B to Admty).

X East Coast

3 mines dropped by aircraft in 142° 57 buoy 1.8 miles.
(KITTIWAKE, 242350B to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Convoy. One destroyer, 2 merchant vessels 090° 2 miles 58° 37' N., 5° 06' E. course 360°.
(A/C 489 Sqdn. Duty J. 241650).

One enemy Merchant vessel 3,000 tons, position 58° 25' N., 05° 36' E., course 360° speed 5 knots.
(A/C FC 34 241700B).

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

U-boats.

U-boat sunk on 25th March. The attack by Fortress L of 206 Squadron on March 25th 1943, has been assessed as "Known sunk". Request you will convey our congratulations to those concerned.
(1st S.L., 241330B to Air Min).

U-boats reported and attacked North Atlantic Am over enemy submarine in 59° 17' N., 29° 29' W. (A/C JQ3 E 241450B).
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 00' N., 28° 31' W. (A/C JQ3 H 241505B).
Am over enemy submarine in 59° 17' N., 29° (?01') W. (A/C JQ3 E 241519B to Artunshofdi)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C JQ3 E 241523B).
Am over enemy S/M in 58° 04' N., 06° 50' E. (A/C Y7MY 241655B).

U/B Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 61° 12' N., 20° 00' W. sighted on surface, steering 300° 10 miles to starboard, and observed to submerge.
(A/C QIZ/C 241714B).
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth-charges. (A/C Q1ZC 241730B).
My 1732. Am over enemy S/M in 61° 25' N., 19° 48' W. (A/C Q1ZD 241750 to 15 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 59° 50' N., 28° 28' W. (A/C JQ3 H. 241840B).
Am over enemy S/M in 61° 03' N., 17° 02' W. (A/C 9NTZ 241905B to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 9NTZ 241920B to H.Q. 18 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 61° 18' N., 16° 58' W. (A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty G., 241947B to 18 Group).
1710B sighted 2 S/Ms bearing 297, 20 miles, Froom. No attack.
(A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty H., 242010B).
1830 sighted submarine 59° 46' N., 28° 48' W. No attack. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty H., 242015B).
1840 sighted S/M 59° 50' N., 28° 28' W. No attack. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty H., 242017B).

Technical.

? C.S.A. Smoke Trial. WAXO 3. O.N. 181. Vice Admiral Osborne and Cdr. Hodgson will take passage in KEPPEL to observe and advise on smoke screening trials that will be carried out on this convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 241426Z).

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

- DELHI** Your 231216B. DELHI can be taken in hand at Devonport for the fitting of new port fan in A boiler room and additional stiffening to seating. 2. No other work can be undertaken (D.O.D. H., 241206B to C. in C. H.F.)
- SLIPSTEAM** My 231544B. Sailing delayed owing to engine defects. (F.O.I.C. London, 241242B).
- NANCY GLEN** Arrived NANCY GLEN in tow by CALETA. (N.O.I.C. Oban, 241515B).
- CITY OF BIRMINGHAM.** Your 221139B. Request degree of urgency for this operation be stated. It may be possible to salvage part of valuable cargo now or after the war, and, therefore dispersal undesirable, unless for urgent operational reasons. (D.W.D. 241708B to C. in C. Nore).
- ST. ADRIAN** My 211825B April. Main engine cylinders now 13 $\frac{1}{4}$ " diam. compared with 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " diam. original. Consider not possible to rebore or fit liners. Consideration should be given to supply of new cylinders or alternatively ship be re-engined. (Cdre. Londonderry, 241730B to C. in C. W.A.)
- SILVERELM** Following from SILVERELM. Attempted shoring saddle block. Failed. Present attempting remove pump-lever complete and supply Scavenge air with fan if feasible. Please advise. Earliest expected trials 28th April. Provisions urgently required. (Burnham Radio, 242100 G.M.T. to Admty).

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X.234** H/F D/F bearing confirm at least 10 U-boats all round H.X.234. Request any available aircraft be sent. Harvest awaiting (?them). Cannot go out as destroyers must fuel. U-boats report P.C.S. 059° 33' 030° 43' 100° 9. Weather 9280 8721. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 240601Z to C. in C. W.A.) D/F bearings at 2051Z indicate U-boat in contact with convoy. (D.D.I.C., 242331B to Escorts H.X.234).

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- E.G. 3 3rd Escort Group proceed to St. Johns (N.F.)
forthwith.
(C. in C. W.A., 240803Z to E.G. 3).
- O.N.S. 4 Shadowing procedure at 0250Z/24 and 0449Z/24 in
your vicinity indicates that U-boats in contact
with you are now using Series Eight.
(D.D.I.C., 240820B to Escorts O.N.S. 4 (R)
C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. N.S.H.Q., Cominch).
- E.G. 4 Report your P.C.S.
(C. in C. W.A., 240921Z to E.G. 4)
- T.A. 41 A. My 231628B and my 231630. Sailed. E.T.A. Ambrose
(MAURETANIA.) Light Vessel 1300Z/2nd May.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 241130Z).
- A. 3 Admiralty 232115. (1) OTTAWA will complete work
Escort up and arrive Londonderry May 3rd. It is most
Group. desirable that OTTAWA and SPENCER should do at
least one convoy trip together in order that new
S.O. of group may gain the necessary experience.
(2) DUANE could be sailed independently but in
view of urgent need of escort on Atlantic convoy I should
strongly deprecate such an arrangement.
(3) KOOTENA will be ready as stated in my 171706.
(4) No new construction or unallocated escort vessels will be
available in my command during May as substitute for U.S. ships.
(5) I can therefore suggest no alternatives to the proposal
contained in my 171706.
(C. in C. W.A., 241226Z to Admty).
- East Coast My 221201. Pilot protem and casing for 0815 read
Convoys. 0730. My 281130/3. Northbound convoys on and
after 1st May subtract 45 minutes from all times.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 241310B).
- M.K.F. 13. BERMUDA take ORKAN under his orders and pass gate
BERMUDA, at 1400B/26 proceed by Q.Z.S. 409 and 410 through
ORKAN. position A. 050° 10' N., 006° 07' W. B. 050°
25' N., 011° 02' W. C. 048° 56' N., 013° 26' W.
and thence cover M.K.F. 13 against surface attack,
keeping within 60 miles of convoy while between
042° and 050° N.,
(2) Estimate M.K.F. 13, S.O. escort WESTON, in 042° 00' N., 016°
08' W., at 1000B/28, steering 003° 13½ knots.
(3) Your S.O.A. to be not less than 18 knots. When convoy
passes 050° N., BERMUDA is to proceed Scapa and ORKAN is to
return to Plymouth being detached earlier if fuel necessitates.
(4) 4 NARVIK class destroyers were in Gironde on 20th April.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 241315B).

/O.N.S...

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- O.N.S.5 D/F bearings at 1111Z indicate U-boat has reported convoy. (D.D.I.C., 241449B to Escorts O.N.S.5). My 241449B. Further bearings make it unlikely that transmission was from vicinity of O.N.S.5. (D.D.I.C., 241725B to Escorts O.N.S.5)
- E.G.1 Provisional A.C.I. 105. In view of facts that the S.O., E.G.1 is an officer of considerable W.A. experience, request you will afford him every facility to carry such tactics as he may consider desirable for the efficient operation of his Supporting Group. (C. in C. W.A., 241652Z to C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.11)
- O.N.180.
SAMSONIA,
NORTHERN SUN. Rescue Tug SAMSONIA with NORTHERN SUN as escort will sail under orders of S.O. Escort to be operated in accordance with A.C.I. Art. 49. Destination of both ships is St. Johns unless otherwise ordered by S.O. Escort. Unless destination is changed F.O.N.F. is requested to sail SAMSONIA and NORTHERN SUN in first suitable H.X. convoy after arrival. (C. in C. W.A., 241653Z to BURNHAM).
- S.L. 127 Request you will ascertain time at which C. in C. W.A. 191820B was passed to Commodore. (C. in C. W.A., 241757B to Cdre. Londonderry).
- S.C.127 Your 241340B. Estimated P.C.S. 1800Z 056° 45' N., 015° 40' W, 225° 3 knots. (KENOGAMI 241825Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.S.47
RETRIEVER. N.C.S.O. Thames 240836B. Request RETRIEVER be included in O.S.47 for Gibraltar. (D.A/S.W., 241836B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
- X Reports from Cancel my 181822 March 1941 regarding reporting ships in by independently routed ships proceeding south Irish Sea. through Irish Sea. (D.T.D., 241845B).
- ? Liverpool, Cancel my 1240/26th February 1941 regarding entry. instructions for vessels entering or leaving Liverpool. (D.T.D., 241855B to A.I.G.26, etc).

/LLANDOVERY...

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.- Contd.

LLANDOVERY
CASTLE.

Following from Lands End Radio begins.
Intercept 1940 G.M.T. de LLANDOVERY CASTLE
Hospital ship. My position at 1930 G.M.T.
33.00 N., 21.48 E, course 270° speed 12.2 knots.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 242141B to Admty).

P.S. 25,
S.P. 25.

P.S. 25 and S.P. 25 cancelled.
(N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 242142B).

TAMARA

In 062° 02' N., 000° 30' W. encountered Swedish
ship TAMARA, course 270° speed 7 knots.
(P.238 242154B to F.O.S.)

War Diary.

24.4.1943
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Gibraltar movements. Arrival WISHART, VELOX, ANTELOPE.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 240902B to Admty.).
Arrivals UNBENDING from Algiers.
Departures U.S. P.T's 202, 201, 203, 204 for Oran.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 241948B to Admty.).

VIOLET E.T.A. 1700 G.M.T. Oil fuel required 150 tons.
(VIOLET 240915Z to N.O.I.C Casablanca).

M.K.F.13 Intend sailing DUNNOTTAR CASTLE personnel H.F.
ALEXANDER, STIRLING CASTLE personnel? SLOTERDIJK
SIBONEY, ARGENTINE personnel. Request destinations
and Pendant numbers.
(F.O. Gibraltar 240933B to Admty. Cdre. Algiers,
(R) Connav, C. in C. Med.).

Dispositions Situation 2001B/24.
Coastal craft convoy 2 tugs LOTUS, DIANELLA 36.04
07.31 through 35.49 06.30 to Gibraltar 8. From
242359 LOTUS holds incorrect recognition signal.
(See 241821B).

(2) K.M.S.13 CIRCE 34.34 09.10 through 35.45 06.30 to pass
Europa Point 260300.
(3) O.S.46 Casablanca section 4 P.C. 34.03 08.57 to Casablanca 7½.
(4) ANTHONY LEWES BRISSENDEN 2 merchant ships 39.09 12.22 through
34.58 09.32 to Casablanca 13½.
(5) EGGESFORD, LIDDESDALE 34.46 07.12 to (? Gibraltar) 15.
(6) ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH 35.36 06.36 to Casablanca 9.
(7) G.U.S.6A, C.T.F.69, 34.15 08.20 277 degs.9.
(8) FANTOME one corvette 2 minesweepers 34.40 07.29 to Gibraltar
12 (See 241243B).
(9) LORD NUFFIELD off Tagus to R/V 2 motor vessels at 242100 and
escort coastwise Cape St. Mary 8.
(10) AUBRETIA approximately 38.10 09.28 198 degs. to overtake
O.S.46 14 knots. (See 242203B)
(11) F.S. COMMANDANT DELAGE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ 2 M/V's 33.10 08.59 to
R/V O.S.46 in 31.56 10.42 at 250800B 9 escorts return to Casablanca
after R/V.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 241005B).
Add new paragraph (12) to my 241005.
LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE sail 251200 through 35.45 06.30 to R/V K.M.S.
13 15 knots.
Para (8) for 007 degs. 29' read 007 degs. 19'.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 241243B).
My 241005B (para ?) (I) amend position to read (E) 036 degs.
19' 008 degs. 32'.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 241821B).
Amend para. 10 my 241005 to read (?AUBRETIA) (E) 37.03 09.10
to Casablanca 13½.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 242203B).

War Diary.

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - (contd.).

CHOKO
interception

Consul General Lisbon's 720 Arfar to M.E.W. of 21st April.
Hope~~d~~ interception of CHOKO will be possible.
(2) Request you will repeat to Admiralty your reply to Lisbon.
(D.C.D.(F) 241100B to F.O. Gibraltar).
Reply F.O. Gibraltar 251013.

ST. NECTAN.
LADY HOGARTH

My 231230 (?221230 intended) sailed.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 241232B to C.M.S.F.(R) Admty. C. in C. Med.).

G.U.S.6A.

My 222250 Casa. Section G.U.S.6A. sailed 0700A/24 plus EMPIRE COBBETT from Casa. TIDEWATER (T) and J.C. HARRIS from Mediterranean. Amend first "Chop" to read 2000Z 25th (as received). Total 30 ships.
(C.M.S.F.F. 241329 to Port Director New York, (C.E.S.F.Pass) (R) Connav, Cinclant, Admty. etc.).

Survivors
of U/B
sunk 5/4.

Your 221401 (?221506 intended re disappearance of U/B crew) disappearance of crew confirmed in accordance with my 141830. I am reliably informed one injured man left in hospital.
(Consul Las Palmas 241330 to B.N.A.Madrid (R) Admty. S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

W.S.29

Following received from S.O. Escort W.S.29 via aircraft (begins).
S.S. GLOUCESTER (?will be) detached in position D.K. at 1430 in accordance with Admiralty instructions 231151. Position at 0530A 25.30 N 17.15 W. 192 degs. (?12) knots 240430 (ends).
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 241423 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. NEWCASTLE).

O.S.46

ROHILKHAND fuelled sailed to rejoin 1600A/24. Pass to Senior Escort O.S.46.
(C.M.S.F.F. 241512 to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. Med.).

Axis
shipping
Bilbao.

Arrivals 22nd MONTE JATA, MARQUES DE COMILLAS.
Arrivals 23rd 12, 16, 28, 27, 5, 10, 1, 11.
Arrivals 24th 8, 9, 10, 22. Departures 22nd 3, 13, CABO CORONA. Departures 23rd 7.
(V. Consul Bilbao, 241655 to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

French
refugees
Portugal.

Your 232156 and N.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 241203 not to C. in C. Med. Presume (?for) my 231655 should read 231252. No signal with T.O.O. 231655 originated by me.
(N.A.Lisbon 241656 B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. B.N.A. Madrid).
See also C. in C. Med. 241805.

/Following...

War Diary.

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

French refugees Portugal (contd.). Following is a repetition of my 241827 (begins) addressed - C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. B.N.A. Madrid B.N.A.Lisbon from F.O.C. Gibraltar. Your 231706 (N.T. in W.R.) Arrangements have been made to embark first consignment of 100 by using RENE PAUL ferrying to Destroyer on 26th April. (2) Similar arrangements in hand for embarkation of second batch of 100 on 28th April and third batch date of embarkation not yet known. (3) EMPIRE DACE not therefore required. (F.O. Gibraltar 241841 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.).

W.S.29 A.M.141950. W.S.29 is being held at Freetown till CLAN LAMONT and AORANGI join. Request you will do everything possible to expedite their passage. (D.O.D.F. 241930B to C.M.S.F. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar F.O.C.W.A.F.).

ANDES EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. After disembarkation at Casablanca ANDES and EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND should return to Halifax. (D. of S.T. 242009B to C.M.S.F.).

Casablanca movements Arrived Casablanca P.C.474 from Port Lyautey and BOREAS and VIOLET U.S.S. SCHROEDER arrived and departed G.U.S.6. ROHILKHAND arrived and sailed to rejoin O.S.46 departed COMMANDANT DELAGE (Fr) and ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ (Fr) for local escort 1. Taskfor 69 sailed escort G.U.S.6A. (C.M.S.F. 242207Z to Admty.).

Survivors of U/B sunk 15th April. Washington report states survivors of U/B sunk in 03 degs. 23' S. 030 degs. 28' W. on April 15th may have been picked up by MONTE SOLLUBE or MONTE ISABELLA due Las Palmas April 25th and April 28th respectively. (2) If ships are intercepted outside Territorial Waters and U/B survivors found they are to be removed. (3) Consul Las Palmas is requested to report arrival and details if obtainable. (V.C.N.S. 242316B 250734B to C.M.S.F. F.O.C.W.Af. Escort of W.S.29 Escorts of S.L.128 T.G.21.5 (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar C. in C. Med. Consul Las Palmas B.A.D.).

Air Report A.I. 377 24th April. Opsum 174 for 24 hours ended 1800 24th April. (G) Sightings and attacks. Ref. attack N.Y. C.A.T. N/202 at 1115/23 (see Opsum K.173) correct position to 35.48 N. 06.41 W D/cs straddled track at angle of 45 degs. 75 feet ahead 7 seconds after disappearance of possible periscope on course 300 degs? No result seen. (A.H.Q. Gibraltar 242345B)

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -(contd.)

P.219 After crossing 43.01 N. at 0600 27th pass through (SERAPH). following position at time stated -
(P) 38.50 N. 10.01 W. at 1630 29th.
(Q) 36.51 09.13 at 2200 30th.
(R) 36.42 08.01 at 0430 1st May thence patrol in area between meridian 06 degs. 30' W. and 08 degs. 01' W. North of 36 degs 40' N.
(2) S. of A. diving by day 111 miles per 24 hours.
(3) Submerge bombing restrictions have been arranged until 0430 1st 10 reduction (10 miles) either side your route from 35 ahead (?to) 35 miles astern of your estimated position. Total bombing restrictions have been arranged to cover your patrol area from 0001 May 1st report if you are unable to remain within your bombing restrictions.
(4) Read H.S. and G.S. routine after 0600 27th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 242351B to P.219 (SERAPH) (R) F.O.(S) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A. Capt.(S) 8, Capt.(S) 3, P.37 (UNBENDING), Admty. H.Q.C.C.).
T.C.A.O.16 A. Submerged. B. SERAPH. C. 0600/27 43.01 10.28 1630/29 38.50 10.01 2200/30 36.51 09.13 0430/1/May 36.42 08.01 D. 9 knots .
(2) Request T.B.R. in area bounded by meridians of 08 degs. 01 and 06 degs 30 latitude 36 degs. 40 and the coast of Spain from 0001 May 1st until further notice.
(3) All times zone minus 2. Positions N. and W.
(F.O.Gibraltar 242356B to R.A.F.Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C., (R) Admty. F.O.S..S.N.O.C.A.pass to Port Lyautey).
(Amended by 250954 q.v.).

UNBENDING Intend to sail UNBENDING p.m. 26th April for U.K.
(2) UNBENDING passes through S.35.49 06.06½ at 1900/26 R.35.35.53 06.15 at 2000/26 T.36.37 07.24 at 0400/27 P 36.51 09.13 at 0230/28 K.43.01 N.

13.22 at 1230/2.
Shifting W/T watch at 1230 2nd thence as ordered G.F.O.S.
(3) W/T watch.
(4) UNBENDING is painted dark blue.
(5) F.O.S. 1149 1/42 A. 4 mark two.
B. 9 knots until 0700/27 thereafter 7 knots 93 miles per day.
C. Ready for patrol 100% fuel.
D. (1) one (2) one.
(F.O.Gibraltar 242359 to Admty. F.O.S.(R)S.3 S.8. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, UNBENDING).
T.C.A.O. 16.
A. Total. B. UNBENDING. C.1900/26 35.49 06.06½, 2000/26 35.53 06.15 0400/27 36.37 07.24. D. 9 knots 2. T.C.A.O.16 A. Submerged
B. UNBENDING C. 0400/27 36.37 07.24 0230/28 36.51 09.13 1230/2 May 43.01 13.22 D. 9 knots until 0700/27 then 7 knots thereafter. 3. All times zone minus 2. Positions N. and W.
(F.O. Gibraltar 242353B to R.A.F. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C. (R) Admty. F.O.S. S.N.O.C.A. pass to Port Lyautey).

X Landing craft C.O's Requested that special arrangements be made to fly to U.K. 11 ocean Commanding Officers of landing craft who arrive Gibraltar 27th April. These Officers

/ are....

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24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Landing
craft
C.O's
(contd.).

are required to leave U.K. with next flight of
landing craft on 1st May and no other suitable
officers are available.
(D.O.D.(F) 242355B to Air Ministry (R) F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar).

912

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HENRY BACON Following read. De WSL (Amaganset)
torpedoed SSSS HENRY BACON. 31.44 S. (Portion missed) 08 W.
"S" report. Torpedoed, abandoning.
(Simonstown W/T no T.O.O. Recd. 240343 to Admty.)

Your 241326. (Originated by War Registry with reference to
a submarine sighting report intercepted by Simonstown W/T
(T.O.R. 240336) asking that signal letters quoted as
KCKH (decode HENRY BACON) be verified.) Message intercepted from
Washington Wireless W/T signal letters KCKH (HENRY BACON).
(Simonstown Wireless 241646B to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 0930B/24th April. 4.
C.D.15. 8 knots. 5. Coastal, reference position Saldanha
Bay K (?T) 1 to 8.
6. ARCTIC EXPLORER, SPHENE, WELLARD. 15.
C.D.D.1 - 9 "Pasture".
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 240759Z to Admty. etc.)

Capetown departure 0830B/24. MANCHESTER CITY for Durban with
C.D.15.
(C. in C.S.A. 241153B to Admty.)

Movements, Sailed ARCTURUS escorted by WASTWATER 1700Z/23
Dakar. for Conakry.
Arrived LEIGHTON and M.L. 574, 1845Z/24th.
(Comar Dakar 240826Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

B.Y.M.S. Departure Pointe Noire 0700Z/24th B.Y.M.S. 5,6,7
and 8 routed in accordance with your 052040
through 018° S. 011° E. E.T.A. Walvis Bay 1800/
30th, shifting to broadcast S.L. 0600Z/25th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 240855A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.
C. in C.S.A. C. in C.E.F. N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay.)

✓ Destroyer Minimum known destroyer requirements on South
requirements Atlantic Station are (?6) for W.S.29 (?S). One
for STRATHMORE and STRATHAIRD.
2. When destroyers transferred to F.O.C.West
Africa have left (A.M. 121646 refers) only 8
will remain on station. Of these NORMAN will not complete
refitting in time for escort of W.S.29.
3. In view of above propose NAPIER and (?RAIDER) return to
Durban after escorting C.M.41. One of these would then be
available to augment escort of RESOLUTION. They could proceed
to Kilindini on completion of escort of W.S.29 through
submarine danger zone. Your 191328 (hush distribution) refers.
(C. in C.S.A. 241055B to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Durban).

/ULSTER MONARCH..

913

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

ULSTER MONARCH ULSTER MONARCH sailed Simonstown 0815B/24th
ROTHERHAM. escorted by ROTHERHAM for Durban. Route coastal.
S.O.A. 15 knots. E.T.A. 1200B April 26th.
(C. in C.S.A. 241055B to Admty. etc.)

Weekly state Cape Ardrossan, GENISTA, Capetown to Durban.
S.A. Station ROTHERHAM, MANCHESTER CITY, MARTINET, SPHENE,
24th April WELLARD, ULSTER MONARCH. Durban to Capetown.
LADY ROSEMARY, ST. ZENO, MEAD. Durban Area,
ST. LOMAN, NORTHERN DUKE, REDOUBT, H.M.T.
PRUDENT. Capetown to Pointe Noire.

COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, Submarine P.614. Saldanha Bay
SPINDRIFT, FERNMOOR, H.M.T. MASTERFUL. Capetown,
ARCTIC EXPLORER, COVENTRY CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE, INDIAN STAR,
LE TIGER, NORTHERN CHIEF, RELIANCE, NORTHERN DAWN, STELLA
POLARIS, VIVIANA, ROCKROSE, FOXHOUND, CECILE MAPLESON.
Simonstown. NORMAN, BLACKMOOR, CATTERICK, P.552 M.L. 381, 830,
11, 50, 365. KIRRIEMOOR, WORCESTERSHIRE. Durban.
SUSSEX, F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC, NAPIER, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS,
RAIDER, NIGELLA, JASMINE, FREESIA, FRITILLARY, M.L. 1200
TRUSTY, ETHIOPIAN, DRANGHEY, LADY ELSA, ALBANY, PACHECO, (A.S.I.S.)
(?CADIZ), (A.S.I.S.), KHETI (A.S.I.S.), SONDRRA, STORMWRACK,
SATSA.
(C. in C.S.A. 241135B to C. in C.E.F. etc.)

GENISTA. Capetown departure 0820B/24th April GENISTA
for Walvis Bay. S.O.A. 10 knots. E.T.A.
1500B April 27th. Route L. 030° 20' S. 016°
30' E. M. 026° 55' S. 014° 30' E.
(C. in C.S.A. 241201B to Admty. N.L.O. Walvis Bay.)

NAPIER, Your 241422 (N.T. in W.D.) not to C. in C.E.F.
RAIDER. Subject to concurrence of C. in C.E.F. NAPIER
and RAIDER are to continue with C.M. ?41 as far
as endurance permits, returning Durban for fuel.
(C. in C.S.A. 241216B to Cdre. in C. Durban, (R)
C. in C.E.F.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2002Z/24th.
(?NEWCASTLE), MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, RAPID
with W.S. 29 escorting 08.59 to 2000 1830
thence 179 12½.

F.S. SAVORGHAN DE BRAZZA, CORINTHIAN, THYME, DUNKERY, PRESIDENT
HOUDUCE with R.S.4 09.35 15.20 to Freetown 7½.
INKPEN anchored 18.35 16.11
KELVIN escorting to 11.48 17.13 to 11.15 17.09 thence to
10.34 16.35 thence 113 6½.

/BLACK SWAN...

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION with S.L. 128, 17.30 17.57 to 18.00 18.00 thence 005°, 6. BRIDGEWATER 17.31 17.59 300, 11. F.C.GLOIRE 11.20 21.54 232, 19.

U.S. Destroyers DECATUR, BAINBRIDGE, ROPER with O.T. 4, 19.25 32.05 84° 13½.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 07.30 25.30 14½.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241216Z.)

ARRAN 1 M.L. off Cape Palmas.

PETUNIA, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA with T.S. 36, 05.18 N. 11.11 W. 305, 11 knots.

One M.L. off Accra.

ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF, MILFORD (?BURDOCK), TAMARISK, YESTOR, AMARANTHUS escorting 00.07 N. 18.40 W. 049° 4½ knots.

DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY, with C.F. 12, 05.12 S. 02.32 W. (?63) 16 knots.

SNOWDROP, 6 M.Ls. 07.53 14.08 W. to 07.30 14.32 thence 176 10. FANDANGO, BIRDLIP, BELLWORT, escorting about 07.56 00.10 to Takoradi 8.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 241337Z to A.I.G. 150.)

Add to my 241216Z M.L. 244 M.L. 256, 12.15 17.21 to 11.01 17.18 thence Freetown 11.

ORFASY 2 M.Ls. screening LADY DENISON PENDER in 13.35 17.13
(F.O.C.W.Af. 241547Z.)

X OSORNO,
possibly
sighted by
PORT ROYAL
PARK.

British ship PORT ROYAL PARK at 1645Z/16 in 021° 10' S. 007° 36' E. sighted vessel resembling blockade runner OSORNO steering N.W. course. Vessel was lightly laden and cannot be identified here. 2. Description.
(C. in C.S.A. 241245B. to Admty. Comsolant for F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.E.F.)

SPIINDRIFT.

Your 211710B (N.T. in W.D.) SPIINDRIFT is primarily for care and maintenance of Saldanha Field but should be available for Controlled Mining use in other areas when required.

2. Ref. A.L. T.O. 6597/42 CORNCRAKE (ex MACKEREL) was lost and REDSHANK is not yet available for Eastern Fleet.

3. Unless C. in C.E.F. can accept delay until arrival of REDSHANK SPIINDRIFT is to sail in accordance with A.M. 192119.

4. Subject to para. 1 above R.N. crew can be replaced by S.A.N.F. but details should be reported.

(D.T.M. 241334B to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

X French
Control of
Convoys.

B.N.L.O. Dakar informs me Admiral Afrique has laid down certain routes, etc., for French convoys or independent French shipping between Dakar and Casablanca, thus taking operational control in my area. Admiral Collinet received these instructions early in April. He is disinclined

to question their validity. Instructions are Numbered "313 F.M.A.S. of 25th March."

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24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

French
Control of
Convoys
(Contd.)

2. Apart from important principle involved, parts of the instruction are unsound and objectionable.
3. I shall take no action direct with Dakar until I have your comment and wishes.
(F.O.C.W.A. 241432Z to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. B.N.L.O. Dakar.)

SOUND
FISHER.

Your 151758/4 probable expected time of sailing SOUND FISHER Saturday May 1st, cannot expedite further.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 241445Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

Movements,
Lagos.

Departures 24th April KATHIAWAR, KELT.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 241455Z to Admty.)

Weekly state
W.Africa.

F.O.C.W.A. 241532. Repeated in 271615, q.v.

CORBIS.

Overdue shipping CORBIS expected 23rd April from Abadan not arrived.
(C. in C.S.A. 241553B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F. Cdre. Durban.)

COLOMBIA.

Your 141058B. COLOMBIA (Swedish) arrived Rio de Janeiro April 20th.
(D.T.D. 241635B to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

SILVERELM
overdue.

Overdue shipping SILVERELM Capetown 28th March for Bahia 18th April not arrived.
(A.S.O.(I) Recife 241649Z to Admty. C. in C.U.S. Fleet, (C. and R.) C. in C.S.A. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Freetown, B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)
W.D.Note - See D.T.D. 251000Z to Connav and C. in C.S.At. 251212B.

Destroyers.

Your 231256/April para. 6 (Hush distribution).
a. Subject to concurrence of C. in C.E.F. movement of some or all of NAPIER, RACEHORSE, RAIDER and REDOUBT to Kilindini may be postponed if necessary for escort of W.S.29, accepting delay to refit of RESOLUTION or absence of destroyers from Kilindini till after W.S. 29 is cleared.

/As...

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Destroyers.
(Contd.)

As MALCOLM, WITCH and WOLVERINE must boiler clean mid-May reinforcements in A.M. 121646 April must sail as arranged.

b. Change of destination of Montevideo dock should reduce trawler commitments. A.M.

231744 not to C. in C.E.F. refers.

c. This should be arranged direct with C. in C.E.F.

(D.O.D.(F) Approved V.C.N.S. 241820B to C. in C.S.A. (R)

C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Departures 1313Z/24 April, 1943, SNOWDROP, M.Ls. 287, 289, 266, 281, 296, 209 on A/S sweep and to R/V with floating dock escorts.

(S.O.(I) Freetown 241835Z to Admty.)

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy M/V. One merchant vessel bearing 090° one mile course 270° position 38°26' N. 12° 00' E.
(A/C FFU/C, 240032 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Position of one merchant vessel 38.27 N. 12.05 E.
Sunk.
(A/C FFU/W 240047 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

X Repatriations. My 141603. Italian Government intimate sailing of all four liners temporarily suspended.
(Head of M.I., 240350B to C. in C. Med., F.O.C., Gibraltar, R.A.W.A.F., (R) V.A. Malta etc.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 23rd April Greek Destroyer SPETSAI departure 23rd April M.L.356.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 240910C to Admty., etc.)

E.T.19. Add to my 221546A. GENERTON: Iron Ore: Gibraltar for U.K. Pendant No. 21 VILLE DE JIJELLI Oran Pendant No. 22.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 240921A to S.O.I.S.)

X Air Report. To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz H.Q. N.A.A.F. ADV. NO 1442. 2. 18 B.26s escorted by 36 P.40s dropped 60 300 lb bombs and 181 100 pound bombs from 8,200 feet on Carloforte Harbour, hitting Piers, Port Facilities and Shipping. 4. Detailed tactical force report not available on account of communications. 5. A.20s and B.25s made 15 raids and Fighter Bombers made 6 of which 2 were made on Protville L/G. 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. 2 Spitfires were lost, 1 A.20 crash landed, crew safe. 6. The high point of the day occurring in the morning when 2½ Spitfire squadrons and 5 P.40 squadrons encountered a Messerschmidt 323 Formation heavily escorted approaching Tunis at Sea level. The whole formation of 20 Me. 323s was destroyed. Also 8 Me. 109s 1 Me. 202, 1 Re. 2001 were destroyed, and 1 Me. 109 damaged. Majority of Me. 323s appeared to be carrying Petrol as some burned fiercely. Others contained Personnel who were seen in water. 4 P.40s are missing. Bad weather during remainder of day prevented continuance of these operations. 7. Coastal carried out usual Convoy Patrols and Recces. A Swordfish attacked a U-boat at 35° 52' N. 01° 20' W. at 1617 hours. Results unobserved.
(H.Q., N.A.A.F., Adv. No. T.O.O. Recd. 0945Z/24 to Etousa.)

H-weekly opsum No.119. Night 22/23 April. Offensive Operations Battle Area cancelled owing to bad weather. 23rd April. 4 Beaufighters despatched on offensive sweep against enemy shipping in Aegean Sea. 2 small Merchant Vessels escorted by destroyers attacked in (Kithera?) Channel. Near misses with bombs hits with cannon shells scored on both ships.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 241002Z.)

/Destroyer...

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Destroyer Sweep. Intend NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD to sweep south of Marittimo during night of 24th/25th. (2) Destroyers pass north of Pantellaria at about 2300 returning through position A.A. 036° 50' North 012° 20' east not later than 0530. (3) Destroyers may go N.W. of Q.K.B. 20 unless ordered by C. in C. Med. not to do so. (4) Codeword "Bosom". (V.A. Malta, 241008B to C. in C. Med. F.O. C/S 12 Hq. N.W.A.C.A.F. F.O.I.S., Hq. R.A.F.M.E., Hq. R.A.F. (corrupt group) N.W.A.T.A.F. C. in C. Levant S.N.O. Inshore Sqdn. Eastern Med.)

Movements, Beirut. 23rd April departures M.L.350, 384. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 241010C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Enemy Destroyer. P.C. and S. of one destroyer and 3 aircraft 39.01 N. 14.37 E. 180° 20 knots. (A/C 63Q/J. 241017A.)

Mustang Aircraft. Mustang (P.51) aircraft will operate over sea from Bone area from 28th April. 2. The Mustang and Me. 109 are very similar in appearance. (C. in C. Med., 241031A to Med. Station K.391.)

M.L.168. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 241039B to Admty., etc.)

RORQUAL. Arrived. (V.A. Malta, 241126, to Admty., etc.)

Shuttle Service. Intend sailing weather permitting AUDUN for Algiers at 0600/25th escorted by HOY to R/V Algiers escort in position Z at 1200/25th. Speed 7 knots. Codeword "Aldwyck". Request fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Bougie, 241159A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, H.Q. African Coastal A.F. (R) Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. C. in C. Med's. 240917 (N.T. in W.D.) para. (A) If M.T.Bs are available comply; they are to return Sousse by 0700 (B) If ready intend to send 3 M.T.Bs of 7th Flotilla from Malta to Sousse tomorrow night 25. (V.A. Malta, 241216B to N.O.I.C. Sousse, Admty., S.N.O.I.S. Eastern Med., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S.)

REGENT. Capt. (S) 10's 081626 and 181409. Proceed passing through (A) 039° 06' 019° 38' at 0430/26th. (B) 036° 26' 020° 49' at 1400 (?27th). (C) 034° 28' 023° 32' at 2215/28th. (D) 033° 06' /030°...

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

REGENT (Contd.) 030° 30' at 1730/30th. (E) 031° 48' 032° 34' proceeding on the surface during daylight 30th April to arrive Port Said searched channel 0600/1st May. All times zone minus 3. Estimate your S. of A. 140 miles diving by day and 11½ knots when proceeding on surface. (Capt. S.1., 241235C to REGENT (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy M/Vs. Following read: P.C. and S. of 3 medium Merchant Vessels one (?transport) 38.35 N., 14.00 E. 050° 6 at 1412A. (A/C 63Q/F, 241430A)

Movements, Tripoli. Arrived SEAHAM, POOLE, SKUDD 4. Sailed M.Ls. 1028 and 1051 TREERN. (N.O.i/c Libya, 241449A to Admty.)

Navigation. 304 K and 307 K. (T.O.O. 2240/12th March N.T. in W.D.). System is also in operation at Malta. Datum Dingli War Signal Station. Fix can be adapted in Arc 320° from Chorghur through east and south to 285° from Dingli. Patrol R/T wave is not yet manned Ships approaching Bone or Algiers by night or in thick weather to obtain fix on Port wave. (C. in C. Med., 241545A to Med. Stn. 39ZK)

SAHIB. Enemy aircraft are searching for you in your area South of 039° N. (Capt. S.8, 241606A to P.212 (SAHIB)(R) Capt.(S) 10)

Movements. Cyprus. Arrived and left 24th April BURRA. Departure 24th M/L 350 and 384. (N.O.I.C. Famagusta Cyprus, 241714C to Admty., etc.)

M.K.S.12 Algiers section arrived plus NARVA. (Cdre, Algiers 241715A to N.Os.i/c. Phillipeville, Bougie.) M.K.S.12. List destinations. All ships in Ballast. P.L.M.21 (Gibraltar for Casablanca) and French ships SIDI BRAHIM, DJEBEL AURES, CAP PINEDE joining from Oran will be allocated pendants by Commodore. (Cdre, Algiers, 241716 to A.I.G.259.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. D.N.C.X.F. 231031. Consider situation does not permit of EMPIRE MIGHT sailing unescorted ahead of W.S.29 from West Africa. 2. As her reported speed is now 14 knots she would not gain time by breaking off before Cape. Possibility of saving a few days by sailing from there immediately

/after...

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War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.EMPIRE
MIGHT .
(Contd.)

after fuelling without awaiting remainder of
convoy will be borne in mind. C. in C. S.A.
is requested to report his views nearer the time.
(D.O.D.(F) 241715B to D.N.C.X.F., F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) C. in C.S.A., C. in C.E.F., C. in C. Levant.)

French
Refugees,
Portugal.

In view of conflicting information contained in
your 240322 and B.N.A. Lisbon 231252 (N.T. in W.R.)
act as you consider advisable.
(C. in C. Med. 241805A to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty.,
B.N.A. Lisbon, B.N.A. Madrid.)

Movements
Malta.

Arrivals. M.T.Bs. 309, 313, 261, 268 from
operations. DULVERTON, EXMOOR, DERWENT, ROMNEY.
Departures. NUBIAN, PETARD, PALADIN on
operations TETCOTT, BELVOIR, PINDOS.
(V.A.Malta, 241815B to Admty. etc.)

Situation
Report.

1. Jijelli was bombed at about 0500/21. One
L.C.I.(L) was set on fire and two others damaged.
Small number of Naval casualties. 2. During
the night 21st April/22nd April M.T.Bs from
Malta operated off Eastern Coast of Gulf of Tunis
and those from Bone between Bizerta and Zembretta.
3. BADSWORTH was mined at 1655/22 in position 036° Cape De Garde
4.3 miles. Ship was damaged Aft and has been berthed in Bone.
No serious casualties.
4. During the night 22nd/23rd April PENELOPE, ESKIMO and LOOKOUT
carried out Sweep South C. Marittimo. M.T.Bs. from Malta were
in vicinity of Kelibia and M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs from Bone operated
in Gulf of Tunis.
5. Three German Type Q. Mines were swept on 23rd April in
Approaches to Bone.
6. UNRIVALLED reports at 0120/19 in 38° 15' N. 12° 00' sank
1500 ton M/V which had been stopped as a result of bombing.
X Success of UNRIVALLED's attack was due to Air co-operation. At
1547/19R73 in 38° 22' N. 12° 36' E. fired four torpedoes at
3000 ton Westbound Tanker, all torpedoes hit and vessel blew up.
7. UNISON reports sank 5000 ton Modern Motor Vessel Northbound
in position 37° 48' N. 11° 32' E. at 1211/21.
(C. in C. Med., 241914A to Admty.)

X French
S/M for
A/S
training.

To assist you with A/S training Admiral Michelier
has been asked to make available a French
submarine for this purpose and has willingly
agreed. He has instructed Comar Dakar to arrange
direct with you. (2) Consider French would be
perfectly willing for submarine to be based on
Freetown with periods at Dakar and exercises to be
available for all Allied vessels. Perhaps this submarine at
Freetown could also be of assistance for C. in C.S.A's. escorts.
(C. in C. Med., 241917 to F.O.C.W.Af.(R) Admty., C. in C. S.A.)

/IERAX...

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

IERAX. Arrival and Departure April 24th Greek Dr. IERAX. (N.O.I/C Palestinian Ports, 241950C. to Admty etc.)

Malta AI.511 24th April. C.S.R. A. Air. Part 1
Air offensive. Night 23/24th April. Successful
Report. attack was made on enemy shipping in Marittimo area. 4 Beauforts and 5 special equipment Wellingtons all carrying torpedoes were despatched to search for shipping in Sicilian Channel and to attack an M/V reported burning north of Marittimo. As a result of earlier attack by aircraft of N.W.A.A.F. at 1940 hours 1 Beaufort found the M/V 5/6,000 on fire 38° 25' N. 12° 10' E. and scored one torpedo hit causing column of black smoke after which vessel developed a list to starboard. At 2233 another Beaufort attacked with one torpedo causing an explosion on M/V which then blazed furiously. At 2247 vessel sank. One special equipment Wellington with bombs on shipping search between Marittimo Naples experienced A.S.V. jamming and made no significant sighting. To cover these shipping strikes, Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in Trapani area.

Day 24th April. 15 Spitfire bombers escorted by 7 fighter Spitfires despatched to bomb Pantellaria found target totally obscured by cloud and therefore made shipping sweep between Pantellaria and Tunisian coast no target was found. 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep in Sicilian Narrows. Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 23/24. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols south and south west of Sicily. Day 24th. 9 Beaufighters provided escort to incoming Naval units. (A.H.Q., Malta, 241959Z)

M.K.F.13. M.K.F.13 sailed 2000/24 otherwise in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 221033A (or 221035A). (Cdre. Algiers, 242008 to A.I.G. 259 (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran.)

Movements. Arrived and left GLOXINIA (?PRIMULA) FALK, KLO.
Sfax. Arrived M.L.1122. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 242044A to Admty.)

DOLFIJN Departures. Submarines DOLFIJN (P.47) UNRULY
UNRULY. (P.44) Admiralty pass to B.D.Z. (Cdre. Algiers, 242059A to Admty., etc.)

Movements Arrived OAKLEY, FELIXSTOWE, FOXTROT, RESTIVE,
Algiers. EMPIRE NED, STORNOWAY, BRIKHAM, KING SOL, VISENDA, BICESTER, ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, ZETLAND, L.S.T.402, L.C.Ts. 586, 537, 553, 556, 557, 615, 572, 602 583, 850, 570, 621, 560, 561, 616, 619, 622, 620 635 L.C.Fs. 7, 9 Ju. S.M.T.Bs. 205, 206, 207, 208. Hospital /ship...

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War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Movements
Algiers.
(Contd.)ship OXFORDSHIRE. Departures OAKLEY,
BACHAQUERO, COWDRAY, STORNOWAY, BRIKHAM
L.S.T.364 WESTON, WELLINGTON, GORLESTONE, EXE,
NESS, TOTLAND, L.C.I. (L) 177, 247, EMPIRE NED.
(Cdre. Algiers, 242103A to Admty., etc.)Movements,
Bone.Bone, Arrivals, M.T.Bs. 635, 639, 634, 656,
base M.L. 1154, 1251.
(F.O.I.S., 242121A to C. in C. Med. etc.)X
Enemy
Circling
Torpedoes.Ref. K.331, Trial and Investigation of
recovered Enemy Torpedoes at Algiers show that
these can be adjusted. (a) to execute a variety
of Course Diagrams such as Oblongs and Zigzags
besides circled as previously designed with
speed up to 6 knots (?b) to plunge like a porpoise2. Maximum depth of these plunges has not yet been established
but, during first trial torpedo dived to about 10 feet. When
set to plunge motor runs intermittently and length of run may
easily exceed one hour. 3. Defence Measure should therefore
include the use of Light Nets extending if possible to Depths
of 40 feet. 4. These nets to be used to protect important
units or to provide Baffles to divide Harbour into small areas.
(C. in C. Med., 242208A 271340A to Med. Station 393. (R) Admty.
C. in C. Levant, D.N.C. X.F.) Reply: C. in C. Levant,
261914C.Enemy
Units.P.C. and S, of 2 unknown vessels 38.30 N. 12.49 E.
Course 100° Speed 18.
(A/C FF2/B, 242350 to Air H.Q. Malta.)

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24.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements.

Departure TEWERA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 240034Z to Admty.)
Departure NETRAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 240151Z to Admty.)

Arrival 0330Z JELOY ? departure 0900Z NEBULA, NIMBUS,
S. of A. 11 knots.

(S.O. (I) Bombay 241010Z to Admty.)

Arrived FARA, ROSALIND.

(F.O. E.Af. 241011Z to Admty.)

Departure AMRITSAR.

(N.O.I.C. Madras 241027Z to Admty.)

Departure DURBAN.

(S.O. (I) Bombay 241121Z to Admty.)

Colombo departure 24th. 0645Z GAWLER, MARYBOROUGH, and
LISMORE. Arrived 0720Z TULIP. Add to my 231318Z/April
departures. 1315Z BARLANE towing SOUTHGATE.

(F.O. Ceylon 241231Z to Admty.)

Combined
Operational
Training.

47953/C.O.S. 23 April. Regret inability to
provide L.C.Ms. for Ogndo (1) at present.
Target for present intensive combined
operational training programme precludes
giving any away until we receive more than
50. Even then scale of operations at present
envisaged demands the full 120 mentioned in C.O.S. (India) /
95 and in your 11123/43+, and India 43342ø C.O.S. of 23rd
March refers C.O.S.

(Armindia 240215 to Admty. (R) C. in C. M.E. C. in C. Levant,
Mideast for M.N.B.D.O.1.)

(/ 1610/10 Nov. Given restricted circulation by 1st S.L.)

(+ ?1112/3/3/43.) (ø 1350/23 March.)

B.P. 77.

Karachi portion B.P. 77 sailed 0500Z/24th
to R/V (?JULIET) 220947 refers TALMA
(?Bombay) troops and stores knots 10½.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 240516Z to S.N.O. P.G.
C. in C. E.F. etc.)

CAPETOWN
CASTLE.

Expected to sail CAPETOWN CASTLE for Capetown
and New York 29th April, with approx.
Service personnel officers 40, troops 195.
Prisoners of War (?Mess) 197 troopdeck.
(S.T.O. India (Bombay) 240555Z to C. in C.
E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, S.S.T.O. D. of S.T.
S.T.O. Durban.)

/Catalinas...

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24.4.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

* Catalinas request for. In view of the continued submarine activity in the Cape and Durban areas request two additional Catalinas may be sent to Durban as soon as possible. These aircraft are required to bring the Catalina strength in South Africa up to 16 flying boats and 8 amphibians which is the minimum strength considered necessary by C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. for South African waters. C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. 1228 March 30th to Admiralty only refers. (C. in C. E.F. 240934 to A.H. Q.E.A. (R) 222 Group, 246 Wing, Admty. C. in C. S.A. Com. Durban.)

Convoy X.C.1. VERBENA. Departure 1227Z/24th April VERBENA escorting convoy X.C.1. (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 241238Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE AUSTIN "S" Report. Following has been received from EMPIRE AUSTIN C. 14SZ SSSS 05. R. 465 44 R.O.O. F.C. 14SZ periscope sighted please tell Kilindini to watch on 500 kc/s. (Colombo W/T 241343 to Admty.)

Following message has been read:-
From EMPIRE AUSTIN SSSS D.E.C. 14 S.Z. SSSS 05° 001' S. 43° R.P. E. chased by S/M.
(Colombo W/T T.O.R. 242050 G.M.T. to Admty.)

F.S. LEOPARD. Sailed F.S. LEOPARD for Jibuti and Suez. E.T.A. Jibuti 1500Z/30th E.T.A. Suez 1000/6th May. W/T watch as for one line ship on group V shifting to read Red Sea Broadcast at 1100Z/29th. (N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez 241401Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. S.N.O.L.A., C. in C. Med. F.O.C.R.S.F. 881.)

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24.4.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

AJAX, Gibraltar broadcast. My 070033 (not to Admty.) AJAX who at the time was approaching boundary of area X reports as follows: Reception on 44.8 had almost completely faded from 0700 that morning, on 160 k/cs was also unreliable due to continuous R/T interference. Loud Speaker watch on 9975 k/cs gave very meagre results.
2. Request information whether Gibraltar Broadcast is considered to be at times unreliable towards the limits of area X. (B.A.D., 240011Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)
Reply: F.O. Gib., 252246.

U/B attack on O.N.S.3 21st April 2 ships sunk. Atlantic Convoy instructions 39 para. 5. (2) (A) 0610Z/21st ^{April intended} March 055° 33' N. 047° 20' W. (B) 1: surface, dived between 61 and 71. (C) Ahead. (D) WANSTEAD (31), ASHANTIAN (41). NORTHERN GIFT has 35 survivors ex WANSTEAD 2 missing 40 ex ASHANTIAN 26 missing including Cdre. Elliott, Master's 2nd and 3rd Mates, Chief Engineer, 3rd Engineer and 3rd Radio Officer.
POPPY has 12 ex WANSTEAD.
(LULWORTH, 240029Z 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., Cominch.)

H.D.M.Ls. Salor 7156. Lorsa 8722. Your para. E is confirmed.
(D.D.O.D.(C), 240053B to B.A.D.)

X Biscay A/S air offensive. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 587.
1. In a special operation in the Bay during the last 10 days we have sighted 20 U-Boats and attacked 13 and it is estimated that this amounts to sighting 44 per cent of U-Boats crossing the Bay. This was in spite of particularly heavy calls for convoy escort which have seriously reduced the aircraft available for offensive patrols.
2. Thursday (22nd) was particularly good when we had 11 sightings and 6 attacks in 24 hours.
3. Please inform Cominch at the requested of Adm. Stark. (V.C.N.S., 240205B to B.A.D.) [Reply: JSM, 011457Z May]
At 16th meeting of A.U. Committee on 21st April the following points arose:-
(A) Maintenance of U-Boats in Biscay ports appears now to be taking longer, due to effects of bombing of U-Boat bases.
(B) Warning has been issued to French tunny fishing vessels to keep within the three mile limit in order to avoid interference with Bay offensive.
(C) Future rate of fitting American ships with A.N.D. shows only 20 instead of 30 fitted by end of April.

/(D) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Biscay (D) Unavoidable delay in fitting ships with
A/S air smoke eliminators due to large number of ships
offensive. undergoing repairs.
(Contd.) (E) Admty. and Air Ministry considering the
possibility of U-Boats being fitted to carry
aircraft and effect on U-Boat campaign.
(F) Tendency of U-Boats to remain on surface
and fight back at attacking aircraft.
(A.C.N.S.(UT), 241406B to B.A.D.)

Unknown Received at 0111 G.M.T. De Gallon Head Radio.
ship (Begins). Intercepted at 0105Z from unknown
torpedoed. station (begins) 32° 42' N. 70° 58' W. torpedoed
at 0048 (QSA 1/2). (Ends).
(Wick Radio, 240312 to Adm. Lyness, Operations Room
R.A.F. Wick.)

EMPRESS OF Your 201625Z. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND has been
SCOTLAND delayed one week in sailing from New York on
(A.T. 43), present voyage. Her sailing date from Halifax
ANDES in A.T.43 will therefore probably be 17th May.
(A.T. 44). (D. of S.T., 240347B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.
C.N.A.)
D. of S.T. 240347. It is now assumed that ANDES
(A.T.44) will sail from Halifax about three days before EMPRESS
OF SCOTLAND (A.T.43), i.e. 14th and 17th May respectively.
(2) Propose that despatch of silver be made in two shipments
approximately 800 bars in ANDES and 800 in EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.
(3) Request early approval and confirmation that A.T. numbers
will remain as in para. (1).
(N.S.H.Q., 241502Z to Admty., (R) D. of S.T., C. in C. C.N.A.)
Para. 3, approved and confirmed.
(D.O.D(H), 261659B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)

BARDALAND, Safe conduct vessels BARDALAND and CAMELIA will
CAMELIA sail from St. John N.B. for Salonika at 0700
safe conduct. hours May 2nd.
Vessels will follow reverse of route in my
181544 March and should not be molested while
following above routes.

Air Authorities concerned should be informed.
(Head of M.I., 240351B to N.S.H.Q., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C.
C.N.A., Connav, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta,
F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.(S).)

Movements. Norfolk arrived 231701Z CHASER.
(N.S.H.Q., 240410Z to Admty.)
St. Johns N.F. 23rd arrivals) TROIS RIVIERES,
WESTMOUNT ex H.J.47. Departures - CHURCHILL,

/RESTIGOUCHE ...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. RESTIGOUCHE, TRENT, COLLINGWOOD, BRANDON to
(Contd.) H.X.235. HAMILTON, THE PAS, BLAIRMORE, KAMSACK
to O.N.S.3. ST. ALBANS, REGINA, KAMLOOPS,
TRANSCONA to O.N.178.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 240607 to Admty.)
My 221103 (Arrival 21st U.S. Transport STATE OF VIRGINIA) ship
sailed 22nd for high seas.
(B.R.O. Aruba, 241020R to Admty.)
Departure 24th KENKORA for Port of Spain.
(British Consul San Juan, 240916Q to Admty.)

E.G. 40, Present situation indicates that E.G.40 will not
Convoy have sufficient time in port to accomplish
S.C.128. essential repairs prior to their departure to
escort S.C.128. Strongly recommend sailing of
S.C.128 be delayed for 24 hours.
(Comtask 24, 240515 to Connv.)

In view of Comtask 24 240515 request you delay sailing S.C.128
for 24 hours.

(Cominch C. & R., 240933Z to C. in C. C.N.W.A., (R)
Comtask 24, C. in C. W.A., E.G.40, Admty., F.O.N.F.,
N.S.H.Q.)

Your 240933. Sailing of S.C.128 has been postponed 24
hours.

(C. in C. C.N.A., 241214Z to Cominch C. & R., (R) Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)

Unknown Intercept from Amagansett Radio from KMY
ship (indecipherable) reports torpedo attack at
attacked 0800 G.M.T./24 in position 32.57 N. 76.55 W.
by U/B. missed by torpedo.
(Kingston, 240555Q to Admty.)
(Freetown No T.O.O., Recd. 24.1105.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CARNARVON)	07° N. 26° W.	Patrol	-
1800 G.M.T.	CASTLE)	43½° N. 29½° W.	259°	19½
24th.	T.A. 41	(D.O.D.(F), 240935Z to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)		

U.S. S/M (Cominch, 241028Z, 241522Z, 241624Z.)
Notice,
S/M Estimate
24th April.

/Tankers ...

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.X Tankers and
Oil Stocks,
Pacific.

The following is despatch from Vice Opnav No. 2239/22 April to Cincpac and Comsowespacfor for action and information to Comservfor, Sowespac, Comnavu, Comsopacfor, Comservforpac, Subordcom Comservforpac and Comservfor Sopac:-

Inventories of petroleum products in Central and South Pacific are seriously below safe levels. Tankers now assigned are incapable of making any substantial improvements. Foregoing situation is revealed as result of conferences here with Representatives of Cincpac Staff. Despatches indicate same is equally true for Sowespac. In event of any further tanker losses remaining facilities plus new units previously agreed cannot be expected to maintain present inadequate rate of supply. After consulting W.S.A., following plan has been agreed upon. In order to build up stocks at Pearl Harbour and strengthen fuel situation in South Pacific plan to assign Cincpac 7 new T-2 tankers now building at Swan Island. These tankers will be completed at the rate of one per week commencing late April. Before they are assigned to Cincpac each tanker will make two trips on U.S. Pacific Coast for industry while shaking down. Effective May supply for R.A.N. East of 125 East is U.S. responsibility. Reference Comservforsowespacfor 150700 in order meet needs in South-west Pacific for U.S. Navy W.S.A. shipping and for R.A.N. four new T-2 tankers will be operated to South-west Pacific under Naval Transportation Service same as ALBERT E. WATTS.

As shakedowns are completed these tankers will be assigned at the rate of one per week starting in May. The assignment alternating between Cincpac and N.T.S. for Comsowespacfor until all eleven ships are allocated.

These 11 ships are to be in addition to those previously allocated except that one trip per month described in my 022039 April to Comsowespacfor will cease.

First two tankers should load for Sowespac in May followed by third tanker in June and the fourth in July or August. Comsowespacfor is requested to advise whether foregoing meets requirements.

(Comnavu, 241131 to Admty.)

Reference: 150700 April and 022039 April not held by Comnavu.

QUEEN

Request early reply to A.M. 111409B.

ELIZABETH.

(D.O.D.(H), 241200B to B.A.M.R., (R) B.A.D.)

X Fast Tankers
for U.C./C.U.
Convoys.

Understood from Oil Control Board that sufficient fast tankers should shortly be available to make it possible to establish a second squadron of fast tankers for the U.C./C.U. convoys.

2. The question of running these tankers as a separate additional convoy has been investigated but has been found to be impracticable owing to the lack of British escort vessels.

3. It is unlikely that U.S. can provide extra escorts for this commitment.

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24.4.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Fast Tankers for U.C./C.U. Convoys. (Contd.) 4. Request you will approach the U.S. Naval Authorities with the suggestion that number of ships in present U.C./C.U. convoys be increased to a maximum of 24 to enable such additional fast tankers as may be forthcoming to be included. Improbable that all these extra tankers will become available and it is understood that the additional number actually presenting will be small.
(1st S.L., 241227B to B.A.D.)
- CHOLET. Your 231809 to Cominch. Will CHOLET be replaced observing that she is the only craft at Kingston available for oiling large vessels.
(Capt. i/c Jamaica, 241231Q to Admty., (R) S.B.N.O.W.At.)
Admty.'s dispatch 231809B. When ready sail small tanker CHOLET to Trinidad.
(Connav, 241319Z to S.O.(I) Jamaica, (R) Admty., Comcaribseafon, B.R.L.O. Trinidad.)
- J.H. 49. Arrived J.H.49 less LIVERPOOL ROVER, PHILIP T. DODGE, NORTHTON.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 231344Z to Admty.)
- B.X. 46, COWICHAN. COWICHAN will sail as an additional escort B.X.46.
(U.S. Port Director Boston, 241349Z to Cominch C. & R., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty., etc.)
- U/B. Montserrat reports submarine sighted 6 miles West of Plymouth Montserrat at 1100Z today 24th details awaited.
(Kingston, 241419Q to Admty., Connav, Comcarib, S.B.N.O. Trinidad.)
- F.H. 50. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 241514Z to Admty.)
- Convoy G.Z. 29. Arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Cristobal, 241518R to Admty.)
- H.J. 48. Departure WASAGA, ESQUIMALT, MISCOU escorting H.J.48.
(C. Halifax, 241521Z to Admty.)

/ S/M ...

War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

S/M Estimate (Cominch, 241521Z, 241623Z, 241625Z, 250104Z.)
April 24th,
U.S. S/M
Notice.

Convoy Aruba section C.U.2 arrived 23rd April 2200Z
C.U. 2. included VIRGINIA, CARIBBEAN, SPARROWS POINT,
OKLAHOMA, ESSO (? ARUBA). OKLAHOMA proceeded
Curacao escorted by U.S. H.P.JONES, U.S. Destroyer
LANSDALE, U.S. Destroyer BABBITT. Arrived
Curacao April 24th.
(C.A.F.A.C., 241533 to Connav, (R) Admty., C. in C. Lant,
Cdr. Caribbean S.F., Comnav.)

OLIVER Following received from OLIVER WOLCOTT dead
WOLCOTT, reckoning 049° S. 060° W. lost one propeller
damaged. blade. Believe able continue voyage unless
further damage? occurs. Proceeding at reduced
speed to Punta Arenas unless otherwise ordered.
(Falklands, 241610 to Admty., Cominch.)

x French J.S.M.892, 24th April.
Naval Base, Ref. C.O.S.(W) 580, para. 3.
Dakar, Copies are being forwarded by air mail of lists
Stores. of stores and equipment being procured by U.S.
Navy Department for the French North African
Naval Base, Dakar.
(J.S.M. Washington, 241727Z to War Cabinet Offices,
London.)

x Atlantic Admty.'s 201823B.
Operational Para. (1) and (2) concurred in.
Control. 2. Para. (3) B escort groups will be operated by
C. in C. C.N.A. through F.O.N.F. who is in direct
communication with Commander (D) Argentia.
Sailing orders will be issued by F.O.N.F. through
Commander (D) Argentia.
3. Para. (4) it is considered that operational and maintenance
duties can be carried out by Commander (D) now at Argentia.
(N.S.H.Q., 241950Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.F.24,
Cominch, C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F.)
Cominch's 222015 date and time of change of operational
control in connection with H.G., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. convoys
is satisfactory. Request Admty. promulgate instructions to
necessary authorities.
Cominch pass to all U.S. Authorities except C.T.F.24.
(N.S.H.Q., 242025Z to Cominch, Admty., (R) C. in C. Lant,
C.E.S.F., C.A.F.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., C.T.F.
24, C.O.F.S., U.S. Army A.O.C.E.A.C., F.O.N.F.)

/ U/B ...

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War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B. S/M sighted by coast watcher at 1900Z/23rd in 47.06 N. 53.40 W. graded B.2. (C.O.A.C., 242020Z to G.B. 7A.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 24. SANTA CATALINA U.S. torpedoed abandoned 24th 30.42 N. 70.58 W. JAMES W. DENVER U.S. torpedoed near Azores April 11th 11 survivors landed Las Palmas. (Cominch C. & R., 242045Z to Comnaveu.)

Convoy H.J. 48. 1. Sydney and Louisburg sections H.J.48 sailing telegram part 1.
2. Sydney BURGEO 1000Z/25 Louisburg LIVERPOOL LOYALIST 1330Z/25.
3. R/V position D 1500Z/25.
4. BURGEO 12 knots to Mersey LIVERPOOL LOYALIST 7 knots to R/V.
5. BURGEO (Route), both ships (route). R/V 1500Z/25th (route).
6. NIPIGON.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 242057Z to Admty. as amended 281339Z.)

O.N. 177. Following ships arrived New York April 23rd ABRAHAM LINCOLN (Nor.), BASIL, BRITISH GRATITUDE, CHESTER VALLEY (U.S.), DANIEL WEBSTER (U.S.), EL MUNDO (Pan.), EL ORIENTE (Pan.), EMPIRE EMERALD, ESSO CHARLSTON (U.S.), LEVERNBANK, LUCULUS, MAGDAL (Dut.), NOESANIWI (Dut.), NORHOLM (Nor.), *OPALIA (Pan.), *FLORIDA (U.S.), SPINANGER (Nor.), TEXAS SUN (U.S.), WAYFARER, HUGH WILLIAMSON (U.S.) Total 20 ships. (B.R.L.O. New York, 242110Z to Admty.)

Allied Tanker Co-ordinating Committee. Have been approached by Navy Department who are anxious for very early reply to their 131639 (N.T. in W.R.) to Comnaveu concerning establishment of an Allied Tanker Co-ordinating Committee. Request any action being taken by Admty. may be expedited. (B.A.D., 242135Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.
Para. A. SS. SANTA CATALINA torpedoed 30.42 N. 70.58 W. 0058/24. P.B.Y. sights sub. 59.17 N. 29.29 W. 1250/24.
Plane sights sub. course 300°, 61.12 N. 20° W. 1514/24.
Catalina attacks sub. 60° N. 28.31 W. 1305/24.
Liberator sights sub. course 100°, 59.53 N. 34.48 W. 1716/23.
LULWORTH sights sub. 55.33 N. 47.20 W. 0610/23.
Plane sights sub. 59.47 N. 34.27 W. 1729/23.
Plane sights sub. submerging 59.57 N. 33.43 W. 1851/23.

/R.A.F. ...

War Diary.

24.4.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

X Sub. attack R.A.F. Liberator attacks sub. on surface 59.50 N.
and sighting 34.43 W. 1905/23.
summary. HESPERUS attacks sub. 55.55 N. 34.20 W. 1730/23.
(Contd.) Surface craft sights sub. 59.05 N. 35.40 W.
1356/23.
R.C.A.F. planes sight two subs. 58.19 N. 36.36
W. 2312/22.
Para. D. MOBILLOIL torpedo miss 32.57 N. 76.55 W. 0812/24.
Army plane attacks U-Boat course 180°, 23.40 N. 83.05 W. 1321/24.
A.T.C. plane sights sub. 18.50 N. 67.45 W. 1420/24.
Plane sights periscope 43.48 N. 63.10 W. 1802/23.
(Cominch, 242145 to Admty.)

M.T.Bs. Miami departed 0900/23 for Jacksonville via
Fort Pierre British M.T.Bs 88, 89, 90, 91,
destination New York.
(N.S.H.Q., 242235Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D.)

DASHER lost Your 211525Z. Not intended to announce loss of
27th March, ship. Relatives are being informed that death
explosion. was due to an explosion on board and ship was
in company with other vessels, who rendered
every assistance and did all that was possible
to save life.
(A.C.N.S.(H), 242310B to B.A.D.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals: Fremantle 22nd Netherlands L.C. HEEM-
SKERCK. Sydney 23rd U.S. WITNEY, U.S. FLETCHER,
U.S. NICHOLAS, U.S. PATTERSON. Brisbane 23rd
DELORAIN. Townsville 23rd BUNGAREE.
Departures: Geraldton 23rd U.S. HERON for Fremantle.
Townsville 22nd BUNBURY for Milne Bay.
Sydney 23rd U.S. MUGFORD for Townsville. F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT
on escort. Brisbane 23rd DELORAIN for Sydney.
(A.C.N.B., 240719Z to A.I.G.115.)
Arrivals Wellington 1913Z/23 U.S.S. LIBRA, 2206Z/23 U.S.S.
GADHAR. Departure Noumea 0400Z/23 UALAMANCA for Auckland, E.T.A.
1100Z/25. Arrival Auckland 0409Z/24 U.S.S. BRIDGE. Apia
0137Z/24 U.S.S. CYGNUS. Departure Auckland 0308Z/24 U.S.S.
ROAMER, E.T.A. Espiritu Santo 0800Z/29.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 240745Z to Admty.)

/Departure ...

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War Diary.24.4.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Auckland MONOWAI E.T.A. Bora Bora
(Contd.) 1700Z/29 April, route direct, S. of A. 15 knots.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 240858Z to Admty.)
Arrivals 22nd April Sydney (N.S.W.) R.A.A.F.
Store Ship WANAKA.

(1) Brisbane KURUMBA. Townsville AASE MAERSK. Dutch Naval
Store Ship MINJAK TANAH arrived and departed Thursday Island
23rd due Cairns 26th.
Hired Transport EKATERINI COUMANTAROU departed Adelaide 23rd
due Melbourne 26th.
Hired Transport TAROONA departed Brisbane 23rd due Townsville
25th.
Hired Transport DUNTROON departed Sydney (N.S.W.) 23rd due
Townsville 27th.
U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departs (? Fall) River 24th due
Oro Bay 24th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F., 241257Z to Admty.)

Digest Forenoon R/C Liberator reported sighting 6 to 8
Serial thousand ton hospital ship 70 miles west south-
No. 459, west Cape Matanalem, New Hanover course 90° and
April 23rd. 2 medium merchant ships in Kavieng Anchorages.
Later saw 5 ship convoy 50 miles S.E. Kavieng
course 120°. Photos show 3 merchantmen of 7000,
5000, 2500 tons repectively and 2 small
unidentified vessels. Aircraft scored direct hit on largest
ship which was left in sinking condition.

2. Usual shipping reported Rabaul morning.

3. Mid morning photos Wewak reveal 3 coasters 2 power boats
approx. 32 barges in harbour.

7. 2 probably serviceable medium bombers sighted at Lae dawn
22nd. 1 Beaufort bombed wreck in Lae harbour early hours 23rd
and strafed Salamaua Peninsula where 4 Beaufighters later
strafed installations and positions.

10. Ref. Digest 458 para. 6 withdrawal of Marines from
Salamaua now discontinued.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A., 240815Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 241433B, 241438B.)

934

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

X Enemy units.

1. Photographs taken at 0830B today by the ninth Russian R/C of Altenfiord show TIRPITZ alongside the jetty at Kaa Fiord and 3 cruisers and 3 destroyers with her.

A B.2 report states that 2 destroyers and 2 torpedo boats passed Stadlandet this afternoon, steering North at 20 knots.

S/M patrol in north.

2. The S/Ms BLACKFISH, BARB and SATYR continue to maintain their patrol off the Denmark Straits, and the S/M O.14 left Lerwick at 1805B today to re-inforce UNIVERSAL and USURPER on the Iceland - Bergen line.

H.X. 234.

3. Convoy H.X. 234, supported by the 5 destroyers of E.G.4, was escorted yesterday by A/C from 0705 until 1725 and was still being shadowed by U-boats at 1836Z today.

X 4. All new-construction S/Ms and S/Ms completing refitting are in future to carry out 14 days A/S training with as many unrestricted hunts as possible before becoming operational.

X 5. 15 enemy aircraft were engaged in mining off the east coast last night.

North Atlantic.

6. The French SS. ROUENNAIS, 3777 tons, in convoy C.G.29, sank at 1419Z in 34.02 N., 07.27 W. (about 120 miles N.E. of Casablanca) presumably mined.

South Atlantic.

7. SS. DORYSSA British tanker, 8078 tons, reported at 1728 that she had been torpedoed in 37.03 S., 24.03 E. At 1845 she reported she had again been torpedoed 20 miles S.W. of her original position.

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

X Destroyer
Sweeps.

8. NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD operated in the Sicilian Channel last night, but encountered no shipping. The destroyers were attacked by cannon fire from fighters, and PETARD suffered a few casualties. Destroyers of Force Q carried out a sweep to Marittimo last night.

X Air
Operations.

9. 5 Heavy bombers of the R.A.F. again attacked Naples last night, bombs bursting near the railway station, steel works and ex-Pattison shipyard.

East Indies.

X 10. The Admiralty today informed F.O. Ceylon that the defence plan for Addu Atoll is now under consideration by the Service Ministries. Owing to the low scale of air attack it is most unlikely that any increase in the A/A gun defences will be approved.

America & West Indies.

X O.N.S.4
U/B sunk.
(U. 203)

11. An aircraft from the escort carrier BITER (5th Escort Group with O.N.S.) attacked a U-boat at 1830Z in 55.05 N., 42.25 W. (300 miles S. by E. of Cape Farewell) The U-boat was subsequently sunk by the destroyer PATHFINDER, one of the screen and prisoners were picked up. (p. 963)
HESPERUS reported on 2 May that bad smoking from several ships made concealment of the convoy almost impossible.

Australia & New Zealand.

12. M.V. LIMERICK (British 8724 tons) was torpedoed by a U-boat when in convoy at 1501Z today in 28.54 S. 153.54 E. (95 miles S. by E. of Brisbane) and sank later in the day.

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25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

A.F.D.7. Following received from S.3, begins:
 A. Information has been received that A.F.D.VII is about to be transferred from this locality without relief.
 B. Third Flotilla dockings this year have amounted to 26 to date with two outstanding.
 C. The formation of the 12th Flotilla has added to the commitments of A.F.D.XX. Of the last nine dockings seven will have taken place in A.F.D. VII.
 D. Had A.F.D.VII not been available the submarines concerned would have been very considerably delayed.
 E. In present circumstances A.F.D.VII would be in use for submarine docking approx. three days out of four. It is expected that this heavy docking commitment will continue.
 F. It is earnestly requested that this matter may be reconsidered since it will not only involve delay in preparing submarines for sea but will add further congestion to the already fully occupied accommodation for men and ships.
 T.O.O. 242231B. Ends.
 I strongly concur in these proposals. Reference C.D. and E. it is earnestly requested that favourable consideration may be given to the reallocation of this dock to the 3rd S/M Flotilla. Dock can be berthed in Holy Loch.
 (F.O.S. 251129B to Admty.)

X A/S training In order to increase the number of submarines
 for S/Ms. available for A/S Training it has been arranged
 (see 2/4) that all new construction submarines and
 submarines ex refitting are to carry out 14 days
 A/S training before becoming operational.
 2. It is desired that these submarines should carry out as many
 unrestricted hunts as possible to train C.Os in Anti-Asdic
 Tactics, and that opportunity should be given them to practise
 torpedo-attack on high-speed targets.
 (A.C.N.S.H. 252036B.)

Movements

Destroyers Request H.F. Destroyers may be sailed to comply
 for H.F. with para. 1 of C. in C.H.F. 241745B as follows:
 A. W.A. Command one, B. Plymouth Command - two.
 (A.C.N.S.H. 250006B.)

DELHI. Proceed to Plymouth passing Hoxa Gate at 0800B/
 26. 2. Route via Minches and War Channels.
 Owing to possible presence of E-Boats Lizard
 Head is not to be passed before daylight 28th
 April.
 (C. in C.H.F. 251002B to DELHI.)

/S/M...

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/M
Movements. My 231619. Amend time of sailing to read 1830B/25 and E.T.A. to read 1730B/27. My 240955 refers. (P.238.)
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 251441B.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/26 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 251659B, 251857B, 261439, 261728B.)
Sailed my 231619 as amended by my 251441. (P.238.)
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 251838B.)

DIOMEDE. When ready for sea request you will sail DIOMEDE for Scapa to work up.
(D.O.D.H. 251548B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

Operations.

* Denmark Straits. My 231428 and Capt. S.9, 232215. and Iceland/ Amend instructions for BARB and SATYR as follows.
Bergen S/M A. BARB is to proceed from position Q to patrol
Patrols. line W.
B. SATYR estimated to pass through position N. at 0001B/27 is to proceed thence patrol line X. (F.O.S. 251219B to S/Ms.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/26 and movements for following 24 hours.

A. BLACKFISH approx. 70° 33' N. 07° 40' W. through 70° 30' N. 08° 06' W. at 1000/26 and 68° 20' N. 12° 01' W. at 1400/27.
B. BARB approx. 68° 52' N. 06° 30' W. through 67° 02' N. 11° 58' W. at 1200/27.

Both the above submarines will be submerged as long as practicable while East of 10° W.

C. SATYR 65° 27' N. 09° 45' W. probably on surface through 67° 01' N. 13° 02' W. to patrol between Kolbinsey and Grimsby.

D. UNIVERSAL patrolling vicinity 63° 59' N. 03° 02' W.

E. USURPER on patrol line 20 miles 030° and 210° from 62° 15' N. 02° 16' E.

F. O.14 61° 56' N. 00° 54' W., probably on surface to patrol line 20 miles North and South of 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W.

(F.O.S. 251659B.)

O.14 sailed from Lerwick 1805B/25 unescorted and on the surface at C.Os discretion. Routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles thence direct to patrol on line 20 miles North and South from 063° 50' N. 000° 30' W.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 251819B to S/Ms.)

Coastal
Patrols. 2. 3 M.Ls. from Newhaven to patrol 10 miles to southward of C.E.171. Eastern limit 0° 45' E. On patrol by 2130 and leave after convoy has left Portsmouth Command.
3. M.L. 208, 124 patrolling off E.A.5 Buoy.

/4...

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25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

- Coastal Patrols. (Contd.)
4. S.G.B. 6, M.G.B. 614, 615 short notice Newhaven.
5. Chasseur 41 at St. Helens. ALBRIGHTON, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. 2 M.Ls. short notice at Portland.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 251235B.)
1. Weather permitting intend M.Ls. 269 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight on lat., 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/26th.
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 251249B.)
M.L. 300 leaves Tyne 2131 to patrol east of swept channel off Blyth returning daylight.
(C. in C. Rosyth 251755B.)
My 251249B. "Device" cancelled. Boats to remain at short notice in harbour.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 251837B.)

Allied Air Activity.

- Convoys Programme for 25th April.
- H.X. 234 & O.N.S.5.
1. A/S escort to H.X. 234 by A/C of 84 from 0710 to 1215, from 1205 to 1700, from 2020 to 260040B.
2. A/S escort to O.N.S.5 by A/C of 84 from 0635 to 1155, from 1145 to 1745, from 1735 to 260005B.
3. A/S search by seven A/C of 269 diverging from base to 61° in each A/C to sweep one degree of long. south to P.L.E. between 19° W. and 26½ W. from 1320 to 1630.
4. A/S sweep along track of O.N.S.5 by 3A/C of 220 and 2 A/C of 206 Squadron, taking off at 1430, landing at Benbecula 1930.
(R.A.F. Iceland 250345B to H.Q.C.C.)
H.X. 234 escorted by G/E/84 from 240705 to 241522 and by H/84 from 241440 to 241725. Left in 59° 35' N. 28° 00' W. steering 090° 9 knots with 4 M/Vs and 4 Escort Vessels.
(R.A.F. Iceland 250501Z.)

Enemy Air Activity.

- Yorkshire Coast. Between 2315 and 2359 24th April approx. 20 hostile A/C flying at heights between 5000 and 1000 ft. were plotted approaching Yorkshire Coast between Spurn and Flamborough. Two of these crossed Coast, one at Spurn and one at Hornsea. The only incident reported was about 24 magnesium flares dropped over river just inside Spurn. No evidence of minelaying.
(F.O. Humber 250045B.)

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25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- SCOTT. SCOTT arrived Clyde.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 250654B.)
Sailed SCOTT for Z.A. E.T.A. 1600B/26.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 252228B.)
- Q.Z.X.910. Intend proceeding with 15th M/S F. and Danlayers
a.m. 27th to continue clearance of Q.Z.X.910.
(LYME REGIS 250829.)
- M/S 9 Your 241053B. At least one night-sweeping
on 27th & exercise is necessary to train several key
28th April. officers. Programme following allows for
making good 12½ knots except during sweeping
and night-sweeping exercise. Details.
(M.S.9, 251205B to C. in C.Nore.)
- S.N. 111A. Your 241747 and R.A.(M) 231854.
Concur in postponement of S.N.111.
(V.C.N.S. 251216B to C. in C.H.F.)
Your 241300. Confirmed that the operation is
to be carried out. The point raised by you is dealt with in
A.L. M. 053135 transmission of which has been inadvertantly
delayed.
(A.C.N.S.H. 251316B to R.A.M.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- X TIRPITZ. 9th photographic R/C Alta Fjord at 0830B today
shows TIRPITZ, three cruisers, and three
destroyers in Kaa Fjord, TIRPITZ being alongside
jetty.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 251230B to Admty.)
- X U-Boats Report dated 24th April, graded B.2., states
at Bordeaux. two Italian U-Boats at Bordeaux are being
converted to carry material to Japan.
(D.D.I.C. 251551B.)
- X Calais. Photographs taken at 7240/25 (sic.) show port
covered except entrance channel. SPERRBRECHER
ZD occupies same position as on 18 April. One
E/R boat departed drydock now seen alongside
Bassin Carnot. One probably T.L.C. new arrival. Decrease
in small auxiliaries from six to two. Otherwise no significant
change.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 251800B.)

/Destroyers...

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence. - Contd.

X Destroyers
off Stad-
landet.

B.2 Source reports that two destroyers each with two funnels and two T.Bs each with one funnel passed Stadlandet p.m. 25th. (D.D.I.C. 251903B.)

U-Boats.

X U-Boats
reported &
attacked in
North At-
lantic.

G/269 at 241947 sighted surfaced U-Boat in 61° 27' N. 17° 19' W. course 230°, 10 knots, which had completely submerged 25 seconds before aircraft was over swirl so no attack made.

Z/269 at 241904 sighted surfaced U-Boat in 61° 08' N. 17° 10' W. course 230°, 14 knots and attacked from 25 feet with 3 Torpex Mark 11 D/Cs Mk.16 pistol S.N.T. 25 feet spaced 100

feet about 5 seconds after disappearance of U-Boat. One explosion seen dead on track 150 to 200 feet ahead of swirl and later also saw oil-patch 200 yards by 20 yards. This U-Boat appeared large type but detailed description not available. At 241730, D/206 sighted surfacing U-Boat in 61° 25' N. 19° 48' W. 249°, 4 knots distant 8 miles and attacked from 50 feet with 6Mk. P11 Torpex D/Cs set 25 feet spaced 100 feet while U-Boat fully surfaced. D/Cs straddled enemy the third D/C entering water at starboard side amidships. After explosions A/C sighted oil-patch, small pieces of wreckage, and 20 to 25 men in water. Previous to this attack U-Boat had fired 2 inaccurate bursts from after gun. After explosions U-Boat seen to be lifted almost vertically and A/C then dropped remaining D/C and U-Boat sank stern first. At 241709 C/206 sighted surfaced U-Boat in 61° 12' N. 33° 00' W. 300°, 10 knots, and attacked from 100 feet with 6 Torpex Mk 11 D/Cs at 25 feet spaced 100 feet about 10 seconds after disappearance of U-Boat. D/Cs landed 400 feet ahead of swirl but nothing further seen. (R.A.F. Iceland 250501Z.)

Am over enemy S/M in 61° 13' N. 22° 35' W. Have attacked with depth charges.

(A/C J. of 269 Sqdn. 251708B to 18 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 60° 35' N. 23° 35' W. S/M is on the surface.

(A/C K53E 252325B.)

Have attacked enemy with bombs (dive).

(A/C KH3E 252348B.)

A/C 291 25 April U/B sighted by E/84 in 60° 35' N. 23° 35' W. at 2325B. Attacked.

(R.A.F. Iceland 252357B to H.Q.C.C.)

Casualties & Defects.

EMPIRE PUNCH

Intend sailing Tug DANUBE VI with EMPIRE PUNCH in tow as soon as weather moderates (N.O.I.C. Oban 250947B.)

/LOWESTOFT...

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects - Contd.

LOWESTOFT. Intend sailing LOWESTOFT at 1400/25 for Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 251109B.)
My 251109B. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 251639B.)
Am returning to Falmouth with defective gyro and type 145XB.
(LOWESTOFT 251945B.)
LOWESTOFT returned Falmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 252148B.)

LINDOY Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251111B.)

M.G.B. 322. Gunnery Officers 241520. Arrangements made for M.G.B. 322 to return to Tough's Yard Teddington to remedy defects to power system and to star-board engine.
(F.O.I.C. London 251410B.)

L.C.G.15 L.C.G.15 whilst endeavouring to enter Milford Haven in heavy weather sank off Sheep Island. ROSEMARY and YORK CITY were standing by being unable to take in tow.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 252001B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

Depth-charges in Escort Vessels. THORSHOLM. Request THORSHOLM be sailed for Liverpool for fitting of improvised depth-charge stowage.
(D.T.D. 250018B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
A.M. 141728A/March para. 1.
2. Flotation-gear racks fitted with swinging davits have been found cumbersome to operate, and arrangements are being made to fit Welwyn davits whenever possible. Where these are impracticable a hand-winch will be provided at each swinging davit. In default of hand-winches efforts should be made locally to provide a Westons purchase to take the lift from each swinging davit.
3. For the present it is the intention that improvised stowage up to a maximum of 60 depth-charges shall continue to be fitted to as many ships as possible. Such tankers as are found suitable shall be fitted additionally with flotation-gear racks for a maximum of 30 depth-charges.
(D.T.D. 251733B to A.I.G. 12.)

/Convoys...

942

25.4.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- Convoys A.M. 250548. Further transmissions at 0358Z and 0403Z indicate U-Boats in general vicinity of the three convoys probably in contact with at least one of them.
(D.D.I.C. 250651B to Escorts.)
- O.N. 179, A.M. 250651. D/F bearings at 0526Z indicate another contact report from vicinity of convoys and that Series 1 may be used as well as Series 8.
(D.D.I.C. 250806B to Escorts.)
- O.N.S.4.,
- S.C.127.
- C.E. and 1. Following forecast of sailing dates for Channel
C.W. convoys convoy May 1943. Details.
programme. 2. Arrangements in my 191844B will be in force and C. in C.Portsmouth is requested to issue the necessary C.E. Timetables in advance and arrange for ships to be informed that they will be buttoned at B2 buoy to northbound convoys unless otherwise ordered.
3. Two destroyers are required as escort for each convoy unless otherwise ordered, and are to be detailed by 16th and 21st Flotillas alternately.
4. Following time table for C.W.convoys be adhered and N.C.S.O. Thames is to instruct Commodore that speed between Dumpton Buoy and D.Buoy should be reduced so as to comply. Details.
(C. in C.Nore 250915B.)
- O.N. 180. Sailed BURNHAM, BITTERSWEET, AMALBAI, MAYFLOWER, EYEBRIGHT, NORTHERN SUN, Tug SAMSONIA, SS. LUCELLUM, U.S.S.S. NORSTANK for O.N. 180.
(Cdre. Londonderry 250940.)
- P.W.M. 328. Arrived P.W.M. 328 for shelter.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 250943B.)
- North Russia Movements of ships from Kola Inlet to White Sea Port. (Corrupt Group) one. Comprising four American merchant ships SS. BERING, FRANCIS SCOTT KEY, THOMAS HARTLEY and ISRAEL PUTNAM or CITY OF OMAHA and Russian SS. T BILISI and DIKSON sailing for Molotovsk 1200C/26 escorted to Ice Edge at Cape Orlovterski by JASON, BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA, and two smaller destroyers. Escorts from Ice Edge to Molotovsk Ice Breakers KRASIN and MIKOYAN with fighter protection in White Sea.
(S.B.N.O.Archangel 250946B to Admty.)
- P.W.329. Postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 251014B.)

/H.X. 234...

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

H.X. 234. D/F bearings at 0739Z indicate convoy is still being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 251021B to Escorts H.X. 234 and E.G.4.)
Your 251417Z. Consider we should remain with H.X. 234 until daylight. Propose to top up with oil then, if weather permitting, before sweeping back. Weather forecast 6582 9777.
(E.G.4 251735Z to Escorts H.X. 234, C. in C.W.A.)
Your 251735. Comply with my 251417 now. Report fuel position.
(C. in C.W.A. 252017Z to E.G.4.)
Your 251646Z and my 251502Z.
1. H.X. 234 will alter to 088° at 0500Z/26th to P.
2. Fast section of convoy L. SWENSON, WASHINGTON EXPRESS, MEERKERK for Mersey, GALLIA, CEFALU for Belfast, ESSO NASHVILLE for Clyde, will detach at 0800Z/26, escort VIMY and ASPHODEL with 54 survivors from AMERIKA ordered to Clyde, details on crossing 12 West.
3. Stragglers rejoined except FORT CHIPEWYAN and EMPIRE CATO. U-Boat fixed at 1836Z, 30 miles astern in vicinity of FORT CHIPEWYAN, E.G.4 and Catalina searching.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18 252221Z to C. in C.W.A.)
D/F of transmission at 1836Z/25 indicates U-Boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 252318B to Escorts H.X. 234 and E.G.4.)

R.U.71 D/F bearings at 0509Z indicate U-Boat in area
U.R.72. within 75 miles of 61 N. 14 W.
(D.D.I.C. 251049B to Escorts.)

X Coastal Ministry of War Transport have instructed their
traffic appropriate coasting and short-sea Committees that
to Ireland after 24th April the following ports are to be
Restricted regarded as restricted ports for coasting
Ports. vessels trading to and from U.K. and Ireland (R)
Swansea, Barry, Penarth, Cardiff (other than
East Dock), Newport, Avonmouth.
2. Coastal traffic between the restricted ports
and Eire or Northern Ireland will not be permitted.
3. The exception to these revised restrictions will be Sloan's
Liner Service, Belfast to Swansea (South Dock), Cardiff (East
Dock,) Bristol, and occasional calls at Avonmouth.
(D.T.D. 251325B to F.O.I.C. Cardiff.)

T.A.41B. QUEEN MARY will be ready to sail from Clyde for
New York p.m. 2nd May.
2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship
independently by route which will be signalled
by Admiralty. 3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum
air protection.
(D.O.D.H. 251506B.)

/O.N.S.6...

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

O.N.S.6.

H.M. Rescue Tug STORM KING detailed as escort
tug for O.N.S.6.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 251758B.)

M.K.F.13.

My 241315B. In view of weather amend times of
sailing to 1000B/26, adjusting speed as necessary.
(C. in C.Plymouth 252259B to BERMUDA, ORKAN.)

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

O.S.46. April 25 AUBRETIA arrived and sailed to join
C.G.29. O.S.46 VIOLET sailed to join same. ST. NECTAN and
LADY HOGARTH arrived. U.S.S. P.C. 473, 48, 482
arrived with O.S. 474, 482 departed with C.G.29,
482 returned from same, ROUENNAIS survivors. 481
departed to replace. U.S.S. BISCAYNE and P.C. 475 departed
Lyautey for Gibraltar.
(C.M.S.F.F. 250138 to C. in C. Med.)
Sailed Casablanca 0800Z speed 14 knots.
(VIOLET 250828Z to S.O. Escort Group 38.)
VIOLET sailed 0920A/25 to rejoin O.S.46. Request you pass
to Senior escort.
(C.M.S.F.F. 251005 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)
Casablanca section O.S.46. Arrived ESSEX TRADER, EMPIRE
ADDISON, FORT RUPERT, ORIENT CITY, EMPIRE MORN. F.O.C. Gib. pass
to Air Ministry, Kingsway.
(C.M.S.F.F. 251015Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. etc.)
SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE, ex O.S.46. E.T.A. Gib.
2200B/25th April. Request instructions.
(F.O. Gib. 251606B to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. Ships
escorting Convoy O.S.46, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.13.)
The following movements of Escort O.S.46 are or appear
to be taking place. VIOLET damaged rejoining convoy having
fuelled at Casablanca. AUBRETIA E.T.A. Casablanca, for fuel
(?) 251542B/April. JONQUIL E.T.A. Gib. for R.D.F. repairs
1800B/25th April. SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, TADOUSSAC, E.T.A. Gib.
2200B/25th April.
(F.O.C. Gib. 251754B to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) Admty. Commorseafron
C. in C. W.A. O.S.46.)
AUBRETIA sailed to rejoin O.S.46 2200A/25. Please pass to
Senior Escort.
(C.M.S.F.F. 251927 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. F.O.C. W.A.)
Sailed Casablanca 1900Z, speed 13½.
(AUBRETIA 252128Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) VIOLET S.O. Escort
Group 38.)

LOTUS, E.T.A. (2 corrupt groups) 1500Z. Convoy complete
L.C.Ts. 2 L.C.T. in tow of tugs.
(LOTUS 250900Z to F.O. Gib.)

SERAPH. Am in position S. 43.00 N. 10.30 W. Request times
in your 242335B be amended accordingly.
(P.219 (SERAPH) 250615B to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R)
F.O. (S) Capt. (S) 8.)
Subtract 48 hours from all times given in my 242357.
(242356 intended.)
(F.O.C. Gib. 250954 to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C.) Cancelled
301944Z.
Your 250615. Subtract 48 hours from all times given in
my 242351. 2. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O. Gib. 251054 to SERAPH, (R) F.O.S., C. in C. Plymouth,
Capt. (S) 8, Capt. (S) 3, UNBENDING, C. in C. W.A.,
Med. H.Q.C.C.)

/MOORHILL...

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

MOORHILL. Your 181449 and A.S. Malta's 211735. Crew of MOORHILL are wholly locals, half of them being Spaniards, and could not leave Gibraltar. (F.O.C. Gib. 250734B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. A.S. Malta.)

K.M.S.13. Intend sailing: for Algiers, PERIBONKA, GALLIUM, PARAME, JANINE. For Oran, CHELMA. For Bone, FLAMINIAN. (F.O. Gib. 251008B to Escorts of K.M.S.13 for Cdre. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav, Connob, Oran, Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bougie, N.O.I.C. Philippeville.)

CHOKO, interception. Following is a repetition of my 221712 (begins). Addressed British Consul Lisbon from F.O.C.Gib. Every endeavour will be made to arrange to intercept but shortage of patrol craft makes it impossible to give definite guarantee. Your 211746 refers. T.O.O. 221712 April (Ends). 2. Your 241100 refers. (F.O. Gib. 251013 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation Report 1958B/25th for area X of Mediterranean Station.
M.K.F.13 WESTON pass Europa Point 0430B/26 to 36.20 10.01.13½. (2) K.M.S.13 CIRCE 35.48 06.15 to pass Europa Point eastbound 0300B/26th. (3) ANTHONY LEWES BRISSENDEN, two merchant ships 35.03 09.36 through 34.58 09.32 to Casablanca 13. ANTHONY BRISSENDEN, sailed Casablanca p.m. 26th to Gib.17. (4) LORD NUFFIELD one merchant ship 36.49 07.44 to Gib.8. (5) Fr. M/S COMMANDANT DELAGE, ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, 33.14 08.50 to Casablanca 10. (6) ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH, one tanker leave Casablanca 1900B/26th through 35.01 09.59 thence 282.9. (7) BISCAYNE, P.C.475, leaves Port Lyantey 2000B/25th to Gibraltar 16. (8) C.G.29, patrol craft 474, 34.12 07.20 through 34.30 06.44 thence 013° 5. (9) BOREAS LEWES, 2 merchant ships sailing Casablanca p.m. 26th southbound 13. (10) AUBRETIA sailing Casablanca p.m. 25th southbound to overtake O.S.46 12. (11) ANTELOPE sail Gibraltar 2300B/25th to patrol between Cape St. Mary and Punta Del Picacho from 0900B/26th. (F.O. Gib. 251046B as amended 252102.)
My 251046 add new para (12) UNBROKEN P.37 (UNBENDING) sails 1330B/26th through Q.K.A. 87 to 035° 49' 006° 06' at 1900/26th thence 298° on the surface 9 knots until 0700/27th. (F.O. Gib. 251820B.)

/Situation...

947

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation 2003B/25th.
(Contd.) G.U.S.6A. C.T.F. 69 034° 45' 012° 40' through
C35° 01' 015° 04' thence 270° nine.
(2) Coastal Craft convoy HONEYSUCKLE 040° 04'
012° 18' 152° six. (3) N.S.46 LEITH 030° 40'
011° 32' through 290° 01' 012° 35' thence 277.7½.
(4) U.G. (?L) (?2) C.T.G. 68.1. 30.33 20.10 through 31.01 17.20
thence 083° 8.2. (6) AUBRETIA sailed Casablanca p.m. 25th
southbound to overtake O.S.46, 12.
(F.O. Gib. 251118B, 252104B.)
My 251118. Add new para 7. S/M SERAPH 42.23 10.24 175° 2/9.
(F.O. Gib. 251814B.)

HEBE II. My 232037. (HEBE II to sail escorted by ST.NECTAN
and LADY HOGARTH) comply.
(C.M.S.F.F. 251100 to ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH
(R) F.O.C. Gib. Admty. C. in C. Med.)
My 232037 delayed 24 hours.
(Commorseafron 251450 to N.O.B. Casablanca (R) ST. NECTAN
F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. Admty.)

UNBENDING. Your 242359. Request you will route P.37
(UNBENDING) on to route "Rose". Request E.T.A.
at position S. X is prior. F.O.C.N.A. pass to
P. 37 (UNBENDING).
(F.O. (S) 251146B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.
Plymouth, Admty. P.37 (UNBENDING)).
Cancel my 242359B. UNBENDING (?intend) sailing for U.K. p.m.
26 routed. T. 35.49 06.06½ at 1900/26. U. 35.53 06.15 at
2000/26. V. 36.37 07.24 at 0400/27. W. 36.45 09.20 at 0230/28.
X. 39.08 10.30 at 1430/29. 3. 43.01 10.28 at 2330/May 1st.
Shifting W/T watch at 2330/May 1st thence as ordered by F.O.S.
2. W/T watch. 3. F.O.S. 1149/8th January 1942 (A) 4 Mark 2.
(B) 9 knots until 0700/27 thereafter 8 knots 102 miles per day.
(C) Ready for patrol 100% fuel. (D) (1) One (11) Three.
4. UNBENDING painted dark blue.
(F.O. Gib. 251726B to Admty. F.O.S. (R) S. (8) C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, UNBENDING, S.5,
S.3.)

AVONVALE. Your 161408 and 231721 (Recyphered version of
C. in C. Med's 221149) to F.O.C. Gib. Presumably
intention was to tow AVONVALE stern first
removing propellers. Consider not a good towing
proposition in view of amount of stiffening work necessary.
Before towing intend building false bow, repairing forward fuel
tanks, stiffening bridge and preparing vessel to steam to repair
port. If present docking priority is maintained anticipate time
given can be kept. Building protection bulkhead at fore end and
other repairs would occupy approx. same time in dock. Preparatory
work on false stern is being advanced prior to docking.
(C.S. Gib. 251336B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

/ANTHONY...

948

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- ANTHONY,
LEWES,
BRISSENDEN. You were reported by enemy aircraft at 0945B,
to-day.
(D.D.I.C. 251457B to ANTHONY, LEWES, BRISSENDEN,
(R) F.O.I.C. Gib.)
- MARIPOSA. MARIPOSA sailed 2000A/25 via Q.K.A. 92 thence
(p) 33.59 09.02 (b) 34.30.20 (O 79) speed of
advance 18.5 knots. Proceed as escort until
0100A/26 then return Casablanca.
(? via Gib. W/T 251555 to BOREAS (R) F.O.C. Gib.
MARIPOSA, Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavnaw.)
- ROUENNAIS ROUENNAIS (Fr.) in C.G.29 sunk 34.04 N. 07.23 W.
sunk. approx. 1430Z/25 presumably torpedoed or mined.
(Commorseafron 251609 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.
Med. Admty. Comnavnaw, Cominch.)
French S/S ROUENNAIS of convoy C.G.29 struck probably by
mine at 1419Z/25 (?lat.) 34.02 N. long. 07.27 sank 1449.
Confidential documents sank with ship. Total 55 aboard 36 safe
Casablanca, 3 reported rescued by British (? destroyer).
3 known dead 13 missing.
(Commorseafron 252357 to Vice Opnav (D.N.I. (R) F.O.C. Gib.
Admty. Comnavnaw, Cominch, C. in C. Med.) Asking for check
of position, C. in C. Med. 261852A.
- M.K.F.13. Your 240933B/April. Sailing destinations.
(D.T.D. 251645B to F.O. Gib.)
Sailing telegram (1) M.K.F.13. (2) 2300B/25
(3) 2345B/25 180° Europa 7½ miles. (4) 13½.6.
- WISHART, ILEX, HAYDON, CALPE.
(F.O. Gib. 252333B, 252334B to Admty.)
- Movements, Arrived LOTUS, DIANELLA. Tugs Hudson, EMPIRE LARCH
Gibraltar. L.C.T. 300, 301, 375, 307, 328, 380, 395, 329, 330
344, 356, 358, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 400,
401, 416, 445, 420, 404. L.C.F. 13.14.
(F.O. Gib. 252045B to Admty. etc.)
Arrivals today M.M.3. 70 LINNET, EMPIRE NED.
(Gib. W/T 252215A to Cominch etc.)
Arrivals EGGESFORD, LIDDESDALE, FANTOME, BUDE, PENTSTEMON,
RHYL ex G.U.S.6A. Departures LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE to join K.M.S.13
WISHART, ILEX, HAYDON, CALPE escorting Gibraltar Section M.K.F.13.
ANTELOPE on local escort duties West.
(F.O. Gib. 252325B to Admty. C. in C. Med.)
- Reception of Gibraltar Broadcast. Your 240011. Experience has shown that one
frequency or possible two using divided reception
has given a good standard of reception as far as
25° W. at least. (2) R/T interference on 160 kc/s.
is a novelty and more information on this would
be appreciated with special reference to the
shift of frequency necessary to clear it.
(F.O. Gib. 252246 to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CORINTHIAN. E.T.A. 1130Z.
(CORINTHIAN, 250501Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., (R) Capt.
(D) Freetown.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. 1. (?D).N.34B. 2. 0600Z/26th
D.N. 34. April. 4. 11 knots. 5. B. 028° 31' S. 032°
30' E. C. 026° 00' S. 038° 00' E. D. 025° 01' S.
041° 05' E. E. 017° 01' S. 042° 05' E.
F. 011° 01' S. 042° 05' E. G. 004° (?45') S.
040° 05' E. 6. COMMANDANT DUBOC.
E.T.A. Kilindini 1500Z/3rd May.
(N.C.S.O. Durban, 250709Z to Admty., etc.)

U/B. Aircraft reports sighting S/M in 019° 56' N.
018° 20' W. at 0710/25 course 180°.
(F.O.C.W.A., 250751Z to Escorts of W.S.83 (? 29
intended) and S.L.128, (R) Admty.)

JOHN DRAYTON Sunk by torpedo and gunfire at 1830Z/21st in
(sunk 21st approx. 031° 30' S. 033° 40' E. by 2 submarines
April). believed German. 4 torpedoes fired, 1 hit.
11 survivors landed Lourenco Marques 2 boats and
1 raft with survivors unaccounted for. Total
crew 56, 3 almost certain killed. Ship did not
open fire.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 250910B to Admty., etc.)

Convoy Sailing telegram.
C.M. 41. (2) 0900Z/25th April. (4) 11 knots.
(5) Q 028° 31' S. 032° 30' E. R 026° 45' S. 038°
20' E. S 026° 20' S. 051° 22' E. T Equator 062°
10' E. U 014° 20' N. 070° 30' E. V 018° 05' N.
071° 15' E. (6) SUSSEX, NAPIER, RAIDER. (8) (Route).
(? Due) Bombay 0400Z/11th May.

(N.C.S.O. Durban, 250933Z to Admty., etc.)
Sailed SUSSEX, NAPIER, RAIDER escorting C.M.41. N.C.S.O.
Durban 250935 refers.

2. Shift W/T organisation to group N.U. at 0245Z April 28th.
3. C. in C. E.F. is requested to signal time of subsequent
shift to group V.

4. Destroyers will be detached as dictated by Endurance to
Diego Suarez to refuel and thence to Kilindini.

(Com. i/c Durban, 251034Z to Admty., etc.)

Convoy C.M.41 sailed April 25th for Bombay. E.T.A. May
11th. Personnel on board (1) for India (2) Iraq (3) Ceylon.
(D.S.T.O. Durban, 251057Z to S.S.T.O. Bombay, (R) D. of
S.T., C. in C. E.F., P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. India.)

/CARNARVON CASTLE ...

950

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.CARNARVON
CASTLE.

Return to Freetown at best speed passing through position Y 011° 01' N. 017° 29' W.
(F.O.C.W.A., 251121Z to CARNARVON CASTLE, (R) Fr. Cr. GLOIRE, Admty., Cmd. 4th Fleet.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Arrivals 1045Z/25th April CORINTHIAN, THYME, DUNKERY, VIRGINIA, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA with R.S.4.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 251130Z to Admty., etc.)
Arrival 0902/24/4/41. BUTSER, DOWNS (as received ? PORTSDOWN), BUTTERMERE, M.L.290 escorting.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 251157Z to Admty., etc.)

SILVERELM
(overdue).

Your 241649. SILVERELM E.T.A. Bahia 26th April. Reported stopped for 4 days with engine defects on 14th April. Position at 2000Z/22nd April was 021° 20' S. 036° 55' W.
(C. in C. S.A., 251212B to Ass. S.O.(I) Recife, (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O.I.C.W.Africa)
(Details of defects, see SILVERELM 290000 G.M.T.)

CHESHIRE.

Following received from Com. 4th Fleet (begins) "CHESHIRE estimated readiness for sea 27th. Request advise port of destination for onward routing". (Ends). Request reply.
(F.O.C.W.A., 251212Z to Admty.)
Reply: Clyde (Admty., 261156B.)

CATTERICK.

Simonstown departures 0900Z/April 25th. CATTERICK for Freetown via Pointe Noire. S. of A. 16½ knots, E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0600Z April 30th. Shifts to W/T organisation for area P at 1100Z/29th April. Route - D 034° 30' S. 017° 30' E. E 025° 00' S. 013° 05' E. F 017° 30' S. 010° 45' E. Pointe Noire and thence as ordered by F.O.W.Af.
(C. in C. S.A., 251214B to Admty., F.O.W.Af., B.N.L.O.W.Af.)

P. 614.

Your 221050 April, not to C. in C. Med. (Simonstown departure April 22nd P.614 for Boma). In view of C. in C. Med's 241917 April suggest your recall P.614 to Simonstown.
(D.O.D.(F), 251337B to C. in C. S.A., (R) F.O.C. W.Af., C. in C. Med., F.O.(S).) Reply: C. in C. S.A. 261223.

Dispositions.

Situation at 1957/25th April.
NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID with W.S.29, 17.28 18.(?31), 192, 12.

/INKPEN ...

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions. INKPEN in (?18) (? 26' or 23' or 39') 16° 11.
(Contd.) ORFASY two M.L. screening LADY DENISON PENDER
in 13.35 17.(?13).
M.Ls (? 257), 256, 09.19 14.44 to Freetown 11.
WASTWATER escorting 10.08 15.33 to Konakri 6.5.
MYOSOTIS, (? MALLOW), STONECROP, (? CAMPION), LA MALOUINE with
S.L.128, 19.23 17.(? 51), 05°, 6.5.
(? O.N.) 133, 19.40 21.20 305° 10 to R/V with O.T.4 at 0900Z
(? 26th).
U.S. Destroyers ROPER, BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR with O.T.4 20.09
26.25 to 20.25 22.35 thence (? 018°) 13.5.
CARNARVON CASTLE about 09.27 25.22, 085°, 14.5.
(Corrupt group) on patrol about 08.(?08) 27.30 19.
(F.O.C.W.A., 251342Z.)
Situation at (? 2000B)/25th April.
PETUNIA, CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA with T.S.36 07.30 14° from south to
07.38 14.30 thence Freetown 10.
B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8 09.17 S. 11.30 E. (? thence) Takoradi
(group missed) 5.
M.L.278 off (? Banana) (? 10) one M.L. off Port Bouet one M.L.
off Accra. ALCANTARA, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, AMARANTHUS, (? MORRIS
DANCE), TAMARISK, YESTOR 01.22 17.18 049°, 4.5.
SNOWDROP, 5 M.Ls 04.03 14.17 (? 5.5.)
DEVONSHIRE, QUALITY, QUAIL, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH with C.F.12
00.15 05.55 to 03.(? 54 or 59) 07.59 thence 300°, 15.
TURCOMAN escorting M.L.281, 07.30 13.52 to Freetown 10.
(R.A.W.A., 251419Z.)

X Walvis Bay, Your 131752.
H.D.M.Ls. Consider proposed boom defences excessive in
relation to importance of port and to availability
of equipment and boom vessels.
2. Suggest consideration be given to laying at
Walvis Bay the indicator loops allocated to Saldanha Bay.
3. Consideration is also being given to diverting 6 H.D.M.Ls
from W. Africa. These would represent instalment of 28
allocated to your command.
4. Further details follow.
(Hd. of M.II, Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 251536B to C. in C. S.A.)
6 H.D.M.Ls are required for service at Walvis Bay. Request
whether you have any strong objection to diverting these craft
from W. Africa and whether you consider passage to be practicable
under their own power if shipping is not available.
2. Replacements from U.K. would be provided as soon as possible
and should reach you by September.
(Head of M.II, Approved by A.C.N.S.(F), 251545B to F.O.C.
W.A., (R) C. in C. S.A.)

ARRAN. Your 241055Z ARRAN, not to Admty. ARRAN
arrived 22nd April.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 251610Z to Admty., F.O.W.Af.)

/GLOIRE ...

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

- GLOIRE. Sailed 0200Z/24th French Cruiser GLOIRE for patrol my 230939 refers.
(Comar Dakar, 251727Z to F.O.C.W.A., Admty., Com. 4th Fleet.)
- DORYSSA torpedoes. Following read from DORYSSA. SSSS de CY4FE 37° 03' S. 24° 03' E. Torpedoed.
(Simonstown W/T, 251728 to Admty.)
Following read from DORYSSA. SSSS 20 miles south and west of original position, torpedoed twice.
(Simonstown W/T, 251845 to Admty.)
- Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 25th April. M.L. 261, BIRDLIP.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 251814Z to Admty., etc.)
- MANAAR (sunk 14th April). MANAAR sunk by enemy submarine in 31° 17' S. 33° 13' E. at 0115Z/18th April.
1. Ship hit by two torpedoes and finally sunk by gunfire 0515Z.
2. Submarine about 300 feet long freshly painted slate grey, no wood visible. One four inch gun flush on deck forward of C/T. Two large type machine guns on C/T.
3. Crew apparently mixed German and Italian. Second Officer taken prisoner and exchanged for wounded Lascar thought to be sole survivor of Dutch ship SEMBILAN. (W.D. Note:- See 291605B.)
4. All crew of 97 safe with exception Second Officer and one native, thought to be missing.
5. S S S message made.
6. Ship ? did not open fire.
7. All C.Bs thrown overboard.
(Cdre. i/c Durban, 251832Z to Admty., etc.)
- NEWCASTLE. (1) N.K. From position BM steer for new position BO 010° 44' N. 017° 09' W. and thence to Freetown omitting position BN.
(2) N.U. Last ship is to reach Fairway Buoy not later than 1000Z/(? 28th).
(F.O.C.W.A., 252040 to NEWCASTLE, (R) Escort W.S. 29, Admty.)
- BURDOCK, CROCUS. Ref. F.O.C. West Africa's 171905Z. E.T.A. Recife 270900Z. CROCUS in company.
(BURDOCK, 252113Z to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

953

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Unit P.C. and S. of one small enemy craft is 37.23 N. 12.08 E. course 180 degs 15 knots. (A/C I.B.A/Z 250125B to Air H.Q. Malta).

META C.S.Gibraltar 211156B/April (re META be sent forward to discharge coal after 35 tons of R.A.F. stores have been landed at Gibraltar) Presume META will be diverted to Gibraltar to discharge if vessel will be delayed awaiting onward convoy. (D.S.T.250138B to C. in C. Med.).

X Algiers Air report. To: Eaker
To: Brereton.
From: Spaatz, H.Q. N.A.A.F. A.D.V. NR. A-1478.
1. 18 B-25's escorted by 19 P-38's swept the straits without incident.
2. 10 P-38's, 3 carrying bombs, dropped 3-500 lb bombs from 1,500 feet on an Italian destroyer 20 miles east of Cap Bon.
3. 18 B-26's escorted by 21 P-38's dropped 108 500 lb bombs from 8,500 feet on Arbataz Harbour. 3 near misses were scored on one ship in harbour. Escort became separated from the bombers due to bad weather conditions. Bombers were attacked by enemy aircraft of which one was probably destroyed, 1 B-26 missing, 1 crash land near Cap Rosa. The escort destroyed 1 unidentified single engine flying boat off Geremeaa and another over a bay northwest of Cape Corbonara.
6. 19 B-17's escorted by 27 P-38's bombed 2 motor vessels North of Sicily. Escort reports two direct hits on one large vessel leaving it on fire. Incomplete reports indicate Malta Forces completed the kill. Deteriorating weather prevented aircraft from returning to home base.
10. Coastal carried out usual convoy patrols and reconnaissance. 1 Albacore scored near miss on 2,000 ton vessel off Iebib. (Algiers 250528Z to Etousa).

Movements Aden. Arrival SARKA 0427Z. Departure CERES, SHOREHAM with COCKCHAFER and SCARAB in company. (N.O.I.C. Aden 250534Z to Admty. etc.).

Movements Alexandria Arrivals 24th April JAVELIN, EASTON, DELPHINIUM, SOUTHERN ISLE, PROTEA, WOLBOROUGH, M.L.354, ADRIAS French sloops LA MOQUEUSE, COMMANDANT DOMINE, departures 24th April KELVIN, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA, SPETSAI. (S.O.(I-) Alexandria 250932C to Admty. etc.).

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 1 M.V., 1 Destroyer, 41.08 N. 11.39 E. 360 degs. 10 knots. (A/C 53L/W 251000A to Call Sign 22L).

954

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - (contd.).B1 weekly
Opsum No, 120
Part 1.

Night 23/24 April. 11 Hurricane sorties on offensive patrol North of Tunis and Cape Bon area. No enemy aircraft seen. Quayside buildings at Kelibia machine gunned. Results unknown. 3 enemy aircraft believed Cant 21007s approached Haifa from North West. 1 turned back 40 miles off coast. Remainder were intercepted by 1 Beaufighter which shot down 1 probably destroyed the other. No bombs reported.

24th April. Bad weather restricted operations. 6 Beaufighters on shipping sweeps in Aegean Sea bombed Schooner off Molos Island no hits. Vessel also attacked with cannon fire but damage unobserved.

(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 251018Z).

X
M.T.B and
A.L.C's for
Sousse.

My 241216 para (B). In order to have a force of boats in operational condition at Sousse M.T.B. 77, A.L.C. 61 and 76, sail from Malta 2130 25th North of Linosa to arrive Sousse 0715 26th. They should be operational tomorrow night.

Codeword "Pocket" fighter protection low priority wireless guard on 150 kc/s.

(V.A. Malta 251039B to Admty. for information by Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. (R) H.Q. N.W.Af. C.A.F. C.C.F.Med. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. F.O.I.S. N.W.A. T.A.F. Tripoli (not to N.O.I.C. Sfax).

Malta
destroyers.

Arrival NUBIAN, PETARD, PALADIN from operations. (V.A. Malta 251041B to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant).

ULTOR

Intend sailing P.53 (ULTOR) for Malta 1830/26th through 038 degs. 04' 004 degs. 20' at 1000 27th 038 degs. (?49') 011 degs. 14' at 1400 30th P. (?at) 2000 30th thence as ordered by Capt. (S)

10th shifting W/T watch at 2000 30th.

(2) All position N. and E. all times zone minus 1.

(Capt. S.8. 251130Z to C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 10, (R) Cdre. Algiers, 8th S.F.).

M.K.S.12

Sailed EMPIRE RUSKIN, P.L.M.21, DJEBEL AURES, CAP PINEDE, SIDI BRAHIM, first two for onward routing to Casablanca.

(N.O.I.C. Oran 251143A to Admty. etc.).

M.K.S.12 (?arrived) ANTHONY WAYNE, GEORGE WEEMS. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 251221 to Admty. etc.).

MATILDE
(spanish)

Following is a repetition of F.O.C. Gibraltar's 231742B. (quoted).

(N.I.D.20 for D.N.I. 251206B to C. in C. Med. (R) Com. N.O.B. Oran, N.A. Madrid).

/BARCLOSE...

955

25.4.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - (Contd.).

BARCLOSE Departure B.V. BARCLOSE.
(Cdre. Aden, 251206Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.).

X Navigation approach Channels. A case has recently occurred in which a destroyer was mined between the swept channel at Bone and Q.K.B.61. Approach channels are to be adhered to by all ships within 100 fathom line unless definite orders to the contrary are received.
(C. in C. Med. 251217A to Med. Station 395 K).

Cargo for Malta Ref. War Office 73309 cypher Q (M) 9A/218 of 23rd April to A.F.H.Q. Algiers repeated Governor and C. in C. Malta. M. of W.T. is nominating one ship to load cargo for Malta ex North Africa late May. This is in addition to a ship routed direct from U.K. to Malta.
(2) Request G.4. movements and transportation be supplied with details and whereabouts of special stores it is desired to ship to Malta from North Africa and also Gibraltar.
(3) It is emphasised that this opportunity has been provided to lift cargo of operational importance.
(D. of P. 251323B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta.).

M.T.Bs.. Intend sailing M.T.B's today as follows.
Bone. 1.M.T.B. (S.O.) 651 633 and 635 at 1430A/25 inshore to Zembretta and for sweep towards Marsala keeping south west of Line 325 degs. from Pantellaria light speed 18 knots. Proceed Sousse. E.T.A. 0900A/26. Fighter protection Cornhill 3.
(2) M.T.B. 311 from Bone at 1600A/25 to R/V M.T.B's 315 and 316 from Tabarka at 1800A/25 and proceed inshore to Bizerta Roads speed 25 knots E.T.A. Bone 0800A/26. Fighter protection 3.
(F.O., I.S. 251336A to C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta (R) C.C.F. N.O.I.C. Bone, C.S. 12 H.Q. N.W.A. Coastal Air Force, C.F.B. Bone, N.O.I.C. Sousse, 826 Squadron Inshore).

P.R.U. April 25th Visuals. 1100 Castellamere 1 cruiser 1110 Naples no major naval unit.
(V.A. Malta 251400B to C. in C. Med. etc.).
P.R.U. April 25th visuals. 1545 Taranto 2 Battleships 3 Cruisers. 1625 Messina no major Naval Unit.
(V.A. Malta 251759B to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Movements Sailed DULVERTON, EXMOOR, BEAUFORT and HECTOR VII
Malta. MIAOULES, Merchant Ships ORNA, OVULA, BALTARA.
(V.A. Malta 251450B to Admty. etc.).

/Movements...

SECRET

955A-

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

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

SECRET

MESSAGE

251612C April.

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

IN
Date: 27/4/43
Recd. 1102

Naval Shore Code O.T.P. By Cable

Recirculation at request of D.N.I.

Enemy Morale.

Addressed: S.O.(I) Levant. Repeated: D.N.I.

From previously reliable source grade B.3 repeat B.3.

(A) Very marked change in past 2 months in Hungarian army feeling towards Germany: getting progressively hostile. Avoidance of contact with Germans by high Hungarian officers is widespread. Complete loss of all Hungarian equipment to Russians, sacrifice of Hungarian units to cover German retreat and cases of executing by Germans of Hungarian officers for insistence on obeying orders of Hungarian, not German, Command alleged as cause of above.

(B) Hitler demanded more troops from Horthy and placing of German strategic reserve in Hungary for defence of Balkans. Both refused. On the contrary existing railway transit agreement stipulating that German troop moving through Hungary avoid Budapest, is to be rigidly observed. Interview stormy, Hitler raged, saying he preferred enemy to allies who fail.

(C) Hungarian minister Berlin, repeat, Berlin has made very pessimistic report on the effect of last heavy air raid. Points mentioned were fires raging for 3 days without any attempt at extinction by fire brigade. Widespread damage illustrated by fact that 5, repeat, 5 different members of Legation Staff all bombed out in different parts of the City. Large numbers of homeless being billeted in undamaged houses but 50,000 to 75,000 still unprovided for will have to be evacuated. Victims 450, repeat, 450 dead but many more under debris.

(D) Source previously made peace feeler as reported by me to Ambassador, Ankara and my minute sheet in N.I.D.3 dated March 20th. Some further developments now are being reported direct to Ambassador.

251612.

Advance copy sent O.I.C.

1st Lord
1st S.L.(2)
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
Ops.(3)
C.S.(5)
C.I.C.(3)
D.N.I.(5)
D.S.D.9.(2)
D. of P.(3)
M.(27) For F.O.: W.O.: A.M.: & Brig. Jacob (W.C.C.).
W.B.
I.P.(3)

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, April 25th Port Said arrivals IERAX, KELVIN, SPETSAI, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE. Port Said departures IERAX, CUMBRAE, SOUTHERN ISLE, KELVIN. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 251702C to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Arrived GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, FALK, Tripoli. KLO, PINDOS. (N.O.I.C. Tripoli (Libya), 251801A to Admty.)

Situation (1) During night 23rd/24th April M.T.Bs from Malta Report and Sousse operated in the Sicilian Channel. No. 84. Other M.T.Bs proceeding from Sousse swept eastern shore of Gulf of Tunis and returned to Bone. M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs from Bone carried out sweep to Bizerta Roads. One Ju.88 attacked at 0120/24 and was promptly shot down crashing close by and bursting into flames.

(2) During night 24th/25th April destroyer of Force Q carried out sweep to Marittimo and NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD operated in Sicilian Channel. Latter were attacked by enemy fighters North-west of Pantellaria at 0405/25 minor damage was sustained and PETARD had 5 seriously wounded. M.T.Bs and M.G.Bs from Bone carried out sweeps in Gulf of Tunis and Bizerta Roads. (C. in C. Med., 251839A to Admty.)

DIDO. (1) Your 231923A April. Every endeavour will be made but it is expected that the full time will be required satisfactorily to complete work for which DIDO was sent home.

(2) New gear as well as new ratings makes at least 10 days work-up essential. (D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F), 251929B to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Liverpool, etc.)

Malta Air A.I.524, 25th April, C.S.R. Report. A. Air. Part 1 Offensive. Day 24th April. 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep between Pantellaria and Marittimo. Night 24th/25th April. Low cloud and poor visibility hampered offensive operations. 5 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols 1 patrolling Comiso Catania and 4 patrolling in Trapani area. No suitable target was found. Day 25th April. 2 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires made successful attack on factory at Marzemimi scoring 3 hits on main factory building and 14 hits on railway sidings and power house causing flames and large columns of smoke. 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep in Sicilian Narrows. Another 2 long range Spitfires on offensive sweep over East Sicily sighted 6 small vessels off Cape Milazzo course West escorted by 1 Caproni (313 or 312?) which Spitfires attacked and destroyed.

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Night 24th/25th April. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols East and South-west of Sicily. Day 25th April. 6 Spitfires provided escort to incoming D/Rs. Another 8 Spitfire sorties were made to escort outgoing southbound shipping. (A.H.Q. Malta, 251932Z.)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals STORNOWAY, BRIXHAM, American P.T. 205, 206, 207, 208. (S.O.I.S., 251957Z to C. in C. Med., etc.)

PARTHIAN. 25th April departure PARTHIAN. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 252005C to Admty.)

TROOPER. Arrived TROOPER. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 252031A to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals WHADDON, L.C.I.(L)s 269, 299, 250, 249, 298, 185, 114, 117, 275, 273, 296, 187, 314, 317, 253, 263. Departures HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, KING SOL, FOXTROT, L.S.T.402, L.C.Ts 586, 615, 850, 557, 553, 537, 556, 573, 570, 560, 561, 621, 616, 619, 622, 620. L.C.Fs 7, 9. U.S. M.T.Bs 205, 206, 207, 208. (Cdre. Algiers, 252032A to Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.Bs 77, 61, 76. (V.A. Malta, 252125B to Admty., etc.)

BURRA. Arrival 25th April BURRA. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 252132C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Movements, Sfax. Departures M.L.121, M.L.459, KAI. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 252211A to Admty.)

Med.
957A

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

IN

No. T.O.O./25th April.

Date: 25.4.43.

From: Algiers.

CYPHER

Addressed: Troopers, Usfor, Mideast, Britman Washington, Arminia, 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 Marshall Chakmak) - Passed by Foreign Office, Defender, Wellington (for puttick) - Passed by War Office, Resident Minister, Achimota - Passed by Colonial Office.

Tunisia, Situation Report.

IMPORTANT

U.S. 304. No. 6384 23rd April, 1943

LINREL No. 40.

Summary of Operations 19th to 21st April, 1943.

1. Eighth Army: An attack was launched on the Enfidaville Line by X Corps at 2130 hours 19th April. The 50th Infantry Division, 2nd New Zealand Division, 4th Indian Division, L. Force and 7th Armoured Division were under command of X Corps.

(a) By 1100 hours 20th April the 50th Division occupied Enfidaville and patrolled to the North. A firm base to the northwest of the town, from which the 8th Armoured Brigade was operating, was occupied by 2nd New Zealand Division. To the west, Djebel Garci was occupied by the 4th Indian Division. On the left flank the 7th Armoured Division operated.

(b) 4 enemy counter attacks were repulsed along the front during the 20th April. 2 major counter attacks were repulsed by our massed artillery fire on 21st April, with heavy enemy losses. All our gains have been held and bitter fighting continues.

2. First Army:

(a) XIX Corps: Throughout the period there was only patrol activity.

(b) IX Corps: In the area Le Krib, J19, 1st BR Armoured Division has concentrated. 8 miles North of El Aroussa 6th Armoured Division moved into a concentration area. The line from Bou Arada to Goubellat is now held by the 46th Infantry Division.

(c)

(c) 3 miles east of Medjez El Bab the 1st BR Infantry Division occupied a ridge without opposition on April 20th. Strong enemy attacks supported by 50 - 70 tanks were made against the positions occupied by 4th and 1st BR Infantry Divisions from 10 miles south of Medjez El Bab to exclusive Medjez El Bab during night 20/21st. During moonlight confused fighting took place but all our positions were held and the enemy withdrew on the morning April 21st. During the afternoon a counter attack was launched by our forces. At least 450 prisoners were captured and so far 27 enemy tanks are reported destroyed. The Divisional Areas were reported clear of the enemy by nightfall.

3. II U.S. Corps: Throughout the period patrols were active. With the 9th Infantry Division on the northern flank the 1st U.S. Infantry Division has taken over the area northeast of Beja.

(a) The 34th Infantry Division started to move from Maktar during the 21st April, to a reserve position at Roud Es Sour. The concentration of Corps Artillery continued.

4. Enemy: In the northern sector no major change has taken place. Reinforcements here included an armoured force of about 25 tanks, identified near Heidous. By his spoiling attack carried out in the Medjez-Goubellat Area further confirmation was given of the enemy's intention to hold this Area. The enemy suffered heavy losses in men and armour during this attack, the purpose of which was to disrupt Allied preparations for the offensive.

(a) Fierce resistance has been maintained at the expense of severe casualties and many taken prisoner on the Enfidaville line. To delay the Eighth Army as long as possible and to hold his present defences is the enemy's intention.

5. Naval: Operations have been carried out with landing party to occupy Kerkenna Islands. The gendarmes have been left in charge and the force has now been withdrawn.

(a) Off Bizerta night 19th/20th April 2 MTBs operating from Bone encountered 3 E-boats. All E-boats were hit and one was left on fire.

(b) 2 ships of a convoy approaching Oran were torpedoed in thick fog and sunk on April 20th. 1 ship was carrying French Troops to Oran from Casablanca and about 600 survivors have been picked up.

(c) 6 enemy ships of various sizes were sunk, submarines on patrol report, 1 probably sunk and one hit. Destroyers on sweep from Bone sunk another small vessel.

6.

MOST SECRET

6. Air: Against enemy airdromes in Tunisia has been directed the main weight of our bombing attacks. In the heaviest scale yet seen in the Mediterranean bombing attacks were carried out by the Strategic and Tactical Air Forces against enemy landing grounds on 20th April. Due to adverse weather all bombing missions of the Strategic Air Force were cancelled on the 21st April.

(a) A total of 87 enemy aircraft from information so far available, were destroyed during the period, 24 damaged and 21 probably destroyed. 29 of our aircraft are missing, 7 destroyed and 24 damaged.

(b) 1 barge and 1 merchant vessel were hit and 1 barge was left on fire.

7. Political: It is indicated by negotiations between Catroux and Giraud that in principle there is no difference between them. A proposal for Joint Leadership, sponsored by Catroux, awaits Giraud's return for further discussion on Saturday. It is hoped that some agreement will be reached shortly.

No T.O.O.

- Circulation:
- Brig. Jacob.
- Foreign Secretary.
- First Sea Lord.
- C.6. Tels. War Office.
- A.M.C.S. (C)
- Mr. Strang, Foreign Office.
- Mr. Radcliffe, Min. of Information.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- 4th S.L.
- 5th S.L.
- D.C.N.A.E.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (A)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- U.W.R.
- D.D.D. (F) (2)
- D.D.D. (H) (2)
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D.C. (2)
- Head of M.
- D.N.I. (4)
- I.P. (2)
- D.P.D.
- C.N.I.
- W.D.
- Ad. Blake.
- D.D.C.D. (M)
- D.A.W.T.
- D.A./S.W. (2)
- D.M.S.
- Ad. Mack. (4)

Received in War Registry at 1038/25th April.

J.R.

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departures TRAVANCORE escorting Dredger CORMORANT.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 250234Z to Admty)
Colombo arrival 25th 0330Z. Sub. O. 24.

Departure 0230 CAPETOWN.
(F.O. Ceylon, 250510Z to Admty)
Departure INVESTIGATOR escorting EMPIRE PLOVER.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 250734Z to Admty)
Arrival MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 250900Z to Admty)
KENYA arrived.
(F.O. E. Af. 251012 (?Z))
Departure LUCIA 25th.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 251030Z to Admty)
Departure 251130Z SONAVATI.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 251200Z)

X Ops. H.N.M.S.O. 24 12th to 25th April carried out
"Valour" operation "Valour" and "Matriarch".
and No aircraft sighted, 2 small sailing
"Matriarch", vessels at anchor vicinity Truemon only shipping
O. 24. in sight.
(Capt. (S) 4, 250531Z to F.O. Ceylon, C. in C.
E.F. (R) F.L.O. Delhi, B.S.O.)

Dispositions. E.F. disposition signal No. 53.
(A) (C) No change. (D) HAWKINS to Bombay.
KENYA at Kilindini. CERES to Kilindini.
DURBAN to Persian Gulf. FROBISHER to
Simonstown. (E) Exercises off Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 250856Z)

? X Loan of Request you will arrange for VERBENA, TULIP,
FALMOUTH MARGUERITE, ASTER to be sailed as soon as
and E.F. possible at best speed to Kilindini for onward
Corvettes passage for loan to S. Africa. (2) FALMOUTH
to S.A. is required to be sailed similarly as soon as
her repairs are completed. (3) Request
E.T.A. Kilindini. (4) Para. 3 (A) of A.M. 21/
2320 to C. in C. S.A. only refers. (5) Admir-
alty are requested to direct mail accordingly.
(C. in C. E.F. 250901Z to F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Aden, S.N.O.
Persian Gulf, (R) Cdre. R.I.N., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Durban,
Admiralty)

In reply to your 250901. (1) VERBENA due Colombo 27th
April escort C X one which includes SANTHIA approx. 1000 troops
and must then clean boiler ready 4th May. (2) TULIP now
cleaning boiler and making good Asdic defect ready 1st May.
(3) FALMOUTH now expecting gear ready about 6th May.
(F.O. Ceylon, 251513Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A.
N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty.)

Fleet / ...

War Diary.25.4.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)

Fleet Oilers. Request you will discharge PELLICULA into shore tanks when latter are ready for filling. When empty sail PELLICULA for Abadan. (2) N.C.S.O. Kilindini to issue route. (3) Oiling outfit should be left in PELLICULA. (C. in C. E.F. 250908 to N.O.I.C. Seychelles (R) N.C.S.O. Kilindini, Admty.)

Your 231512 para. 5 chartered oilers surrendered should follow orders of Admiralty who will detail tankers for Levant from these and other available vessels.

Further signal will be sent re EAGLESDALE request probable date of completion refit when known (Tanker Message).

PELLICULA may be retained for the present.

(D. of S. 251023B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

X Destroyer requirements; South Atlantic. If proposals in your (? 241024) April (? 241055 intended) are implemented Kilindini will be without any destroyers from 3rd May until arrival of destroyers coming North with W.S.29, approx. 24 days. (2) Possible activity of Japanese submarines in these waters at this time make such a course unacceptable. In addition this will stop all practice for major enterprise during the above period. (3) Intend to take NIZAM in hand for boiler cleaning now and propose to sail RESOLUTION with NIZAM and QUICKMATCH on the 3rd May. My 230825 April refers. (4) Both above destroyers will be available for operations on arrival at Durban a.m. 9th May and should be in time to assist you with escort for W.S.29. QUICKMATCH boiler hours? on arrival at Durban will be 600. (5) NAPIER and RAIDER to provide escort for C.M.41 proceeding Kilindini when detached. (6) If Submarine threat in Durban area should be increased the provision of an additional destroyer as in para. 4 of my 191328 April can be waived. (7) Will this programme meet with your requirements. I am averse to delaying sailing of RESOLUTION in view of possible increase in submarine threat. (8) A.M. 241820 also refers. (C. in C. E.F. 250949Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty.) Concur (C. in C. S.A. 261202B)

ISLAMI. Transport ISLAMI sailed 24th (personnel embarked) (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf, 251413T to S.T.O. Karachi)

X Addu Atoll defence. Your 210606Z. Addu Atoll Defence Plan is now under consideration by Service Ministries. Owing to low scale of air attack it is most unlikely that any increases in A/A gun defences will be approved. (A.C.N.S.(F), 251849B to F.O. Ceylon (R) C. in C. E.F.)

25.4.1945.⁹⁶⁰
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Escort Vessels, and Groups. In view of the acute shortage in the Atlantic request you will consider using all escort vessels on passage to and from U.K. to reinforce escort groups. 2. F.O.N.Fs. 221313. Suggest: (a) NAPANEE should sail with O.N.182 leaving U.K.6/5. (b) SACKVILLE should accompany or overtake H.X.236, as it is unlikely that C.1 group will sail before 16th May.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 250010B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C.W.A., C.T.F.24, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., Cominch C. and R.. C.T.G.24.7. Commodore Londonderry.)

Your 250010B and F.O.N.F. 221313. N.S.H.Q. fully appreciates this situation. Due to local refitting yard situation it is necessary that ships be made available at or near dates when yards can accommodate them. 2. NAPANEE can be made available for O.N.182 if arrival at St. Johns is not delayed beyond May 16th. This date will cause a delay of 4 days in refitting programme of yard which is acceptable. 3. SACKVILLE has been delayed and sailing date will not allow her to arrive in U.K. before May 13th. If, however, sailing date can be improved upon she will be sailed to overtake H.X.236. 4. ORILLIA will have to sail direct to U.K. as time will not permit her being used as additional escort before joining group C.4. (N.S.H.Q., 251732Z/4 to Admty., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., C.T.F.24, F.O.N.F., Cominch, Candr. Ctg. 24.7., Com. Londonderry.)

MOYOLA. Expected time of arrival 0800Z. POPPY in company. (MOYOLA, 250025Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Capt. (D) St. Johns N.F. 40th Escort Group.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 25th. Arrivals CHELSEA, LACHINE, MILLTOWN ex H.X. 235, STARWORT, HASTINGS, POPPY, MOYOLA, NORTHERN GIFT, ex O.N.S.3. OFFA, PANTHER, PENN, IMPULSIVE ex SUPPORT YORK. M.L.078 From

Wabana. Departure M.L.063 to Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F., 250127Z to Admty.) Norfolk arrived 1830/23rd FENCER. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 250320Z, to Admty., (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At) St. Johns N.F. 24th. Arrivals - M.L. 061 ex Wabana LULWORTH ex O.N.S.3. Departures - MALPEQUE, WESTMOUNT, SARNIA escorting J.H.50, M.L. 060 to Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.) Arrival 25th Kingston salvage vessel CRUSADER (B.R.O. Kingston, 251433 to Cdr. Caribbean S.F.)

O.N.179 Incomplete D/F bearings at 0307Z indicate U-boat
O.N.4 may have reported O.N.179 or O.N.S.4.
S.C.127 (D.D.I.C., 250548B to Escorts O.N.179, O.N.S.4., S.C. 127. (R) C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., C.T.G.24.7.)

/A.M....

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

O.N.179,
O.N.S.4,
S.C.127.
(Contd.)

A.M. 250806B. D/F of transmissions at 1025Z and at 1034Z indicate that convoy reported was probably O.N.S.4.

(D.D.I.C., 251426B to Escorts of O.N.179, O.N.S.4, S.C.127, (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

Your 251426. These transmissions were heard and although considered within 50 miles of O.N.S.4 it is not believed U-boat has been in sighting range. No other evidence of shadowing since 1730Z/23rd. My P.C. and S. at 1400Z 055° 25' N. 040° 14' W. (X) 290° 6. Weather report.

(HESPERUS, 251503Z to Admty., (R) C. in C.W.A., Connav, 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., E.G.5.)

D/F of transmission at 1556Z indicates that either O.N.S.4 or S.C.127 has probably been reported.

(D.D.I.C., 251844B to 1st Escort Group, Escorts of O.N.S.4, S.C.127, (R) Escorts of O.N.179, C. in C.W.A., A.C.I.C., H.Q.C.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed.
Summary	F.S. GLOIRE	08°N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
1800 G.M.T.	(D.O.D.(F),	250957Z to Opnav	(R) Commaveu)	
25th.				

SILVERELM.

My 241446 following message received from SILVERELM (Begins) - 16° 24 G. Earliest expected trials 28th April provisions urgently required 242100Z. Ends.
(D.T.D., 251000Z to Connav, (R) B.A.D., B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

U/B.

St. Kitts reports submarine seen close in shore Charlestown Nevis 0200 local time today 25th, course 090°. Am investigating recent reports that area.
(S.O.I.Jamaica, 251016Q to Admty., Connav, Comcarib, S.B.N.O., Trinidad.)

B.Y.M.S.

Trinidad arrivals April 25th. B.Y.M.S. 19,13, 28.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 251132Q to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

AQUITANIA.

N.K. alter route from position 05° 01' S. 29° 30' W. direct to point (P) omitting (N) (O).
(Connav, 251330Z to AQUITANIA. (R) Cinclant, Admty., N.S.H.Q., Com. 4th Fleet.)

Cominch 251608Z and Admty., 251349B propose diverting 189° 225 miles from N. at 1400Z/26th to position 257° 135 miles from N. (? rejoining) (corrupt grp.) (?135°) 200 miles from O.

(AQUITANIA, 252150Z to Connav, (R) Admty., B.A.D.) Reply:
Connav 260620Z.

/ Convoy...

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

Convoy S.C.127. S.C.127, 1300Z P.C. and S. 54.40 N. 37.45 W. 042° 7.8 M.G. First Escort Group in company. D/F Activity earlier to N.N.E. and now to West but no evidence that convoy is shadowed. My 222100Z cancel reference to ALRESFORD. Weather report. (C.T.U. 24.1.11, 251340 to C. in C.W.A.)

P.512. On passage New London to Bermuda keep W/T Watch on broadcast shift to read Washington N.A.A. broadcast vide A.F.O. one/42 section U.S. table 3 (3). 2. S.Ps carried in accordance with form A2 C. para. 44(A) with U.S. British book including S.P. 02436 in addition. (B.A.D. 251517Z to P.512. (R) Admty., S.B.N.O. W.At. Cdr. S/Ms. Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.U.S. Fleet, N.S.H.Q.)

Submarine estimate April 25th. U.S. Submarine notice. (C. in C.U.S. Fleet, 251519Z, 251520Z, 251606Z, 251607Z, 251608Z.)

U/B. Ferry Command Plane reported sighted S/M at 1420Z/25th surfaced in 021° 15' 071° 25'. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 251521Q to Admty.)

Polish Refugees, HERMITAGE. D. of S.Ts. 242047. By Opanav 242047 U.S. Authorities are prepared to take up to 2000 Polish refugees but see also C. in C. Pacific Fleet 172221 being passed to D. of S.T., C. in C.E.F., and P.S.T.O. India. (2) C. in C.E.F. 181210. (3) As Polish Refugees are not service personnel, assume limit of 250 does not apply to them. (4) C. in C. E.F. is requested to confirm that 2000 may be embarked. (B.A.D. 251541Z to D. of S.T., C. in C.E.F., (R) C. in C. Pacific Fleet, P.S.T.O. India, Vice Opanav.) See C. in C.E.F., 261255Z. Following message referred to in my 251541 is passed for information. (begins) - Addressed U.S. Ship HERMITAGE. (R) Aluslo Bombay, Alusna Melbourne, vice Opanav from C. in C. Pacific Fleet. Vice Opanav 141402. Provided life saving capacity is 125% of combined number of passengers and crew HERMITAGE may embark at Melbourne for passage to San Francisco passengers to capacity of vessel except that Women and Children limited to one half the boat capacity. T.O.O. 172221. Ends. (B.A.D., 251635Z to D. of S.T., C. in C.E.F., P.S.T.O. India.)

Convoy B.T.10. Arrived. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 251542Q to Admty.)

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

War Diary.

25.4.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

B.Y.M.S. Trinidad arrival 0830Q/25th B.Y.M.S. 8 19, 8 28
8 13.
(N.O.B. Trinidad, 251609 to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Oiling at sea. S.C. 128 escort oiler MAJAHAS only 700 feet
MAJAHAS. copper hose to be considered strictly temporary
S.C. 128. emergency fine weather gear. No other ship
fitted for oiling at sea. No ship carrying
spare depth charges.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 251755Z to Admty.)

U/B (?Submarine) attacked by aircraft at 1830Z in
Sunk by 55° 05' N. 42° 25' W.
PATHFINDER. (BITER, 251840Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.)
(U.203) My 25184Z. U.Boat subsequently sunk by
PATHFINDER. 6 officers, 37 ratings (?not)
picked up. Position 55° 05' N. 42° 25' W.
(BITER, 252200Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. W.A.)

E.G.3., Escort group 3 with exception of PENN ready for
PENN. sea A.M.26th. PENN requires a further 24 hours
in dry dock.
(F.O.N.F., 251903Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.,
N.S.H.Q., C. in C. C.N.A., Comtask 24, Cominch
E.G.3.)

Sub. All times Z. Para. A. R.A.F. Hudson attacks
attack sub. 61.13 22.35 W. 251508 R.A.F. Fortress
and attacks Sub. on surface 61.25 N. 19.48 W. 241930.
sighting Plane attacks Sub. 59.17 N. 29.25 W. 241317.
summary. P.B.Y. sights Sub. 59.46 N. 28.48 W. 241630.
R.A.F. plane sights Sub. course 230 61.18 N. 16.58W
241747. R.A.F. plane attacks Sub. 61.03 N. 17.02
W. 241705. P.B.Y. sights Sub. 59.50 N. 28.28 W.
241640. P.B.Y. sights 2 subs. 59.32 N. 29.02 W. 241510.
P.B.Y. attacked two subs 59.48 N. 29 W. 241240. (C) U.S.S.
MAYRANT attacks sound contact 39.52 N. 62.02 W. 251217.
(D) Plane has made contact 24.15 N. 82.36 W. 250015. Sub sighted
area 16.42 N. 62.20 W. 241100. S.S. CHIPANA sights sub. 28.37 N.
88.51 W. 242219. Coastguard, PANDORA sound contact 24.03 N. 82.13 W.
242310. S.S. PALOALTO sights submerged sub. 34.23 N. 68.48 W.
241655. U.S.S. CARNELLIAN attacks sound contact 02.13 S. 39.50 W.
242015.
(Cominch, 252043, to Admty.)

Convoy Following ships sailed Trinidad 1300/23 April in
T.B.12. convoy T.B.12 E.T.A. May 10th. (List) Individual
routes being passed separately.
(N.S.H.Q. 252058Z to C. in C.S.A. F.O.C.W.A.)

/S.C.128...

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

S.C. 128. Departures LINCOLN, BARRIE, BUCTOUCHE, PORT ARTHUR escorting S.C.128. (Halifax, 252107Z to Admty.)

MEADOWSWEET. E.T.A. Argentia 1600Z/26. BORAGE, MONKSHOOD, WALLFLOWER, M.L. in company. Acknowledge. (MEADOWSWEET, 252230Z to C.T.F.24, (R) C. (D) Argentia, C.T.U. 24.1.15.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Noumea 0400Z/24th U.S.S. JOHN PENN for Auckland E.T.A. 0400Z/27th. Departure Apia 1721Z/24th U.S.S. CYGNET for Penrhyn Island E.T.A. 1900Z/27th. (D.N.I. Wellington, 250001Z to Admty.) Arrival Melbourne 240045Z U.S. Naval Transport HERMITAGE. (A.C.N.B., 251059Z to Admty.) Arrivals Melbourne 24th STUART. Brisbane 24th U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY. Cairns 24th U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA. Milne Bay 23rd GYMPIE, 24th BOWEN. Departures Thursday Island 22nd LATROBE for Darwin. Palm Island Area 22nd U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY for Brisbane. Cairns 23rd WAGGA for Brisbane. Sydney 24th BALLARAT, COLAC for Brisbane. (A.C.N.B., 251115Z to Admty.)

Digest
Serial
No. 460
April 24th.

9 Liberators attacked Kendari aerodrome at dusk. One string bombs among planes lined up on drome destroyed 5 twin engined aircraft while other bombs in workshops caused explosions and large fires visible 75 miles away. 15 to 20 Zeros intercepted whereof 5 destroyed plus 1 probably. En route target 5 ship convoy sighted including 3 medium merchantmen, 2 escort vessels 200 miles S.W. Ambon on course 220° also 1 medium merchant vessel in Kendari Bay. (3) Subsequent photos Dilli show 1 unserviceable fighter on airfield where runway is 1400 yards. 4 bomber, 3 fighters blast pens and fourteen dispersal bays visible. In harbour 9 small 1 large landing barge present. (4) Forenoon search Hudson unsuccessfully attacked 2 small camouflaged vessels off North-east tip Greater Kai Island. 3 Hudsons despatched on strike sank larger ship with two direct hits and probably damaged smaller with near miss.

War Diary.25.4.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.X
Digest
Serial
No. 460
April 24th.
(Contd.)

X (5) Another morning R/C Hudson bombed barracks at Dobo and strafed schooner off Taberfame (Maikoer Bay) where 4 float-planes seen on water plus another airborne.

(6) 3 Hudsons on morning sweep east of Timor bombed 3 luggers off Babar Island damaging 1 and sank a pram by strafing off Sermata Island.

(7) Photos 23rd of AOBA class cruiser beached at Kavieng during attack 364 show heavy damage to superstructure and oil slick surrounding ship although damage to hull not assessable. Position unchanged since ship originally beached.

(8) Dawn 24th submarine observed off Cape Orford proceeding North.

(11) Photos taken by another morning search Liberator show six small vessels Wewak Harbour. Ten to twelve Zeros intercepted whereof five destroyed.

X (12) At midday Liberator unsuccessfully bombed 7 ship convoy including 3 large transports, 2 ?medium cargo ships, 2 destroyers in position 01° 20' S. 142° 29' E. course 290°. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 250930Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 251348B, 251349B.)

966

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

1. The Russian Staff considers today that the ship photographed by their A/C in Altenfiord yesterday and reported as TIRPITZ may in fact have been SCHARNHORST, and that one of the 3 Cruisers then seen there was probably LÜTZOW.

2. In view of the foundering yesterday of L.C.G.15 and of L.C.G. 16 today, both off Milford Haven, it is proposed that the sailing of all L.C.G.(L) craft should now be stopped pending an investigation of their sea-keeping qualities.

7 Ships Casualties.

3. The Balloon-Barrage Drifter THORA fouled the boom at Grimsby early this morning and sank, 2 of her crew of 8 being missing.

SS. BORNHOLM and BERKEL in Convoy O.N.S.5 were in collision today. The latter proceeded with the convoy, but BORNHOLM proceeded to Reykjavik (arrived 28 April.), considerably damaged.

Rescue
Tugs.

4. It is intended for the present to confine the use of Rescue Tugs with Atlantic Convoys to O.N. and H.X. Convoys and that every Tug so employed should have a Trawler allocated as her specific Escort.

5. C. in C.W.A. considers that the only fighter A/C suitable for use in the North Atlantic is the Martlet; and he has asked that the complement of Escort Carriers may be altered from the existing 9 Swordfish and 9 Hurricanes or Spitfires to 12 Swordfish and 3 fighters only.

6. The enemy are now known to have a type of moored non-contact Mine which can be laid by U-Boats, E-Boats, or A/C; and Admty., consider that deep A/S minefields should therefore not be laid in areas where magnetic sweeping is difficult. The mining operation H.S. is accordingly not to be completed.

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

7. SS. EMPIRE MORN (British 7092 tons) is reported to have been mined or torpedoed at 2245 today about 70 miles N.N.E. of Casablanca and was towed to Casablanca by American salvage vessels. The position of the explosion is given as 34.03 N. 07.58 W. or 33.58 N. 07.54 W.

Mediterranean.

X
Light force operations.

8. AURORA, ESKIMO and LOOKOUT carried out a sweep to Marittimo last night. M.T.Bs 639 and 635, on a sweep from Bone to Zembretta and the southern half of the Sicilian Channel, sank two large lighters carrying petrol, by gun and torpedo fire, near Plane Island (Gulf of Tunis) at 2305/25. Other M.T.Bs from Bone operated in the approaches to Bizerta, and M.T.B.311 reports seeing at 0240/26 what appeared to be a tanker blow up and burst into flames in 37.14 N. 10.21 E.

X
9. Four fighter Spitfires bombed Augusta harbour today, obtaining hits on the U-Boat base, E-Boat berths and among oil tanks. A formation of Kittyhawks today bombed two merchant vessels located off Cape Bon by R/C Spitfires, steering north-easterly. Both ships were hit and one blew up.

Greek Fleet.

X
10. Captain C. Alexandris, R.H.N., assumed command of the Royal Hellenic Fleet today.

East Indies.

X
11. 6 U.S. Liberators attacked the warehouses at Rangoon today.

War Diary.

26.4.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

L.C.G.(L) craft. In view of F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 252001B and 260919B propose sailing all L.C.G.(L)s be stopped pending investigation of their sea-keeping qualities.
(Capt. M.L.C., 261112B to C.C.O.)
Concur with Capt. M.L.C's 261112. 2. Presume Admiralty will order necessary action and enquiry.
(C.C.O., 261448B to Admty).

Movements.

MALAYA

Scapa arrival MALAYA escorted by IROQUOIS, STEVENSTONE, ST. MARYS.
(A.C.O.S., 260559).

S/M
Movements.

S.5's 241029B sailed Needles 0715/26 (H.32).
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 260739B to C. in C. Plymouth)
In order to complete working up of SIMOON leaving Clyde 28th April for Gibraltar intend that she should carry out 4 days Anti U-boat patrol between 046° 40' and 047° 05' N., on longitude 005° 30' W.
(F.O.S., 261221B).

Intend to sail SIMOON, UNSPARING, LA CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 2100B/28th by standard route to 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles, E.T.A. 1700B/30.

(2) Thence Submarines to southwards. LA CAPRICIEUSE to 270° Wolf Rock 5 miles at 1830B/30 to meet H.32 and escort her to Clyde, E.T.A. 0130 May 3rd.

(Capt. S.3., 221437B).

Position of S/Ms at 270800B and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 261624, 261802B, 271057B).

Sailed ACONIT and UNTAMED in accordance with Capt. (D) Greenock's 261014B.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261916B to F.O.I.C. Londonderry).

Capt. (S) 5th 1029/24. Intend sailing H.32 at 0900/27th to Plymouth E.T.A. Rame Head 1400/27. Escort KINGSTON TURQUOISE (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 262155B).

BULLDOG

Admiralty's 231116 and N.O.I.C. Greenock's 231645. Route for BULLDOG.
(D) 055° 00' N., 011° 30' W. (E) 050° 01' N., 013° 02' W. (F) 043° 01' N., 013° 30' W.
thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(C. in C. W.A., 261002B).

DELHI

Scapa departure DELHI.
(A.C.O.S., 261049B to C. in C. Plymouth).

CHARYBDIS

Para.2 of my 201345B. When X.K.4 passes 050° N. discontinue patrol and proceed to Plymouth passing through position (D) 180° Bishop Rock 10. You should not be east of the Lizard during dark hours. Fighter protection arranged.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261157 to CHARYBDIS).

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

ADVENTURE On completion of loading and when ready for sea, F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail ADVENTURE for the Mediterranean routed through Q.Z.L.18 thence through positions T. 50.00 12.00 U. 45.00 14.00, V. 40.00 13.00. W. 46.00 10.00 thence to Gibraltar.

2. No stores except mails are being carried for Gibraltar but it will be necessary to fuel there.

3. Stores for Algiers require to be unloaded before Coastal Force stores.

(D.O.D. H., 261446B).

FURIOUS C. in C. 22223B and A.C.T.M.8. Owing to lack of facilities 801 and 825 squadrons will fall short this month by approximately 50% of minimum flying hours. Propose FURIOUS proceed Clyde instead of Scapa on completion of exercise X CJ arriving early 30th April. If approved propose disembarking one squadron to Machrihanish on arrival.

(FURIOUS, 261518B to C. in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS 261518B. Concur with FURIOUS's proposal but squadrons would have to remain on board in Clyde until accommodation at Machrihanish becomes available later.

(F.O.C.A.C., H.F., 261754B to C. in C. H.F.)

FURIOUS Your 261518. It will be necessary for FURIOUS to return to Scapa after X CJ.

(2) Intend FURIOUS to proceed to Clyde about 3rd May.

(C. in C. H.F., 261917B to FURIOUS).

VALIANT C. in C. Plymouth is requested to sail VALIANT when ready for sea for Scapa to work up under C. in C. H.F. who is requested to administer her.

(D.O.D. H., 262005B).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols.

1. Weather permitting intend M.Ls. 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W., and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S.382 and leaving patrol-line at dawn/27th.
3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 261200B).

1 S.G.B. 2 M.G.B. short notice at Newhaven.

M.L. 309, 346 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.

CHASSEUR 15 at St. Helens. ALBRIGHTON, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.

M.L. 205, 246, from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W., and 2° 25' W.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261445B).

My 261200B. "Device" is cancelled owing to weather M.Ls. will remain in harbour at short notice.

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 261816B).

/S/M...

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

S/M
Patrols. At 270800B and movements for following 24 hours.
(A) BLACKFISH approx. 69° 12' N., 10° 40' W, probably on surface through 68° 20' N., 12° 01' W. at 1400/27, thence to patrol between 68° N., and Kolbinsey 67° 08' N., 18° 38' W.
(B) BARB approx. 67° 20' N., 10° 52' W, probably on surface through 67° 02' N., 11° 58' W., at 1200/27, thence to patrol between 67° 30' N., and 68° 30' N., on longitude 16° W.
(C) SATYR approx. 67° 01' N., 16° 50' W, proceeding to patrol between Kolbinsey and Grimsey.
(D) UNIVERSAL patrolling vicinity 63° 55' N., 02° 56' W.
(E) O.14 on patrol line 20 miles North and South from 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W.
(F) USURPER on patrol line 20 miles 030° and 210° from 62° 15' N. 02° 15' W.
(F.O.S., 261624 to Admty).

Allied Air Activity.

Two U-boats On 23rd and 24th April. See U-boats.
destroyed.

Air-Sea Following received, from Air Ministry. Begins.
Rescue. Week ending 17th April has been exceptionally successful week of Air-Sea Rescue in Home waters. Fifty four crew members representing 42% of those forced to come down in the sea were rescued. 241954B. Ends.
(A.C.N.S. H., 261753B to A.I.G.12).

Mining.

? Nore Weekly report of mines rendered safe in Nore
Command. Command Week ended 24th April. One British Mk. XIV mine. One British R Mine. One British L mk. II mine.
(R.M.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth, 261040B).

Operation Your 241747. Request you will sail 2 destroyers
S.N.111 A. to arrive Port ZA by 0800B/2nd May.
(D.O.D. H., 261250B to C. in C. H.F.)

X Mine Field Loss of S/M ULVEN has resulted in location of
in Kattegat. hitherto unknown minefield.
1. S.W. of Store Polsen and one mile within Swedish territorial waters small type contact mines have been located both by diving and sweeping at a depth approx. 25 metres or more below surface.
One short line of 3 or more mines seemed to lie along parallel 57° 45' N.
2. Partly owing to large numbers of similar German mines being washed ashore between Lysekil and Paternoster Swedish Naval Authorities incline view that deep minefield was laid as a broad belt along perimeter of territorial waters to prevent

/allied...

971

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.Minefield
in Kattegat.
(contd).

allied S/Ms making use of Swedish waters. They believe minefield to be an old one.

3. As there are now indications that ULVEN was sunk by German deep mine in area mentioned, a meeting will be held tomorrow to determine whether search operations shall continue. If so it is now proposed first division sweep whole mined area in Swedish waters and probably some distance beyond. (N.A. Stockholm, 261557 to Admty).

SCOTT

Arrived SCOTT.
(TRELAWNEY 261726).7 Operation
H.S.

1. The enemy are known to have moored non-contact mines which can be laid by U-boats, E-boats, or aircraft and these complicate the minesweeping problem should they be laid in the vicinity of our own deep A/S fields. Deep A/S minefields should

not therefore be laid in areas where magnetic sweeping is difficult.

2. It has therefore been decided that operation H.S. shall not be completed.

3. Proposals for the reinforcement of the main Nympe Bank-Cornwall minefields by PLOVER are being forwarded by letter. (A.C.N.S. H., 262351B to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

Enemy Intelligence.Destroyers
off Stadlandet
on 25th.

My 251903B. Add course North, speed 20 knots. (D.D.I.C., 260805B).

X Ships at
Altenfiord
on 25th
April.

My 251230B. Soviet Staff say ship identified as TIRPITZ may be SCHARNHORST. One of the three ships identified as cruiser probably LUTZOW. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 261325B to Admty).

U-boats.? U-boats
reported and
attacked in
North
Atlantic.

At 251707 in 61° 07' N., 22° 15' W., J/269 sighted U/B course 250/7 and attacked on submerging with 4 Torpex Mk. XD pistol Mk. XVI from 50 ft. setting 25 ft. spacing 100 ft. D/Vs burst across Opex of swirl. A/C remained 17 mins. in vicinity but no wreckage or oil seen. (R.A.F., Iceland, 260029B). U-boat attacked off Lister on 24th April estimated probably in your vicinity today. (D.D.I.C., 261042B to USURPER).

/Am...

972

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported and attacked in North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Am over enemy submarine in 60° 44' N. 21° 15' W. (A/C 9QCB, 261235B to Artunshofdi.)

U-Boat sighted by B/84 position 60° 44' N. 21° 15' W. at 1235. (R.A.F. Iceland, 261335B to H.Q.C.C.)

Have attacked enemy (? barge) with depth charges and estimate 4 hits. (A/C 91CB, 261337B to Artunshofdi.)

Am over enemy S/M in position 30 miles from 53° N. 23° W. (Geographical position uncertain.) (A/C 9QC1, 261340B to Sangerdi W/T.)

U-Boat sighted at 1235 attacked. U-Boat sighted by 1/84 in 58° 30' N. 22° 10' W. at 1340. (R.A.F. Iceland, 261501B to H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy submarine previously reported on surface, position at 1820B in 60° 10' N. 22° 00' W. (A/C 9QC Duty H, 261800B.)

Request you will give our congratulations to the Fortress D/206 whose attack on the 24th April, destroyed a U-Boat. (1st S.L., 262353B to Air Ministry.)

Request you will give our congratulations to the Liberator V/120 whose attack on 23rd April, destroyed a U-Boat. (1st S.L., 262354B to Air Ministry.)

X U-Boats reported and attacked in Biscaya area.

NR 1. (? am over enemy submarine) in 46° 20' N. 08° 45' W. (A/C 172 Sqdn., Duty R, 262330 to 19 Group.)

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate no hits. (A/C 172 Sqdn., Duty R, 262335 to 19 Group.)

Casualties and Defects.KINGSTON
AMBER.

Your 231801. Due to nature of defects considered inadvisable to sail vessel independently. She will be sailed with next W.N. Convoy. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall, 260911B to Admty.)

L.C.G.15
& L.C.G.16
sunk.

My 252001B. L.C.G.16 lost in similar circumstances.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 260919B to Admty.)
Your 252001 and 260919.

Request preliminary report on cause of loss be signalled as soon as possible to be followed by

full report by letter.

(D.O.D.H., 261303B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

A.M. 261303B.

L.C.G. left Holyhead 0950B/24th April in fair weather routed to Fishguard. 1200/25th L.C.G. sighted making for Milford Haven from westward.

Wind W.S.W. 28 m.p.h. gusts to 38 m.p.h., sea rough. L.C.G. reported unable to enter Haven under own power and tug was

/requested ...

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

L.C.G. 15
& L.C.G. 16
sunk.
(Contd.)

requested for pumping out. Three harbour tugs (only available) despatched to assist but unable to close L.C.G. owing to heavy confused sea. L.C.G. then ordered to close ROSEMARY (returning from escort duty) and ROSEMARY was asked if she could assist L.C.G. to enter but owing to weather they were unable to turn so as to close her though they were not apparently in any other difficulty. H.M.T. BERN and YORK CITY were sent to assist. The tide was running to southward. Low water 1730. L.C.G.16 reported that he did not want a line and would enter when tide had turned. 1800 wind had increased to 43 m.p.h. Gusts to 50 m.p.h. sea confused rough with heavy swell. 1805 positions of L.C.G. No.16 226° 1 mile, No.15 132° 2 miles from St. Ann's Head. 1815 L.C.G.15 was reported water-logged and drifting ashore. 1830 L.C.G.15 was reported grounded and turned over about 4 cables south of Sheep Island. ROSEMARY sent in boat to endeavour to pick up survivors. Boat and crew of six were lost when landing Freshwater Bay west. At this time L.C.G.16 was endeavouring to enter harbour. BERN made repeated attempts to take L.C.G.16 in tow and reports that he got L.C.G.16 to Boom Gate twice but L.C.G. declined to follow BERN into harbour preferring to heave to and later was in approx. 2 miles south of St. Ann's Head. H.M.T. FIARAY sent to assist. 2300 wind west 45 m.p.h. gusts to 60 m.p.h. and increasing, sea very rough. Trawlers again standing by and St. David's lifeboat which was launched at 2245 was off St. Ann's by 0230/26th. At about 0400 L.C.G.16 capsized and later sank. FIARAY and lifeboat searched until well after daylight. Three survivors only have been picked up from both craft. Cause of loss of craft considered to be -

- (1) Heavy confused sea and gale prevailing.
- (2) Lack of manoeuvrability in these weather conditions following 26 hours passage, the latter part in bad weather.
- (3) Rocky coast and no lee or landing beaches the absence of the latter contributing largely to loss of life.
- (4) No suitable tugs available at Milford Haven for work outside Haven.
- (5) Failure of communications on passage, probably resulting from lack of escort. When craft were overdue at Fishguard 2030/24th attempts were made by Milford Haven W/T Station from 2210/24th until sighted off Milford Haven to pass a signal to the craft without success.

(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 262215B to Admty.)

PAN GULF.

Cancel ship for O.N.S.6. Delayed further repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Newport, 260940B.)

THORA
sunk.

Regret to report loss of balloon barrage drifter THORA. THORA fouled Boom at 0250 today approximately. 6 of crew landed at Grimsby, 2 unaccounted for.
(F.O. Humber, 260958B.)

/LYNN ...

26.4.1943.
Monday.

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

- LYNN
TRADER. LYNN TRADER arrived Tyne reports being in collision with unknown ship 0400/25 at 18 E Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 261030B.)
- BURWELL. Sailed BURWELL, E.T.A. 2000. M/F D/F requires calibration. Excessive loss of water from evaporators requires attention before proceeding on operations. (WESTERN ISLES, 261301B to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- BORNHOLM,
BERKEL. During gale last night BORNHOLM collided with BERKEL. Both damaged. BERKEL is continuing but BORNHOLM left unescorted for Reykjavik at 1400Z. (DUNCAN, 261500Z to C. in C. W.A.)
(Convoy O.N.S. 5)
- DESTINY. DESTINY returned alongside by help of tug. Engines entirely unreliable. Request thorough examination of propulsion generators. (DESTINY, 261510 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)
- VIMY. Number one oil fuel tank was repaired temporarily at St. Johns N.F. It is now leaking again. A new leak has also developed in 12-pounder magazine. Ship will require docking to make good these defects during next boiler cleaning period. If this can be done at Londonderry propose to proceed up river without refuelling. (VIMY, 261525Z to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- TAKU. A crack has now developed in port after cylinder block. Not considered possible to (blank ?) it successfully as has been done before but a baffle plate and drain are being fitted to keep this engine running. Only the port forward modified block is now undamaged. I consider that the lives of both engines are drawing towards their close and that TAKU is now unfit for further running and should be sailed to within striking distance of her refitting port while able to proceed under her own power. (TAKU, 261621B to Capt. (S) 5.)
- CITY OF
BIRMINGHAM. Your 241708B. F.O.I.C. Humber reports that this wreck has commenced to break up and that its conspicuous mast has disappeared. Risk to minesweepers and incoming traffic can be accepted during the summer months provided no more intensive minelaying takes place. It is suggested that attempt to salve cargo be made this summer. Cancel my 221139B. (C. in C. Nore, 261637B to Admty.)

/PRINCESS ...

975

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

PRINCESS IRIS. My 241650 and 241646. Delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 261911B.)

GOODWIN. A.C.I.C. 201948B. Request you will investigate unsatisfactory performance of GOODWIN on return to Clyde and report whether she can be made suitable for the duties of a special rescue ship on North Atlantic convoys.
(C. in C. W.A., 262147B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Shipping and Convoys.

T.A. 41A. D/F of transmission at 0118Z indicates that you may have been reported by a U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C., 260436B to T.A. 41A.)

P.W. 329. P.W.329 is cancelled.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 260453B.)

S.C. 127. Report your P.C. and S.
(C. in C. W.A., 260843Z to E.G. 1.)

X Rescue Tugs in Atlantic Convoys. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 251644B and 251758B. It is not intended that Rescue Tugs should be sailed with convoy unless a trawler can be allocated as specific escort for the rescue tug. Otherwise it would necessitate detaching one of the escort group to accompany the tug if detached is not acceptable.

2. For the present it is intended to confine rescue tugs to O.N. and H.X. convoys. Request therefore, that F.O.I.C. Greenock will sail one rescue tug with O.N.181 and one with O.N.182 and that F.O.I.C.N.I. will detail trawlers as rescue tug escorts and sail them as requisite. F.O.N.F. is requested to sail these ships in suitable H.X. convoys provided their destination is not changed by S.O. Escort, vide A.C.I. Article 49.

(C. in C. W.A., 260951Z.)

H.X. 235. Report when groups have refuelled sufficiently to ensure your continuance with convoy to approximately 052° N. thence detach for Londonderry.

(C. in C. W.A., 261020C to BOGUE.)

BOGUE with 12 Tarpons and 6 Fighters is due in U.K. about 2nd May and will proceed to Belfast.

Request arrangements may be made for her to disembark her aircraft if desired to Sydenham or Machrihanish.

(C. in C. W.A., 261225B to Admty.)

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- M.K.F. 13. My 241315B. Sailed. (BERMUDA and ORKAN).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 261125B.)
- P.S. 26, P.S.26 and S.P.26 cancelled.
S.P. 26. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 261125B.)
- O.N. 180. Sailed SKEENA to overtake O.N.180.
(Cdre. Londonderry, 261148.)
- A.3 Escort Your 241226 and A.M. 232115. Delay in return
Group. of U.S. ships cannot be accepted. Request you
will sail SPENCER and DUANE independently without
relief as required by Comnavu.
(D.O.D.(H), 261155B to C. in C. W.A.)
- F.S. 99. F.S.99 sailings from Humber cancelled owing to
stress of weather.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 261212B.)
- O.N.S. 5. Iceland portion joined at 1500Z. BORNHOLM left
unescorted for Reykjavik at 1400Z. 43 ships and
all escorts present. My 241630B, rubber hose
burst after only 2 tons of oil had been received
and continual gales have prevented further attempts to fuel.
Percentage of fuel remaining at 0800Z today 63. Daily
consumption at slowest possible speed is 8%. If I cannot fuel
DUNCAN before 1st daylight after passing position (XM) intend
to proceed to Greenland for fuel. Request S.O.P.A. may be warned
and that I may be informed where fuel may be obtained. My
P.C.S. 60.46 N. 20.55 W., 295°, 4. Weather 5772 0677.
(DUNCAN, 261500Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- Atlantic Your 171947B. The shortage of Swordfish is
Convoy appreciated but the limited number of destroyers
Escort available as escorts for air support groups will
Carriers. in any case limit the number of escort carriers
that can be operated.
2. It is noted that ATTACKER, BATTLER, STALKER
and HUNTER have each been given a complement of
9 Swordfish and 9 Hurricanes or Spitfires.
3. As short term policy I would prefer operating 3 of above
ships only with complement of 12 Swordfish and 3 fighters.
4. Experience has shown the only suitable fighter for the
North Atlantic is the Martlet.
5. It is requested the complement of these ships should be
amended accordingly as it is not my present intention for these
ships to operate with more than 3 fighters.
6. My letter W.A.1711/0756/36 of 21st April refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 261505B to Admty.)

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

- W.P.329. Your 261250B. W.P.329 is to proceed into Portland for the night.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 261505B to LIMBOURNE.)
- H.X.234. H.X.234 (Fast). Detach ships to proceed independently from 055° 35' N. 007° 00' W.
(C. in C. W.A., 261520Z to VIMY.)
Detach Loch Ewe section at (P) to proceed via North Minch. One escort is to be detailed for this section.
(C. in C. W.A., 261720B to Escorts H.X.234.)
- O.N. 182, C. in C. W.A. 260951Z. Cancel my 251758.
O.N. 181. (2) H.M. Rescue Tug STORMKING detailed O.N.182.
(4) GROWLER detailed for O.N.181 as in my 221748.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 261536B.)
- O.N.181. My 261058B. Delete last para. and substitute DANEMAN will be sailed to arrive Moville 0700B/30 for escort conference.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 261726B to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- X K.M., M.K., Your 212330.
S.L., and Concur that none of these convoys, except those
O.S.Convoys. containing troopships, need be escorted in the area between 50° N. and 57° N. and East of 15° W. unless there are indications that they are threatened or unless required by C. in C. W.A. (A.C.N.S.(H), 262001B to H.Q.C.C.)
- O.N.S. 6. My 212153. Following tankers are to sail as escort oilers in O.N.S.6. F.J. WOLFE, JOHN D. ARCHBOLD.
(D.T.D., 262122B.)
- X.K. 4. Detail - (1) SALAMANDER to escort Bristol Channel portion from vicinity of Tuscar to Scarweather. SALAMANDER to Milford Haven on completion to refuel and await orders.
(2) RHODODENDRON to escort remainder to North Channel detaching ships for Mersey from vicinity of Skerries. From North Channel ships for Loch Ewe are to proceed unescorted and RHODODENDRON to Clyde.
2. HALCYON to Milford Haven from vicinity of Tuscar to refuel and await orders.
(C. in C. W.A., 262134B to Escorts X.K.4.)

/Atlantic ...

War Diary.26.4.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

- X Atlantic Convoy Cycles. If proposals in my 251922 (See Special File) are approved propose following sailing date for convoys -
- (A) O.N.182 May 6th. O.N.183 May 10th then 5 and 6 days alternately.
 - (B) O.N.S.7 May 7th then 11 days interval.
 - (C) H.X. No.240 May 19th then 5 and 6 days alternately.
 - (D) S.C.132 May 26th then 11 days interval.
 - (C. in C. W.A., 262302B to Admt.)
- Your 251922B.

Concur in the proposals contained in paragraph 2.

2. Now that a North Atlantic Convoy cycle has been agreed which is likely to have a degree of permanency it is considered that sailing schedule should be promulgated covering a period approximately equal to the round voyage of all the escort groups employed. Such a programme would enable all concerned with loading and turn-round to operate shipping as expeditiously as possible.

3. In view of the fact that the withdrawal of escorts for other purposes was not an immediate requirement it was calculated that as there would be 12 or 11 groups still available until mid June considerably better lay-overs than those contained in your message would in fact be possible for the next two months by the end of which time further escorts should be available.

4. There are however clear indications that an additional U.K./Gibraltar convoy may have to be run in mid-May which will require the services of one Escort Group.

5. Following dates are suggested for amendment of North Atlantic Cycle:-

O.N.S. 7 - 9th May then at 11 day intervals.

S.C. 130 - 13th May then at 11 day intervals.

O.N. 182) - 6th May then at alternate intervals of 6 and 5 days

H.X. 237) - respectively.

An adjustment between the 6 and 5 day intervals can be made if necessary to facilitate lay-over times. It will be necessary to obtain Cominch's concurrence before final schedule of sailing dates is promulgated.

(A.C.N.S.(H), 262352B to C. in C. W.A.)

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Gibraltar,
movements.Arrived REDSHANKS.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 260109B to Admty.)
Arrivals JONQUIL, SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC,
ILFRACOMBE.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 261148B to Admty.)

K.M.S.13

K.M.S.13. Ships sailed as in my 251008. Cmdre.
Cdr. Mackellar, R.N.R. and staff in FLAMINIAN.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 260233B to Cmdre. of Escorts of
K.M.S.13 (R) C. in C. Med. Admty., Connav,
Commob Oran. Cmdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Bone,
N.O.I.C. Bougie.)K.M.S.13. Arrivals ALMENARA, USKSID, ROSSUM, BELNOR,
TINTERN ABBEY, HARMATRIS, META, BARON DOUGLAS, SALTWICK, ARY
LENSEN, STANHOPE, EMPIRE HARMONY.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 260831B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med.
Connav.)

JONQUIL.

Return to Gibraltar forthwith.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 261009B to JONQUIL (R) C. in C.
Med. Admty., S.E. Convoy O.S.46, C.M.S.F.)
Your 261009B acknowledged. E.T.A. Gate 0700B/27thMy C. and S. at 1200B 034° 25' 007° 46' W. 043° 9. Weather
report.

(JONQUIL, 261201B to F.O. Gibraltar.)

U.G.S.7A
U.G.L.3.U.G.S.7A and U.G.L.3. T.F. No. 364. 32.36
40.42 through 32.30 38.40 thence 099° 8½.
Remainder of this is dummy.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 261013B to A.I.G.65.)French
refugees,
Portugal.C. in C. Med. 241805. Your 240322 not received here
but according to information available here. My
231252 (N.T. in W.R.) still holds good.
(B.N.A. Lisbon, 261031B to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med., Admty., B.N.A. Madrid.)

Dispositions.

Situation 2002B/26th. O.T.4 C.T.G.21.5 (E)
021° 40' 022° 11' 018° 13½.
(2) G.U.S.6 A.C.T.F. 69 035° 01' 017° (?03') 270° 9.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261031B.)

HEBE II

My 232037 (sailing HEBE II escorted by ST. NECTAN
and LADY HOGARTH.) delayed now sails 0700A/27.
(Commorseafron, 261055 to N.O.B. Casablanca.)

/UNBENDING...

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

UNBENDING, Estimate P.37 (UNBENDING) Passing 9 miles to
SERAPH. westward of P.219 (SERAPH) at 0645/28th. P.37
(UNBENDING) is routed 36.37 07.24 at 0400/27th
36.45 09.20 at 0230/28th 39.08 10.30 at 1430/29th.
Diving by day 8/2 knots.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261223, to P.219 (SERAPH). (R)
P.37 (UNBENDING.)
My 251726. Sailed UNBENDING. Only such Q messages affecting
passage to Port of destination carried.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 261354 to Admty., F.O.S.)

AORANGI Intend sailing AORANGI and CLAN LAMONT escorted
CLAN by LEWES and BOREAS from Casablanca 261500A route
LAMONT. accordance Admiralty 141950 to Freetown. S.O.A.13½.
LEWES requires fuel at Dakar. E.T.A. Dakar
010600Z.
(C.M.S.F.F., 261300Z to F.O.C.W.A.F., Admty.(R)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, BOREAS, Comar Dakar, N.O.B.
Casablanca, LEWES.)
Sailed my 261300 at 1900A/26th LEWES expected time of
arrival Dakar 1000Z/1st.
(C.M.S.F.F., 261805 to Admty., F.O.C.W.A. (R) Comar Dakar,
V.A. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med.)

Suspected Your 250746B repeating your 242316.
U/boat MONTE ISABELLA arrived and left yesterday April
survivors. 25th Destination Gijon. No survivors on board.
MONTE SOLLUBE agent informs me put into St.Vincent
(CV) 23rd discharged coal bunkers for another
Spanish ship and due to arrive about 28th.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 261335 to Admty., (R)
S.O.(1) Gibraltar for F.O.i/c Gibraltar.)

M.K.S.12. List cargoes. Request destinations.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 261808B to Admty.)

Spanish Your 221338. Spanish trawler MISTRAL is owned
Tankers by P.Y.S.B.E. and fishes from Canary Islands.
Suspicious No previous suspicious activities known here.
Conduct. 2. Ex German SS SEVILLA now Spanish SS. SLATIA
DE ARES is in Cadiz.
(S.O.(I) Gib., 261905B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.,
B.N.A. Madrid.) See also N.A.Madrid 282043.

P.L.M.21 Intend to sail French ship P.L.(?M) 21 for
COWSLIP. Casablanca at 1600B April 27th escorted by COWSLIP.
(2) Route. S. of A. 9 knots.
(3) COWSLIP parts company position (B) and proceeds
independently to Freetown (route) thence as
routed by F.O.C.W.Af. S. of A. 12½ knots.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 261913B to F.O.C.W.A. Commorseafron.)

/ANTELOPE...

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

ANTELOPE Embarkation completed. 198 persons, 6 diplomats mails and 1 for S.O.(I). E.T.A. Gate at 0145B/27. Acknowledge.
(ANTELOPE, 261950B to F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) S.O. of destroyers.)

Movements Arrived COMMANDANT DELAGE, (Fr), AMIRAL MOUCHEZ
Casablanca. (Fr.). from local escort. Arrived ANTHONY and BRISSENDEN and departed with EMPIRE MORN. BOREAS and LEWES departed with CLAN LAMONT and AORANGI. Departed DUMONT DURVILLE (Fr) and LA GRANDIERE (Fr.) for Dakar LA TAPAGEUSE (Fr) for Safi.
Warships, April 26th.
(C.M.S.F.F., 262110Z to C. in C. Med.)

EMPIRE EMPIRE MORN mined or torpedoed in 034° 03' N.
MORN 007° 58' W.
(?mines). (ANTHONY 262245 to N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

✕ Landing A.M. 242355B. There are two further similar
Craft requirements for special air passage.
C.Os. (a) 9 Ocean C.Os. arriving Gibraltar about 29 April and required to leave U.K. with flight of landing craft on 15 May. (b) 12 Ocean C.Os. arriving Gibraltar about 7 May and required to leave U.K. with flight of landing craft on 25th May.
2. No sea passages are available.
(D.O.D.(F) 262256B, 291759B to Air Ministry, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B Poor D/F bearings at 1353Z/26 and 1626Z/26 indicate U.boat in approx. 24° N. 29° W.
(D.D.I.C., 26231B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

COMMANDANT DUBOC. Sailed F.F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC escorting A.S.I.S. KHETI and A.S.I.S. KOCHECO in accordance with N.C.S.O. Durban 260709. 2. COMMANDANT DUBOC shifts to W/T Group (corrupt groups) 1415Z/April 30th. 3. In accordance with C. in C. E.F. 141437 (corrupt groups) on relief in latitude 10° COMMANDANT DUBOC proceeds to Diego Suarez. 4. (?in) latitude 10° S. 0500 (corrupt group). 5. COMMANDANT DUBOC's S. of A. from 10°S. 11 knots E.T.A. Diego Suarez 1400Z May 4th. (Cdre. Duban 260631Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

Movements, Arrived ULSTER MONARCH, ROTHERHAM.
Durban. (Com.i/c Durban 260801Z to Admty. etc.)

MANAAR (1) MANAAR. (2) Torpedoed 0310B 18th 031° 15' S.
(sunk 033° 10' E. (3) 93 survivors landed Port St. Johns,
18 April) 4 drowned crossing bar into river. (4) 2nd Officer taken prisoner on U-Boat. (5) 1 Lascar from another ship severely wounded released from U-Boat and put into lifeboat. Total 97 of ship's crew accounted for. Further signal will be made re para (5). (N.O.I.C. East London 260906 to Admty. C. in C. S.A. Cdre. in C. Durban, S.O. (I) Capetown, C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy Sailed 0800Z/April 26th T.S.37 escorted BELLWORT
T.S.37. S.O. BIRDLIP, FANDANGO, ARRAN. Route orange, S. of A. 7½ knots. E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/May 1st. My 240943Z to R.A. W.Af. only, E.T.A. Marshall 1800Z/April 29th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 260960Z to R.A. W.Af. Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

U-Boat D/F bearings at 1940Z/25 on 9965 kc/s indicated
O.T.4. U-Boat near convoy O.T.4. No subsequent indication of shadowing. (D.D.I.C. 260957B to Escorts of O.T.4. (R) F.O.C. W.A. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med.)

Convoy Sailed 0800Z/26th April T.S.37 route orange S. of A.
T.S.37. 7½ knots E.T.A. Freetown 0800Z/1st May. Details. Convoy codeword JINGO. Convoy W/T identity X.Z.D.1 - 9. Q.L.A. 166. (N.C.S.O. Takoradi 260958Z to Admty. etc.)

TRUSTY, Sailed TRUSTY, FRITILLARY, to Simonstown route (?R)
FRITILLARY. 9 to position 035° 05' S. (?19°) 30' E. S. of A. 11 knots. E.T.A. Simonstown 1400Z/April 29th. 2. Shift W/T organisation to group S (?L) at 0200Z (?April) 27th. 3. On parting company with TRUSTY at (?Simonstown) FRITILLARY proceeds to

/Capetown...

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South Atlantic.

TRUSTY,
FRITILLARY
(Contd.) Capetown reporting E.T.A. through Simonstown
P.W.S.S. Ref. C. in C. S.A. 201217 E.T.A.
position (A) 033° 30' S. 028° 20' E. 0800Z/April
27th.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 261001Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy S.R.5. Intend sailing convoy S.R.5 on 3rd May.
(F.O.C.W.A. 261026Z to N.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C.M.S.F.F.
(?C. in C. Med.) N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty. Comar,
Dakar.) Cancelled - no escorts (F.O.C.W.A.
011907Z/May.)

Convoy D.C.20A. Sailing telegram.
(2) 1000/26th April. (3) 10 knots. (5) Coastal
61 to 68 Saldanha Bay. (6) DRANGEY, relieved by
NORWICH CITY.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 261031B to Admty. etc.)

Dakar Weekly state 24th April. F.C. GLOIRE (?Azores). F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES Dakar.
Fr. despatch vessel CALAIS Dakar area. VICTORIA,
Port Etienne. Fr. DUMANT D'URVILLE, GAZELLE,
ANNAMITE, COMMANDANT BORY, GRANDIERE, MOUCHEZ,
ASPIRANT BRUN, Casablanca area. S/Ms. ARGO, Dakar,
LE CENTAURE, Freetown.
(Comar, Dakar, 261121Z to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. etc.)

CHESHIRE. Your 251212. (CHESHIRE estimated ready for sea
27th.) Destination is Clyde.
(D.O.D. (F) 261156B to F.O.C.W.A.)
Intend sailing CHESHIRE at 271000P routed through 13.20 S.
38.25 W. 00.00 25.00 17.00 N. 28.00 35.10 22.30 53.30 16.05.
55.34 08.27 55.34 07.10. Thence via Northern Approaches and
Swept channel to Clyde. If not held by CHESHIRE obtain general
instructions for entering U.K. ports from B.R.L.O. Bahia.
CHESHIRE is to indicate E.T.A. Chop line E.T.A. Clyde and S. of A.
before sailing and is to guard N.S.S.F. until crossing Chop line.
F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to issue further communications
instructions. Alusnob Bahia pass to CHESHIRE. F.O.C.W.Af. pass
to Admty. and other interested British Authorities.
(? 261710 to Alusnob Bahia (R) CHESHIRE, etc.)

X Destroyer Requirements. Your 250949 April. Concur with programme.
(C. in C. S.A. 261202B to C. in C. E.F.)

SPINDRIFT. A.M. 241334. SPINDRIFT has been operating at
Saldanha Bay for 5 months and reports maximum
speed now 5 knots. 2. Not considered practicable
to sail ship across Agulhas Bank in present
condition. 3. Arrangements made to refit and dock
at Simonstown commencing May 1st. 4. If SPINDRIFT ready before
REDSHANK arrives intend sail her in accordance with A.M. 192119.
(C. in C. S.A. 261213B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. MANCHESTER
CITY.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

P.614. My 252358 not to Admiralty and Admiralty's 251337 not to B.N.L.O. W.Africa. P.614 will (remain?) on South Atlantic Station and is being held at Walvis Bay to await convoy Simonstown. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, will escort group sailing from Walvis Bay to Capetown. (C. in C. S.A. 261223B to B.N.L.O. W.Africa, F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. F.O. (3)).

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/26th April.
GENISTA 024° 15' 014° 10' to Walvis Bay 10 knots.
CATTERICK 026° 37' 013° 50' to 025° 00' 013° 05' 16½ knots. ST. ZENO, LADY ROSEMARY, SONNEBLOM with D.C.20 034° 50' 020° 25' coastal to Capetown 8 knots. CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGER, WELLARD with C.D.15 033° 50' 026° 50' coastal to Durban 8 knots. RELENTLESS searching in vicinity of 033° 20' 030° 45'. NORWICH CITY with D.C.20A, 031° 25' 030° 05' coastal to Capetown 9 knots. TRUSTY, FRITILLARY, 031° 20' 030° 35' by R (9?) to Simonstown 11 knots. COMMANDANT DUBOC with D.N.34A, 028° 10' 033° 15' to Kilindini 11 knots. ST. LOMAN escorting OLWEN 028° 20' 034° 40' to Durban 10 knots. SUSSEX, RAIDER, NAPIER with C.M.41 026° 50' 037° 45' to 022° 40' 042° 00' 11 knots. FROBISHER 017° 20' 040° 40' to 031° 30' 031° 55' 17 knots. (C. in C. S.A. 261229B.)

Situation at 2001Z/26th April.
NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID with W.S.29 12.20 18.27 to 10.44 17.09 thence to Freetown 10½. INKPEN anchored in 18.35 16.11 M.L. 574 off Dakar to Kinsale? 59' 16° 52' thence 180°. 7½ BLACK SWAN, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS, STONECROP, CAMPION, MALLOW with S.L. 128 22.01 17.39 to 24.02 17.28 thence to 042° 6½. BRIDGEWATER escorting 18.01 20.55 to Dakar 13½ U.S. Destroyers ROPER, BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR with O.T.4, 21.55 22.02 019° 13½. CARNARVON CASTLE about 10.58 17.45 to 11.01 17.29 thence to Freetown 14½. F.S. GLOIRE on patrol about 08.01 27.30, 19. (F.O.C.W.A. 261326Z.)

JOAN DRAYTON, Survivor from JOHN DRAYTON reports seeing raft with Raft. yellow side and marked number 3 also 200 bales cotton all floating together in approx. 031° 15' S. 033° 24' E. at noon G.M.T. 23rd April. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 261547B to Admty. etc.)

T.S.36. Arrivals 0835/26/4/43.
PETUNIA, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN with T.S.36. (S.O. (I) Freetown 261836 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements,
Walvis Bay.

Arrival 26th April COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES,
F.S. escorting P.31.
(N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 261843B to C. in C. S.A.)
N.B. Passed for information to Cominch and Admty.
(by?) C. in C. S.A.

Movements,
Takoradi.

April 26th April, BELLWORT, M.L. No.277
Departure BELLWORT, FANDANGO, BIRDLIP, Tug, ARRAN
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 261925Z to Admty. etc.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Request you will sail DEVONSHIRE independently
for U.K. routed so as to be favourably placed
for interception should outward bound blockade
runner be detected by R/C. 2. On reaching 35° N.
DEVONSHIRE is to come under orders of C. in C. Plymouth.
(D.O.D. (F) 261950B to F.O.C. W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.)

CILICIA.

1. Request you will sail CILICIA from Bahia p.m.
28th April to proceed on patrol in area bounded
by A. 011° N. 027° W. B. 009° N. 025° W.
C. 006° N. 028° W. D. 008° N. 030° W.
(F.O.C.W.A. 2620 to Com. 4th Fleet. (R) Admty.
CILICIA, B.R.O. Rio de Janeiro, Connav, Comar,
Dakar.)

Convoy
W.S.29.

Following is split of W.S.29 between Capetown and
Durban ATHLONE CASTLE, ALMANZORA, EMPIRE KAMAL,
PARDO, CITY OF EDINBURGH, STRAAT MALAKKA, SILVER
WALNUT to Capetown. Remainder to Durban.
(D. of S.T. 262121B to D.S.T.O. W. Africa.)

O.S. and
S.L.
Commodores.

It has been decided that in future Commodores
arriving at Freetown in O.S. convoys shall return
to the U.K. in the next S.L. convoy.
(D.T.D. 262335B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A.,
N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

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26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Destroyer. Following read. P.C. and S. of one enemy destroyer 38.18 N. 13.20 E. 090° 20 knots, 750. (A/C BVJ/V 260025Z.)

M.T.B. M.T.B. 76 returned. (V.A.Malta 260158B to Admty. etc.)

Enemy Units. Following read 20 small vessels DRSC 2310 37.23 N.(long. indecypherable) 160° 5, sea fog. obscures. (A/C BVJ/V 260300.)

DOLFIJN (P.47.) After passing P.247 (SARACEN) fired at enemy S/M 4 torpedoes, missed through enemy going astern, position 038° 13' N. 006° 05' E. Consider 4 torpedoes insufficient full patrol, propose returning to replenish, proceeding onward awaiting reply. (P.47 260450A to Capt. S.8th S/M F. (R) 8th S/M Flot.)

Your 260450. Do not return Algiers, proceed in accordance with your Patrol Orders. (Capt. S.8 261134A to P.47 (R) 8th S/M F.)

X Air operations. Middle East Air Communique. Announced from Hq. R.A.F. M.E. today, during night of 24/25th April heavy bombers of R.A.F. attacked Naples, bombs bursting near Railway Station, steel works and a shipyard. In Ionian Sea on 24th April long range fighters set an enemy schooner on fire. From these and other operations all our aircraft returned. (Mideast T.O.O. 0800Z/26.)

M.Ls. 25th April arrivals (?M.Ls.) 350, 384. (S.O.(I) Beirut 260845C to Admty.)

K.M.S.13. K.M.S.13 sailed as in my 231513. ESNEH now for Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Oran 260850 to Admty. etc.) K.M.S.13. Amend destination EMPIRE FOREST to Philippeville. CIRCE pass to Commodore and ships concerned. (C. in C.Med. 261636A to CIRCE, Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.13.)

ABDIEL. Departure 25th April. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 260911C to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)

/B1--...

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Bi-weekly Opsum No. 120 part 2. April 24th, 2 Beaufighters on offensive R/C for enemy shipping off west coast Greece attacked schooner with cannon fire. Schooner left in flames with smoke rising to 600 ft. Night 24/25 April, 5 Liberators attacked Naples. Bombs (burst?) in area of railway station and near Ex-Pattison Shipyard and A (FSA?) I iron and steel works. Observation of damage obscured by thick haze. 25th April, Kittyhawks with Spitfire escorts made several armed R/C for enemy transport aircraft and shipping off Cape Bon. Near misses claimed on M/V and 2 naval auxiliaries. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 260958Z.)

X Proposed minefield off Libya.

To enable detailed consideration to be given to proposals in your 221922, request clarification of following points:-

- A. Is it intended that our own surface forces and shipping shall operate over the minefields,
- B. What is the average density per mile aimed at?

This is not entirely clear from para. 3 of your signal.

(D.D.O.D.(M) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 261005B to C. in C.Levant, (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.E.F.)

Reply 271155C.

E.T.19.

Intend to sail (list) 10 ships.
(Cdre. Algiers 261006A to A.I.G. 259, Comnob Oran)
E.T.19. My 222251 (sailing two ships). Addition.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 261107A to F.O.I.S. etc.)
E.T.19. Amend my 221446A as follows (list).
(S.O.I.S. 261211A to N.Os.I.C.)

UNSHAKEN.

P.54 (UNSHAKEN) sailed at 1000B April/26th for exercises and patrol as ordered by Capt. S.8 routed R.Q. and P. passing P. at 1600B/28th. (Capt. S.10 261123B to Capt. S.8 (R) S/Ms on patrol, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.1.)

Movements, Sousse.

Arrival, M.T.B. 77, 61, 635, 639. M.L. 459, 121, KAI.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 261142A to Admty.)

UNSEEN
UNSHAKEN.

Arrived submarine UNSEEN, sailed submarine UNSHAKEN.
(V.A.Malta 261154 to Admty. etc.)

/O.T.4...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- O.T.4. Destinations.
(C. in C.Med. 261156A to C.T.F. 21.5. U.S. Destroyers ROPER, BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR, (R) Admty. Connav, etc.)
- Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 barges 38.22 N. 12.23 E. based on a fix obtained by observation of terrestrial objects at 1300, 070° 10 miles.
(A/C 85 QXMRI 261249A to Admty.)
- Following read, addressed Air H.Q. Malta from A/C 85 QXNRZ: P.C. and S. of one tanker one plane 6000 ft. 38.34 N. 13.10 E. based on a fix obtained by observation of terrestrial objects at 1300, 360° 6.
(Alex W/T 261300 to Admty.)
My 1300. P.C. and S. of enemy tanker now 38.42 N. 13.00 E. course 360°, speed 10.
(A/C 856QX Via Alex 261355A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
- Destroyer Sweep. 2 Fleet destroyers left Bone at 1400 today for sweep in Marittimo Area tonight, returning to Bone on completion.
(Capt. S.8 261414A to 8th S/M F. (R) Capt. S.10.)
See 261921A
- ASTER. Intend sailing ASTER a.m. tomorrow 27th April vide your 250901. E.T.A. Kilindini p.m. May 2nd.
(Cdre. Aden 261452Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C.S.A.S. F.O.Ceylon, S.N.O. P.G. Comrin. N.O.I.C. Durban, Admty.)
- SPORTSMAN Leave patrol through 038° 19' 000° 01' at 2300/27th 038° 19' 002° 11' at 2100/28th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 02' at 0615/29th.
2. All positions N. and E, all times zone minus 1.
(Capt. S. 8 261528A to ?P.229 (SPORTSMAN) (R) 18th S/M F. C. in C.Med. Cdre. Algiers, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)
- 14th M.S.F. Suggest administration 14th Minesweeping Flotilla be transferred from Commodore D. to Commander M/S Malta, and accounts be transferred from NILE, to ST. ANGELO from 1st May.
(V.A. Malta 261709 to C. in C. Levant (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. etc.)

/P.R.U....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. April 27th visual. 1445 Taranto 2 Battleships
 3 cruisers. 1540 Messina no major Naval units.
 (V.A.Malta 261725B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

X. M.N.B.D.O.1 Shipping is required as soon as possible after
 1st June to move R.M. G.P. M.N.B.D.O.1 from Suez
 to Colombo. Your 060415A/3 refers. Details
 (P.S.T.O.M.E. 261727C to Admty. for D.S.T. (R)
 C. in C.E.F. P.S.T.O.I., D.O.S.T. Capetown,
 G.H.Q. M.E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A. D.S.T.O. Suez.)

Movements 26th April Port Said arrivals SOUTHERN ISLE,
 Port Said. departures Nil.
 (N.O.I.C. Port Said 261751C to Admty. etc.)

ROUENNAIS Your 252357. Request you will confirm this
 (mined 25/4) position. Presume shipping is normally routed
 outside the 200 fathom line.
 (C. in C.Med. 261852A to Commorseafon (R)
 F.O.C.Gib. Admty. Comnavnav, Cominch.)
 Confirmed, see Commorseafon 271000.

Movements Arrived HECTOR VII. Sailed TETCOTT, BELVOIR,
 Tripoli. PINDOS.
 (N.O.I.C. Libya 261907A to Admty.)

Malta Air A.I. 532 C.S.R. 26th April, part 1 Offensive.
 Report. Night 25/26th April. Fog and low cloud hampered
 offensive operations. Mosquitoes made intruder
 patrols over Western Sicily.
 Day 26th April.
 3 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep in Sicilian Narrows
 and another 3 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep along
 east coast of Sicily. 12 Spitfire bombers with close escort of
 4 fighter Spitfires and rear cover. 4 fighter Spitfires
 bombed Augusta Harbour scoring hits on U-Boat base, E-Boat
 berths and among oil tanks.
 Part 2 Enemy Air Activity.
 Day 25th April. 12 Spitfires provided further escort to
 outgoing Southbound shipping
 Night 25/26th April. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols
 in Sicilian Narrows and east of Sicily.
 Day 26th April. 5 Beaufighters provided escort for outgoing
 Southbound shipping.
 (R.A.F. Malta 261910Z.)

/Enemy...

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
Circling
Torpedoes.

Ref. C. in C. Med. F's 242208 April and M.T.D.I's numbers 69 and 70. It has been established that another type of enemy circling torpedo exists which can be adjusted to porpoise to a depth of 10 feet during its run and executes a variety of course diagrams such as oblongs and zig-zags.

Immediate steps are to be taken to extend all anti-circling torpedo nets to 20 feet depths. Nets are to be made of 14-inch square mesh of B.2 or similar size wire.

(C. in C. Levant, 261914C to Levant Stn. B.492, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty.)

TARTAR,
LOYAL.

Proceed at best speed to 038° 00'48", 011° 20'01". Then sweep to southward as far as 037° 50' N. Thence towards Marittimo.

(C. in C. Med., 261921A to TARTAR, LOYAL, (R) C.S.12, V.A. Malta.)

Note by W.R.: Message passed to Admty. for information by Gibraltar.

? Towage
to U.K.

Following H.M. Ships will require towage to U.K. on approximate date indicated. PORCUPINE, 2 tows, mid-May; MANXMAN and BADSWORTH, end of May; ITHURIEL, mid-June; ALARM, end of June; AIMWELL and CHARON will be used to tow PORCUPINE, request tugs may be arranged for other tows.

(C. in C. Med., 261948A to Admty., (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar.)

Movements,
Bone.

Bone arrivals HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, FOXTROT, KING SOL.

(S.O.I.S., 262009A to Admty., etc.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals U.S.N. L.C.Ts 17, 22, 23, 26, 27, 211; U.S.N. P.Cs 559, 626; U.S.N. P.C.Ts 201, 202, 203, 204.

Departures L.283, L.C.I.(L) 298, French Chasseur 3, LA SERVANNAISE; ANGELE, PERCY.

(Cdre. Algiers, 262014A to Admty., etc.)

Algiers arrival SHAKESPEARE (P.221).

Departure ULTOR (P. 53).

(Cdre. Algiers, 262016 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrival 26th April (? ABDIEL). Departure 26th April BURRA.

(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 262032 to Admty., etc.)

/L.S.Ts. ...

991

26.4.1943.

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

L.S.Ts. Your 231809 (Hush distribution). According to present information the last 8 L.S.T. will not arrive on this side of the Atlantic before 15th June. This will be too late for them to be loaded for Force V.

2. Present orders are that all these 8 should proceed to Gibraltar and not to U.K. Unless B.A.D. considers that 6 could be sailed to arrive U.K. by 3rd June (which will allow time for them to unload their cargo before joining Force V) it is intended that these orders should stand.

3. R.A. (V) agrees.

4. B.A.D. is requested to signal his remarks.
(D. of P., 262035B to D.N.C.X.F., (R) B.A.D., C. in C. Med., R.A.(V), R.A.(G).)

Movements, Departures none. Arrival U.S.S. BISCAYNE.
Oran. (Com. N.O.B., Oran, 262047 to Admty., etc.)

DOLFIJN, 1. Onward routing for P.47 (DOLFIJN) through
UNSHAKEN, 038° 15' 010° 01' at 0230A/28th thence Zone B.
UNBROKEN. 2. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) pass through P at 1500A/28th
proceed through Zone B.3, Zone C.
3. P.42 (UNBROKEN) leaves Zone B so as to pass
position P at 0500/28th thence Malta as ordered
by instructions.

4. P.54 (UNSHAKEN) and P.42 (UNBROKEN) keep to starboard side of their route between P and Q.
(Capt. (S) 8, 262108A to 8th S.F., (R) 10th S.F.)

Movements, Sailed L.C.T.3 Z 24, SEVASTI, VICTORIA II.
Tobruk. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 262150C to Admty.)

GREGORY. Sailed H.M.T. GREGORY.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 262211A to Admty.)

UNBROKEN, Torpedoes expended. Returning to Malta through
R. of P. P, Q, R passing P at 0001B/28th.
Possible hit on 6000 ton (corrupt group)
merchant ship off Palermo at 1617B/26th.
(P.42 (UNBROKEN, 262307B to Capt. (S) 8th, (R)
Capt. (S) 10th, S/Ms on Patrol.)

War Diary.

26.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.M.51. Sailing Telegram.
2. 0130Z/26th April. 3. E.T.A. passing Cochin
1330Z/28th April. 3A. E.T.A. Colombo 0730Z/30th
April. 4. 9 knots. 5. A.015° 42' 073° 00'
B. 010° 28' 075° 19' C. 008° 02' 076° 49' thence Colombo. Ships
bound for Trincomalee and Calcutta ordered Colombo but hold
(?alternative) route to destination. 6. D.S. WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN,
SCOUT.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 260140Z, 260142Z to Admty.)

X Colombo Minefield. Colombo Controlled Minefield has been completed,
tested and is now in operation. Tracings will be
forwarded by air mail to C. in C. E.F. and D.T.M.
(F.O. Ceylon 260354 to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

X Burma, R.N.V.R. Fairmiles. Cancel my 110628/March. Under altered circumstances
Burma R.N.V.R. may be able to man 2 (?screw) (?twin)
Fairmiles, if so these could be made available from
Royal Indian Navy craft.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 260503Z to Admty. (R) A.I.G.96.)
/ 11126 intended?

Movements. Departure MARYBOROUGH (?) GAWLER, LISMORE. E.T.A.
Aden p.m. 3rd May.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin 260515Z to N.C.I.C. Aden, etc.)

PATNA arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 260921Z to Admty.)
Colombo departures 26th April. 1227Z TAMWORTH.
(F.O. Ceylon 261308Z to Admty.)
WOLLONGONG left escorting 49th M.L. flotilla.
(F.O. E.A. 261411Z to Admty.)

Convoy C.49. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Calcutta 260605Z to Admty.)

REDSHANK, MANCHESTER CITY. Request latest information of sailing of REDSHANK
A.M. 1334/24th April and 1348/1st March refer.
2. Ref. MANCHESTER CITY's 1240/26th of Feb. not to
Admty. can recovery work be carried out by SPINDRIFT
now or if not how long will the necessary alteration
take.
(C. in C. E.F. 260833Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A.)

W.S.28. W.S.28 has been (?diverted) East of Socotra. E.T.A.
Aden 0400Z 30th.
(C. in C. E.F. 260853Z to Admty.)

B.M.51. A.B.7. Departure 0140Z SCOUT, WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN with
B.M.51. Arrival 0400Z HAWKINS with A.B.7.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 260931Z to Admty.)

/Troop...

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Troop
Movements.

My 230923Z. Following extra move has been arranged. Bombay to Addu Atoll via Colombo. One personnel ship JALADURGA sailing 4th May. (P.S.T.O.I. 261201Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon. D.S.T.)

Movement
Summary.

Movement summary No. 57 April 22nd.
(1) SUSSEX with A/S escort NAPIER and RAIDER left Durban 25th April escorting convoy C.M.41. Routed through Mozambique channel speed 12 knots.
(2) CERES left Aden 25th escorting convoy A.K.7 due Kilindini 3rd May. (3) CAPETOWN left Colombo 25th calling Seychelles 29th thence Diego Suarez. (4) FROBISHER left Diego Suarez 25th due Simonstown 1st May. (5) DURBAN left Bombay 24th due Bahrein 28th. (6) WOLLONGONG leaves Kilindini 26th escorting 4 M.Ls. due Masirah 9th May calling Kisimayu, Mogadishu and Dante en route. CAIRNS to join at Dante as additional escort. The following Y message is cancelled number 255 Y of April 18th. (C. in C. E.F. 261209Z to E.F. 257Y.)

X Polish
refugees
HERITAGE.

Confirm that up to 2000 may be embarked if accommodated by categories admits. Your 251541 April refers. (C. in C. E.F. 261255Z, 300554Z to B.A.D. (R) D.S.T. etc.)

Convoy
A.B.7.

Arrived.
(N.C.3.O. Bombay 261257 to Admty.)

BUSHWOOD,
minesweepers,
Persian Gulf.

The reduction in number of minesweepers in Persian Gulf make retention of BUSHWOOD in those waters unjustifiable A.M. 101648 refers. The deperming of such sweepers as remain can be carried out without her assistance. 2. Intend to sail BUSHWOOD to Ceylon to act as deperming ship at Colombo and to give assistance if required in laying degaussing range at Trincomalee. My 261400 refers. (C. in C. E.F. 261401Z to Admty. (R) S.N.O. Persian Gulf, F.O.I.C. Ceylon.)

RALPH
IZARD.

Transport RALPH IZARD sailed 25th April. (Cargo). (D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 261433Z to S.S.T.O. Suez (R) (?D.S.T.O.) Aden P.S.T.O. M.E. D. of S.T.)
/ Requirements at Aden.

ASTER.

Intend sailing ASTER a.m. tomorrow 27th April vide your 250902 (250901 intended). E.T.A. Kilindini A.M. May 2nd.
(Com. Aden 261452Z to C. in C. E.F.)

/Aircraft...

994

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.X
Aircraft
Bases,
Indian
Ocean.

A. 321. Your A.X.567 April 23 (231742) to 222 Group repeated this H.Q. para 3 Mauritius. We would prefer to leave Second Flying Boat Squadron at Diego Suarez as at present planned and not base at Mauritius until more experience has been gained. There is no safe anchorage during cyclone season nor is it certain one can be made. Para 4 Seychelles (Mahe), we still consider that this commitment should be limited to 6 Flying Boats though if essential? by blasting Coral Reefs 9 could be accommodated. Tulear, our A.296 April 23 refers. Para. 8 Majunga, could not be made suitable for operation of Wellington without major works and at considerable coast. Even communications are bad and weather conditions for the major part of the year adverse.
(E. Africa 261720C to Air Min. (R) 222 Group H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)
Reply: Air Min. 011743Z.

X
Troop
Movements.

Your 231123Z. DEVONSHIRE will be required by P.S.T.O. Middle East so that she cannot be available for movement from Kilindini to Ceylon. P.S.T.O. Middle East should advise date by which she will be required, as intervening time can probably be used to release another ship which could take her place in East African Brigade movement.
(D.S.T. 262117B to P.S.T.O. I. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

War Diary.

26.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

X U/B
attacked
by A/C. Following has been received from H.M.S. BITER
(Begins) Submarine attacked by aircraft at 1830Z
in 55 degs. 05' N. 42 degs. 25' W. 251840Z.(Ends).
(D.D.I.C. 260104B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. (R)
Comnaveu).

U.S. S/M (Cominch 260155Z, 260911Z, 261535Z, 261536Z,
notice S/M 261645Z, 261646Z, 261647Z, 262109Z, 262111Z).
Estimates
26th April.

AQUITANIA Your 252150Z. Change course forthwith for
position (O) omitting (N).
(Connav 260620Z to AQUITANIA. (R) C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet. Admty. N.S.H.Q. Com. 4th Fleet).
Cancel my 260620Z steer forthwith for (P) omitting (N) and
(O) Acknowledge.
(Cominch C and R 260835Z to AQUITANIA (R) C. in C. Atlantic
Fleet, Admty. N.S.H.Q. Com. 4 th Fleet).

Movements	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed.
Summary	F.S.GLOIRE	08 degs. N.		
1800 G.M.T.		28 degs. W.	Patrol	Blank.
26th.	(D.O.D.(F) 260805Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).			

Convoy Arrived p.m. 25th.
G.A.T.57 (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 260932Q to Admty.).

Movements Arrived Bermuda INGONISH, CARAQUET, GUYSBOROUGH,
Bermuda BAYFIELD and LOCKEPORT.
(S.B.N.O.W.A. 261125Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. etc.).

BITER In view of A destroyers fuel situation, B danger
of fuelling destroyers in this area, C, fog
conditions, D 1st Support Group joining, am
proceeding Newfoundland. P.C. and S. 1200Z
055 degs. 06' 045 degs. 10' 215 degs. 12 knots. Weather report
Addition to para. C fog conditions preclude flying.
(BITER 261130Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty.
HESPERUS, 1st Support Group).
Your 261130 proceed to Argentinia.
(C. in C. W.A. 262020B to BITER (R) HESPERUS, S.O. Escort
Grp.1. Connav C.T.F.24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.O.A.C. C.T.G.
24.7, A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C.).

H.F.50 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 261207Z to Admty.).

X.B.47 Boston Section arrived 261505Z. Cape Cod Canal
Section arrived 261600Z.
(Com. 1st U.S.N. Boston 261310Z to Connav etc.).

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

X U/B sunk
15th April
survivors

Your 232139. Argentine NORTE 26th have no advice yet of any survivors on board. RIO GUALEGUAY left Buenos Aires 1st April for New Orleans where now due.
(S.O.(I) Buenos Aires 261425Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

BULKOIL
breakaway
from Convoy
F.T.7.

Reference N.C.S.O. Freetown 231707Z regarding breach of discipline U.S. Tanker BULKOIL. Request in future that Cominch C and R action addressee in like cases of U.S. ships bound U.S. area of strategic control.
(Cominch C and R 261441Z to Admty.).

SPENCER
DUANE

This Comnaveu 261412 addressed Cinclant (R) Cominch C.T.G. 24.7.
With ref. to Cinclant's 211829 the Admiralty has agreed to release both SPENCER and the DUANE this date. Both these vessels are now at Londonderry undergoing voyage repairs. C.T.G.24.7 will sail both of these vessels on Friday April 30th for Boston. The E.T.A. and the route will follow.
(Comnaveu 261511 to Admty. pass to C. in C. W.A.).

X St. Johns
development

Admiralty have now signified agreement to scheme for development of St. Johns. Drawn up during recent visit of Admiralty St. Johns Mission. Remarks etc.

(5) Admiralty and M. of W.T. also refer to importance of ensuring that new naval facilities to be provided include equipment adequate to cope with heavy emergency repairs as well as running repairs, in order to avoid encroachment on facilities in civilian dockyard for heavy repair work on naval vessels which happened frequently last winter.
(B.A.D. 261525Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) F.O.N.F. Admty. B.M.W.T. Montreal, Huband for Fletcher).

My 261525 Para.4. (re floating dock) and para.5.
Grateful for your views.

(B.A.D.262203B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. F.O.N.F. B.M.W.T. Montreal, Huband for Fletcher).

R.A.F.
Bahamas
Command.

C.O.S.(W) 59 .
Ref. J.S.M. 718.
Following telegram has been sent by Colonial Office to Bahamas No.99 Secret dated 23rd April.
" Command of Forces. Greatly regret that decision has been so long delayed.
It has now been agreed by all concerned that command of Local Forces should be transferred to Senior Royal Air Force Officer.

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

R.A.F. under military direction of Commander, North
Bahamas Caribbean Area. Date of transfer will be
Command communicated to you later.
(contd.). Air Ministry have emphasised that in general
interest this officer should not be unduly
diverted from his primary air duties which are
of first importance. Garrison Adjutant will be appointed as
soon as possible to assist Senior Royal Air Force Officer and
relieve him of unessential work as Officer Commanding Troops.
Air Ministry do not consider there is sufficient justification
for raising rank of Senior Royal Air Force Officer, Bahamas, and
reserve complete discretion as to appointment and rank of this
officer.
Canadian authorities have no objection to above transfer of
command. Present legal position is that provision exists for
Canadian troops in West Indies acting in combination with
British Military Command, but not under Royal Air Force Command.
Fresh Order in Council will, therefore, be required which it is
intended to pass at early date."
(Air Min. 261526Z to Britman, Washington).

Movements U.S.A.T. H.A. SCANDRETT sailed Los Angeles 24th
due San Francisco 26th.
(N.S.H.Q. 261545Z to Admty.).
COL G.H. PENROSE U.S.A.T. departed 26th 1200
Scarborough Tobago same day coastal.
(R.O. Port of Spain 261551 to Admty.).
Following is re-encipherment of N.O.B. Trinidad 261645.
(Begins) H.M.M.L. 1171 Trinidad arrival 1530Q April 25. (Ends).
(Radio Washington 262343 to Admty. N.S.H.Q.).
Following is repetition of Alusnos Recife 241149 (Begins)
MONTEREY U.S.A.T. sailed 240915Z. Ascension 27th thence
Takoradi. (Ends).
(Cominch C and R 261615Z to Admty. (R) Com. Gen. Ascension
F.O.C.W.A.).

EMPRESS OF Your 241502Z.
SCOTLAND Para.3, approved and confirmed.
(A.T.43) (D.O.D.(H) 261659B to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. N.A.).
ANDES
(A.T.44)

QUEEN Your 111409. Completion date is first June.
ELIZABETH Sailing date after two weeks working up practices
is 26th June.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 261702Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.
C. in C. Plymouth, A.S.Devonport. QUEEN
ELIZABETH).

STRIKER A.C.V.19 expect to commission as STRIKER on 29th
(A.C.V.19) April. Will probably leave San Francisco on
Friday 28th. May for Norfolk.
(B.A.M.R. Washington 261802Z to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.
W.At. N.S.H.Q. Cominch, A.C.V.19).

/ H.H.X...

War Diary.

26.4.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.--(contd.).

- H.H.X.236 Sailing telegram.
2. Gate 1800Z/26 April.
3. H.O.M.P. 1200 G.M.T. April 27th.
5. As Cmdr. E. Sea Fron 192101.
7. Total 10 sailed.
8. As Cdre. Sea Front 192101.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 261945Z, 261947Z to Admty.).
Ship added N.C.S.O. Halifax 262131Z.
- B.X.46 Arrived between 1840Z and 1930Z 26th.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 261950Z to Admty.).
- Shipping Connav's serials 25 and 26. EL ESTERO explosives
Casualties laden afire off Bayonne April 24 extinguished
 fire by flooding resting on bottom in 45 feet of
 water.
 (Cominch C and R 262050Z).
- S.H.78 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 262106Z to Admty.).
- Sub All times Z.
attack and Para. A. Plane attacks sub 55 - 05 N. 42 - 25
sighting W. 1830/25. Navy Plane attacks sub 60 - 30 N 22-40
summary. W. 2129/25. P.B.Y. attacks sub 60-35N. 23-35 W.
 2148/25. P.B.Y. sights sub 60 - 44 N. 21- 15 W.
 1035/26. P.B.Y. sights sub 58 - 30 N. 22 - 10 W.
1140/26.
Para C. K.45 attacks sub 31 - 11 N. 80 - 47 W. 1425/26.
Para.D. Sub reported area 17 - 08 N. 62 - 37 W. 0600/25. Surface
craft sights sub 12 - 40 N. 65- 41 W. 1946/25. R.A.F. Plane
sights sub 21 - 15 N. 71 - 25 W. 1420/25. Palo Alton sights
sub 38 - 47 N. 71 - 59 W. 1530/25. C.G. 55028 sights sub area
30-42 N. 81 - 18 W. 1430/26. Navy P.B.M. sights swirl 21 - 09 N.
82 - 50 W. 1210/26. Army plane made contact 23 - 20 N. 82 - 14
W. 1032/26. Commercial Plane sights sub 17 - 45 N. 65 - 10 W.
2000/24.
(Cominch 262108Z to Admty.).
- FENCER Sail FENCER from Norfolk to arrive New York in
time to sail in H.X.238 Advise time of
departure route, S. of A. Provide protection as
practicable.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 262151Z to C. in C. E.F.).
- ADVANTAGE Sailing H.M.R.T. ADVANTAGE (in company with TEXAS)
TEXAS to New Orleans when ready about April 30th for
 ranging Deperming final stores and spares. When
 ready about May 4th sailing onward to Bermuda.
Ultimate destination is St. Johns N.F. when relieved by H.M.R.T.
ASPIRANT. Economic speed 12½ knots. Vessel has endurance to
reach Bermuda from New Orleans. Advise times of departure route

999

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

ADVANTAGE
TEXAS
(contd.).
S. of A.
(Cominch 262154Z as amended 291926Z to Comdr. Gulf S.F. (R) Comdr. Caribbean S.F. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O. W.A. C. in C. N.A. Admty. C.E.S.F. Comtask 24, N.S.H.Q. Com.8. Naval Station New Orleans).

V.L.R.
No.3.
J.S.M. 904 26th April 1943.
V.L.R. No.3. for week ending April 21st (Details) (J.S.M. Washington 262155Z to War Cabinet Offices, London).

H.X.237
Route.
Chop 1400Z 2 May.
4. Stragglers route.
(C.E.S.F. 262230Z to C.T.G. 02.3 Cominch C and R Admty.).

ALCOA
GUARD
A.F.D.No.1.
U.S.S. ALCOA GUARD is now docked and A.F.D.No.1. is under 14 days notice.
(Comm. I/C Bermuda 262307 to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O. W.At. U.S. N. O.B.).

FRANCIS
PARSONS
sank 22nd
April.
My 201950 not to New York. FRANCIS PARSONS (Schooner) sank 22nd position approx. 37 degs. N. 67 degs. W.
(N.S.H.Q. 262350Z to Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. C. in C. N.A. N.C.S.O. Montreal, B.R.L.O. New York, S.O.(I) Jamaica).

Australia and New Zealand.

KIWI 22
Enemy S.S. Cape Orford New Britain 24 April.
My 232341Z Fun Futi results 2 B 24 destroyed 10 damaged 9 F damaged six vehicles damaged and a small arms ammunition dump destroyed.
(C.T.R. Wellington 260024 to A.C.N.B. C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. G.H.Q. New Delhi).

Movements
Arrival Auckland 1945Z/25 U.S.S. TALAMANCA.
Arrival Noumea 24th ATHENE.
Departure Wellington 2300Z/25 U.S.S. MAURY and U.S.S. TRYON for Noumea E.T.A. 0001Z/29.
(Route) S. of A. 17.3 knots.
Departure Pago Pago 2200Z/24 U.S.S. TALLULAH for Noumea E.T.A. 2000Z/29.
(Route) S. of A. 13.5 knots. Departure Lyttleton 0138Z/26 U.S.S.

/ TAGANIK....

1900

26.4.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.Movements
(contd.).TAGANIK for Noumea E.T.A. 0530Z/2 May direct
route via Cook Strait S. of A. 9.5 (?Knots).
(D.N.I. Wellington 260439 to Admty.).Arrival Brisbane 25th U.S. JUPITER.
(A.C.N.B. 260758Z to Admty.).Arrivals Port Moresby 25th. SHEPPERTON Brisbane
25th U.S. Destroyer JENKINS Departure Milne Bay 25th BROOME for
Orobay Townsville 25th GLENELG for Milne Bay.
(A.C.N.B. 260806Z to Admty.).Arrival 25th April Townsville Hired Transport TAROONA
Melbourne H.T. EKATERINI COMANTAROU. Brisbane U.S. Transport
PRESIDENT MONROE. H.T. KATOOMBA. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ
departed Port Moresby 25th due Fall River 26th. U.S. transport
CREMER departed Port Moresby 25th due Townsville 27th R.A.F.A.
AASE MAERSK departed Townsville 25th due Gladstone 27th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 261302Z to Admty.).

Digest

Serial No. 461
April 25th.During early hours well illuminated hospital ship
seen south of Dyaul Island heading for Kavieng and
after daybreak 1 small vessel sighted 10 miles
north of Gazelle Peninsula course west.
(2) Noticeable incomplete coverage revealed two
small Merchantmen in Wewak Harbour.(5) Four Hudsons conducted individual midday searches Tanimbar
Kai Aroe Islands and Kaukenau coast reporting nil shipping sighted.(8) British freighter KOWARRA 2125 tons sunk by torpedoes
0900Z/24 in approx 24 degs. 15' S. or 153 degs. 40' E. First
report of attack came from 11 survivors rescued early after
noon 25th who state 1 torpedo hit each side of ship which sank
inside 2 minutes. Two large submarines sighted on surface after
sinking. 24 of crew missing.
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 260710).LIMERICK
torpedoedMotor Vessel LIMERICK torpedoed 1501Z 25th in
028 degs. 54' S. 153 degs. 54' E. when in convoy
Vessel sank 1930Z 25th. Survivors picked up by
COLAC.
(A.C.N.B. 261001Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.).

KOWARRA

S.S. KOWARRA was torpedoed and sunk 0900Z 24th
35 miles North East of Sandy Cape. 24 of crew
missing.
(A.C.N.B. 261359 to Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.Z.N.B.).

MONOWAI

Further to B.A.D.'s 012025Z. Understand from
New Zealand High Commissioner here that you still
require a substitute for MONOWAI for the
maintenance of your garrisons in South West
Pacific. Request confirmation and if confirmed
what are your requirements for the replace vessel.
(D. of S.T. 262131B to N.Z.N.B.).

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.

1901

26.4.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 261347B, 261416B).

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

x Escort
Oilers.

1. The shortage of white oil products in the U.K. necessitates the withdrawal of tankers from the black oil trade and their cleaning for the carriage of white oil, thus reducing the number of existing and potential escort oilers. The Admiralty propose to examine the possibility of fitting M.A.C. tankers with oiling at sea equipment to improve the deficit in escort oilers. C. in C. W.A. (2nd May) is uneasy at the prospect of any reduction in the programme of fitting oilers and above all the removal of any that are fitted; and whilst welcoming the proposal to fit M.A.C. ships he considered it essential that at least one ordinary oiler should accompany any particular convoy in addition to any M.A.C. ships that may be present.

x 2. The A/S air patrols in the Bay of Biscay are still being maintained and have resulted in 26 sightings and 6 attacks since 0600/13.

x 3. Coastal Command aircraft torpedoed and sank a ship today, probably TRONDHEIMSFJORD, in 57.57 N. 07.31 E. (off Ryvingen).

South Atlantic.

4. CHESHIRE, who crossed the Atlantic to escort the floating dock ex-Montevideo, left Bahia at 1300Z today for U.K. via the probable blockade runner route, consequent on change of destination of the dock.

Mediterranean.

x Light force
operations.

5. Last night, TARTAR and LOYAL carried out a sweep to Marittimo and M.G.Bs and M.T.Bs from Bone operated in the Gulf of Tunis.

/M.T.B. ...

1003

27.4.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Light force
operations.
(Contd.)

M.T.B.311, carrying out a sweep in Bizerta Roads, sank a small merchant vessel by torpedo at 0230 today off Cani Rocks.

S/M
operations.

6. UNSEEN reports that at 1103/18 in 38.16 N. 13.11 E. (about 20 miles south of Ustica) she attacked a tanker escorted by two escort vessels and two E-Boats, and sank one of the escorts. SARACEN reports that at 1325/19 she sank a FRANCESCO CRISPI class liner and a merchant vessel resembling MONTELLO in the approaches to Bastia. At 0102/22 she attacked two EDDA class merchantmen in convoy in 42.03 N. 09.48 E.; one ship which was apparently full of ammunition or petrol blew up.

Loss of
SAHIB and
SPLENDID.

7. Captain (S) 8 reports that both SAHIB (P.212) and SPLENDID (P.228) have failed to answer signals made to them on 25th April, and must be considered lost.

SAHIB sank an enemy transport north of Messina at 0250A/24 and it is thought that subsequent enemy air and A/S measures accounted for her. SPLENDID left Malta on 17th April and on 22nd was ordered to patrol off the west coast of Corsica.

Over the period referred to, the sea was flat calm, with excellent A/S conditions.

8. SS. MEROPE was mined or torpedoed at 1345 off Cape Bengut (Algiers).

9. SS. CLAN MACINDOE was beached off Mex Harbour, Alexandria after an outbreak of fire at 0740 today and it is reported that the ship will become a total loss.

Fire broke out in SS. OCEAN STRENGTH at Tripoli (L) today, but was quickly got under control.

10. C. in C. Levant is asking for suitable target towing aircraft for the Eastern Mediterranean. He reports that if more facilities are not made available the most important operation of the year will be undertaken by untrained ships.

* Sousse.

11. A few enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Sousse last night, but no damage is reported. Two of the enemy were destroyed. Minesweeping off the port continues; one mine was destroyed today and explosive cutters were found. The clearance of the port is proceeding satisfactorily.

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

12. 3 out of 7 B.24s of the U.S.A.A.F. which were despatched to attack Rangoon today bombed Diamond Island and hit the wireless station.

America and West Indies.

U.174
Sunk off
Nova Scotia.

13. The U.S. auxiliary MANHASSET attacked a U-Boat this afternoon in 54.19 N. 44.23 W. There is no evidence of damage. A Navy P.V-1 attacked a partly surfaced S/M in 43.35 N. 56.18 W. today. The S/M was blown to the surface by depth charges, then settled out of sight. The bow then rose at a steep angle and was machine-gunned by the aircraft. The submarine then settled stern first and extensive air bubbles were seen.

Australia and New Zealand.

X U/B off
Sydney.

14. U.S. LYDIA M. CHILD (7176 tons), sailing independently, was torpedoed and sunk in 33.08 S. 153.24 E. (about 100 miles N.E. of Sydney) this morning G.M.T.

X 15. A Fortress aircraft bombed the wireless station at Gasmata, New Guinea, today, destroying the mast and setting fire to the building. 4 U.S. Mitchells today attacked two vessels 90 miles N.W. of Dobo and set one of 1000 tons on fire and hit the other, of 2000 tons.

1005

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

? Towers in Thames Estuary. My 5701 of 28th March. Owing to non-completion of Camels first tower will not go out before 16th May. (C. in C. Nore 271729B).

Movements.

S/M movements (1) P.C.S. of O.N.180 at 1400B/27 056 degs 24' N. 013 degs. 04' W. 273 degs. 7½.
(2) Estimate your P.C.S. at 1200B 056 degs 35' N. 015 degs. 20' W. 087 degs. 11 knots.

(3) HAKE keep 20 miles North of your ordered route forthwith until longitude 013 degs. W. (F.O.S. 270924B to HAKE).

My 261142. Intend to sail CURIE escorted by SABRE 1900B tomorrow northabout to Clyde. E.T.A. Cumbræ 1030B/29. (N.O.I.C. Barrow 271149B).

My 271000Z position 56.46 N. 14.46 W. open on course 30 speed 11. Request repetition your 270924B. using numbered table not (?18) table which is incorrect my code book. (HAKE 271230Z to F.O.S.).

(2) N.O.I.C. Londonderry is requested to sail ELSE RYKENS and UNTAMED on completion of exercises p.m. 29th to arrive Campbeltown a.m. 30th.

(Capt. D. Greenock 271732B).

Position of S/M's at 0800B/28 and movements for following 24 hours .

(F.O.S. 271733B, 271909B, 272307).

My 261437B. Add twenty-four hours to all times. (SIMOOM, UNSPARING).

(Capt. S.3. 272152B).

KING GEORGE V. Your 192249B (See special File). Intend to sail KING GEORGE V at 1600/30. Request destroyer screen may R/V at Eyebroughy buoy at about 1830. (C. in C. Rosyth 271229B to C.in C. H.F.).

BERMUDA C. in C. Plymouth's 241315. Onward route from 50 degs. N. through 54 degs. N. 15 degs. W. 56 degs. N. 11 degs. W. then 180 degs. Barra Head 10 miles and to Scapa.

(2) A.M. 271658. Position L for M.K.F.13 is 4000 N. 1615 W. (D.O.D.H. 271841B to BERMUDA).

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (1) Intend M.L's 247 (S.O.) and 269 to patrol tonight on latitude 50 degs 20' N. between 01 degs. 45' W. and 02 degs 25' W.

(2) Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S.382 and leaving patrol-line at Dawn/28.

(3) Object anti E-boat patrol. Code word "Prize". (F.O.I.C. Portland 271041B).

M.S.9's 251205. S.G.B.6, M.G.B.608, 614 are to patrol weather permitting, between 50 degs, 27' N. 0 degs 30' E. and

1006

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols (contd.). 50 degs. 20' N. 03' E. from 0100 to 0600 as cover for minesweeping exercise. Codeword "Cadger". (C. in C. Portsmouth 271230B). 1 S.G.B. 2 M.G.B's from Newhaven patrolling 20 miles South of Beachy Head 0100-0600/28. M.L. 247 (S.O.) 269 from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between 1 degs. 45' W. and 2 degs. 25' W. M.L. 308, 246 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy. CHASSEUR 41 at St. Helens. LA COMBATTANTE, LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 271245B). (1) M.G.B's 324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 235 degs. and 055 degs. from 125 degs Start 13. (2) Object Anti- E Boat patrol. (3) Execution: Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2130B. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0630B. (4) Information Enemy: E Boats may operate from Cherbourg, Guernsey or Brittany. Code word "Arena". (C. in C. Plymouth 271755B). When P.W. 330 entered Plymouth and GOATHLAND completes practices at about 2215 to-day, GOATHLAND and ALBRIGHTON are to proceed to take up anti E-Boat patrol between 145 degs Eddystone 15 and 210 degs Eddystone 20 as arranged by GOATHLAND Codeword "Warrant". Unless otherwise ordered leave patrol at 0400/28 and return to Plymouth. (2) M.G.B's 324, 330 patrolling N.E. from 160 degs Start Point 13. (C. in C. Plymouth 271809B to GOATHLAND, ALBRIGHTON). My 271041B. "Prize" sailed at 2059. (F.O.I.C. Portland 272105B). Proceed to pass through 000 degs. Sept. Iles Light 6, thence through 000 degs Ile de Bas 7, thence to Plymouth, leaving Ile de Bas by 0330/28, Object sweep for enemy shipping. (C. in C. Plymouth 272137B to GOATHLAND, ALBRIGHTON).

S/M patrol. (1) BARB and BLACKFISH will be ordered to leave patrol 8th May being relieved by SHAD and HERRING respectively. (2) Shortly before leaving patrol BARB and BLACKFISH are to ascertain ice-limits at Northern end of patrol line reporting result when South of 061 degs. N. (F.O.S. 271644B and 281033B to S/M's). Captain (S) 3 is requested to sail TRUCULENT 30th April for Lerwick and patrol line X. (2) Comsubron 50 is requested to sail SHAD and HERRING to comply my 271644. (3) Captain (S) 9 is requested to (a) Recall BARB and BLACKFISH. (b) Order SATYR to proceed to patrol line 7 at 0001/5th May. (c) Arrange bombing restrictions and routes for all movements. U.S. submarines are to proceed escorted between Clyde and a position approximately 10 miles West of Shetlands. (F.O.S. 271646B).

/ Positions...

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. -(contd.).

S/M Position of S/M at 00800B/28.
patrol A. SATYR on patrol between 67 degs. 30' N.
16 degs. 01' W. and Icelandic coast on latitude
16 degs. W.
B. BARB patrolling between 67 degs. 30' and
68 degs. 30' N. on meridian of 16 degs. W.
C. BLACKFISH on patrol from Kolbinsey 67 degs. 08' N. 18 degs.
38' W. to northward as far as 68 degs N.
D. UNIVERSAL vicinity 63 degs. 56' N. 02 degs. 55' W.
E. O.14 on patrol line 20 miles North and South of 63 degs.
50' N. 00 degs. 30' W.
F. USURPER on patrol line 030 degs. and 210 degs. from 62 degs.
15' N. 02 degs. 15' E.
(F.O.S. 271733B to Admty.).

Exercises.

Exercise Proceed in ANSON with FURIOUS, SCYLLA, and
X.C.J. JAMAICA to carry out exercise X.C.J. in
accordance with my 222223.
Movements on completion in accordance with my
222223 and 231219.
(C. in C. H.F. 271041B to B.S.2.).
Units of H.F. already detailed will be carrying out
tactical exercises X.C.J. between 0800B/28 and 0800B/30.
(2) Fleet Wave and alternative Fleet and Auxiliary Waves will
be used but exercise enemy reports will not be repeated on
Broadcast H.D.
(C. in C. H.F. 271702B to Admty.).
Scapa departure for exercise X.C.J. ANSON, SCYLLA, JAMAICA,
MILNE, INTREPID, ECHO, FURIOUS, FURY, ACTIVE and TROUBRIDGE.
(A.C.O.S. 272023).

Exercise Your 260956. Para.2. will arrange. Para.3,
in Irish R.A.F. Northern Ireland requires details of Call
Sea. sign and frequency to be used before night landings
INDOMITABLE at Ballyhalbert can be permitted. Para.4, R.A.F.
UNICORN. Northern Ireland reply they can not accept this
area. It will be appreciated that this area is
mostly outside my Sub Command. Suggest that the
whole question of exercises in Irish Sea should be the subject
of discussion between Admiralty and Fighter Command H.Q. as it
involves several authorities both Naval and R.A.F.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 271305B to R.A.A. H.F.).
Your 260956B. Fighter Group concerned would prefer that
you did not operate so far south. If you concur suggest ships
and aircraft keep north of 53 degs. N.
(C. in C.W.A. 271311B to F.O.C. A/C Carriers).
N.O.I.C. Belfast 271305 and my 271311. Pending agreement
as to exercise areas ships and aircraft are not to operate
South of 053 degs. 30' N.
(C. in C. W.A. 271937B to INDOMITABLE, UNICORN).

AMBUSCADE Admiralty 141848. The following programme of
trials. trials on completion of fitting Squid will be

/carried...

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Exercises.

AMBUSCADE
trials
(contd.).

carried out. Details.
(D.T.M. 271717B to C. in C. Portsmouth).

A.S.V.
Trials in
Lyme Bay.
H.32.

Reference 221200B from H.Q.C.C. H.32 is detailed for A.S.V. trials with group 19 aircraft which will take place in Lyme Bay during approx. 29th April to 8th May.
(2) H.32 will be based on Dartmouth during these trials proceeding to and from trial area in centre of Lyme Bay under escort but operating unescorted on surface during trials which will take place during daylight only.
(3) Intend to sail H.32 escorted by KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL for Dartmouth at 1400B tomorrow 28.
(C. in C. Plymouth 271725B).

Allied Air Activity.

X Iceland.

Your A. 970 8th April para.2.

War Department and Etousa agree to use of Meeks field as advance refuelling base for one V.L.R. Squadron from Reykjavik from May 1st.

2. Further use Meeks Field and/ or Patterson Field to be determined on receipt of recommendations from Iceland.
- (C) Base Commander after consultation with A.O.C. Iceland.
3. Patterson Field is to be improved for operation V.L.R. aircraft including extension runways.
4. Both Meeks Field and Patterson Field to remain under American Control.
5. Request A.O.C. Iceland be instructed to consult with Iceland Base Commander and hasten recommendations under para.2 above.
(Air Ministry 271345Z to H.Q.C.C.).

Bomber
Command
operations.

On night 26/27 April 499 A/C attacked Duisberg.
(H.Q.B.C. 271445B).

R/C of
Gironde Ports

Your 061001B. R/C of Gironde ports once a week will normally meet requirements. At special periods such as when activity is expected by blockade breakers or whilst destroyers are present reconnaissance is required as frequently as possible at least three times a week.
(D.D.I.C. 271725B to H.Q.C.C.).

Hellcat
A/C

A.M. 141544. To bring Hellcat into service at an earlier date it is intended to defer the formation of 1832 Squadron and to re-arm 800 and 804 Squadrons at Eglinton on 1st June and 1st July with 10 Hellcats each. Dates are subject to aircraft being available.
(D.N.A.O. 271729B to F.O.N.A.S.).

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War Diary.

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Jan
Mayen. Following from Jan Mayen A/C. observed far away
to north of Island 0745, course S.W.
(A.C.I.C. 271412B).

Mining.

Yarmouth L.L.Sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at
1037 in 040 degs. 3 C. Buoy 12 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 271057B Cdr. M/S
Lowestoft 280948B).

X
Iceland ALCA'S 222300B and your 231558B. Proposed
C.M.Field. position for C.M.Field approved.
2. Report on present situation regarding site
of Control position and progress in building combined Indicator
and C.N. Control Station should be forwarded.
(D.T.M. 271611B to A.C.I.C.).

HALCYON Request you will sail HALCYON and SALAMANDER to
SALAMANDER Scapa to rejoin 1st M.S.F.
(D.M.S. 271615B to C. in C. W.A.).

Western Mean width of area swept to date 3.0 miles from
Channel Northern limit. Depth of sweep increased to 25
swept. fathoms. Two mines detonated in 50 degs. 07'
15" N. 04 degs. 24' 24" W. 50 degs. 06' 06" N.
04 degs. 29' 21" W.
(M/S 4. 271904B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operation My 231852B. Operation S.N.111A is postponed 72
S.N.111A hours.
(?R.A.M. 271925B to Admt.).

Sweep of My W.A. 1008/4181 M of 4th April para.3. Request
Q.Z.X.229. early consideration be given to sweeping Q.Z.X.
229 as the need for more submarine exercise areas
is urgent.
(C. in C. W.A. 272340B to Admt.).

Enemy Intelligence.

/ M/V's off One enemy medium vessel and one small vessel in
The Naze. 58 degs. 15' N. 06 degs. 25' E. course 130 degs.
speed 7.
(A/C Z/235 270950 to 18 Group).

P.C.S. of one medium and two small enemy vessels 58 degs.
18' N. 06 degs. 15' E. 130 degs. 7 knots.
(A/C Z/235 270952B to 18 Group).

One enemy medium-size Merchant vessel and 2 small-sized
merchant vessels in 58 degs. 23' N. 06 degs. 05' E, course 310
degs. speed knots 7.

(A/C Z/235 270954)

/ Bordeaux...

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27.4.1943.

Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence - (contd.).

Bordeaux Photographic R/C shows 4 Narvik Class Destroyers still in Bordeaux today.
(C. in C. Plymouth 272009B to BERMUDA).

U-Boats.

U/B's in Am over enemy submarine in 46 degs. 45' N. 08
Biscay degs. 35' W.
Area. (A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty M 270045 to 19 Group).
 Am over enemy submarine in 44 degs. 30' N. 11
 degs. 00' W.
 (A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty X 270428 to 19 Group).

U/B Experience with O.N. 176 and H.X.234 confirmed
tactics by sightings and aircraft reports indicates
 U/boats worked in pairs.
 Apparently object by day to give each other
support, for when sighted first U/boat made towards second.
Destroyer able to force down first (?before) (?reaching)
second, sighted at ranges of about 5 miles from first; but
consider slower ships should be warned.
Suspect night intentions are for one to draw defence whilst
other attacks through gap left in screen, but evidence not
absolutely conclusive.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24-1-18 271403Z to C. in C. W.A.).

Technical.

Smoke Cancel my 241426Z. Trials will not be carried
Screen out on O.N.181.
Trials. (C. in C. W.A. 271540Z to C. in C. N.A.).

Casualties and Defects.

Convoy E.T.A. 0800Z/28.
H.X.234 Details of AMERIKA survivors on board.
AMERIKA (ASPHODEL 270016Z and 271606Z to N.O.I.C.
survivors. Greenock).

IROQUOIS Proceed passing Switha 2100 today to Devonport
for repairs. Route.
(R.A.D.271742B to IROQUOIS).

Convoy BORNHOLM D/F 303 degs. Grade 3
O.N.S.5. (Sheigra Radio 271802Z to Ad. Lyness).
BORNHOLM. Received 1808 G.M.T. De Gallonhead Radio Begins:-
 Intercepted at 1803Z - Begins:- From BORNHOLM.
 Urgent, ship sinking slowly (unread) salvage
Tug immediately. Will pass Reykjavik about 8 p.m.
(Wick Radio 272010).

DHOON Your 21155/B. Arrived at 1800B/27.
(F.O. Humber 271827 to F.O.Yarmouth).

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.182, FISHGUARD, BANFF, NENE. Admiralty 172349, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 211043. Proposed sailing NENE with O.N.182 due Newfoundland May 19. (C. in C. W.A., 270013B to Admty). FISHGUARD, BANFF, and NENE are to sail as additional escort. (C. in C. W.A., 270015B).
- E.G.2 Request you will sail STARLING, CYGNET, WREN, KITE, WILD GOOSE and WOODPECKER as 2nd Escort Group a.m./29 May (?April intended) direct to Iceland to refuel and act as a Support Group. (C. in C. W.A., 270033B to Cdre. Londonderry).
- O.N.180 Returned from O.N.180, ECLIPSE. Lost convoy in gale. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 270034 to C. in C. W.A.) Inform Commodore BURY (Rescue Ship) is returning. (C. in C. W.A., 271147B to Escorts O.N.180).
- C.2 Group POLYANTHUS and CHAMBLY are to sail a.m./28 direct to St. Johns N.F. to rejoin C.2 group. (C. in C. W.A., 271019Z to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- X H.X.234, U-boat attacks on 21, 22, 23, and 24 April. (a) 4 21st April, 6 22nd, 12.23rd and 24th April. (b) 4 and 2 evaded by convoy turns. (c) 2. (d) 2 one sunk one damaged. (e) One sunk by aircraft, 2 or 3 hope damaged by escort. (f) Convoy discipline excellent; turn well executed enabled concerted dawn attack 0400Z/24 to be avoided. AMERIKA probable straggler when sunk, convoy not reported before or after this attack. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.18, 271115Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X.B.234. Escort detailed for Clyde, Belfast and Liverpool portion is to continue to 055° N., ships then to proceed unescorted. No local escort is available. (C. in C. W.A., 271149B to Escorts H.X. 234).
- X Atlantic Convoy Cycles. If the proposals put forward in my 262302 are accepted on other grounds they are to be preferred to those in Admiralty 262352. 2. My proposals have been calculated. (A) To extend as soon as feasible the very short layovers now current in Newfoundland. (B) To even out layover of groups. (C) To drop the 2 appropriate groups from the system in time to meet other commitments. 3. With the 5½ and 11 day system in operation it will not be economic to continue the present system of assigning some groups solely to fast and others to slow convoys. Sailing dates have been calculated accordingly. (C. in C. W.A., 271124B to Admty).

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

O.N.181 Your 232053 and my 241626. Only two merchant ships equipped with C.S.A. apparatus are now available to sail in O.N.181. It appears most improbable that any other ship will be fitted in time.
(2) It is intended that smoke trial be cancelled for this convoy.
(C. in C. W.A., 271606B to Admty).

H.X. 237 My 262230. Amend position A.M. to read 55.50 N. 14.59 W.
(Comeastseafron, 271724Z to Admty).

O.S.47,
K.M.S.14,
M.K.S.13,
S.L.129. 1. The following are the arrangements for escorts of O.S.47, K.M.S.14, M.K.S.13, and S.L. 129.
2. (a) O.S.47 and K.M.S.14 will be escorted to "GISP" by 39th E.G., 4 ships of 16 M.S.F., and HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER.
(b) From "GISP" Gibraltar portion should be escorted by HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER and 4 of 16 M.S.F. and such escort as can be provided by C. in C. Med.,
(c) 39th E.G. provide onward escort of O.S.47 to Freetown.
3. S.L. 129 to be escorted from Freetown by 38th E.G. to join M.K.S.13 at "GOMP".
4. M.K.S.13 to be escorted from Gibraltar by 4 ships of 16th M.S.F. referred to above with such extra escorts as can be provided by C. in C. Med., to join S.L. 129 at "GOMP".
5. After arrival at Gibraltar HAZARD and SHARPSHOOTER will proceed as directed by C. in C. Med., to relieve SPEEDWELL and HUSSAR for return to U.K.
(D.O.D. H., 271817B).

X
Escort Equipment of tankers with platform and rail is
Oilers. proceeding under difficulties caused by natural reluctance of Ministry to allow any delay in turn-round. Considering present condition of stocks Ministry is giving full co-operation.
(2) Shortage of white oil products in U.K. necessitates withdrawal of tankers from the black oil trade and their cleaning for carriage of white oils. This will remove from our reach a number of potential escort oilers and also a few existing escort oilers.
(3) It is proposed to examine the possibility of fitting M.A.C. tankers with oiling at sea equipment to improve the deficit in escort oilers.
(4).The conditions would be that no delay to completion dates would be acceptable and that flying takes precedence over fuelling. (5) Request your remarks.
(A.C.N.S. U.T., 271851B to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.128 My 270035B. In view of present U/B situation
H.X. 236 request you will adjust sailing of 3rd E. Group so as to provide cover from the time that first of these two convoys crosses lat. 50° N.
(C. in C. W.A., 272116Z to F.O.N.F.)

1013

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders and Blockade Runners.

Intelligence. My 211547B.

1. Prisoners report having seen Raider "H" in Batavia on 15th February.

2. No further reports of blockade runners.

OSORNO could now have reached longitude of Cape Agulhas or Cape Horn. ALSTERUFER is probably in South Atlantic. (D.D.I.C. 271641B to A.I.G. 13, etc.)

North Atlantic.

EMPIRE MORN
(mined 26/4)

ANTHONY reports EMPIRE MORN mined or torpedoed in 34.03 N. 07.58 W. approx. 2245/26. 2 escorts and P.C. standing by, still afloat. (C.M.S.F.F. 270108 to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C. in C.Med. Admty. Cominch.)

C.G.29.

Arrived STORA, SUNFLOWER. (F.O.Gibraltar 270441 to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

HEBE II.

HEBE II sailed 0730A today. (Commorseafon 270802 to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med. Admty.)

EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND.

Detach one destroyer in sufficient time to R/V EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, 32.00 N. 14.(?38)W. at 1100Z/29th (?escort) to Casablanca E.T.A. 0630Z/30th (?vessel) routed (?from) N. 30.01 N. 21.01 W. through O, 33.59 N. 08.03 (?W.) speed (?23).5 Guard 2410 k/cs. Admty. pass to EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND.* (C.M.S.F.F. 270941 to (?C.T.F.68 (R) Admty. EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Atlantic Fleet, Comnavnaw, Comfairwing 15.)*(Passing action being taken by W.R.)

ROUENNAIS
(mined 25/4)

Your 261852A. (French SS. ROUENNAIS of convoy C.G.29 struck by mine and sank. Request confirmation that shipping is normally routed outside the 200 fathom line.) Position confirmed. 4 convoys normally routed outside .3. (Commorseafon 271000 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

/Dispositions...

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27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- Dispositions Situation 2001B/27th.
SERAPH 38.46 (?85).58 162° diving by day 9/2.
2. P.37 (UNBENDING) 36.42 (?04). 30 through
36.45 09.20 at (?02)30 28th thence 339° diving
by day (?8)/2.
3. Coastal craft convoy, HONEYSUCKLE (e) 37.09 10.20 through
(?36).40 10.02 thence 099° 6.
4. COWSLIP (?2) merchant ships left Gibraltar 1800B/27th
through 35.45 06.30 and 33.40 09.01 thence 215° 9.
(F.O.Gibraltar 271004B.)
Situation 2002B/27.
- M.K.F.(?13) HUSSAR 39.11 14.51 through 40.01 16.15 thence 002° 13½
2. ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH one tanker 34.40 09.21 through
35.01 10.01 thence 282 9.
3. U.G.L. 2, C.T.G. 69.1, 31.19 (?14). 30 through 31.40 11.02
thence 44° 8.
4. AUBRETIA approx. 26.28 15.40 southbound 13½.
5. O.T.4, (?C) (?T)G. 21.5, 26.49 20.18 (3) 29.50 26.10 thence
64 13½.
6. BOREAS, LEWES (?2) merchant ships, 29.57 11.12 through 29.40
11.25 thence 234 13½.
7. S.L. 128, BLACK SWAN 23.40 17.30 through 24.02 17.28 52.42 6½.
8. Swedish relief in tow WIRIL 36.20 20.45 92 11.
(F.O.Gibraltar 271016B.)
Situation at 2003B/27. T.A.41.
- A. 42.42 (?27). (?38) through 39.01 36.01 thence 256° 18.
2. 18 L.C.I. (L) S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 107, 32.25 (?41). (?10) 094° 10
3. U.G.S.7A and U.G.L.3. C.T.F. 64, 32.14 36.41 099° 8½.
(F.O.Gibraltar 271108B.)

Axis Shipping Arrival 26th LE VIOLET. Arrival 27th SPERBER,
Bilbao. NORDFELS, CABO RAZO. Departure 26th REGEJA,
JACQUELINE, LINETTE, HENK. Departure 27th
BORDSEE, KAULDI. Repeat S.O.(I) Gibraltar,
(Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(Bilbao 271116 to Admty.)

Telegram 78 April 27th. BORDSEE sailed 0330, KAULDI sailed
0400/27th. SPERBER arrived 0200, NORDFELS arrived 0300/27th.
(Consul Bilbao 271150 to M.E.W. (R) Admty. etc.)

UNSPARING, Subs leaving Scilly Isles at 1700B April 30th
SIMOON. diving by day to 043° N. as follows
A. P.55 (UNSPARING) route "Rose" to 046° N. thence
"Gold" 91 miles a day. E.T.A. 0500B May 7th.
B. P.225 (SIMOON) route "Gold" 106 miles a day.
E.T.A. 2300B May 9th. F.O.S. 261221B refers.
2. Communication.
3. Subs carrying S.P. 542 A. 2 C. Article 44 A list 1/A.K.A. 96
last Q.K.27 and are painted blue.
(Capt. S.3 271135B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) F.O.S. C.
in C.Med. C. in C.Plymouth, Capt. S.8, S.O.(S) Gibraltar,
P.55 (UNSPARING) P.225 (SIMOON).)
My 271135B, add 24 hours to all times.
(Capt. S.3 272154B.)

/GENEROSO...

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27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

GENEROSO. My 211125. Swiss GENEROSO now sailing about 29th. (D.E.W.D. 271158B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med.)

French Refugees Portugal My 241827. (Circulated under 241841) 198 arrived in ANTELOPE. (F.O.Gibraltar 271321B to Admty. etc.)

X Flying Crews Gibraltar. Your 251625A and Admiralty's 262014B. Flying crews of 813 and 779 Sqdns. embarked in HUNTER have not yet been returned to Gibraltar. 2. Two Swordfish can be provided from Air Pool but provision of Flying crews will entail virtual disbandment of one flight of 813 Sqdn. which is already below strength. 3. No A.R. Hurricanes are available. One hurricane and pilot only of 779 Sqdn. F.R.U. are suitable for operations. 4. Need for pool, at present non-existent, of flying personnel at Gibraltar is now imperative. (F.O.Gibraltar 271504B to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.) Reply: Admty. 282320B.

MAURO CROCE damaged. Report from both Consuls Valencia and U.S. Naval Attache states MAURO CROCE was attacked April 24th while northbound from Valencia. R.O.Valencia says attack from air, U.S. Naval Attache by torpedo, and that vessel now (?damaged) at Sagunto. (N.A.Madrid 271723B to Admty.) W.D. Note - Damage was by gunfire from SICKLE, see C. in C.Med. 272346A.

M.K.S.12. Arrived, 21 ships. (F.O.Gibraltar 261733B to C. in C.Med.) M.K.S.12. Sailing destinations. (D.T.D. 271848B to F.O.Gibraltar.)

German A/C One German aircraft sighted off Cape Roca at 1405B today flying south east. (N.A.Lisbon 271745B to S.O.(I) Gibraltar, (R) Admty.)

Convoy R.S.4A R.S.4A, sailed for Safi, OCEAN VISCOUNT, P.L.M. 21. (F.O.C.Gibraltar 271816B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc.)

/My...

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²
 17.4.1943.
 Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy R.S.4A. (Contd.) My 271210B (N.T. in W.D.) sailed convoy R.S.4A escorted by COMSHIP (?COWSLIP) Q.L.A.167. ANTHONY as additional escort to Safi, thence returning to Gibraltar. (F.O.Gibraltar 272234B to F.O.C.W.Af. Commorseafron (R) F.A.C.D. Admty. C. in C.Med.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals GAVOTTE, ALBACORE ex K.M.S.13. WISHART, ILEX, HAYDON, CALPE ex M.K.F.13. LORD NUFFIELD from escort duties Lisbon. WILTON, WHEATLAND, OAKLEY, COWDRAY, BACHAQUERO, ROTHESAY, POLRUAN, CLACTON with M.K.S.12. Departures COLVOLVULUS, HUSSAR, Tug HENGIST to join M.K.S.13. BLYSKAWICA for Algiers. (F.O.Gibraltar 261950B to Admty. C. in C.Med.)
 Arrivals. ANTELOPE from Villa Real U.S. P.C. 481, 474 with C.G. 29, BRISSENDEN from Casablanca.
 Departures. PENSTEMON on Local Escort duties east. (F.O.Gibraltar 272146B to Admty. C. in C.Med. Cominch.)

Movements, Casablanca Departed Casablanca ST. NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH. (Commorseafron 272055 to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
 Warships April 26th.
 Arrived COMMANDANT DELAGE (Fr.) ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ (Fr.) from local escort. Arrived ANTHONY and BRISSENDEN and departed with EMPIRE MORN. BOREAS and LEWES departed with CLAN LAMONT and AORANGI.
 Departed DUMONT D'URVILLE (Fr.) and LA GRANDIERE (Fr.) for Dakar LA TAPAGEUSE (Fr.) for Safi. (C.M.S.F.F. 262110Z to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

ROSA N. ILLUECA (Spanish) Departure April 26th from Valencia Spanish ROSA N. ILLUECA, destination probably Sete. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar 272145B to 8th S/M Flot. (R) S.O.(I) Med. French S/M ANTIOPE.)

MEDIE II. Your 271748 (Requesting route position and speed D'UMONT D'URVILLE, LA GRANDIERE, N.T. in W.D.) French sloop D'UMONT D'URVILLE, LA GRANDIERE escorting MEDIE II departed Casablanca 0955A/26th for Dakar. Route coastal accordance with (?S) F.M.A.3. S.O.A. 9. Estimated position 0800A/28th April - 25 N. 11.35 W. (C.M.S.F.F. 272230Z to F.O.C.Gibraltar, (R) Admty. N.C.S.O. Freetown, F.O.C.W.Af. Comar Dakar.)

Convoy X.K.5. Intend to sail convoy X.5 (?X.K.5 intended) codeword "Bonbon" consisting of LAMBROOK escorted by BRISSENDEN at 1600B/28th April for U.K. routed through E. 36.20 10.01 F. 38.25 12.30 G. 45.01 13.30 S.O.A. 10 knots. 2. Admty. is requested to signal onward route and destination. 3. LAMBROOK has defective boiler. With diesel machinery ship can only proceed at one speed, 11 kts. through water.

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War Diary.27.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic

Convoy 4. LAMBROOK will therefore require tugs on reaching
X.K.5 water where it is required to manoeuvre engine.
(Contd.) (F.O.Gibraltar 272310B to Amty. (R) C. in C.Med.
C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. BRISSENDEN, H.Q.C.C.)

South Atlantic.

Dispositions Situation at 2002Z/27th April.
DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL,
QUALITY with C.F.12, 05.40 11.12 to 07.38 14.12
thence Freetown 13½.
FANDANGO, BELLWORT, BIRDLIP, ARRAN with T.S.37, 03.43 05.54 to
03.30 07.41 thence 302 7.
M.L. 278 off Robert Port.
M.L. 265 off Port Bouet.
M.L. 271 off Accra.
ALCANTARA, MILFORD, AMARANTHUS, SNOWDROP, MORRIS DANCE, WOODRUFF,
TAMARISK, YESTOR, 5 M.L. escorting 07.38 14.19 to (?Freetown) 5.
4 M.Ls. 07.48 15.20 through 06.52 14.22 at 0400Z/28th and
08.14 14.22 at 1200Z/28th thence Freetown 10.
TURCOMAN escorting off Lagos to Pointe Noire 8.
WAIRAKEI II, ARMERIA, BUTTERMERE, VIRGINIAN, THYME with S.T.63,
08.06 14.01 to 07.44 14.32 to 07.23 14.32 thence 123° 9,
(cancelled, see 271554).
F.S.GLOIRE on patrol about 07.50 27.30 19, COPINSAY off Freetown
to south east to R/V with T.S.37, 9.
(F.O.W.A. 271031Z.)
My 271031. Cancel reference to convoy 63. Add 1. to 9th
A/S Striking Force Group CYCLAMEN, ARMERIA, THYME, VIRGINIA,
BUTTERCUP.
2. PETUNIA 08.19 15.00 thence Freetown 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 271554Z.)
My 271515 (?271554 intended). Add BUTTERMERE 08.36 13.54 to
08.47 15.01 thence Freetown 12.
(R.A.W.A. 271801Z.)
(?NEWCASTLE), MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID with W.S.29
009° 21' 014° 52' to Freetown 11½.
INKPEN anchored 018° 35' 016° 11'.
B.D.Vs. CONSBORO, PANORAMA about 018° 47' 016° 41' to North
coastwise 3½.
M.L. 574 about 011° 15' 017° 04' to Freetown 10.
BLACK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION
with S.L. 128 024° 03' 017° 27' 042° 6.
LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, WHIMBELL, ANCHUSA, COMMANDANT
DETROYAT, ROHILKHAND with O.S. 46, 24.50 17.30 to 24.(?30) 17.58
thence 181° 9.
1 corvette escorting about 23.50 17.40 to join O.S.46, 9.

/BRIDGEWATER...

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27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) BRIDGEWATER escorting 16.(?59) 18.59 to Dakar 10.
 PETUNIA (?08).19 14.15 to 08.11 15.(?44) thence Freetown 12.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 271515.)
 Position at 2000Z/27th. CATTERICK 020° 15' 011° 35' to 017° 30' 010° 45' 16½.
 ARISTEA searching vicinity 037° 30' 023° 40'.
 TRUSTY, (?FRITILLARY) 034° 10' 026° (?30) by R.9 to Simonstown 11
 NORTHERN DUKE with D.C.20A (?033°) 20' 027° 40' coastal to Capetown 10.
 RACEHORSE escorting ARUNDEL CASTLE 032° 029° 25' coastal to Capetown 16.
 RELENTLESS searching the vicinity 033° 40' 032°.
 CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGER, WELLARD with C.D. 15 031° 40' 029° 50' coastal to Durban 8.
 ULSTER MONARCH, JASMINE 028° 25' 032° 50' to Kilindini 15.
 F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC with D.N. 34A 026° 15' 037° 30' to 025° 041° 05' 11.
 FROBISHER 023° 20' 037° 10' to 031° 30' 031° 55' 17.
 SUSSEX, NAPIER, RAIDER with C.M. 41 023° (?40') 041° to 022° 40' 042° 11.
 SATSA, HITCHWRACK (?STORMWRACK) 028° 50' 032° 10' to Beira 10.
 (C. in C.S.A. 271259B.)

W.S.29. Route for W.S.29 (details). 2. Capetown portion part company in position "Love" and enter harbour.
 3. ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS and (?RACEHORSE) will join escort of convoy in position "Easy".
 (C. in C.S.A. 271122B to F.O.C.W.Af. B.N.L.O.W.Af. Admty. (R) Capt. D.11th D.F.)

Estimated time Freetown with MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID and W.S. 29 0700Z/28th. Acknowledge.
 (NEWCASTLE 271821Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

ULSTER MONARCH. Sailed ULSTER MONARCH to Kilindini routed through
 A. 28° 30' S. 32° 40' E. B. 24° 07' S. 35° 40' E.
 C. 16° 00' S. 41° 00' E. D. 10° 00' S. 41° 00' E.
 E. 04° 52' S. 40° 03' E. S.O.A. 13 knots. E.T.A. Kilindini 0400Z May 3rd.
 2. Shifts to W/T Group V at 0245Z May 1st.
 3. Local escort to approx. 22° S. JASMINE.
 (Com. 1/c Durban 271134Z to Admty. etc.)

TARN. Norwegian ship TARN. Please take "Chop" on receipt. No further diversions will be made by me.
 (C. in C.S.A. 271254B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

/RACEHORSE...

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27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

RACEHORSE, Sailed at 1100Z April 27th RACEHORSE escorting
 ROTHERHAM, SS. ARUNDEL CASTLE to Capetown coastwise (?N.C.S.O.
 ARUNDEL Durban) 261105 to C. in C.S.A. only refers.
 CASTLE. S.O.A. 16 knots.
 2. RACEHORSE shift to W/T group S.L. at 2100Z
 April 27th.
 3. Sailed at 1521Z April 27th ROTHERHAM to Capetown
 and provide additional escort to ARUNDEL CASTLE.
 4. ROTHERHAM shift to W/T group S.L. at 0001Z April 28th.
 (N.O.I.C. Durban 271531Z 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.)

Weekly state Following is a repetition of my 241532 (undecypher-
 W.Africa. able), addressed as above also to Comar Dakar,
 N.L.O.Accra (begins):
 "Weekly state West African Station 25th April 1943.
 Cape Blanco area NEWCASTLE, WOLVERINE, WITCH,
 MALCOLM, RAPID (with W.S.29), BLACK SWAN, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS,
 MALLOW, STONECROP, CAMPION, BRIDGEWATER (with S.L. 128),
 Freetown area, CORINTHIAN, THYME, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, SAVORGNAN
 DA BRAZZA, SNOWDROP, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, PETUNIA. Mid-ocean
 BURDOCK, CROCUS, ALCANTARA, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, MILFORD,
 AMARANTHUS, CARNARVON CASTLE, F.S. GLOIRE, DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIAM,
 QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY. Takoradi area BELLWORT, BIRDLIP,
 Takoradi, KUMAON, KATHIAWAR" (Ends).
 (F.O.C.W.A. 271615Z to Admty. C. in C.S.A. C. in C.Med. S.B.N.O.
 W.At. F.O.C.Gibraltar, B.A.D. Com. 4th Fleet.)

BULKOIL. Your 231707. (S.O. escort reports that Tanker
 BULKOIL in convoy F.D.7 detached herself without
 orders. Request this breach of discipline may be
 investigated on arrival Trinidad). Requests of
 this nature referring to U.S. ships bound port in U.S. strategic
 area should be addressed instead of repeated to Connav.
 (D.T.D. 271639B to N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

GEORGES Request you will sail F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES to
 LEYGUES patrol in area E. 11 N. 28 W. F. 13.N. 30 W.
 G. 10, N. 33 W. H. 08 N. 31 W. from a.m. 30th
 April to prudent limit of endurance to return
 (?Dakar). Suggest route to and from patrol area
 should be through position I. 12° N. 22° W.
 (F.O.C.W.A. 271727Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Com. 4th
 Fleet, CILICIA, Admty.)

Movements Departure 27th April PICT, Tug CHARON.
 Lagos. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 271730Z to Admty.)

/MONTEREY...

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War Diary.27.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

MONTEREY.

Arrived.
(N.L.O. Ascension 271745Z to Admty. etc.)X
U-Boat
attacked by
A/C 5/4.

My 051801 April. Sunderland J/95 surprised U-Boat fully surfaced and stopped. Men observed sun-bathing on casings. U-Boat fired machine gun which was silenced by Sunderland's Front Turret but no casualties were observed as three depth charges fell nearest estimated as 15 feet from C/T and caused U-Boat to lurch violently. Sunderland turned for another attack as U-Boat got under way rapidly but was still fully surfaced when two more depth charges straddled stern. U-Boat submerged but C/T was still visible after attacks and was photographed.

2. My 052330 April. Sunderland H/204 sighting by U-Boat and aircraft mutual. U-Boat had disappeared ten seconds before 5 depth charges released landing 50 feet ahead of swirl. Erase 4 to starboard and 1 to port of track. Considered an accurate attack.

(F.O.C.W.A. 271800Z to Admty.)

ASTURIANO.

Your 131630 (re disappearance of Argentine ship ASTURIANO.) Captain interviewed repair explanation quite satisfactory.
(S.O.(I) Buenos Aires 271806Z to S.O.I. Capetown
(R) Admty.)

/ U/B.

Your 271356*. One is estimated between Dakar and Cape Verde Islands.
(F.O.C.W.A. 271831Z to Admty.)
*re submarine report.

CHESHIRE.

Your 261710. Would you consider routeing CHESHIRE further to the west so as to be favourably placed for interception if outward bound blockade runner should be detected by R/C?
(F.O.C.W.A. 271920Z to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) Admty.)

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War Diary.27.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Movements,
Beirut. 26th April arrivals HEDGEHOG, CUMBRAE.
(S.O. (I) Beirut 270845C to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant.)

SPLENDID,
SAHIB. (1) P. 228 (SPLENDID) leaving patrol so as to pass
038° 39' 010° 00' at 0400/29th 038° 18' 003° 52'
at 2100/1st May thence to R/V with escort Algiers
in 036° 57' 003° 08' at 0615/2nd May.
(2) P. 212 (SAHIB) leaves patrol through zones E
and D to pass 038° 47' 011° 30' at 2100/29 030° 18' 003° 52'
at 2100/2 May to R/V with escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 04' at
0615/3 May.
(Capt. S.8. 270902A to 8th S/M.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers.
Capt. (S) 10.) For presumed loss, see 271438.

E.T.19. My 222251A. 1 addition.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 270914A to S.O.I.S. etc.)

Enemy
Units. P.C. and S. of 1 small M/V under 2,000 tons, 1
destroyer and 2 Aircraft 39° 36' N. 12° 54' E.
2092° 10 at 0912A.
(A/C 86 S/Z. 270925A.)
P.C. and S. of one enemy M/V 1,500 tons, and one Destroyer
39° 26' N. 12° 41' E. 190° 4 knots.
(A/C 86H/H, 271320A.)
Position of enemy is 38° 58' N. 12° 42' E.
(A/C 86H/H, 271330A.)
Enemy previously reported is accompanied by 4 M.E.210,
1 balloon.
(A/C 86H/H 271342A.)
One small enemy vessel in 38° 36' N. 11° 44' E. course 090°
speed 10 knots.
(A/C 86H/H 271550A.)
My 1320. Course and distance made good by enemy since 1330
are 1X3 17. (As received.)
(A/C 86H/H 271605A.)

X Black
Sea. (1) Sea (a) Large increase of enemy shipping
movements to Crimean Ports from Roumania. Also
an increase in traffic of small craft across Kerch
Straits. Russian E-Boats have attacked shipping
in this area. (b) Enemy S/Ms. continue to be
reported off this coast. (2) Air (a) Up to 450 enemy planes
reported on Taman, Anapa, and Crimean aerodromes. (b) Russians
have continued air raids on ports and aerodromes in Rangoan and
Kerch Peninsula. (3) Land (a) Uppermost change in position
around Novorossisk, fighting confined to artillery duels.
(b) Kuban: large scale enemy counter attacks, supported by
aircraft have been repulsed with heavy losses to enemy in men
and aircraft. Fighting now confined to small scale Commando
activity.
(N.L.O. Black Sea 270937C to Admty. etc.)

/UNITED...

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War Diary.

27.4.1943.

Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

UNITED.

Arrived.

(V.A. Malta 271028 to Admty. etc.)

UNRULY.

Pass position P. at 0600B/29th and proceeds (?through) Q. and R. to arrive Malta searched Channel at 0800B/1st May.
 (Capt. S.10. 271029 to P.49 (UNRULY) (R) C. in C. Med. RORQUAL, Capt. (S) 8., Capt. (S) 1., C. in C. Levant, Subs. on Patrol.)

RORQUAL
minelaying.

RORQUAL sailing at 1600B/27th routed R.Q. and 037° 40' N. 011° 35' E. to lay in Marittimo area.
 (Capt. S. 10 271030 to Capt. (S) 8, (R) Subs. on patrol, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant P.42 (UNBROKEN).)

Departure RORQUAL.

(V.A. Malta 271631B to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Alexandria.

Arrival 26th April KELVIN, departure 26th April WOLBOROUGH, arrived and sailed 26th April KANARIS.
 (S.O. (I) Alexandria 271034C to Admty. etc.)

UNBROKEN,
RORQUAL.

Capt. (S) 8s. 262108 and your 262307. Passing position P. at 0500/28th thence through Q. and R. to arrive Malta 0830B/30th. 2. You may meet RORQUAL between Q. and R.
 (Capt. S.10. 271036B to P.42 (UNBROKEN) (R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med. S/Ms. on patrol, RORQUAL.)

X Bi.
 Weekly
 Opsum No.120
 Part 3.

26 April Kittyhawk formation bombed 2 M/V located off Cape Bon by R/C Spitfires on N.E. course. Hits scored on both ships, 1 of which blew up. 68 B. 24s. bombed Bari Aerodrome, scoring hits on all hangars which were set on fire, whole aerodrome surface covered by bomb bursts.

Explosions and fires seen in dispersal areas.

Fire started at oil tanks west of hangars. 523 X 500 lb H.E. 1008 X 20 lb fragmentation at 1135Z hours. Three Beaufighters on shipping sweep off east coast of Greece sank small sailing vessel and set schooner on fire. Latter left sinking. One Beaufighter hit mast and came down in sea.

(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 271036Z.)

Movements,
Algiers.

Algiers arrivals U.S.N. P.T. 205, 206, 207, 208, P.D. 559, 626 P.T. 201, 202, 203, 204.
 Departures U.S.N. P.T. 205, 206, 207, 208, P.C. 559, 626. P.T. 201, 202, 203, 204.
 (Cdre. Algiers 271103 to Cominch, Comnavnaw.)

/M.T.Bs...

1023

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. Arrival M.T.Bs. 633, 637.
Sousse. (N.O.I.C. Sousse 271115A to Admty.)

X Proposed Minefield off Libya. Your 261005B/April. (a) Yes. (b) My intention is to lay barrage to seaward of inshore route with density 33 mines per mile over the most frequented S/M patrol zones and 20 mines per mile over the remainder of the mineable distance. (C. in C. Levant 271155C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F.)

ST. MONANCE. Arrival.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 271205Z to Admty.)

9 Use of Tripoli. Your 111350C. 1. The use of Tripoli is under consideration with C. in C. Med. 2. A further signal will be made. (D.L.D. 271218B to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med.)

P.52 (DZIK). Intend sail P.52 and 1830/28th for Malta routed through 038° 03' 004° 18' at 1000/29th 038° 14' 011° 15' at 1400/1st May thence through P. at 2001/2nd to Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10. Shift W/T watch at 2001/2nd. (2) All times zone minus 1. All positions N. and E. (Capt. S.8, 271238A to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 10. (R) 8th S/M.F. Cdre. Algiers.)
My 271238. P.52 passing 038° 14' 011° 15' at 1400/2nd May. (Capt. S.8. 271514A to Capt. S.10 (R) 8th S.F.)

M.T.B. Operation. (A) C. in C. Meds. 270914 (N.T. in W.R.) para.(B) complied with C. in C. Meds. 260903 (N.T. in W.R.) carry out on Wednesday 28th if large M.T.B. available. (B) 3 destroyers code word "Tarmac" will be operated South Marittimo during the night, proceed from and return Malta North of Pantellaria. (C) S/Ms. are to be attacked South of a line Cape Bon 035° N. 014° E. 035° N. 016° E. thence to 037° to coast. (V.A. Malta 271247B to N.O.I.C. Sousse (R) F.O.I.S. C. in C. Med. C.C.F. Med.)

ALBA JULIA. My 231002C. (N.T. in W.R.) ALBA JULIA now expected to sail for Aegean April 29th. B.3. (S.O.I. Istanbul 271247C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant, S.10, S.1, D.N.I.)

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War Diary.27.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. 27th Visuals. 1050 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. 1155 Messina no major naval unit. (V.A. Malta 271307B, to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Enemy K.393 (242208A.) Amend reference to read K.331. Circling Correct para. (a) to read besides circled as Torpedoes. previously. T.O.O. of 396K. is 261936A. (C. in C. Med. 271340A to Med. Station K.397, (R) Admty, D.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Levant.) Former amended.

SARKA. Departure. (Cdre. Aden 271404Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

ASTER. ASTER returned with engine trouble probable duration of repairs 48 hours. My 261452 refers. (Cdre. Aden 271416Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A.S. F.O. Ceylon, Cdre. Durban, Admty. Com. R.I.N. S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

K.M.S.13. Arrived JOHN CARVER, EMPIRE OPOSSUM, MAHOUT, CHELMA. (N.O.I.C. Oran 271431A to Admty. etc.)

SAHIB, Regret to report that both SAHIB (P.212) and SPLENDID, SPLENDID (P.228) have failed to answer signals lost. made to them on 25th and must be considered lost. 2. SAHIB sank enemy transport North of Messina 0250A/24th and subsequent enemy air and A/S measures to which C.O.I.S. Alexandria's 241508 refers appear to have accounted for her. 3. SPLENDID left Malta 17th was due to pass 38.50 12.45 at 0300A/25th and was then ordered to steer 080° to patrol in Zone H. & F. North of 39.10. She was ordered p.m. 22nd to proceed to patrol off West coast Corsica between 41.40 and 43. 4. My 271442 to C. in C. Med. only amplifies (N.T. in W.R.) 5. The loss of these two fine S/Ms. who had both sunk so much Axis shipping in Tyrrhenian sea is deeply regretted. Over this period sea was flat calm with excellent A/S conditions. 6. S.10 is requested to take necessary action as regards casualties for SPLENDID on 3rd May the day after she would be due Algiers. Casualties in SAHIB will be reported on 4th May. (S.8. 271438 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. F.O.S. S.1, S.10.)

S/M Recent reports from S/Ms. state flat calm weather conditions, and excellent A/S conditions prevailing in DOLFIJN, Tyrrhenian Sea. Under such conditions P.47 UNSHAKEN. (DOLFIJN) and P.54 (UNSHAKEN) are free to withdraw as necessary to zones D. and E. respectively. (Capt. S.8. 271438A to 8 S.M.F. (R) Capt. S.10. C. in C. Med.)

/Delay...

1025

War Diary.27.4.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

X
 Delay to R.M. at Durban. Three officers and 301 R.M. ranks, item 25 in A.M. 232143 March, were disembarked by Impeon at Durban contrary to orders of personnel control, on the authority of Troopers message 69447 Q.M.2C. dated 12 April, 1943, and approx. four weeks delay to this party will result. C. in C. Levant has now confirmed that these R.M. officers and ranks should have been forwarded to Levant Station and requests that they may be sent as soon as possible. Most desirable in order to prevent future similar occurrences that officers and ranks of R.M. should have their movements directed by appropriate Naval Authority. If approved, request necessary instructions may be promulgated. Impeon are also seeking clarification of situation in their No. 13754 dated 27 April to Troopers. (R.A.T.E. 271501 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

M.T.Bs. M.T.B. from Bone will be operating in vicinity 037° 45' 011° 10' at 0100/28th thence returning Bone. (Capt. S.8. 271516A to 8th S/M.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)

Minesweeping Alexandria. Weekly minesweeping summary 25th April 1943. Channels, anchorages and D.G. range swept daily, negative result. (N.O.I.C. Alexandria 271532C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Sweep. Following is a repeat of F.O.I.S. 271118 (begins). Intend sailing P.Ts. (as received) 206 (S.O.) 205, 207, and 208 at 1500A/27th inshore to position P.Q. 037° 25' (?06") N. 010° 45' E. thence sweep to position 037° 45' N. 011° 10' E. at 0100A/28th. E.T.A. Bone 0800A/28th. Fighter protection Cornhill 3. Constant watch on 4205 kc/s. (N.O.I.C. Malta 271616 to N.O.I.C. Sousse (R) F.O. (C.S.) 12, F.O.I.S. Capt. C.F. Med. C. in C. Med. H.Q. N.L.O. African Coastal A.F, N.O.I.C. Bone, C.F.B. Bone, 826 Sqdn. Bone.)

SOKOL, UPROAR. Your escort will be trawler JULIET.
 2. Large convoy due Algiers from West at dawn 28th. 3. 2 M.L. sail at 0600/28th to West.
 4. M.Ls. on patrol to West of Algiers.
 5. First S/M to arrive identify herself to escort and enter harbour unescorted, 2nd arrivals will be escorted. (Capt. S.8. 271632A to SOKOL, P.31 (UPROAR).)

Malta Destroyers. Sailed NUBIAN, PALADIN, PETARD, on operations. (V.A. Malta 271635 to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

1026

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 27th April Port Said arrivals PARTHIAN, KANARIS,
Port Said. WOLBOROUGH, RESOURCE, BURRA. Departures BURRA,
KANARIS, WOLBOROUGH.
(Port Said 271703C to Admty. etc.)

E.T.19. Your 261006A. Destinations.
(D.T.D. 271724B to Cdre. Algiers.)
E.T.19. My 261211A. Sailed less BLYTH, VOLGA, ODYSSEUS and
STAR plus AGATHA for Algiers.
(F.O.I.S. 271816A to Admty. etc.)
E.T.19 R. Section sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 272245A to F.O.I.S. etc.)

VARSOVA. Embarkation Bombay's 1102/2/P April 26th.
Proposed to embark in VARSOVA ex Aden for
Bombay for onward passage to Australia and
New Zealand the 237 personnel landed at Aden ex
WEST POINT. 2. In addition vessel will carry 250 Indian
personnel ex Suez for Bombay. 3. VARSOVA sails ex Suez 28th April.
4. Will escort be available? 5. If no escort available the
250 Indians ex Suez will be disembarked Aden to await on-carriage.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 271803C to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

ABDIEL. My 072005 (N.T. in W.R.) and your 221358
(N.T. in W.R.). I will not require ABDIEL
during this no moon period.
(C. in C. Med. 271806A to C. in C. Levant (R)
Admty. V.A.M. ABDIEL.)
Departure 27th April ABDIEL.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 272034C to Admty. C. in C. Levant)

P.R.U. April 27th visuals.
1550 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 271827B. to C. in C. Med.)

TROUBRIDGE, TROUBRIDGE, TUSCAN, TYRIAN, TUMULT are allocated
TUSCAN, to the Levant. 2. Intend TROUBRIDGE and TUSCAN
TYRIAN, arrive Gibraltar about 6th May and TYRIAN,
TUMULT. TUMULT about mid June. 3. Further signal will
be made amending A.M. 141255.
(D.O.D. (F) 271902B to C. in C. Med. C. in C.
Levant, C. in C. H.F. (R) R.A.D. H.F. Cdre. D.
Levant.)

CLAN CLAN MACINDOE beached off Mex Harbour Alexandria
MACINDOE after outbreak fire in Nr. 4 hold at 0740/27th
fire. April. Rear Admiral Alexandria reports vessel
will be a total loss. No casualties as far as
is known.
(P.S.T.O.M.E. 271923C to Admty. for D.S.T.)

/Malta...

1027

War Diary.

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Malta AI.541. C.S.R. (A) Air. Part I. Offensive.
Air Night 26/27th April. Successful intruder patrols
Report. were made by Mosquitoes in Pantellaria and
Northwest Sicily area. Cloud and poor visibility
hampered further offensive operations.
Day 27th April. 8 long range Spitfires made
offensive sweeps 4 East of Sicily and 4 in Pantellaria area 12
Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires attacked
Lampedusa airfield. Night 26/27th April. 2 special equipment
Wellingtons carried out searches for enemy shipping one in
Sicilian Narrows where much fog was encountered, and the other
between Sicily and Naples and off West coast of Italy but no
significant sighting was made.
(R.A.F. Malta 271931.)

Movements, Arrival H.M.T. HENGIST. Following departed. M.L.
Oran. 458, 56 LJURA French S/M MARSKUIN.
(Commob, Oran 272010 to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrived GREGORY BLYSKAWICA, S/Ms. SARACEN (P.247).
Algiers. SICKLE (P.224). Departures. QUEEN EMMA,
PRINCES BEATRIX, BICESTER, ZETLAND, GOTH, CARLISLE,
Hospital Ship OXFORDSHIRE.
(Cdre. Algiers 272019A to Admty. etc.)

N.A.A.F. 329873 Ref.No.J.M.0112.
Report. To Agwar. To Arnold. From Spaatz. Signed Eisenhower
N.A.A.F. A.D.V. No.A. 1650. 1. 24th April, Day:
Weather interfered with practically all operations.
2. Night 23/24th April. Surfaced U-Boat sighted
by Hudson, S/M gunfire killed pilot and attack was
abandoned, crew bailed out over home airdrome, Hudson crashed.
(North Africa Air Force No.T.O.O. to Etousa Recd. 272200Z.)

Movements, Arrived M/L. 1149, sailed M.Ls. 351, 931, 358
Tabruk. from Derna.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 272258C to Admty.)

X Despatches. Following from Chiefs of Staff (has been sent also
to Gen. Alexander and A.C.M. Tedder).
1. Gen. Eisenhower has informed us he does not
propose to send despatches to Combined Chiefs of
Staff and we agree. 2. You should therefore submit in due course
through Gen. Eisenhower official despatches to British Govt.,
covering operations of all British forces under your command.
(Hd. of M. Br. (2) 272310B to C. in C. Med.)
Following is in continuation and amplification of A.M. 272310B
and is also being sent to Gen. Alexander and A.C.M. Tedder.
1. Suggested you should show your despatches privately to Gen.
Eisenhower before submitting them to him officially, in order to
make sure that they contain nothing to which he takes exception.
Otherwise there is a possibility that his covering comments might
reveal a difference of opinion between yourself and him.

27.4.1943.

Tuesday. _____

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Dispositions. (Contd.) 2. In addition to despatches submitted through Gen. Eisenhower, you may, if you wish, send supplementary commentaries direct to Admty. which would not be published as part of the official despatches, and indeed not at all unless circumstances arose which made publication desirable. (Head of M. Branch (2) 272316B to C. in C. Med.)

X
Target Towing Aircraft. I am much disturbed by absence of suitable target-towing aircraft in Eastern Med. Fulmars mentioned in A.M. 2146/29 March (to C. in C. Levant only) are not satisfactory. 2. I have been relying on the A/A Co-operation Unit but R.A.F. now say they must withdraw this assistance from 1st May to 10th June in view of heavy requirements of Army. 3. Requirements are now on a very large scale and if more facilities are not made available the most important operation of the year will be undertaken by untrained ships. 4. Adequate practice cannot be given to H.M. ships and merchant ships unless a minimum of 12 fast target-towing aircraft are sent immediately. 20 would be preferable. 5. In view of forthcoming operations it is difficult to understand the low priority given to this fleet in A.M. quoted in para. 1. 6. My predecessor first drew attention to this matter in his 2205C/5 October 1942 and again in his 262030B Feb. 1943. (C. in C. Levant 272323 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 2 M/Vs 1 destroyer bearing 290° 39° 14' N. 14° 00' E. course 270° 8 knots. (A/C F.B.M/W. 272325 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer and 1 small vessel 38° 12° 13° 05' E. course 090° speed 7 knots. (A/C B.V.Z/F. 272350B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

X
Situation report No. 85. 1. During night 25/26 April, A. AURORA, ESKIMO and LOOKOUT carried out sweep to Marittimo. B. M.T.B. 639 and 635, on sweep from Bone to Zembretta and Southern half of Sicilian channel, sank 2 large lighters carrying petrol by combination of gun and torpedo fire in vicinity of Plane Island at 2305/25, ten survivors were recovered. C. Other M.T.Bs. from Bone operated in Bizerta O.T.Bs (six) and M.T.B.311 reports seeing at 0240/26 what appeared to be a tanker blow up and burst into flames in position 37° 14' N, 10° 21' E. 2. During the night 26/27 April. A. TARTAR and LOYAL carried out sweep to Marittimo and M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. from Bone operated in Gulf of Tnnis. B. M.T.B.311 on Bizerta Roads sweep sank small merchant vessel by torpedo at 0230/27 off Cani Rocks. 3. UNSEEN reports at 1103/18 in position 38° 16' N. 13° 11' E. attacked tanker escorted by two escort vessels and two E. boats. One of the escorts was sunk. 4. SARACEN reports at 1325/19 sank FRANCESCO CRISPI class liner and M/V resembling MONTELLO in approaches to Bastia. At 0102/22 attacked convoy of two EDDA class M/Vs. in 42° 03' N. 09° 48' E. One ship apparently full of ammunition or petrol blew up. 5. SICKLE reports at 0830/23 attacked Italian MAURO CROCE N. of Valencia, torpedoes ran under

/but...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Situation
report
No. 85.
(Contd.)

but gun hits were obtained before ship escaped
into territorial waters. /
(C. in C. Med. 272346A, to Admty.)
/See N.A. Madrid 271723 (North Atlantic.)

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War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

X.C.1. Convoy X.C. (1) arrived 0215Z/27th.
(? N.C.S.O. Colombo, 270358Z to Admty.)

Diego Suarez. In amplification of my 200955 (Use of accommodation by French) G.O.C. in C.E. informed as follows: (Details)
(Dep. C. in C.E.F., 270937Z to Admty., A.S. Trincomalee, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

STRATHMORE, STRATHAIRD. Date of sailing (? troop) ships is now 5th May. My 210804 and your 251320 (N.T. in W.R.) refer. (P.S.T.O. India, 270951Z to C. in C.E.F.)

Movements. Arrival ST. ANTHONY 26th.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 271013Z to Admty.)
Left BARSTOKE.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 271230Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 27th April. 0100Z VERBENA.
(F.O. Ceylon, 271325Z to Admty.)

X Persian Gulf - A/A Defence. (Air Min. 271025Z to Mideast). See Lion Copy.

AMERICAN MANUFACTURER, Suspicious wake. Following received from AMERICAN MANUFACTURER 01° 23' S. 72° 38' E. sighted suspicious wake, altered course steering 150° speed 13 knots. (Colombo W/T 271030Z to Admty.)

X India Air Report. A.305 27th April
B. offensive R/C 26th April. 3 Hurricanes damaged steamer Sampans and factories Ymataung? Thayetmyo.
(A.H.Q. India, 271120Z to Air Min.)

INTEGRITY, EMPIRE HISAM. INTEGRITY is to be sailed for Colombia in company with EMPIRE HISAM if necessary calling at Addu Atoll. Your 260855 (N.T. in W.R.) is being passed to B.A.S.R. Washington.
(C. in C.E.F., 27131Z to N.O.I.C. Seychelles, (R) F.O. Ceylon F.O. E.Af., B.A.S.R. Washington.

LANCASHIRE. Transport LANCASHIRE sailed 27th April (personnel) Requirements at Aden.
(D.S.T.O. P.G., 271325Z to S.S.T.O. Suez, (R) D.S.T.O. Aden. P.S.T.O. India, P.S.T.O. Egypt. D. of S.T.)

/LANCASHIRE,..

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 271025Z/April
OUT

To: Mideast Date 27/4/43
Repeated P.A.I.C.

C Y P H E R

From Air Ministry

Persian Gulf - A/A Defence.

IMPORTANT

OZ. 1192 - 27th April, 1943.

Following for Commanders-in-Chief from Chiefs of Staff. No. C.O.S. (M.E.) 372.

Reference Mideast CC/219 dated 11th April, 1943.

FIRST. Present appreciation of scale of air attack in Persia, Iraq and Persian Gulf, "With a possible exception of isolated raids by a few specially equipped aircraft, there will be no air threat before the autumn of 1943, and even then any threat is unlikely. There will be no threat from aircraft carriers".

SECOND. In view of new appreciation in FIRST we have recently reviewed the scale of AA required in P.A.I.C. and have allotted defences as follows:-

Read: X - AA Bdo. H.Q.
Y - HAA guns
Z - LAA guns

	X	Y	Z
(a) Area Basra-Abadan-Bandar Sharpur-Khorramshar	1	40	48
(b) Bahrein		8	6
(c) Subsidiary oil group Khanaqin, Kormanshah, Kirkuk and L. of C. Persia Iraq	1	24	108

THIRD. We have carefully considered possibility of making further reductions and have come to following decisions.

/ (a)

(a) Should not be reduced.

(b) Defences no longer required.

(c) Might be reduced but pumping station at Kirkuk must NOT be left undefended; defences need only be deterrent and could be provided by transferring guns from (b).

FOURTH. We, therefore, agree to the transfer from P.A.I.C. of one AA Bde. H.Q. two LAA Regts. and one HAA Regt. the latter, however, not to leave P.A.I.C. before the arrival from India of 25 India HAA Regt. It must be realised, however, that this transfer will not leave any LAA Regts. for formations training in P.A.I.C. and we cannot provide them from other sources.

271025Z

Received from Air Ministry at 271725

Air Ministry circulation -

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord
C. G. Tois, W.O.
A.M.C.S. (C)

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. (W)
A.C.N.S. (A)
D.O.D. (F) (2)
D.C. (2)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D.N.I. (4)
D. of A. (2)
D. of S. (Q)
D. of I.D.
Head of M.
Admiral Blake
Admiral Mack (4)
V.D.
I.P. (2)

War Diary.

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. - Contd.

LANCASHIRE,
JALAVEERA.

Sailed 1400/27th April for Aden. First ship
via Bandar Abbas 30th for convoy second ship
Persian Gulf east thence coastwise for Muscat
May 1st, Ras Al Hadd 2nd, Masirah 4th, thence
R/V 0900Z May 10th 020° 30' N. 059° 25' E. with
P.A. convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Basra, 271333Z to Admty., etc.)

1032

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

H.S. 81

Arrived LOUISBERG.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney, 270028Z to Admty).

3rd Escort
Group.
S.C. 128,
H.X. 236.

Request you will sail 3rd Escort group so as
to cover S.C.128 and H.X. 236 from Westomp.
(C. in C. W.A., 270035B to F.O.N.F.)

O.N.S.4,
HESPERUS.

O.N.S.4. My P.C. and S. at 0300Z/27th 053° 44'
N., 045° 10' W. (X) 228° 6½ altering for position
(DK) at 0800Z. 1st escort group in company.
Convoy has been shadowed since 0038Z by 1 U-boat.
Weather report.
(HESPERUS, 270301Z 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.)

U/Bs

S/M sighted on the surface 2337 G.M.T. 14° 40' N.,
73° 10' W. (?0535) S/M sighted on the surface 14°
(?17') N., 74° 55' W.
(FAIRLAND, T.O.R., 270614 to C. in C. W.A.,
C. in C. Rosyth, F.O.(S) (R) Admty).

C.U.2

This is Cominch's 261612 addressed to Cinclant.
On 19th May convoy C.U.2 will depart Curacao.
(Comnaveu, 270729 to Admty).

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
27th.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
F.S. GLOIRE	08° N., 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
T.A.41 A.	41½° N., 30° W.	240°	19½

(D.O.D. (F) 271020Z to Opnav (R) Comnaveu).

G.U.F.7
shadowing
reports.

Suggest B messages at 0244Z/27, 0328Z/27,
0333Z/27, 0337Z/27 and 0417Z/27, not heard in
U.K. may be shadowing reports of G.U.F.7.
(D.D.I.C., 271128B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

U/Bs D/F

Exceptionally poor D/F bearings between 0044Z
and 1010Z/27th April were (?on) B barred messages
appearing to originate from (?general) area
(?035°) (?to) 045° N., 050° to 065° W. Suggest
one or more convoy in this area may be shadowed. Series one
three and four were mostly used.
(N.S.H.Q., 271206Z to Ships Escorting H.X. 236, S.C.128,
O.N.S.3, O.N. 178 Convoy T.A.41, C. in C. N.A. F.O.N.F. (R)
Admty. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At.)
My 271205 (N.T. in W.D.) and my 271206. Since 1010Z no
W/T activity in this area further information indicates several of
these transmissions were from vicinity G.U.F.7.
(N.S.H.Q., 272136Z to S.E.C. H.X. 236, S.C.128, O.N.S.3,
O.N.178, T.A.41, F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A., (R) Admty.
Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At., A.C.I.C.)

/O.N.S...

1033

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

O.N.S.4,
O.N.179,
Ice. In view of scattered ice floe to eastward of main
pact recommend all ships make to eastward of 47° W
until reaching 47° N. Suggest B.A.M.S. broadcast
to stragglers including this information be
promulgated.
(Comtask 24, 271217Z to C. in C. W.A., Connav,
(R) E.B.(?5) (E.G.5 intended) PATHFINDER, C.
M.O.E.T.U., 24.1.12, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16).
O.N.S.4 and O.N. 179. Ref. C.T.F.24, 271217. Request
you will take any action necessary after "Chop".
(D.T.D., 271930B to Cominch, C. and R. (R) C. in C. W.A.,
Comtask 24, E.G.5, C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12, 24.1.16).
B.A.M.S. has been broadcast to all stragglers in O.N.179
and O.N.S.4 as per Comtask 24 271217Z.
(Cominch C. and R., 271545Z to Comtask 24, C. in C. W.A.,
M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12).

H.X.235 H.X. 235 35 ships at 1400Z in 043° 32' N., 033°
34' W., 10 knots 068°. C.T.U. 92.3 in company
report U.S. (D) BELKNAP and U.S. (D) LEA fuelled
U.S. (D) GREENE and U.S. (D) OSMOND INGRAM
(?fuelling) as weather permits but in any case can comply with
your 261020Z, providing no major diversion. Last Q messages
received by C.T.U.92.3 Z.H.338 Z.S.407 Z.X.974. Weather report.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.14, 271315Z 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.)

ALRESFORD, S.C.127 ref. C.T.G.222100 ALRESFORD has not
overdue. arrived St. Johns N.F.
(N.S.H.Q., 271410Z 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.)

QUEEN B.A.M.R's 261702. Navy Department had
ELIZABETH. indicated that no escort destroyers would be
available in early June should fresh approach be
made for this later date or will British escorts
be available.
(B.A.D., 271425Z to Admty).

Escort Escort Oilers. Ref. A.M. 211930B para. 2. For
Oilers reasons of economy and assuming equal efficiency
refuelling. of oiling gear, escorts should be instructed to
select the tanker or tankers from which they
refuel according to the cargo carried in the
following order of preference:-

Admiralty furnace oil, pool fuel, pool marine diesel, pool
diesel, gas oil or Admiralty diesel.
2. Only tankers carrying the above cargoes can be regarded
as escort oilers. No other grades of oil are suitable as fuel
for escort vessels.
(D.T.D., 271450B to B.R.L.O. New York, C. in C. C.N.A., (R)
F.O.I.C. Greenock etc).

/s/M....

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27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 271537Z, 271538Z, 271608Z,
27th April. 271609Z, 271610Z, 271844Z)
U.S. S/M
notice.

U/B attacked. MANHASSET Radar contact at 1205Z surfaced
submarine which submerged. At 1308Z sound contact
echo. 54.19 N., 44.23 W., attacked Mousetraps
depth charges searched until 1500Z.

No evidence damage. No contact re-established. Submarine course
at time of contact 180 speed 4 knots trailing convoy O.N.S.4.
(Misc. Auxiliary MANHASSET 271553 to Cominch).

S/M contacted in 54° 19' N., 44° 23' W., at 1320Z/27th.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 271630Z to G.B.7 A. (R) C.T.F.24, Connav,
Admty. C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., C.T.G.
24.7., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.)

Movements MANTO (Dutch) arrived today also U.S.A.T. EL
LIBERTADOR (Dutch) at Vieux Fort.
(B.R.O. Castries, 271621 to Admty).
Arrival San Francisco April 24th TORRENS (Nor).
26th ROBERT G. HARPER (U.S.), departure San Francisco April
24th JOHN H. COUCH (U.S.) for Tutuila all U.S. Army transports.
(N.S.H.Q., 271930Z to Admty).

San Francisco 23rd CAPE FLATTERY (U.S.) for Brisbane (1
group missing) ASE TJISADANE (Dut) for Noumea. PORT HUENEME,
Calif. 23rd SANTA ANA (U.S.) and DASHING WAVE (U.S.) in convoy
for Noumea May 10th. All U.S. Army Transports.

(N.S.H.Q., 271931Z to Admty).

Bermuda departure INGONISH, GUYSBOROUGH, BAYFIELD,
CARAQUET, LOCKEPORT, in accordance with N.O.B. Bermuda's 271420.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 272214P to Admty).

New Orleans arrival 24th DAVID C. SHANKS (U.S.A.T.)
(N.S.H.Q., 272203 to Admty).

LANDGUARD, Intend sailing LANDGUARD about 1200Z/28 to join
E.G.40. E.G.40 in 45° 38' N., 48° 51' W., at 1200Z/29th.
(Comtask 24, 271643Z to Cominch C. and R.
LANDGUARD, (R) LULWORTH, C.W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4.,
C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.G.
24.6., C.T.G.24.7., Admty. Cdr. D. Argentina,
F.O.N.F.)

ARCONAUT Bermuda departures ARGONAUT in accordance with
N.O.B. Bermuda. 271809.
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 271724P to Admty).

H.J.48 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 271810Z to Admty).

/Warship...

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

X Warship Construction in U.S.A. (Admiralty 271914B to B.A.D.) See Lion Copy. (Note. Head of M.A.S. 042047B/May to B.A.D. refers to A.C.V's)

P.554 P.554 escorted by WASAGA sails St. Johns 2000Z/29 for Argentinia on the surface routed through
(R) 47.30 N., 52.33 W. (S) 46.37 N., 52.51 W.
(T) 46.30 N., 53.05 W. (U) 46.30 N., 53.38 W.
(V) 46.41 N., 54.30 W. thence Argentinia. Speed 10 knots. C.T.F.24 has been informed.
(F.O.N.F., 271915Z to Cominch (R) C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q., Admty).

Attacks on U/Bs Weekly Summary. (D.A/S.W., 271943B to Cominch etc) (See U-boat campaign).

X Fast tankers for U.C/C.U. convoys. Your 241227. Understanding here is that number of fast tankers available for C.U.2 on 19th May will not exceed 14.
(2) From past experience in negotiations for limitation of numbers in convoy consider it most undesirable to discuss any specific limitation for C.U. - U.C. convoys. Inclusion of all likely presenters ? for C.U. 2 has been represented and agreement is anticipated.
(3) In view of present cycle of these convoys it is considered preferable to consider each occasion as it arises. (B.A.D., 271945Z to Admty).

BITER My P.C. and S. 050° 38' N., 048° 00' W., 158° 12½ knots. Weather report. (BITER, 272002Z to A.I.G. 303).

Shipping Casualties. Serial 27. EMPIRE MORN mined or torpedoed April 26th position 34.03 N., 07.58 W., afloat. BORNHOLM and BERKEL in collision about April 26th convoy O.N.S.5 BORNHOLM left convoy unescorted for Reykjavik BERKEL proceeding with convoy. (Connav, 272030Z to Comnav).

U/B attacked weekly summary. Your 1059B/22 July. April 19 U.S. Army aircraft attacked submarine 50.30 41.42 W. with six depth charges, two appeared to hit within 10 to 15 feet. Oil slick and large air bubbles observed. Other promising attacks week ending 2400Z/25. April 21 HASTINGS 55.14 N., 45.40 W. April 23 R.A.F. Liberator 59.50 N., 34.43 W. Same day HESPERUS 55.55 N., 34.20 W.* April 24 R.A.F. Fortress 61.25 N. 19.48 W. Presume you have details. (Cominch, 272035Z to Admty). *W.D. Note. This was position of O.N.S.4 at 2200Z, at which

/time...

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 271914B/April
 MOST SECRET OUT

To: B.A.D. Washington Date 27/4/43 X

NAVAL CYPHER (XD) PLUG

*warship construction
in U.S.A.*

From Admiralty

SALOR 7189.

LORSA 8340. A separate signal will be made concerning A.C.Vs.

2. Destroyer Escorts and Frigates. If it is essential to quote a figure then there is no reason to alter our original requirement and we confirm 288. The main consideration is to get these vessels as early as possible. We want the largest possible number by the end of 1944. Delivery in 1945 does not seem vital since we should have a very strong escort force by that time. We had planned to man 90 this year and 100 in 1944 based on our probable assignments estimated nearly a year ago in accordance with the ratio accepted so far. This does not mean that we could not man more. If more were assigned we should reallocate our man power to make the best use of the vessels at our disposal.

3. Fleet Minesweepers (B.A.M.). We can ultimately meet our Fleet Minesweeping requirements from U.K. and Canadian production of Algerinos (Admiralty message 032312/April and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 051859 refer) but an assignment from the 11 remaining B.A.Ms under construction would help us to meet our need earlier. There is no justification, however, for initiating a repeat order as it would presumably compete with escort vessels.

4. BYMS. According to B.A.S.R's list dated 16th March 100 have been assigned to U.K. although Admiralty have only been notified in monthly assignment sheets of 97. The balance remaining from the original order is therefore either 130 or 133, not 119 as stated in LORSA 8340. We are counting on these vessels, and in anticipation of the full delivery, we have turned over a large part of our production of MMS to landing craft and sacrificed our trawler production to escort construction. The potential mining-threat has not diminished although the enemy is not using this weapon at the moment to the same extent as hitherto. We are relying on a delivery rate of 12 a month until the 230 have been delivered but do not ask for the total to be increased.

5. A.R.S. Salvage Vessels. Confirm our outstanding requirement of 6. We should like 4 of these delivered

/ by

MOST SECRET

-2-

by May 1944 and the last two before the end of 1944.

6. Y.N. Boom Vessels. This is an urgent requirement and our requirement of 20 is confirmed. A full statement was recently sent to Washington and we hope for delivery of these vessels at the earliest possible date.

7. B.A.T. Ocean Going Tugs. Confirm 10 is the outstanding requirement for delivery in 1944 at 1 per month.

8. 72' H.D.M.Ls. We still consider ourselves under an agreed obligation to meet replacements in the West Indies (3), Australia and New Zealand (7). We have felt that the U.S. will probably be in a position to supply these more rapidly than we can and for that reason also the Indian Ocean replacements (10) could more easily be met from the U.S. We thus have a further requirement for 20 but leave it to your discretion to place the order.

9. Air Sea Rescue. Our outstanding requirements are as clarified in LORSA 8516 and SALOR 7039. We have no knowledge of South African requirements and request you will consult the South African Mission.

10. P.T. 72' M.T.B. With the 32 remaining to be assigned and U.K. production we shall be well provided for by the end of this year. SALOR 3707 confirmed our requirement for production rate at 16 per annum but, according to the circumstances of production in U.S.A. known to you, this need not to be pressed.

11. A.P.C. Fleet Tenders. Our outstanding requirement is 20 to be delivered in 1944. More may be required as Fleet Establishments abroad increase but general strategy does not envisage this at the moment.

12. Detailed explanations will be signalled for any items if required but it must be generally appreciated that these requirements are as seen at the moment and for no further ahead than the end of 1944.

13. Figures of outstanding requirements in paras. 2 and 3 and para. 4 should be adjusted in the light of further assignments notified in LORSA 8688 and LORSA 8469 respectively.

271914B

for Head of M.A.S.
Approved by D.F.S.L.

/ Distribution overleaf.

1st Lord	D. of L.D. (2)
1st S.L. (2)	Head of S. Branch
2nd S.L.	Head of M.A.S. (8)
3rd S.L.	D.W.P.
Vice Controller	Head of M. (2)
4th S.L.	Head of P. (L)
5th S.L.	D. of P. (2) (PD.090/43)
V.C.N.S.	E. in C.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of D.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	C.P.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.I.C. (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	D. of S.
A.C.N.S. (A)	D.A.W.T.
U.W.R.	Head of Air
P.A.S. (PR)	D.T.D. (2)
Sec.	C.E.M.D.
Navy. Sec.	D.D.O.D. (C) (2)
D.O.D. (H) (2)	D.S.V.P. (2)
D.C.D. (F) (2)	D.A/S.W.
D.N.C.	D.A/S.M.
D.A.E.	I.P. (2)
D.A.C.R. (4)	W.D.
D.N.A.C.	Dep. Contr.
D.M.S.	D. of D.
D.C. (2)	Head of P.
N.A. 2nd S.L.	Head of M.F.
Head of C.W.	E. in C.
D.P.S.	D.A/S.M.
C.C.R.T.	D.N.C.
D.B.D.	C.P.
D. of Salvage	Head of S.W.R.

BATH

MMB

1036

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

- U/B attacked weekly summary. (contd). time HESPERUS reported the position of the convoy; but the attack apparently occurred at 1730Z. HESPERUS was at the time operating under the control of C. in C. Western Approaches and not under Cominch.
- Sub. attack and sighting summary. All times Z.
B. Navy plane attacks sub. 43.35 N., 56.20 W. 271300.
C.G. MANHASSET attacks sub. 54.19 N., 44.23 W. 271205.
C. K.45 and K.34 attack sub. 31.07 N., 80.41 W; 270020.
- D. FAIRLAND sights sub. 14.17 N., 74.55 W. surface vessel attacks sound contact 29.42 N., 78.54 W. 261833. NICHOLSON, WOOLSEY and EDISON attack 7 sound contact 38.53 N., 73.24 W. 262220. FAIRLAND sights sub. 14.40 N., 73.10 W. 262337. (Cominch, 272102Z to Admty).
- U.G.S.8 Admiralty pass to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar and C. in C. Med., for information. Sailing telegram part 1.
2. 1500Z April 28th point Z seaward end of swept channel.
3. Position K at 0100 April 30th. S. of A. 8½ knots. First "Chop" 1000Z May 11th diversion control changes from Cominch C. and R. to Admty. Second "Chop" 2200Z May 14 diversion changes from Admiralty to Boston. Fleet radio watch F all way. B.N.Q.G.A. 071400Z to 120900Z May. Gibraltar 120900Z to destination.
5. K.37.01 N., 69.03 W. L. 33.25 N., 64.05 W. R/V at 1800Z May 1 at 33.31 N., 63.35 W. ROBIN ADAIR joins from Bermuda. M. 35.15 54.45 N. 36.15 45.50 ? 36.25 35.40 P. 35.50 26.30 Q 34.50 19.04. R. 34.12 09.59 S. 33.59 07.58.
6. T.F.24, U.S.S. PARKER, S.O. U.S.S. MACLANAHAN. U.S.S. BOYLE, U.S.S. NIELDS, U.S.S. HERBERT, U.S.S. SCHENCK, U.S.S. LAUB, U.S.S. KENDRICK, U.S.S. MACKENZIE. Escort tanker U.S.S. WINOOSKI pendant position 72. Standby escort tankers SS. ESSO CHARLESTON pendant position 82. SS. ESSO BAYTOWN. 62. (Port Director New York, 272114Z to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.E.S.F. Cdr. Northwest Africa S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q., N.O.B. Bermuda).
- J.H. 50 Arrived less MOYRA BACCALIEU, NYCO. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 272136Z to Admty) Note MOYRA has arrived (See N.C.S.O. Halifax, 281304Z).

/PATHFINDER...

1037

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

PATHFINDER,
U/B
prisoners.

PATHFINDER's prisoners will be transported in CALGARY and AMHERST sailing St. Johns N.F. May 1st, due Boston May 4th. Request you will make arrangements for reception at Boston. Sub. Lt. Lunzer is accompanying the prisoners, and it is proposed that he continues to Washington. (N.S.H.Q., 272227Z to Opnav (R) Admty. N.M.C.S., Washington).

S.G.23

Arrived S.G.23. Minus ARLUK with straggler EAGLE.
(S.O.P.A. Greenland, 272230Z to Cominch C. and R)

X L.S.Ts.

Your 262035 and 221510. Following are my remarks
(1) Provided there is no further change of plan and given reasonable luck it should be possible for 6 L.S.T. to arrive U.K. by 3rd June.
(2) As every day counts action is being taken in anticipation of Admiralty approval to load 6 L.S.T. of number 8 Squadron for U.K. and sail them from New York p.m./11th May or a.m./12th May. L.S.T. concerned are 198, 64, 200, 163, 63, 165.
(3) It is intended that L.S.T.13 and 164 shall proceed to the Mediterranean in accordance with para. 1 of your 221510. Algiers C.C.O. P/T Deputy N.C.X.F.
(B.A.D., 272255Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force V. S.O. Force G., C.C.O. D.N.C.X.F.)

X St. Johns development.

We have just (?heard) from St. Johns that the Newfoundland Government after full consideration, have decided to ask for sixty skilled workmen from U.K. for the Government.

2. The Admiralty St. Johns mission strongly support this request. 3, 4, 5, (Reasons).
6. Whilst therefore we realise fully difficulties in U.K. due to shortage of manpower we urge that most favourable consideration be given to this request.
7. Sir Arthur Salter has seen and concurs.
(B.A.D., 272259Z to Admty).

Australia & New Zealand.

X Kiwi No. 23.

New Georgia. 24 B.16 F. raided Munda Aerodrome p.m./24th April. Direct hit A.A. position and buildings destroyed. ?FAISIVIE P and escort departed on 26th April course 135°. M.V. LIMERICK torpedoed 1501Z/25th position 28° 54' S., 153° 54' E., in convoy. Survivors rescued. SS. KOWARRA torpedoed 0900Z 24th 35 miles N.E. Sandy Cape, Queensland, 24 of crew missing.
(C.W.R. Wellington, 270038Z to C. in C. E.F., Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B., G.H.Q., New Delhi)

/HERMITAGE...

1000

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand. - Contd.

HERMITAGE Departure Port Melbourne 26th April U.S. N.T.
 HERMITAGE through position -
 (A) 039° 25' S., 140° 00' E., (B) 037° 53' S.,
 114° 00' E. (C) Equator 070° 05' E.
 (D) 015° 55' N., 070° 18' E. Bombay 1800. (E) 11th May.
 S. of A. 16.3 knots. "Chop" 1st May.
 (A.C.N.B., 270514Z to Admty. Connnav, C. in C. E.F., S.O:(I)
 Bombay, Aluslo Bombay).

DOMINION Your 160423B. Yes.
 MONARCH. (N.Z.N.B., 270535Z to D. of S.T.)

Digest My 270750Z Part 1. Afternoon R/C Fortress reported
 serial No. sighting 1 gunboat escorting 1 merchant
 462 April vessel 10000 tons, 8 miles W. by S. Cape Matanalem
 26th. New Hanover course 210° also 2 submarine Chasers
 escorting one 10,000 one 7,000 one 3000, three
 4,000 ton merchant vessels, 22 miles W.S.W.
 *Kavieng course 270°. 1 merchantman (3,000 tons)
 sighted in Kavieng anchorage also 1 camouflaged vessel (7,000
 tons) possibly on reef which fired at aircraft.
 X 2. Blurred photos Rabaul forenoon reveal 38 vessels including
 23 merchant vessels totalling 110,000 tons, 1 light cruiser,
 8 destroyers, 3 submarines, 2 destroyer tenders, 1 submarine
 tender also sighted 1 large merchant vessel north of harbour
 course North.
 4. Submarine sighted proceeding North past Cape Orford early
 morning.
 X 5. Photos Wewak area reveal 2 coasters, 3 Power Boats, 35
 barges in harbour and concentration of stores in wharf and
 native village area.
 7. British Freighter LIMERICK 8724 tons torpedoed and sunk
 2003Z/25 in 28° 54' S., 153° 34' E. Two of crew missing.
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A., 270750Z).

Movements Arrivals Auckland U.S.S. TAURUS 0054Z/27 U.S.S.
 RIXEY 0212Z/27 U.S.S. JOHN PENN 0330Z/27.
 Departure Noumea 2000Z/26 U.S.S. HERCULES for
 Auckland E.T.A. 0400Z/29.
 D. 23.35 S., 166.25 E. E. 28.25 S., 170.25 E. F. 35.04 S.
 174.28 E. S. of A. 18 knots. Arrivals DUNEDIN 2115Z/26
 U.S.S. McCALL. Arrival DUNEDIN 0101Z/27 McCALL.
 (D.N.I. Wellington, 271001Z to Admty).
 Arrival Milne Bay 26th SHEPPARTON. Brisbane 26th BALLARAT,
 COLAC, GEELONG. Sydney 26th DELORAINÉ, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT.
 Exmouth Gulf. 26th U.S. Seaplane Tender HERON. Darwin 26th
 INVERELL.
 Departure Milne Bay 26th BUNBURY on escort. Port Moresby 25th
 SHEPPARTON for Milne Bay, Townsville 26th VENDETTA for Milne
 Bay, Melbourne 26th. STUART, KALGOURLIE for Sydney.
 Exmouth Gulf. 26th U.S. (?N.) B. PRESTON for Freemantle.
 (A.C.N.B., 271007Z to Admty).
 U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ arrived Fall River 26th April
 H.T. TAROONA departed Townsville 26th yesterday Fall River 28th.
 (C.S.W.P.S.F., 271226Z to Admty).

War Diary.

27.4.1943.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C., 271355B, 271356B).

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.X North
Atlantic
convoy
cycles.

1. The withdrawal of escort vessels for operational purposes necessitates an alteration to the north Atlantic convoy cycles. The proposed programme is given in an Admiralty message today. The Admiralty consider that a more even average number of ships for all convoys would be maintained if an occasional reduction were made in the speed of an H.X. or O.N. convoy, if S.C. numbers were in excess of anticipations.

Cominch makes counter suggestions, which include the raising of H.X. convoy speed to $10\frac{1}{2}$ knots, in order to avoid the possibility of 80 ship S.C. convoys, to take advantage of the higher speeds of new ships, and to equalize the size of H.X. and S.C. convoys.

The Admiralty objected that the proposal to raise the speed of H.X. convoys to $10\frac{1}{2}$ knots would cause a very large block of tonnage, including a proportion of new tonnage, to be relegated to S.C. convoys, and that very few ships except those relegated to S.C. convoys could stream their net defence. They proposed that H.X. convoys should normally run at 10 knots but with discretion to vary the speed by half a knot if necessary.

Cominch had no comments to make on this.

Home Commands.X Operation
V.P.-patrol
R.

2. M.T.Bs 625 (S.O.) and 653 sailed from Lerwick at 1250 to carry out this operation.

3. ANGLE reports a derelict landing craft in 220 Skerryvore 17 miles at 0122B today.

4. BULLDOG sailed from Greenock this afternoon to join the West Africa Command. (cf. South Atlantic 12th April).

S.C. 127,
O.N.S. 5.

5. It was thought that Convoys S.C.127 and O.N.S.5 were possibly being shadowed late this evening. ORIBI was detached from the 4th Escort Group supporting S.C.127, to proceed to O.N.S.5, and early on 29th April C. in C. W.A. asked F.O.N.F. to sail the 3rd Escort Group forthwith to meet O.N.S.5.

1041

28.4.1943.

Wednesday.Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands - Contd.

6. It was stated in the press on 29th April that our light naval forces had an encounter with an escorted enemy convoy off Ushant early this morning. (See D.O.R. 1348) ALBRIGHTON was damaged and GOATHLAND slightly damaged, by shell fire. (D.N.C. list)
- U/B attacked by BOGUE's A/C. 7. An aircraft from BOGUE, operating with Convoy H.X.235 surprised and attacked a submarine on the surface in 46.16 N. 25.53 W. (about 750 miles S.W. of Cape Clear) at 1852Z today. Four depth bombs bounced off or near missed and exploded whilst the stern of the U-Boat was still visible. The aircraft remained for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour, and RESTIGOUCHE also closed the position; but nothing further was seen.
- X Heavy minelaying by Bomber Command. 8. 122 out of 160 aircraft of Bomber Command which were despatched laid 452 mines last night in Biscay ports, the Frisian Is. - Elbe area, and Schulpengat. One aircraft is missing.
- Mediterranean.
- X M.T.B Sweep. 639 lost. 9. M.T.Bs 633, 637 and 639 from Sousse made a daylight sweep and at 0930 attacked 2 motor minesweepers in a creek by Ras El Amar. The ships were not observed to sink but are believed to have been rendered useless. An R-Boat was also set on fire and a Frieseler Storch and Ju.52 aircraft on the beach were probably destroyed. At 1245, the M.T.Bs attacked and sank a 3000 ton merchant vessel escorted by 2 destroyers and fighter aircraft off Kelibia. In attacks by fighters, M.T.B.639 was set on fire 17 miles East of Cape Bon and was subsequently sunk by our own forces. M.T.B.633 suffered superficial damage, after shooting down 1 fighter.
10. C. in C. Med. requires two additional M.L. Flotillas in the Mediterranean as soon as possible. One flotilla is to be provided by re-allocating the 32nd M.L. Flotilla from West Africa to the Mediterranean.

1042

28.4.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- X 11. C. in C. Med. issued today a warning to ships against making unnecessary wireless transmissions which might reveal the position of our forces. Enemy air reconnaissance is by no means complete and is frequently inaccurate.
- X 12. During last night, destroyers of Force K operated south of Marittimo, M.T.Bs from Sousse made a sweep along the East Coast of the Cape Bon peninsula, and American M.T.Bs from Bone were N.W. of the Gulf of Tunis, but no incidents are reported.
- X 13. Malta aircraft today destroyed their ^{100th} 1001st enemy aircraft since the beginning of the war.
- X 14. Heavy bombers of the 9th (U.S.) Bomber Command dropped 87 tons of H.E. on Messina ferry terminus today, 12 Spitfires making an offensive sweep over southern Sicily as a diversion. At the same time, another formation of 22 Liberators of the U.S.A.A.F. heavy bombers raided the docks at Naples, dropping 40 tons of H.E. U.S. B.25s with escort attacked a convoy of 2 ships 50 miles N.E. of Cape Bon and obtained direct hits on both vessels, one of which was left stationary and in flames. 12 Spitfire bombers escorted by 4 Spitfire fighters made a successful attack on Syracuse harbour today, making numerous hits on the E-Boat base and 2 direct hits on wharves near the power station.

East Indies.

X Pooling of
E.F. and
R.I.N. A/S
forces.

15. In order to facilitate the operation and administration of the available ocean A/S escorts and coastal A/S vessels in the northern Indian Ocean the resources in A/S ships and vessels of the Eastern Fleet and the R.I.N. are to be pooled. The following two A/S forces will be formed.

/(a) ...

War Diary.

28.4.1943.

Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Pooling of
E.F. and
R.I.N. A/S
forces.
(Contd.)

(a) The Arabian - Bengal - Ceylon Escort Force (short title A.B.C.E.F.) to be operated by F.O. Ceylon in two groups based respectively on Bombay and Colombo; and
(b) The coastal anti-submarine Force (short title C.A.S.F.)
C. in C. E.F. intends to bring organisation (a) into force on 15th May and (b) on 22nd May.

Australia and New Zealand.

X 16. Heavy barge activity is reported from Vangavanga to Ringicove and Vila (New Hebrides) and from Buka Passage to Numa Numa (Bougainville Island).

X 17. 4 B.25s attacked two merchant vessels this morning, 90 miles N.W. of Dobo (Celebes) and secured one direct hit and one near miss on the larger, and two near misses on the smaller of the two vessels, leaving both stationary with the smaller ship on fire.

1044

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

TOBRUK. In view of rupture of Polish Russian relations propose Polish ship TOBRUK speed $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots now in Kola Inlet be sailed independently to U.K. to avoid Soviet action against crew (although Ambassador Moscow does not anticipate this at present) or other incidents. 2. Master of TOBRUK recently expressed wish to be allowed to proceed independently but I refused at the time in view of unnecessary risk.
(Ad. Fisher 281434C to Admty. C. in C.H.F.)

R.A.A.H.F. Admiralty 271829B. Intend my Flag to remain in INDOMITABLE until I am relieved by R.A.(A) H.F. (F.O. Carrier Training 281632B to C. in C.H.F.)

Movements.

GLASGOW Hvalfjord departure GLASGOW at 0835B.
(A.C.I.C. 280856B.)

DELHI. Arrived DELHI.
(C. in C.Plymouth 280905B.)

S/M Request you will sail SURF for Lerwick on arrival of ULA and ULTIMATUM.
Movements. SURF will be required to leave Lerwick for patrol on 7th May.
(F.O.S. 280956B to A.C.O.S.)

Intend sailing DORNOCH, TRUCULENT, ULA, ULTIMATUM, 0.10 from Garroch Head at 1730B/30th to 000^b Dunnet Head 2 miles. E.T.A. 0700/May 2nd.

2. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail TAURUS to this R/V.
3. Thence ULA, ULTIMATUM to Scapa. DORNOCH, TRUCULENT, TAURUS, 0.10 East of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1900 May 2nd.
(Capt. S.3 281125B.)

Sailed H.32, KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL.

(C. in C.Plymouth 281447B to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)

F.O.S's 201436. Intend to sail 0.10 from Rothesay at 1030B/29th to Holy Loch, E.T.A. 1200B.

(Capt. S.7 281547B to Capt. S.3.)

Position of S/Ms at 0800B/29 and movements for the following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 281734B, 290927B.)

BULLDOG. Sailed BULLDOG in accordance with my 271904B.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 281524B.)

ADVENTURE. My 261257. Sailed ADVENTURE. Routed in accordance with A.M. 261446 April. S.O.A. 17 knots.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 281531B.)
At 2148/28 you were probably sighted by Enemy A/C.
(D.D.I.C. 282355B to ADVENTURE.)

/POLYANTHUS...

1045

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

POLYANTHUS, CHAMBLY. C. in C.W.A. 1019/27. POLYANTHUS, CHAMBLY sailed at 1100Z by great circle route for St. Johns. S.O.A. 12.5 knots. (C.T.G. 24.7 281608Z.)

HOWE. Sailed HOWE, BLANKNEY, BRECON, MIDDLETON at 1159B. (A.C.I.C. 281234B to C. in C.W.A.)

North Atlantic Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic Area
 Iceland (C) HOWE, BELFAST, GLASGOW.
 Dispositions Area Scapa: DUKE OF YORK, ANSON, MALAYA, BERWICK, KENT, JAMAICA, SCYLLA, FURIOUS, 5 destroyers.
 Area Londonderry: INDOMITABLE, 14 destroyers.
 Area Plymouth: CHARYBDIS, BERMUDA, 2 destroyers.
 Area Gibraltar: NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 7 destroyers.
 (D.O.D.H. 281357Z to C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. 1. Intend M.Ls. 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
 2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/29th.
 3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device".
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 281029.)
 My 281029B. Para. 1. Amend patrol tonight as follows between 50° 15' N. 2° 10' W. and 50° 20' N. 2° 40' W.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland 281428B.)

S/M Patrols. Para. 1 of my 271644. For 6th read 8th May.
 2. My 271646. Capt. S.9 and Comsubron 50 are requested to comply para. 1 above.
 (F.O.S. 281033B.)

Request you will recall UNIVERSAL to Lerwick and Holy Loch on 30th April.

(F.O.S. 281429B to Capt. S.9.)

A. BLACKFISH on patrol to northward of Kolbinsey 67° 08' N. 18° 38' W. as far as 68° N.

B. BARB on patrol between 67° 30' N. and 68° 30' N. on meridian 16° W.

C. SATYR on patrol between 67° 30' N. 16° 01' W. and Icelandic coast on meridian of 16° W.

D. UNIVERSAL on patrol vicinity 63° 55' N. 02° 55' W.

E. O.14 on patrol line 20 miles north and south of 63° 50' N.

00° 30' W. F. USURPER on patrol line 20 miles 030° and 210° from 62° 15' N. 02° 15' E.

(F.O.S. 281734B to Admty.)

Leave patrol at 2300B/30 through 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles, thence to Lerwick.

(Capt. S.9 281805B to UNIVERSAL.)

/Operation...

1046

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

X Operation My 161140B and 231308B.
V.P - R. M.T.B. 625 (S.O.) and 653 sailed 1250 for V.P.
patrol R.
2. My 161140B para. 4. For 10 read 7.
(A.C.O.S. 281323B to Admty.)

Exercises.

H.32. H.32 will be exercising unescorted in Lyme Bay,
daily, during daylight hours, from April 29th to
May 8th, proceeding to and from Dartmouth and
exercise area under escort.
(C. in C.Plymouth 281741B.)

Exercise in Irish Sea Cancel my 271937B. H.Q.F.C. have agreed to A/C
INDOMITABLE operating and flare dropping day and night on 28th,
UNICORN. 29th, 30th April North of 053° N. Movements
of A/C not to be notified.
(C. in C.W.A. 281845B to F.O.C.Training.)

Exercise Your 271111. Intend to carry out search A with
X.C.J. one Liberator commencing at first light 0630B
not 0430B as requested.
(A.C.I.C. 281924B to HOWE.)
C. in C.H.F. 222223 para. 5 and 6. Fortresses
will carry out sweeps to locate Blue Force and Sunderlands will
shadow after locating. Striking force of Hampdens escorted by
Beaufighters will attack after Blue Force is south of 60° N.
One strike only will be carried out.
(C. in C.Rosyth 282034B to H.Q.C.C.)
My P.C. and S. 2100B, 061° 27' N. 016° 00' W. 170° 20 knots.
(V.A.2 282115B to SCYLLA.)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in My 261225 and your 272105B. Anticipated period
BOGUE. five to seven days. Personnel will not disembark.
(C. in C.W.A. 281503B to F.O.N.A.S.)

A/C for Admiralty 261604B. Request personnel may be em-
ARCHER. barked on May 1st and ARCHER sail for Belfast to
embark aircraft alongside on 2nd May.
(C. in C.W.A. 281507B to C.D.B.)

Enemy Air Activity.

ADVENTURE. At 2148/28 you were probably sighted by enemy
aircraft.
(D.D.I.C. 282355B to ADVENTURE.)

1047

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

Operation R.A.(M) 231852, 271925 and 231854. F.O.C.(D)
S.N.111A F.H.F. is requested sail 2 destroyers to arrive
Port ZA by 0800B/2nd May.
2. SCYLLA is to proceed to R/V with R.A.(M) in
059° 45' N. 005° 30' W. at 0700B/3rd.
(C. in C.H.F. 281227B and 281718B.)

Western Width of area swept extended 3.5 miles. Two mines
Channel detonated in 50° 07' 04" N. 04° 22' 00" W., 50°
clearance. 06' 28" N. 04° 23' 00" W.
(M/S 4 281731B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Enemy Intelligence.

SCHEER , A. SCHEER passed through Kiel Canal believed March
HIPPER. 24th in tow of four tugs. She was observed to
float very light and Kiel Pilot disclosed that
vessel had already disembarked ammunition and
stores.

Vessel appeared to be out of commission and did not wear naval
ensign, nor were customary salutes exchanged.
B. HIPPER passed through Kiel Canal on April 7th under own power.
C. It is further reported that both vessels will be taken out of
commission in order to release naval personnel for U-Boat service.
C.2.

(N.A. Stockholm 281757.)

O.I.C. Comment.

1. SCHEER left Wilhelmshaven between 23rd and 29th March and was
seen at Swinemunde by P.R.U. on 22 April. There is no confirma-
tion that she was towed through the Kiel Canal.
2. HIPPER was last located in dock at Wilhelmshaven on 5th April
(P.R.U.) Wilhelmshaven has not since been covered.
3. There is no confirmation that these ships are to be paid off.

U-Boats.

U-Boats Am over enemy S/M in 45° 12' N. 11° 48' W.
reported (A/C IWQQ 280118 to 19 Group.)
Biscay Area. In 45° 23' N. 08° 45' W. enemy submarine previously
reported was sighted on surface and observed to
submerge.

(A/C C. of 407 Sqdn. 280312 to 19 Group.)

Transit aircraft reports two U-Boats on surface in 47° 08' N.
07° 40' W. at 0837B/28.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 281607B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

Transit aircraft reports stationary U-Boat on the surface
in 041° 36' N. 009° 33' W. at 281053B, crash-dived on sighting.

(F.O.C. Gibraltar 281613 to Admty. C. in C.Plymouth.)

Aircraft sighted one submarine in 046° 25' N. 026° 08' W.
on course 060°, 50 miles on Port Bow of Convoy.
(RESTIGOUCHE 282158Z.)

/U-Boats...

1048

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats - Contd.

- / U-Boats reported & attacked. N. Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 60° 53' N. 29° 38' W. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty G. 281239B.) Your 281006B. U-Boat report by aircraft at 1039Z in 285° Z Z 30 and at 1201Z in 190° Z Z 28. 4th Escort Group investigating. S.C.127 estimated P.C. and S. 1300Z, 60.58 N. 28.13 W. 111° 7.5 Consider convoy not sighted. (ITCHEN 281313Z to Admty.)
- Am over enemy submarine in 60° 26' N. 20° 50' W. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty G. 281349B.)
Am over enemy submarine in 60° 18' N. 29° 53' W. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty G 281510B.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, at 1510, and estimate two hits. (A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty G. 281520B.)
By D/F at 1718Z U-Boat, possibly inward bound, anywhere within 45 miles of 62° 40' N. 02° 30' E. (D.D.I.C. 282108B to USURPER.)

U.170 sunk. Request you will convey our congratulations to the U.S.S. SPENCER on the destruction of U.170 on April 17th, while escorting H.X. 233. (1st S.L. 281400Z to Comnavu.)

U-Boat sunk on 25th April. We congratulate BITER and PATHFINDER on the destruction of a U-Boat on 25th April 1943. (1st S.L. 282309B to BITER, PATHFINDER.)

Technical.

Pumpkin. My 161955B April. 15 Group are much interested and it would be appreciated if one could be made available to them for trial. (C. in C.W.A. 281454B to Admty.)

Casualties & Defects.

? Landing craft ANGLE delayed by finding and taking in tow a A.L.C. off Skerryvore. found in 232° Skerryvore 16 miles. Tow parted after 4 hours and lost in darkness in approx. 220° Skerryvore 17 miles. May danger shipping. (ANGLE 280122B to C. in C.W.A.)

ANGLE reports derelict landing craft in 220° Skerryvore 17 miles at 0122B/28.

2. Detach one ship forthwith to search for and salvage craft. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 281037B to LYME REGIS.)

BORNHOLM (Convoy O.N.S.5.) DUNCAN's 261500. BORNHOLM arrived Reykjavik. (A.C.I.C. 280227B.)

BURY. My 271915B. BURY returned on account of heavy weather damage. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 281214 to C. in C.W.A.)

/SALAMANDER...

1049

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- SALAMANDER. Has defective engine.
(HALCYON 281423B.)
- MIGNONETTE. Your 260946B. MIGNONETTE placed in dry dock to make good defective underwater fitting. Will sail for Londonderry p.m. 1st May.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 281603B to Cdre. Londonderry.)
- STEVENSTONE Intend sailing STEVENSTONE Westabout to join Portsmouth Command a.m. 2nd May. Approx. boiler hours on arrival 720.
2. Bow Pom-pom requires repair to shield.
(R.A.D. 281823B to C. in C.Portsmouth.)
- M.M.S.277. Arrival at 1650 M.M.S.277 with engine trouble ex F.S.100.
(F.O.Humber 281810B.)
- MANGROVE. Your 221826B and F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 271531B. Approved for MANGROVE to be given periodical refit concurrently with repairs to boilers at Barry. Request vessel be sailed accordingly.
(D.M.S. 281846B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
- ROSENBORG. (Reported sunk astern of convoy R.U.71 on 24th April. D.O.R. 1348.) See Shipping.
- BORNHOLM. SS. BORNHOLM arrived Reykjavik ex O.N.S.5 with collision damage. She was flooded aft to depth of 10 feet and has now been pumped out. Temporary repairs to fairly extensive damage estimated to take several days.
(A.C.I.C. 282000B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.

- H.X. 234. Clyde arrival ASPHODEL with survivors.
AMERIKA (F.O.I.C. Greenock 280804B.)
survivors.
- S.C.127. Proceed to Reykjavik.
(C. in C.W.A. 280931Z to B.A.M.S.)
D/F bearings at 0744Z indicate U-Boat may have reported convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 281006B to Escorts S.C. 127.)
- A.M. 281006B. D/F bearings of transmissions on Series one at 0914Z and 1050Z indicate that convoy S.C. 127 is being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 281321B to Escorts S.C.127.)

/Atlantic...

1050

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- Atlantic Convoy Cycles & Sailings. Your 271124B. Concur in proposals contained in your 262302B.
2. Convoy schedule should be promulgated as soon as concurrence of Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa has been received.
(D.T.D. 281007B to C. in C.W.A.)
The following are the anticipated dates for North Atlantic Convoys sailing in May:- O.N. 182 May 6th from Mersey, O.N. 183 May 10th, O.N. 184 May 15th, O.N. 185 May 21st, O.N. 186 May 26th, O.N.S.7 May 7th O.N.S.8 May 18th, O.N.S.9 May 29th.
2. Attention is called to the earlier sailing of O.N. 183. N.C.S.O.'s should advise Ministry of War Transport Representatives and other officials immediately so that as many ships as possible may be sailed in this convoy despite short interval from the date of sailing of O.N.182.
(D.T.D. 281755B to C. in C.W.A. Rosyth, Nore, A.C.O.S.)
- K.M.S.15. FORT MCLOUGHLIN Your 262143B. Ship expected 30th April. Tug EMPIRE IVY will be sent 29th April. No other EMPIRE tug available.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 281014B to D.S.T.)
- E.N. Convoys. Your 280142. Concur.
(C. in C.Rosyth 281026B to Admty.)
Cancel my 181035B April and substitute following sailing times for E.N.24 to E.N.36.
(C. in C.Rosyth 281113B.)
- E.G.2 H.X. 236. Intend sailing STARLING, CYGNET, WILD GOOSE, WOODPECKER, WREN, KITE as 2nd Supporting Group from Lough Foyle at 1200B/29 to Hvalfjord to refuel, speed 15 knots, arriving May 1st. C. in C.W.A. 270033B refers.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 281146B to A.C.I.C.)
Cancel my 270033B. Request you will sail E.G.2, noon 29th towards 45°N.30° W. at 12 knots weather permitting. E.G.2 is to support H.X. 236.
(C. in C.W.A. 281542Z to N.O.I.C. Londonderry.)
Division of H.X. 236 (C. in C.W.A. 281547Z.) See America & West Indies.
- U.R.73. Capt. S.7 is requested to sail SHIKARI a.m. 30th to Loch Ewe. SHIKARI is required to act as additional escort to U.R. 73.
(C. in C.W.A. 281418B.)
- X.K.4. SALAMANDER has defective engine. Propose HALCYON escort 4 merchant ships to Q.Z.S. 184, SALAMANDER to Milford Haven on making Q.Z.L.18. Position 051° 35' N. 007° 58' W.
(HALCYON 281423B to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 281423B approved.
(C. in C.W.A. 281942B to HALCYON.)

1051

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- F.D.5. Your 281024B. CHARLESTON will provide escort
LEINSTER. and will be sailed to R/V accordingly.
2. Onward route through 060° 20' N. 004° 40' W.
and 061° 52' N. 005° 42' W.
(A.C.O.S. 281545B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
- R.U.71 My 251807. Delete ROSENBERG.
ROSENBERG. (D.T.D. 281848B to N.O.I.C. N.I.)
- O.N. 180. OCEAN VIGOUR and GLENAFFARIC reported they were
returning. It is presumed from your 271235 that
they are still in company. Report accordingly.
(C. in C.W.A. 281911B to Escorts O.N. 180.)
- W.S.30. Capt. D.Greenock's 271714. 1. BOADICEA will
BOADICEA. be required to sail as escort for W.S.30 on 19th
May.
2. Request that you will arrange A/S working-up
practice in addition to practices requested in para.
2 B.
(D.O.D.H. 282000B to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.5. Submarine sighted 240° ZZ 7 miles. O.N.S.5 P.C.
and S. 61.37 N. 32.49 W. 245° 6. H/F D/F activity
suggests several more in the vicinity.
(B.7 282120Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Do not consider S.C. 127 seriously threatened by U-Boat at
present. Area in vicinity of convoy was well searched by day
with negative result. D/F bearings appear to indicate U-Boats
are in vicinity of O.N.S.5. P.C. and S. 060° 45' 026° 10' 113° 5
knots.
(E.G.14 282330Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Detach ORIBI forthwith to support O.N.S.5, P.C. and S. at
2120Z, 061° 37' N. 032° 49' W. 245° 6. ORIBI to proceed at 20
knots weather permitting.
(C. in C.W.A. 282333Z to Capt. D.8.)
A.M. 281321B. Continuance of traffic on Series one (last
two transmissions at 1840Z/28 and 2033Z/28) indicates that a
convoy is being shadowed.
From D/F indications, the possibility that O.N.S.5 may be the
convoy shadowed cannot now be excluded.
(D.D.I.C. 282340B to Escorts O.N.S.5 and S.C.127.)
- K.M.S.13. Your 280153 LLANCARVAN put back to Clyde with
defects.
(C. in C.W.A. 282237B to F.O.Gibraltar.)

1052

28.4.1943.

Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Torch Area.

L.C.I. 279, Collision, with 264. At 0400Z/28th April L.C.I. 279 (? in collision with) 264. Former has 5 feet gash starboard side at frame 30 extending from upper deck to 2 feet below troop deck latter has (? been) (? violently) holed 2 feet above water line. Noon position 206 miles $091\frac{1}{2}$ from G. proceeding along 7 knots. (L.C.I. 112, 281515Z to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

LLANCARVAN. K.M.S. 13. LLANCARVAN not arrived Lisbon. Request confirmation of sailing. (F.O., Gibraltar, 280153B to C. in C.W.A.(R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/28th.

- P.219 (SERAPH) 36.57 19.14 thence 36.51 09.13 at 2200B/28th, thence 36.42 08.01 at 0430B/29th thence patrol between meridian 08.01 and 06.30 and North of 36.40, diving by day 2, surface by night 9. (see amendment 281221)
2. Coastal craft convoy HONEYSUCKLE 36.22 07.43 through 36.20 07.30 to 35.49 06.30 thence Gibraltar 6.
 3. P.37 (UNBENDING), 37.47 09.49 to 39.08 10.30 at 1430B/29th thence 359° diving by day 2, surfacing by night 8.
 4. U.G.L. 2, C.T.G.68.1, 31.48 10.53 044° 8.
 5. DIANELLA, LOTUS 2 merchant ships sail 2359B/28th direct to (?cape) St. Mary's thence coastwise to Setubal $8\frac{1}{2}$. (see amendment 281243)
 6. X.K. 5 BRISSENDEN 035° 50' 006° 03' through 036° 20' 010° 01' thence 316° 10.
 7. R.S.4A COWSLIP, ANTHONY 033° 42' 008° 58' through 033° 40' 009° 01' 032° 50' 009° 43' 032° 16' 009° 35' 9 knots, then through 032° 06' 010° 01' thence 219° $10\frac{1}{2}$. ANTHONY parts company in 032° 16' 009° 35' to proceed to Gibraltar 24.
 8. One destroyer parts company with U.G.L. 2 to R/V one merchant ship in 032° 01' 014° 38' at 1300/29th and escort through 033° 59' 008° 03' to Casablanca 19.5. (F.O. Gibraltar, 281011B) Para 9 see 281243. My 281011. Para. 1., amend 036° 57' 019° 14' to read 036° 57' 009° 14' and 036° 57' 009° 13' to read 036° 51' 009° 13'. (F.O. Gibraltar, 281221.)

/My...

1053

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. My 281011B. Para 5, amend sailing time to read
Contd. 290300.
2. Add new para. 9 ROTHESAY, PIROUETTE, 5 merchant ships sail 282000B through 35.56 06.20 to 027° Chipiona Light (?133°) where 2 merchant ships detach thence 180° Punta Picacho Light (?133° where 3 merchant ships detach escort to R/V with one merchant ship off Huelva at 291600 and escort Gibraltar by reverse route 8. (F.O. Gibraltar, 281243B.)
- Situation 2002B/28th.
- (2) M.K.F. 13 WESTON 42.39 17.41 through 45.01 19.(?46) thence 028° 12 (see amendment 281751)
- (3) ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH, one tanker, 35.37 13.37 282° 9.
- (5) O.T. 4, C.T.G. 21.5, 30.52 16.54 064° 13½.
- (6) BOREAS, LEWES, 2 Merchant Ships, 26.42 16.01 through 25.02 18.30 thence 180° 13½.
- (7) S.L. 128 BLACK SWAN 25.40 15.50 through 27.30 14.01 thence 034° 6½.
- (8) Swedish Relief Ship WIRIL 36.08 15.16 093° 11.
- (10) 1 destroyer parts company with U.G.L. 2 to R/V. 1 merchant ship in 32.01 14.38 at 1300 29th and escorts through 33.59 08.03 to Casablanca 19½.
- (11) French Sloops DUMONT D'URVILLE LA GRANDIERE, 1 Merchant ship 27.32 13.18 southbound coastwise 9. (F.O. Gibraltar, 281041B)
- My 281041 para. 2. Amend to read 022° 35' 017° 55' through 044° 01' 019° 03' and 045° 30' 019° 28' thence 028° 12. (F.O. Gibraltar, 281751B.)
- Situation 1957B/28th.
- G.U.S. 6 A. C.T.F. 69, 35 (?01) 25.59 through 34.58 27.02 thence 284° 9.
- (2) U.G.S. 7 A and U.G.L.S 3, C.T.F. 64, 31.43 32.49 through 31.30 30.58 thence 101° 8½.
- (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 281145B.)

MAURO
CROCE
damaged.

Valencia reports Italian MAURO CROCE was shelled and damaged by submarine off Segunto a.m. April 23rd and towed into Segunto, she returned submarine's fire. Damage is reported repairable. Three of crew killed and four including Master wounded.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 281035B to C. in C. Med. S.8, V.A. Malta, (R) Admty.) N.A. Madrid, 281216B to Admty., (R) S.O.I. Gib.)

Italian MAURO CROCE is now in Segunto having been damaged by shell fire.

F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 281036B to S.8. F.S. ANTIOPE, (R) Capt. (S) 8.)

O.S.46,
fuelling
of escorts,
38th Group.

On arrival of O.S.46 request you will investigate circumstances under which escorts were detached to fuel at Casablanca. (2) It would appear that at certain times the escort was unduly depleted. (3) Request you will instruct 38th Escort group to address all signals affecting movements of convoy and escorts in my area to me.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 281059B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty., C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.)

/Convoy...

1054

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy R.S.4A. My 271816 (not to F.O.C.W.Af.) Add CITY OF CHRISTIANIA for Freetown. (F.O., Gibraltar, 281218 to F.O.C.W.Af., C.M.S. C.F.(R) Admty., etc.)

French Refugees, Portugal. Your 231252 and your 261031. French state all contingents will be at Setubal p.m. Friday 30th. Hitch due to Portuguese desire for guarantee of arrival of ships has been overcome. (N.A. Madrid, 281229B to B.N.A. Lisbon, (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Admty.)

ALMAACK. Request routing ALMAACK Casablanca to Norfolk via Bermuda under tow speed 6 knots sailing about 1st May. (Commorseafon, 281438 to Admty.)

EMPIRE MORN (? mined 26/4.) British SS. EMPIRE MORN under British Escort Casablanca to Gibraltar damaged by mine or torpedo April 26th last probable position 33° 50' 15" N. 07° 52' W. at 2145 G.C.T. Confidential papers secure. Vessel made Casablanca under tow by American Salvage Vessels after being reboarded. 21 persons missing presumed killed by explosion lost overboard or trapped in debris. (Commorseafon, 281540 to V.C.N.O., D.N.I. (R) Comnavnaw, C. in C. Mediterranean, Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch.) Your 271530 to F.O.C. Gibraltar only BRISSENDEN reports EMPIRE MORN was in position 330° Cape Dar El Beida 19½ miles at 2220A/26th April when explosion took place. (F.O.C. Gibraltar, 281815 to Commorseafon (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

U/B reported. F.O. Gibraltar 281613 see Home Commands.

PENSTEMON. Expect to leave Melilla 1 Merchant Ship in company, at 1600B/29th. Weather report. (PENTSTEMON, 281730B to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Convoy X.K.5. My 272310 sailed BRISSENDEN. (F.O.Gibraltar, 281746G, to Admty.)

BULLDOG. Onward route from (F) through (G) all positions North and West unless indicated 41.01 13.30 (H) 35.01 09.15 (J) 33.55 07.53 and Q.K.A.92 Casablanca (F.O.Gibraltar, 281827B to BULLDOG (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. F.O.C. West Africa, C. in C. Med. Commorseafon.) Cancelled by 301801B q.v.)

/HEBE...

1055

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.HEBE II
ST. NECTAN,
LADY
HOGARTH.

Tanker HEBE II E.T.A. 1300G.M.T. 1st May escorted by SAINT NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH. SAINT NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH will enter for provisions and water only and then patrol outside territorial waters until HEBE (2) has discharged. (3) Request you will sail HEBE II for Casablanca by reverse route.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 281957B to N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada, (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, Admty.)

U/B

B.24 sights Sub. at 1135A/28 in 34.40 N. 26.35 W. Sub. seen submerging from 3000. No attack made. Evaluation positive.
(Commorseafron, 282003 to Admty.)Spanish
Tankers
Suspicious
Conduct.Your 221338. (Re: Observation by R.A.F. aircraft of SS. SEVILLA and Spanish trawlers TRAMONTANA and MISTRAL - N.T. W.D.) Confirm S.O.(I) Gibraltar 261905. How did aircraft identify SEVILLA (?) Your para. 3, no.
(N.A. Madrid, 282043B to Admty.(R) S.O.(I) Gib. Admty.) Reply F.O.W.A., 051415 May.Personnel
for U.K.

B.A.M.R. Washington's 011212 not to C. in C.S.A. Personnel have been embarked for U.K. in DUNNOTTAR CASTLE as follows:- (2) Lieut. J.C.Ogle R.N. has been discharged direct to MAIDSTONE in accordance with F.O.S.'s instructions.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 282115 B, to Admty. (R) B.A.M.R. etc.)

Following naval personnel embarked in STIRLING CASTLE at Gibraltar.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 282123, to Admty.)

U/B.

Enemy S/M sighted by A/C 41.36 N. 09.33 W. at 1053B/28th.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 282125B to P.37 (UNBENDING))Flying
Crews
Gibraltar.Your 271504B. Crews ex HUNTER are returning forthwith.
(2) Three additional crews for Pool at Gibraltar are leaving U.K. on or about 29th April.
(N.A. 2nd Sea Lord. (Air Section) 282328B to F.O. Gibraltar.)Air
Report.Opsum 178 24 hrs. ended 1800/28th April.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Wellington H.E.603 in transit from Lynham sighted 0813B/28 45.15 N. 7.10 W. stationary object thought to be periscope, not attacked. Wellington H.E. 755 in transit from Portreath sighted at 0837B/28 47.08 N. 7.40 W. 2 periscopes and part of conning tower.

/Periscopes...

War Diary.

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Air
Report.
(Contd.)

Periscopes 1 mile (?apart on) parallel course
315/4 kts. Not attacked. Well. H.E. 755 in
transit from Portreath sighted at 1053B/28
41.36 N. 9.33 W. surfaced (conning tower) U-Boat
almost stationary course and speed unknown, crash
dived 45 seconds after sighting, not attacked.
(R.A.F. Gibraltar, 282320Z.)

Movements
Gibraltar.

Departures ROTHESAY, PIROUETTE, on escort duties
Huelva, F.O. "H" in NELSON, RODNEY, FARNDALE,
ILEX, CALPE, HAYDON, PUCKERIDGE, WHEATLAND, WILTON,
VENOMOUS for Mers El Kebir.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 282340 to Admty., C. in C. Med.)

1057

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

CARNARVON CASTLE. Arrival 0642/27/4/43. CARNARVON CASTLE from Ocean Patrol. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 280056 to Admty. (R) Cdr. 4th Fleet).

COPINSAY Departure 0713Z/27/4/43 COPINSAY for anti-sub. exercise, thence R/V with SS. ZAREMBO and escort to Marshalls. (S.O.(I) Freetown 280140Z to Admty. R.O. Monrovia)

STORMWRACK, SATSA. Following is repetition of my 280701 (begins):- Sailed STORMWRACK, SATSA to Beira and Kilindini Coastal S. of A. 10 knots. E.T.A. Beira 0600Z May 1st. (2) Maintain constant W/T guard on 500 k/cs shifting to read B.A.M.S. routines 280701Z. (ends). (Com. 1/c Durban, 280709Z to Admty etc).

RELENTLESS Sailed RELENTLESS to Capetown route R.9 S. of A. 18 knots, E.T.A. Capetown 0530Z April 30th. 2. Shifting to W/T group S.L. at 1800Z April 28th. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 280751Z to Admty. etc).

Movements, Dakar. Sailed M.L. 1066. Arrived BRIDGEWATER escorting BENNINGTON. (Comar Dakar, 280800Z to F.O.I.C. West Africa, N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty).

GENISTA Arrival 27th April. (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay. 280907B to Admty. etc).

Movements Freetown. Arrivals 28th April. 0835, NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID with W.S.29. 1037Z ALCANTARA, MILFORD, WOODRUFF, AMARANTHUS, TAMARISK, MORRIS DANCE, YESTOR, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN SNOWDROP, THYME, VIRGINIA, ZWARTE ZEE, ORIANA. Tug AIMWELL Tug CROCODILE, FRISKY, M.Cs. 287, 289, 296, 266, 290 with Floating Dock (?24). 1600Z WARSPITE, DEVONSHIRE, QUALITY, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL with C.F.12. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 281025Z to Admty).

GEORGES LEYGUES. Your 271727. Intend sailing French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES 0100Z/29th speed made good on passage 26 knots until 0700Z/29th then 19. E.T.A. Patrol area 1000Z/30th. (Comar, Dakar, 281036Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. CILICIA, Com. 4th Fleet).

/Dispositions...

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions Position at 2000Z/28th.
CATTERICK 013° 40' 011° to Pointe Noire 16½.
GENISTA, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES with
N.C.10 off Walvis Bay to Capetown 10.
STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY escorting EVERLEIGH 034° 50'
019° 50' to Durban 10.
TRUSTY, FRITILLARY 035° 05' 021° 30' to Simonstown 11.
RACEHORSE, ROTHERHAM escorting ARUNDEL CASTLE 034° 45' 022°
40' to Capetown 16.
NORTHERN DUKE with D.C.20 A 034° 25' 023° 30' to Capetown 10.
ARISTEA searching vicinity 036° 50' 023° 50'.
RELENTLESS 032° 50' 028° 30' to Capetown 20.
SATSA, STORMWRACK 028° 20' (029°) 50' to Beira 10.
FROBISHER 026° 45' 034° 45' to 030° 35' 031° 12' 17.
(?ULSTER MONARCH) JASMINE 024° 10' 035° 45' to 016° 041° 13½.
F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC with D.H.34 B. 023° 50' 041° 15' to 017°
042° 05'11.
(C. in C. S.A., 281052B).

Situation at 2359Z/28th.

FANDANGO, BIRDLIP, BELLWORT, ARRAN with T.S.37, 03.42 08.04
thence 302° 7½. M.L. 278 off Robertford, M.L. 265 off (?Port
Bouet) M/L 271 off Accra.

F. Cruiser GLOIRE on patrol about 07.50 27.30 19.

COPINSAY 06.18 12.02 123 7.

(F.O.C.W.A., 281303Z).

Situation at 2001Z/28th.

INKPEN anchored in 18.35 16.11.

CONSBRO, PANORAMA about 18.50 16.40 to North coastwise 3½.

M.L. (?574) about 08.40 13.51 to Freetown 10.

BALCK SWAN, MYOSOTIS, MALLOW, LA MALOUINE, STONECROP, CAMPION
with S.L. 128, 25.48 15.46 42 6.

LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT,
WHIMBRELL, ANCHUSA, ROHILKHAND with O.S. 46, 21.22 17.59 180 9.
Fr. Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES off Dakar to 1200 22.00 thence 260
19.

DUNCTON, WASTWATER escorting (?09).34 14.16 thence 293 6½.

(F.O.C.W.A., 281341Z).

MEAD

Arrived Capetown 28th April.

(C. in C. S.A., 281120 to Admty. Com. i/c Durban)

JOHN DRAYTON
(sunk 21/4).

C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 260910B April. Master
and 13 others ex. U.S. JOHN DRAYTON rescued 27th
April by RELENTLESS. (6) Master confirms that
two U-boats were sighted during attack.

(C. in C. S.A., 281206B to Admty. C. in C.
E.F., Cdre. Durban).

SS. JOHN DRAYTON presumed sunk by one or two enemy submarines
in 32° 10' S., 34° 50' E. approx. 2200/21st.

(2) Ship hit by one torpedo and subsequently by shellfire,
was last seen well down by stern with bow in air.

(3) One submarine seen on three separate occasions but no
details arrived owing to darkness.

War Diary.

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

JOHN DRAYTON (sunk 21/4). (contd).
(4) Only evidence that two submarines present, is that simultaneous gun flashes observed from different angles (graded B.4) C. in C. S.A. 281206 para. (2) refers.
(5) 14 survivors rescued from raft 27th. RELENTLESS now picking up survivors from one lifeboat. One lifeboat still unaccounted for.
(6) SS. SS. made and acknowledged.
(7) Ship did not open fire.
(8) All C.Bs. thrown overboard and seen to sink. (Cdre. Durban, 281449Z to Admty. etc).

NEWCASTLE Your 241930B/April. As W.S.29 will not sail until about 3rd May, shall NEWCASTLE sail independently a.m./1st May? (F.O.C.W.A., 281415Z to Admty) To remain with convoy. (Admty. 301351).

ARUNDEL CASTLE. ARUNDEL CASTLE escorted by ROTHERHAM E.T.A. 0730Z/29th RACEHORSE (?relief) 0630Z/29th. C. in C. S.A. 280925 refers. Acknowledge. (Capt. (D) 11, 281521Z to C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

DUCHESS OF RICHMOND. Returning to U.K. via Cape will probably be ready to leave Capetown about 10th May. Refrigerator space available, and as there will probably be no other suitable ship for some time, propose to take this opportunity to load about 60 tons meat for Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 281633Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) D.S.T.O. W.A., Admty. N.C.S.O. Capetown).

Explosion at Kiss. Following armament stores destroyed or damaged beyond local repair in fire and explosion at Kiss. My 121821 April (121721? intended re explosion at Kiss following bush fire) (list). Request replacements be forwarded. (F.O.C.W.A., 281720Z to Admty).

INKPEN Left anchorage 1812. E.T.A. 0900/30. Course 194° speed 7 knots. Maintaining normal W/T watch. Require drinking water immediately on arrival. (INKPEN, 281827Z to Comar Dakar. (R) F.O.C.W.A. Capt. (D)).

/Movements...

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.Movements
Freetown.

Departures 1353Z/27 April. VIRGINIA, THYME, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN tugs AIMWELL and CROCODILE to join escorts of Floating Dock. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 281927 to Admty. (R) Com. 4th Fleet).

C.F.12,
WARSPITE,
destroyers,
DEVONSHIRE.

Intend to sail convoy C.F.12 at 1500Z/29 escorted by WARSPITE, QUILLIAM (S.O. A/S Escort) QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL and QUALITY. Route:-
A. 10.48 N., 17.52 W. B. 18.01 N., 18.17 W.
C. 25.34 N., 17.12 W. D. 27.10 N., 14.21 W.
E. 30.11 N., 11.39 W. F. 45.00 N., 21.51 W.
G. 53.36 N., 16.41 W. Thence as ordered by

C. in C. W.A. S. of A. 15 knots.

- (2) DEVONSHIRE will sail in company to position A.
- (3) Destroyers will refuel from WARSPITE.
- (4) Ships shift to North Atlantic W/T organisation at 2359Z/2nd May and to home W/T organisation at 1200Z/6th May. (F.O.C.W.A., 281933 to Admty. C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gib. QUILLIAM, WARSPITE).

DEVONSHIRE

1. Intend to sail DEVONSHIRE at 1500Z/29th April in company with convoy C.F.12. Routed
A 10° 48' N., 17° 52' W. G. 11° 28' N., 28° 29' W.
H. 18° 30' N., 35° 32' W. I. 34° 59' N., 34° 19' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth,

S. of A. 15 knots to position A and thereafter 18 knots.

2. Ship shifts to north Atlantic W/T organisation at 0800Z/4th May and to Home W/T organisation on crossing 15° N., unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
3. Maximum endurance at 20 knots is 300 hours. (F.O.C.W.A., 281936Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, DEVONSHIRE). Reply: Admty. 301815.

W.S. 29

Arrivals - 0835Z/28 April. NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID with W.S. 29. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 281945Z to C. in C. Plymouth, F.O. Gib. C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Commorseafron, Comar, Dakar).

Movements,
Pernambuco.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL refloated and brought into Harbour last night 27th. Departure today 28th Brazil Minelayers CABEDELLO and CAMAQUA and submarine Chaser C.S.1. (R.O. Pernambuco, 281950Z to Admty).

U/B ALCANTARA
(with A.F.O.)

Incomplete set of D/F bearings of transmission on 12700 k/cs at 1600Z/28 indicate a U/B in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 282043B to ALCANTARA, MILFORD, (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. S.A.)

EMPIRE
MINNOW.

1. In view of arrival EMPIRE MINNOW at Freetown a.m. 231740/April is cancelled. 2. Request early onward despatch of tug subject to any use F.O.C.W.A. may wish to make of her for southbound towage of damaged or other vessels. (D. of S.T., 282050B to Cdre. i/c Freetown (R) F.O.C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst).

1061

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

KANARIS, Have good contact in position 31.49 N. 31.25 E.
U-Boat WOLBOROUGH proceeding with convoy "Bucket".
contact. (KANARIS 280025 to C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alexandria,
Capt. S.I., Cdre. Levant Area, N.Os.i/c. etc.)

Contact not confirmed. 33 depth charges dropped. Am
rejoining "Bucket".
(KANARIS 280125.)

X Request Mediterranean is a most suitable area for
for more employment of M.Ls. and A/S striking forces and
M.Ls. present groups are doing useful work this way.
2. Even after arrival of the three additional
groups referred to in my 091040 it will not be
possible to cover the whole area as adequately as
I should wish, particularly when Tunisia is in our hands.
3. Requested therefore that two additional M.L. Flotillas may be
sent to Mediterranean as soon as possible.
(C. in C. Med. 280800A to Admty. (R) C.C.F.)

Malta. W/E. 24 April. (1) Enemy Air. Nil alerts.
Situation (3) Own air activity. Approx. 60 Spitfires
Report. daylight offensive sorties. Two JU. 88s. 6 JU 52s
destroyed. Approx. 70 Spitfire bomber sorties
escorted by Spitfires. Targets power stations
Cassibile and Porto Empedocle, Pantellaria,
Syracuse, factory and rly. Ragusa, and huts east of Pozzallo.
Night over 30 Mosquitoes, 15 Beaufighter intruders mainly Sicily.
One JU.88, one JU.52 destroyed, one M.E. 210, one D.O.24 damaged.
Over 20 sorties torpedo aircraft enemy shipping, M/V 1500 M/V
5/6000 tons sunk. (3) A.M. 23 April convoy M.W. 26 of two M/Vs.
one tanker arrived safely.
(Govr., Malta 280940 to C. in C. M.E.)

Enemy P.C. and S. at 0939Z of one medium M/V, one
Units. destroyer, 40.04 N, 14.20 E. 210° 9 knots.
(A/C 75 Q/X, 281000Z).
P.C. and S. at 0946Z of one S/M on the surface
39.50 N. 14.32 E. 000° 3 knots.
(A/C 75 Q/X, 281005Z).
P.C. and S. of enemy at 1143 Z Transport barges 1 plane
38.45 N. 12.12 E. 090° 5 knots.
(A/C 75 Q/S. 281220A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Malta Arrivals NUBIAN, PETARD, PALADIN from Operations.
Destroyers. (V.A. Malta 281055B to Admty. C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Levant.)

X Operation Amendment No. 1 to Med. (W) 00235/22, dated 13th
"Retribution". April, 1943, operation "Retribution".
(C. in C. Med. 281107A to S. and A. concerned in
"Retribution".) See Lion Copy.

/M. Ls...

MOST SECRET

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

M E S S A G E 280040A April.
IN
MOST SECRET
From Algiers Date 29.4.43
Time -

TUNISIA - Situation Report.

Addressed Usfor. Mideast. Britman Washington. Arminia
Delhi. P.A.I.C. Dechiefs Pretoria. Dechiefs
Capetown. Landforces Melbourne. Force Nairobi.
H.M. Ambassador Madrid (Pass to U.S.) } Passed by
Ambassador Madrid. Britmilat Ankara, } Foreign
(For Marshal Chakmak). } Office.
Defender Wellington (for Puttick) (Passed by War
Office.) Resident Minister Achimota (Passed by
Colonial Office).

US308. Ref. No. 7404 (LINREP No. 41) 28th April, 1943.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 22ND TO 25TH APRIL

EIGHTH ARMY

1. April 23rd the 51st Inf. Div. relieved 4th Indian Inf. Div. Operations were reported to be progressing according to plan. An enemy counter-attack in the central sector of the Enfidaville position was driven back with considerable loss. Further local gains were made during the night and were firmly held during 24th April. 56 Div. consisting of 169 Inf. Bde. and a Guards Bde. took over command of the coastal sector from 50th Inf. Div. During the night 24/25 April, 2nd (N.Z.) Div. and 301 Guards Bde. launched an attack three miles northwest of Enfidaville, taking 50 prisoners and reaching their objective.

FIRST ARMY

2. (a) 19th Corps.

On the 25th April, the Mathonet Div. made considerable progress on the southwest slopes of Djebel Bou Kril, 14 miles southeast of Bou Arada. Latest reports state that our troops have gained ground all along the whole front, where the enemy is reported to be withdrawing.

(b) 9th Corps.

On 22nd April, an attack was made on the high ground in the general area 3 miles north northeast of Bou Arada. Strong opposition was encountered. Further north our troops penetrated to positions 7 miles N.N.E. of Bou Arada, but our progress was slow. 6th Armd. Div. followed up this attack and reached areas north and south of Sebket El Kourzia. On the 24th April, 1st (BR) Armd. Div. moved forward on the left

of/.....

MOST SECRET

2.

of 6th Armd. Div. and a series of tank engagements resulted. On the 25th April, 6th Armd. Div. drove back many enemy counter-attacks, inflicting losses in men and armour. 1st Armd. Div. advanced to area 2 miles N.E. of Sebket El Kourzia, meanwhile,

(c) 5 Corps.

22nd April Goubellat was occupied without opposition. Our attack continued during the following day when 1st Br. Inf. Div. captured Grich El Oued, northeast of Medjez. Further north our troops met with stiff opposition. On the 24th April patrols of 4th Div. reached Sidi Medien, 6 miles East of Medjez El Bab. The next day, forward elements of 4th Div. advanced east of Sidi Medien. Enemy counter attacks further north were again checked.

3. 2nd (U.S.) CORPS

Patrol activity continued on 22nd April. The following day 9th Inf. Div. started its attack. By 1100 hours the first day's objectives had been taken by all units. 1st U.S. Inf. Div. advanced in the high ground some 14 miles North of Oued Zarga. On the 25th April 9th Inf. Div. was launching attacks in the general area 6 miles SSE of Sedjenane, whilst 1st Inf. Div. had reached positions 4 miles SSE of Sidi Nsir.

4. ENEMY

In the North, the enemy has been forced to withdraw steadily. The strong Allied attacks West and North-west of Pont Du Fahs has apparently forced him to commit most of his remaining armour in a battle which is proving very costly. Over 70 tanks have already been put out of action. He has appreciated that the whole Northern Dorsale will shortly be untenable and a withdrawal is now in progress. On the 8th Army front our pressure has so far prevented him from moving any of his Infantry to the vital Pont Du Fahs area.

5. NAVAL

Our submarines have sunk 2 medium sized merchant vessels off Marittimo, and a 3rd large vessel in the Sicilian Narrows. MTBs operating from Malta and Bone have been active in the Gulf of Tunis and off Bizerta. On the 22nd April 1 of our destroyers was mined off Bone and was towed into harbour. The same night 1 of our cruisers, with destroyer escort, carried out a sweep South of Marittimo without incident. Night 24/25 April destroyers from Bone and Malta operated in the Sicilian Channel.

6./.....

3.

6. AIR

Throughout the period aircraft of the Tactical Air Force have continued to attack enemy positions, troops and motor transport in the battle area. Aircraft of the Strategic Air Force co-operated in these attacks and in attacks upon enemy landing grounds. In addition, Fortresses sank a large merchant vessel off the coast of Sicily on the 23rd April. Unfavourable weather conditions interfered with other missions.

7. POLITICAL

Continued progress is noted in the Catroux-Giraud conversations. Substantial arrivals of French re-armament equipment have had excellent results.

280040A

Received in Admiralty p.m./29 April.

Circulation

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang Foreign Office.
Mr. Radcliffe, Ministry of Information.

Advance copies sent Duty Capt., D.O.D. (F)
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	
1st S.L. (2)	
D.F.S.L.	D.T.D. (M)
5th S.L.	D.O.D. (H) (2)
D.C.N.A.E.	D.N.I. (4)
V.C.N.S.	D. of P. (2)
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	Duty Captain.
A.C.N.S. (W)	D.D.I.C. (2)
A.C.N.S. (H)	D. of P. (Q)
A.C.N.S. (A)	Hd. of M. (2)
A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)	I.P. (2)
Sec.	W.D.
U.W.R.	Ad. Blake.
N.A. Mails.	D.A.W.T.
P.A.S. (S)	C.N.I.
D.O.D. (F) (2)	D.P.D.
D.T.D. (3)	D.T.S.D.
	Ad. Mack (4)

MOST SECRET

1061e.

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

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

MOST SECRET M E S S A G E 281107A April
IN
From C. in C. Mediterranean Date 29.4.43
Time 2153

INTER GENERAL X. By W/T.

Operation "Retribution"

Addressed Ships and Authorities concerned in
Operation RETRIBUTION.

Amendment No. one to Mediterranean (W)
00235/22 dated 13th April 1943 Operation RETRIBUTION.
Para. 2 (A) Para. 11 (A) delete 'and M.Ls.'. For
'Vico Admiral Malta is' read 'S.O.I.S. and V.A.(M) are.'
Add new sentence 'M.Ls. may subsequently be used'.
(B) Para. 18 for 'Area JJ' read 'Area MM'.
(C) Para. 33 after 'SAP AMADO' add 'or GARDIUM.'

Para. 3. Appendix 1 para. (10) for '/42' read '/41'
in two places.

Para. 4. (A) Appendix 11 page 1 add to 5th Destroyer
Flotilla Greek Destroyers MIAOULIS PINDOS. Add to
22 Destroyer Flotilla IANARIS ADRIAS.

(B) Appendix 11 page 2 delete 'JAVELIN
KELVIN' and for 'PANTHER' read 'Greek Destroyer QUEEN
OLGA.'

Para. 5. Appendix 111. Movements of enemy craft.
Suggest further minelaying in QK 34. The following
amendments are therefore to be made.

(A) Appendix 111A area 1 between positions
(B) and (D) enlarge area to include following positions.

(X) 37 degs. 47' North 10 degs. 39' East.

(Y) 37 degs. 54' North 10 degs. 29' East.

(Z) 38 degs. 02' North 10 degs. 47' East.

(B) Appendix 111C page 5 delete position 113.

Add new position 119 38 degs. 06' North 10 degs. 47' East.

129 37 degs. 36' North 09 degs. 52' East.

(C) Appendix 111B page 5 add new patrol area MM
enclosed by lines joining the following positions.

(A) 37 degs. 53' repeat 37 degs. 53' North

09 degs. 39' repeat 09 degs. 39' East.

(B) 38 degs. 16' repeat 38 degs. 16' North

10 degs. 30' repeat 10 degs. 30' East.

(C) 38 degs. 02' repeat 38 degs. 02' North

10 degs. 40' repeat 10 degs. 40' East.

(D) 37 degs. 39' repeat 37 degs. 39' North

09 degs. 50' repeat 09 degs. 50' East.

Para. 6/.....

2.

Para. 6. Distribution S.O. 77 Trawler Group for 'H.M.S. ACHROITE' read 'H.M.S. GOTH'.

Para. 7. Shore C and C.Os. are to ensure that ships and authorities shown on distribution of Mediterranean (W) 00235/22 of 13 April who are in harbour or arriving in harbour are in possession of this message.

Para. 8. Naval authorities including N.L.Os. pass to Military Air Force and Allied Authorities concerned at their ports or to whom they are attached.

Para. 9. Acknowledge.

281107A

Advance copies sent Duty Capt.
D.O.D.(F)
D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.
1st S.L. (2)
D.F.S.L.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S.(F)
A.C.N.S.(UT)(2)
U.W.R.
N.A. Mails.
D.C. (2)
D.O.D.(H)(2)
D.O.D.(F)(2)
D.N.I. (4)
D.D.I.C. (2)
D. of P. (2)
D. of P. (Q)
Hd. of M.
D.S.D.

D. A/S W.
D.D.O.D.(C)
C.F.M.D.
D.S.V.P.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.M.S.
D.T.M.
C.C.O. (2)
I.P. (2)
W.D.
Ad. Mack (4)
Ad. Blake (4)
F.O.S. by courier.

EO

1062

War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- M.Ls. 4 M.Ls. (M.L. 462 S.O.) sailing Malta 1800/28th N. of Linosa, Sousse, E.T.A. 1000/29th. Codeword "Virus" fighter protection (low?) priority. W/T guard on 150 kc/s. (V.A. Malta 281130 to C. in C. Med. (not N.O.I.C. Sfax, Tripoli), H.Q.N.W.Af. Coastal Air Force, H.Q., R.A.F. W.D. S.O. Inshore Sqdn., N.W.At., A.F. C.C.F. Med.)
- SAFARI. Intend sailing P.211 (SAFARI) at 1230/29th for exercises thence through 036° 58' 00" 00' at 1900/29th 040° 05' 00" 00' at 2130/1st May to patrol between 040° 00' and 042° 00' W. of Corsica and Sardinia and east of line joining 042° 00' 00" 00' and 040° 00' 00" 00'. (Capt. S.8. 281204 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers. F.O.C. Gib. Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M.F. ANTIOPE.)
- CUBA. Your 161759 para. 2. (re arrangements for sailing NIEUW HOLLAND. of NIEUW HOLLAND and CUBA from Algiers to Freetown) Arrangement can be made. (C. in C. Med. 281246 to D.S.T. (R) P.S.T.O. Med. etc.)
Request you will arrange to sail NIEUW HOLLAND and CUBA as convenient to arrive Freetown not later than 24 May, arranging direct with F.O.C. West Africa for relief escorts. 2. Use corvettes is possible. (C. in C. Med. 281248Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.Af., P.S.T.O. Med. S.T.O. West Africa.)
- E.T.19. Sailed GENERTON, VILLE DE JIJELLI, CHATEAU LATOUR L.S.Ts. 303, 409 and (?) 766. Destination VILLE DE JIJELLI now Algiers not Oran. (N.O.I.C. Bougie 281306A to Cdre. Algiers, Admty. etc.)
- P.R.U. 28th April visuals. 1050 Taranto 2 Battleships, 3 Cruisers. (V.A. Malta 281308B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- Proposed Minefield off Libya. Your 221922.* I do not consider that the effort involved in this project is justified. (C. in C. Med. 281310A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.) * W.R. Note. Previously circulated as 271217.
- REGENT. You may have been sighted at 1130C this morning. (Capt. (S) 1. 281458C to REGENT.)
- UNRUFFLED. Sailed UNRUFFLED (P.46.) (V.A. Malta 281500B to Admty. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant. (R) S.1. S.8.)

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28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- * Use of W/T. Ships are tending to assume that because it is frequently necessary to break W/T silence on occasion when this is permissible they can therefore completely disregard the normal restrictions on the use of W/T and R/T at sea.
2. It must be appreciated that enemy air R/C is by no means complete and is frequently inaccurate. Consequently any unnecessary transmission may well disclose the accurate position of our forces which would otherwise have remained unobserved or with their position in doubt. 3. C.Os. must ensure that transmission of L/T and R/T is restricted to the minimum required for the operations being carried out. This does not prevent the full use of W/T and R/T in emergency, for co-operating with fighters on V.H/F, or for essential signals for the conduct of a convoy or unit for which V/S is impracticable.
(C. in C. Med. 281501A, 291845A to Med. Station 399K.)

ISIS. Your 231625 para. 5. In what respects is ISIS below standard and to what extent is this attributable to refitting in India?
(Controller 281529B to C. in C. Levant.)
Reply: 031745C May.

Bi. weekly Opsum No.120 part 4. Daily Opsums to be resumed. Night 26/27th April. 4 Liberators bombed Bari Airfield. Some bombs also dropped on Barletta. 2 Beaufighters on shipping sweep in Aegean Sea severley damaged a Caique of about 125 tons N.W. of Rhodes. Vessel abandoned by crew and left smoking and listing. Following delayed details received. Of 69 B. 24s. despatched against Bari airfield 26 April 62 bombed objective. Of remainder 1 bombed ship outside Bari, second bombed railway bridge near Trionto results unobserved. 5 returned early owing to technical trouble. Commencing 29th April Bi-weekly Opsums will be replaced by Daily Opsum. L.M. Air Ministry Letter C.4818979/A.C.A.S. (Ops) 12 April refers.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 281532Z.)

DERWENTDALE. Cancel para. 2 of my 201829.
(Admty. 281625B. to C. in C. Med. (R) R.A.V. C.C.O. S.O.A.S.C.)

K.M.S.13. Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.13 sailed to join: for Philippeville TORE JARL (K.B.) EMPIRE TERN, for Bone ORPHEUS (K.B.) ALEXANDER ANDRE (T).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 281629A to N.O.I.C. Philippeville N.O.I.C. Bone (R) S.O.I.S. Escorts of Convoy K.M.S.13 Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O. Gib. Connv.)

K.M.S.13. Algiers section arrived plus BOLLSTA, KILINDINI, HEYWOOD, (engine defect) and EMPIRE TORRENT (23 ships).
(N.O.I.C. Algiers 281746A to F.Os. i/C. Admty. etc.)

/M.Ls...

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28.4.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.Ls. Sailed M.Ls. 462, 134, 135 and 168.
(V.A. Malta 281815B. to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Departure M.L.356 ABERDARE L.C.51, HARROW, BANFF,
Tobruk. (sic) KINGSTON CYANITE. Arrived Derna M.L.359
and 349.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 281915C. to Admty.)

E.T.19. Arrived EMPIRE LORENZO.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 281911A. to F.O.I.S.(R) Admty.
etc.)
E.T.19. My 231537A. Addition (10 ships). also Tug EMPIRE
NED, towing STELLA CARINA to Gibraltar. Cdre. Algiers is
requested to allocate pendant numbers.
(Comnob. Oran 281927 to Admty. F.O. Gib. etc.)

Situation Sousse. A few enemy aircraft dropped bombs in
Report vicinity night 26/27th April. No damage reported
No.26. Night fighters destroyed one enemy and another
enemy crashed to seaward. Minesweeping in
vicinity of port continues, one mine destroyed
27th April and explosive cutters encountered,
clearance of port continues satisfactorily. 2. Tripoli (L).
Fire broke out in SS. OCEAN STRENGTH 27th April but quickly
under control and cargo discharge recommenced. 3. Alexandria.
British SS. CLAN MCINDOE caught fire in harbour 0740/27th April.
Ship towed clear of harbour and beached of Mex Harbour burning
fiercely. Ship a total loss. Cargo P.O.L. in ammunition
bombs and flour. 4. Convoy of 3 merchant ships from Malta and
12 merchant ships from Tripoli (L) on passage to Alexandria
escorted by 5th D/F. 5. My 231945 para. 1. After "20th April"
and "5 mines destroyed". 6. My 231945 para. 6. Convoy arrived
24th April, no incidents. 7. Captain C. Alexandris R.H.N.
assumed command of Royal Hellenic Fleet 26th April.
(C. in C. Levant 281950C. to Admty.)

Movements, Bone arrivals BLYSKAWICA P.T.559, P.T.626,
Bone. departures QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX,
BICESTER, ZETLAND.
(S.O.I.S. 282011A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

M.T.B. Regret to report loss of M.T.B.639 by enemy air
539 attack, 17 miles East Bon Cape at approx. noon
lost. to-day 28th. Ship left blazing from stem to
stern. Following are known casualties. (list).
Following survivors unhurt landed by M.T.B.633
at M.T.B. base Sousse.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 282017A to C. in C. Levant (R)
Admty. etc.)

Malta Air A.I. 553 28th April. C.S.R. Malta.
Report. (A) Air. Part 1, Offensive. Night 27th/28th
April. 1 special equipment Wellington, 4
Wellingtons with torpedoes and two Wellingtons with bombs were

/despatched...

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28.4.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. (Contd.) despatched to attack convoy sighted at 2125 hours N. of Palermo by R/C Wellington (See part 3). But owing to fog and low cloud no sighting was made. 1 Wellington is missing. To cover this shipping strike 5 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols 1 between Pantellaria and Cape Bon 1 over Comiso and Catania and 3 in Trapani area. No suitable target was found but presence of Mosquito over Sciacca Aerodrome was probable cause of large explosion and fire on aerodrome suggesting crashed enemy aircraft. 1 Mosquito is missing. Day 28th April. 12 Spitfires made offensive sweep over Southern Sicily as diversion for aircraft of 9th Bomber Command attacking Messina. 4 Long Range Spitfires made offensive sweep in Sicilian Narrows. 12 Spitfire Bombers escorted by 4 Fighter Spitfires made successful attack on Syracuse Harbour scoring numerous hits on E/Boat Base and 2 direct hits on wharves near power station a fire was started in target area. 2 Long Range Spitfires on offensive sweep N. of Sicily sighted at 0555 E. of Palermo 2 JU.52s. both of which were attacked and destroyed thus bringing the total of enemy aircraft destroyed by Malta aircraft since beginning of war to 1,001. Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 27/28. 3 Beaufighters made interception patrols E. and S. W. of Sicily. Day 28th April. 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. Part 3. Reconnaissance. Night 27/28. 2 special equipment Wellingtons made shipping searches in Gulf of Taranto and N. of Messina. At 2125 2 medium M/Vs. escorted by 1 D/R were sighted 39° 10' N. 13° 22' E. course W. speed 8 knots. 2 special equipment Wellingtons despatched to co-operate with Naval units in Sicilian Narrows encountered fog and made no significant sightings. (A.H.Q. Malta 282046Z.)

Movements, Arrivals LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE, CIRCE, BROCKLESBY, Algiers. QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, MANOWAR, REIGHTON WYKE. Departures CIRCE, QUANTOCK, LAMERTON, MULL, RONALDSHAY, BLYSKAWICA, BROCKLESBY. (Cdre. Algiers 282122A. to Admty. etc.) Arrivals S/Ms. P.31 (UPROAR) SOKOL. Departure S/M P.52 (DZIK). (Com. Algiers 282123A to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrival TREERN M.Ls. 1028, 1951, 351, 358, Benghazi. Sailed M.Ls. 349, 359. Arrived and sailed HENRIETTA MOLLER. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi 282243C to Admty. (R) Levant Station.)

Movements, Departures PRIMULA, GLOXINIA, KLO, POOLE. Tripoli. (N.O.I.C. Libya 282359A to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z on 23rd April. D.C.20. (3) 8 knots. (5) Coastal ref. 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay K.T. (6) ST.ZENO, SONNEBLUM, LADY ROSEMARY. (12) E.T.A. Capetown 27th. E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. 25th. E.T.A. East London p.m. 24th. (N.C.S.O. Durban 230716Z to Admty. etc.)

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28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Arrival AMRITSAR escorting I.W.T. KAPURTHALA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras 280131Z to Admty.).
Departure Burmese M.L.1102 and 1103 in company
bound Mandapam Via Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 280917Z to Admty.).
Arrival 0330Z BALUCHISTAN with one vessel 0515Z (corrupt
group) HIRAVATI with B.P.37.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 281011Z to Admty. etc.).
Arrival 28th DEVONSHIRE.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 281035Z to C. in C. E.F. etc.).
Colombo arrivals 28th 0035Z SONAVATI. 0500Z BENGAL 0730Z
TAMWORTH.
(F.O.Ceylon 281138Z to Admty.).
Arrival TRAVANCORE with CORMORANT.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 281203Z to Admty. etc.).
DURBAN arrived Bahrein 0300Z/28th.
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 281346Z to Admty.).

?Convoy Convoy P.B. (LW) (as received, could be "37")
P.B.37 Bombay portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 280547Z to Admty.).

EREBUS On departure of EREBUS for Durban consideration has
CARADOC been given to provision of
gunnery (A) A turret drill ship and (B) Gunnery firing
training. ship to replace her.
(2) To enable turret drill to continue intend
R class battleships shall provide facilities during
forthcoming refitting periods. This is only an immediate
solution and training of Q.R.O.N.P.S. (as received) at Durban
will cease in July unless other arrangements are made.
(3) Requirements for gunnery firing ship beginning in June are:-
(A) Two consecutive firing days per fortnight.
(B) To accommodate 80 to 100 additional men for firings.
(C) To embark about 800 rounds 6" practice and sub calibre
ammunition in proportion.
(4) Similar arrangements as in CARDIFF will be required including
reduction in complement and embarkation of ballast to enable
classes and practice ammunition to be carried.
(5) Ship will thus not be an operational (?unit) while on this duty
but could be used on ferry duty between Kilindini and Durban in
period between firings.
(6) Two alternative methods of providing a cruiser have been
considered.
(A) Cruisers of C. and D. class to take duty in notation for
four to six weeks each.
(B) One cruiser to be allocated to the duty while the requirements
last.
(7) Alternative B. is preferred. Only one ship's company is
thus disrupted and her guns can be fired to destruction thus
economising gun barrels.
(8) This will result in the employment of an active service
Captain and Officers already trained in fleet work in a
secondary role and will inevitably lead to a lowering in the
general fighting morale of the ships company.

/(9) So...

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EREBUS
CARADOC
gunnery
training
(contd.).

(9) So long as the gunnery school at Durban continues training however the provision of such a cruiser on a permanent basis appears necessary.
(10) CARADOC would be the most suitable ship in view of her reduced engine power.
(11) Their Lordships views on the allocation of CARADOC for this purpose are requested.
(C. in C. E.F. 280716 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. R.A.T.E. R.A.E.F.).

U/Boat
Campaign
Indian Ocean
Escort
policy.

Following is a reply to A.M. 212320.
(2) So long as submarine threat in Northern Indian Ocean remains dormant it is agreed that a considerable reduction in amount of ocean A/S escorting for shipping in that area can be accepted, but A/S escort for loaded troopships must continue.

(3) Rather than use available escorts to provide A/S escorts only in local (?focal) areas it is considered preferable to use them for ocean A/S escort in Arabian Sea - Persian Gulf - Colombo Islands area, in following priorities:-

- (1) Loaded troop transports sailing singly or in convoy as required.
- (2) Special important ships.
- (3) Tankers. (4) War stores. (5) Other important shipping.
- (4) By this means it is considered that vital shipping will continue to receive best available A/S protection on main routes, where so far Japanese have delivered their previous submarine attacks, but there will be insufficient forces available to escort as a rule more than three (1) and (2).
- (5) Desired to point out that it will no longer be possible to comply with policy as prescribed in A.M. 291634 July 1942 (N.T. in W.D.). Should a U/boat campaign begin in Arabian Sea severe losses would probably be incurred before redistribution of A/S vessels could be effected.
- (6) Separate action has already been taken for early transfer on loan to South Atlantic of FALMOUTH for remaining four Eastern Fleet corvettes.
- (7) Difficulty of colour bar restrictions is worse in East than in South Africa. Not therefore considered desirable to send R.I.N. ships to African ports. Intended however to transfer the three R.A.N. BATHURSTS (TAMWORTH), BATHURST and LAUNCESTON) to Kilindini should a submarine threat develop in Kilindini - Madagascar area.

(C. in C. E.F. 280801Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. F.O. Ceylon, S.N.O. P.G. F.L.O. Delhi, F.O.C. R.I.N. F.O. East Af., Com.R.I.N. Com. Aden).

A/S Forces
Northern
Indian Ocean.

All authorities concerned are in agreement that the operation and administration of the available ocean A/S escorts and coastal A/S vessels in the Northern Indian Ocean would be facilitated by the pooling of Eastern Fleet and R.I.N. resources of A/S ships and vessels.

(2) It is therefore intended to form the following two A/S forces

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War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.A/S Forces
Northern
Indian Ocean
(contd.).

- (a) The Arabian-Bengal-Ceylon escort force (short title (A.B.C. E.F.)) to be operated by F.O. Ceylon and comprise the following ships:- Destroyers and Sloop : SCOUT, FALMOUTH, HUNDUSTAN, Corvettes: MARGUERITE, VERBENA, TULIP, ASTER, BATHURSTS, TAMWORTH, LAUNCESTON, BATHURST, PUNJAB, BOMBAY, MADRAS, BENGAL, BANGORS, BALUCHISTAN, KONKAN, RAJPUTANA, ORISSA, KHYBER, CARNATIC, KUMAON, ROHILKHAND, KATHIAWAR, Auxiliary A/S ships; SONAVATI, HIRAVATI, RATNAGIRI, DIPAVATI. (Addition R.N.N.WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN - 300645).
- (b) This A.B.C.E.F. is to be divided into two main groups as detailed by F.O.Ceylon, the larger group to be operated from Bombay, the smaller group from Colombo, A.B.C.E.F. to carry out all ocean A/S escort duties in the Northern Indian Ocean.
- (c) Coastal anti-submarine force (Short title C.A.S.F.) to comprise the following smaller and local defence A/S ships and vessels not capable of ocean A/S escort work. SEABELLE, PANGKOR Eight R.I.N. Bassetts and twelve R.I.N. Auxiliary ships.
- (d) The C.A.S.F. is to be divided into three groups as detailed by F.O.C.R.I.N., one group of a minimum of six suitable ships for Hormuz patrol, and two east and west Indian coast groups. F.O. Ceylon to operate both Indian coast groups for coastal A/S escort and to be the co-ordinating authority for local N.O 's I.C.
- (3) F.O.C.R.I.N. to administer all R.I.N. ships.
- (4) It is intended that A.B.C.E.F. organisation should come into force on 15th May, and F.O.Ceylon and C.A.S.F. on 22nd May.
- (5) As arranged separately, FALMOUTH, MARGUERITE, VERBENA, TULIP and ASTER will be temporarily detached for loan to South Atlantic; BATHURST, TAMWORTH, LAUNCESTON may be temporarily detached to Kilindini if necessary.
- (6) The policy for A/S escort will vary from time to time depending on the submarine situation and the size of the A.B.C.E.F. The present policy is to be as outlined in my 280809. (C. in C. E.F. 280803Z as amended 021203Z May to F.O.Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N. S.N.O. P.G. (R) Admty. Com.R.I.N. Com. Aden, F.O.East Africa, F.L.O.Delhi).
- Reply. F.O.C.R.I.N. 010618Z.

JALADURGA

Transport JALADURGA sailed April 28th E.T.A. your P.M. April 30th. (Personnel and stores). Requirements .16 empty cylinders. (S.T.O. Karachi 280831Z to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

Movements
summary.

- No.58, April 28th.
- (1) F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC left Durban 26th. escorting ASIS KHETI and PACHECO northward through Mozambique Channel speed 11 knots. BURNIE to relieve F.S. COMMANDANT DUBOC on 2nd May in 010 degs. S. latter then to Diego Suarez due 4th May, BURNIE with convoy due Kilindini 3rd May.
- (2) MARGUERITE left Hormuz 25th due Kilindini 3rd May.
- (3) ASTER left Aden 27th due Kilindini May.
- (4) Movements summary 57 Item 3 CAPETOWN proceed Kilindini

/from...

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War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements
Summary
(contd.).from Seychelles.
(C. in C. E.F. 280820 to E.F. 261Y).Torpedo
Bombers
Squadrons.A.(418 or 618?) 28 April.
Davies from Phillips.
Unable to reconcile allocation of 13 torpedo squadrons to Indian Ocean theatre with Indian target figures for March, 1944, of 3 Wellington and 4 Beaufighter Torpedo Squadrons. Can you inform me of allocation of remaining 6 squadrons and whether they will be controlled and trained by India Command? (222 Group 281012Z to Air Ministry).
Reply Air Ministry 011759Z/ MayIndia Air
Report.No. 409 Int. Summary 28th April.
(B) Offensive R/C's 27th. 4 Beaufighters successfully attacked and damaged river-craft and factories Bassein Area. (D) P.R.U. results 27th.
Rangoon shipping 1 M/V 300 ft. and 1 cargo flat or M/V 250 ft.
U.S.A.A.F. reports 26th April. 6 B 24's. Bombed warehouses. (A.H.Q. India 281145Z to Air Ministry).

Crane ship

48617 cypher 28th April.
Your 62828 (Tn) 21st March.
In view of likely delay in delivery and completion of 60 ton floating derricks, consider essential second crane ship be allotted India for operations. Agreed M.W.T. (C. in C. India 281245FG to W.O.). Reply W.O. 071300B May.Ceylon
movement
summary No.48
28th Apr.

- (1) Ref. Movement summary No.47. para. No.9. SOEMBA and B.P. 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ sailing cancelled.
 (2) BARRYMORE leaves Colombo 30th April for Trincomalee.
 (3) BATHURST leaves Banda Abbas 4th May escorting P.A.37.
 (4) BENGAL arrived Colombo 28th April escorting ZANE GREY.
 (5) CESSNOCK leaves Bombay 28th April for Aden.
 (6) CARNATIC leaves Banda Abbas 1st May escorting P.A.36.
 (7) GAWLER, MARYBOROUGH, LISMORE in company left Colombo 24th April due Aden 3rd May.
 (8) IPSWICH leaves Banda Abbas 28th April escorting P.A.35.
 (9) INVESTIGATOR left Madras 25th April escorting EMPIRE PLOVER to Calcutta.
 (10) MARGUERITE left Hormuz 25th April due Kilindini 3rd May.
 (11) NETRAVATI left Madras 26th April arrived Coconoda 26th April.
 (12) RATNAGIRI leaves Banda Abbas 28th April escorting P,B.38.
 (13) SONAVATI arrived Colombo 28th April.
 (14) SHILLONG left Madras 27th April escorting tug FRANCIS SPRING for towage of I.W.T. Scotland.
 (15) Tamworth leaves Colombo 30th April escorting M.B. 34 Bombay.

/(16) WILLIAM.

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28.4.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Ceylon movement summary No.48 28th Apr. (contd.). (16) WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN with SCOUT left Bombay 26th April escorting B.M.51 WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN for Trinco. SCOUT for Colombo. (17) VERBENA escorting VACI arrived Colombo 27th April. (F.O.Ceylon 281405 to Admty. etc.).

REDSHANK C. in C. E.F's. 260833Z - REDSHANK arrived Gibraltar 26th. (Dir. of Torpedoes and Mining 281556B to C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A.).

? Boats for E.Indies. C. in C. E.F. 131405 (Re supplies of boats for Kilindini, Seychelles, Mauritius, Trincomalee and Colombo). Arrangements are being made for supply of boats to destinations stated. Part supply 27 foot Whaler and 16 foot trawler boats immediately available. Balance of these and all 32 foot cutters under construction and will be despatched as and when completed. Handling details later. (C.S.Simonstown 281745B to Admty. C. in C. E.F.).

L.L. Minesweepers A.M.101648B and your 261401Z. D.G. range staff at Abadan being relieved. Reliefs will be qualified to undertake all branches of D.G. work. (D.M.S. 281847B to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.N.O.P.G.). Note: Re reduction of L.L. Minesweepers originally allocated to the Persian Gulf.

U.S. Dispositions My 221251. Changes in U.S. dispositions in the Pacific. BARNES at Pearl Harbour, BLOCK ISLAND at San Diego, CONCORD at Callao, LOUISVILLE, RALEIGH, SAN FRANCISCO and WICHITA in Alaskan area, MINNEAPOLIS at San Francisco, NASHVILLE in S. Pacific, TRENTON in Puerto Aldea. (D.O.D.(F) 281921B to C. in C. E.F.).

1040A

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
NOTE: Messages shown as having been sent in a One-Time Pad IN.
"O.T.P." are excepted from this rule.)
280015z/April.

From: British Merchant Shipping Mission Washington. Date: 28.4.43.
Received: 0838.

C. in C.(X) BY CABLE.

Shipping Availability Committee

Addressed: Ministry of War Transport London.

TRANS 101. Following for M. of W.T. from British Committee of Availability of Shipping.

1. The Report of the British Committee on Shipping Availability which has now been communicated to W.S.A. is in five sections as follows:

- A. Conclusions.
- B. British Personnel Movements, Requirements and Troopship Programme.
- C. British Military Requirements in respect of Dry Cargo Shipping.
- D. Availability of British Controlled Cargo Shipping to meet Civil and Military requirements.
- E. Tables.

2. The text of Section A. conclusions is as follows. Conclusion begins:

1. Personnel Shipping.

It is estimated that British Troopships during the period April to December 1943 will be able, subject to reservations:-

- A. To meet the requirements of operation "H."
- B. To provide for all Troops requiring to be moved from U.K. to North Africa.
- C. To come within about 6,000 of the full requirements on the "WS" route (including West Africa to India).
- D. To meet requirements from Canada to the United Kingdom.
- E. To provide the assistance shown in Table IV towards American moves on the routes from U.S.A. to U.K. North Africa and the Indian Ocean.
- F. To meet known British local requirements in the Indian Ocean Area.
- G. To provide some operational reserve.

11. Dry Cargo Shipping.

The analysis of the requirements and availabilities of shipping in section D shows that with the British Controlled Tonnage available, supplemented by U.S.A. assistance at present scheduled, including the standard allocation of 37 Ships per month.

(A) There will be.....

- (A) There will be a deficiency in the U.K. Import Programme for 1943 of 500,000 tons arrived at as follows. (All figures are million long tons). U.K. Import Requirements for 1943 26.00. Estimated Dry Imports in British Controlled Tonnage 19.0. Balance 7.0. Estimated Dry Imports to U.K. in U.S.A. Vessels on basis of W.S.A. Schedule including loadings in North Africa. 6.5. Deficiency 0.5. This deficiency is equivalent to about 60 sailings of vessels of an average deadweight of 10,000 tons each on the North Atlantic route.
- (B) There is a further deficiency on Military Requirements to the Indian Ocean and Mediterranean Areas, as follows.
July 25 sailings. August 21 sailings.
September 14 sailings. October 10 sailings.
November 8 sailings. December 2 sailings.
Total deficiency 80 sailings.
- (C) The shipping required for mounting Operation "A" or such modification as may be agreed on, cannot be found from British Shipping resources alone. The provision of shipping for these operations from any source could only be made at heavy cost to late 1943 and to 1944 programmes. This will need further study when the details of the requirements for the operations are known.

111. Operational Losses.

The foregoing estimated shipping deficiencies take no account of exceptional losses of tonnage as a result of major Military operations. If those prove heavy so far as British Controlled Tonnage is concerned, the estimated British deficiencies will be correspondingly increased. End of conclusions.

3. Four copies of the Report are being sent by bag.

4. Discussions are proceeding with a view to preparation of Combined Report. Will advise you of progress as soon as possible.

D. D. of S.T. please pass to Admiralty (Director of Plans) and War Office (Director of Movements) for their circulation.

1st Lord.
1st Sea Lord (2).
D.F.S.L.
4th Sea Lord.
V.C.N.S.
A.C.N.S. (H).
A.C.N.S. (F) (2).
A.C.N.S. (U.T.) (2).
U.W.R.
Capt. Pim.
D.O.D. (H) (2).
D.O.D. (F) (2).

280015Z.

D.C. (2).
D.D.I.C. (2).
D. of S.T. (2).
D. of S.
D. of P. (2).
D.T.D. (3).
Hd. of M. (13)
& for W.O.
I.P. (2).
W.D.

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War Diary.28.4.1945.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- X Shipping Availability Committee (Brit. Merchant Shipping Mission, Washington 280015Z to M. of W.T.) See Lion copy.
- X North Atlantic Convoy Cycles. Ref. A.C.C.2 Appendix A para. 1 the withdrawal of escorts for operational purposes necessitates an alteration to the North Atlantic Convoy cycles. (2) The following programme which will involve the employment of 11 close escort groups is proposed - (A) O.N.182 May 6th O.N. 185 May 10th then 5 and 6 days alternately. (B) O.N.S.7 May 7th then at 11 day intervals. (C) H.X.238 May 7th H.X.239 May 13th H.X.240 May 19th then 5 and 6 day intervals alternately. (D) S.C.130 10th May S.C.131 18th May then at 11 day intervals. (5) The irregular manner in which ships present themselves for convoy coupled with the difficulty in estimating accurately the numbers of ships presenting at any given moment make it impossible to plan a programme which will ensure all convoys maintaining an average of 60 ships. Such an average necessitates an upper limit of 80 ships during the Summer months which is proposed to accept. (4) It is estimated that the ratio of H.X./O.N. ships to S.C./O.N.S. ships is as 2 is to 1. The new cycles have therefore been fixed accordingly. (5) Should S.C. numbers be in excess of anticipations an occasional reduction in the speed of an H.X. or O.N. convoy in order to "iron out" an aggravated difference in ratio of presenters may be desirable. It is thought that a more even average for all convoys would be maintained if this measure of flexibility was permitted from time to time. (6) Cominch and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa are requested to signify assent to new programme pursuant to para.5(g)(1) of Appendix A. to A.C.C.I. (1st S.L.280046B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D., Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A., Comnav.)
- Your 280046. After careful check Sparks estimates number of presenters for May as H.X.278 S.C.200. On this basis it appears that convoy cycle proposed will not meet situation since average H.X. would be 50 and average S.C.74. Recommend cycles be adjusted to allow for four H.X. and four S.C. Convoys, this would give average H.X. of 70 and average S.C. of 50. (2) Sparks considers that due to age it is probable that there will be some slip from H.X. to S.C. (B.A.D. 281615Z to Admty (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)
- Your 261727 receipt of Connaveu's 152016 cannot be traced in Admiralty but repetition now obtained. Request you will explain this reason for delay in reply and express our regrets. Request you will also explain that the amendments to the sailing dates referred to in my 141846 were necessitated by inability to provide escorts in accordance with original programme due to future commitments referred to in my 280046. (D.T.D. 281709B to B.A.D.)
- Admiralty 280046B. (1) Concur Part 1. (2) (?to) avoid possibility of 80 ships S.C. convoys. To take advantage of higher speeds of new ships and to equalize size of H.X. and S.C. convoys suggest alternate plan (A) Sail both H.X. and S.C. every 7 days (B) Raise H.X. speed to 10.5 knots. (C) Sail doubtful 10.5 knots ships in S.C. convoys. This would reduce potential stragglers and help make both convoys

approximately/...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

North Atlantic Convoy Cycles. (Contd.) approximately same size. (D) Estimate same number groups would be required as during May last year when 11 Mid Ocean and 8 Western Locals were used. (3) During April 1.54 ships of 10 knots or better were sailed for every slower ship in H.X. S.C. convoy. (Cominch, 282048Z to Action Admty (R) information N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A. Connaveu.)

A.M.280046B request H.X. 237 may be sailed 1st May to facilitate mid ocean escort programme. (D.T.D. 281609B to C. in C. C.N.A. Connaveu. (R) B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., B.R.L.O.New York, C.T.F.24, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Change sailing date H.X.237 from April 30th to May 1st. (Cominch C. & R. 282046Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. W.A. Comtask 24. N.S.H.Q. Port Director New York. B.R.L.O.New York.)

CHESHIRE. Following received from Comsolant as 271935 (Begins) Action Cominch. CHESHIRE departed Bahia 1300Z 07 for Clyde Routed through 13.20 S. 38.25 W. 00.00 S. 25.00 W. 17.00 N. 28.00 W. 55.10 N. 22.30 W. 53.30 N. 16.05 W. 55.34 N. 08.27 W. 55.34 N. 07.10 W. thence via Northern Approaches and swept channel E.T.A. "Chop" 0700Z/2. S. of A. 12.75. (Cominch, 280051Z to Admty)

U/B attacked. S/M Contact being attacked in 42.30 N. 64.30 W. at 0130Z/28th. (C. in C. C.N.A., 280148Z to G.B.7A)

ARGONAUT. Cominch 09 2119 your 1014 16. ARGONAUT escorted by TUMULT and PIONEER depart Bermuda about 2000Z(?) 27th through positions 0 Latitude 32 F. 52 (?) 64.43 P 36.28 70.20 Thence to destination Philadelphia. S. of A. highly susceptible to weather from 4 to 11 knots. Can anchor only in real emergency. Request escorting tug at Capes if advisable and practicable air coverage. E.T.A. Overfall Light Vessel about daybreak 30th. Q.J.C. 135 escorts will be released by ARGONAUT upon arrival Capes reporting to Comservforlant. Guards (?) N.F. 44 10 K/Cs. 3000 K/cs scene of action. By hand to ARGONAUT U.S.S. TUMULT and PIONEER. Radio Washington pass to N.S.H.Q. C.O.M.5 to Comservforlant. Cominch to B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At. by other means. (N.O.B. Bermuda, No.T.O.O. Recd. 280221 to Admty.)

E.G.3. Your 272116. Cancel my 271738/4. E.G.3 will sail to arrive 49.20 N. 42.00 W. at 1400Z May 1st. (F.O.N.F. 280307Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., C.T.F.24, Cominch, F.O.C. Ireland.)

My / ...

War Diary.

28.4.1945.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

E.G.3. My 272116Z. As H.X. 236 is being diverted on
(Contd.) Southerly Route request you sail 3rd Escort
Group to support S.C.128 from Latitude 50° N.
(C. in C. W.A. 281542Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty)

O.N.179. West O.M.P. proposed in C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.12
271515* indicates convoy O.N.179 will pass through
ice field. Refer my 271217*(N.T. in W.R.)
Request early promulgation necessary diversion
to clear ice.
(C.T.24, 280531Z to Connav (R) Admty. F.O.N.F., C. in C. C.N.A.,
C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.12.)
O.N.179 N.S. from position (FQ) steer for new (FS)
47.01 47.02 new (FT) 45.50 50.10 thence (FR).
(Cominch C. & R. 281244Z to C.M.O.E.T.U.24.1.12. C.W.L.E.
T.U.24.18.8 (R) Comtask 24, Admty (C. in C. Plymouth) (?)C. in O
W.A., N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. April 27th Arrivals - WASAGA
ESQUIMALT ex H.J.48.
(N.O.I.C.St. John's N.F. 280633Z to Admty)
Arrivals ALBERNI, MULGRAVE from H.X.236.
MALPEQUE, WESTMOUNT, SARNIA escorting J.H.50. Departures
OAKVILLE, LETHBRIDGE, GRANDMERE to O.N.178.
(C. Halifax. 281524Z to Admty)
New Orleans 26 arrival JOHN R.R. HANNAY (USAT) San
Francisco 26 ROBIN WENTLEY (USAT) for Honolulu.
(N.S.H.Q. 281447Z to Admty)
Departure 28th WHITECAP for Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbadoes, 281730Q to Admty)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
Summary	F.S.GLOIRE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol.	Blank.
1800 G.M.T.	(D.O.D.(F)	280915Z to Opnav	(R) Comnav	eu)
28th.				

U.S. Dispositions. Cominch 271604 addressed to Admiralty for action,
informs as follows: This refers to Cominch
201430 (changes).
Serial 71.
Atlantic. BOGUE, MARBLEHEAD, MEMPHIS, OMAHA,
at sea. BOISE at Norfolk. TEXAS at New York.
Pacific. BARNES at Pearl Harbour. BLOCK ISLAND at San Diego.
CONCORD at Callao. LOUISVILLE, RALEIGH, SAN FRANCISCO.
WICHITA in Alaskan area. MINNEAPOLIS at San Francisco.
NASHVILLE in South Pacific. TRENTON in Puerto Aldea.
(Comnav, 280954 to Admty)

X Panama Canal, Carriage of benzine. Ref. BRITISH FORTITUDE which missed inclusion
in Z.G.10 on 2nd November. (2) Understand
ship carried benzine and consequently prohibited
from moving through canal during dark hours.

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Panama Canal, (3) Is this correct? Does ban still exist ?
Carriage Has question of relaxation been considered?
of benzine. (D.T.D. 281056B to B.R.L.O. Cristobal)
(Contd.) Reply: 301606R.

Convoy Your 271410Z regard ALRESFORD. 251340 from
S.C.127 C.T.U.24.1.11 refers.
ALRESFORD. (D.T.D.281109B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, F.O.N.F.)

/ Canadian Following is a repetition of my 271951Z
Support (undecypherable) (Begins) Implementing
Group Admiralty's 172349 and C.N.S. Ottawa 211843 the
Allocations. following allocations to the Canadian Support
Group are effective on arrival St. Johns N.F.
as indicated, date of joining to be reported.
(A) KITCHENER (S.O) about 10th May.
(B) PORT ARTHUR ex S.C.128. (C) ALGOMA ex O.N.179.
(D) WOODSTOCK on relief by GALT. (2) Anticipate GALT will
arrive St. Johns 10th May and should be employed with Group
until arrival WOODSTOCK with C-One ex O.N.S. 8 about 30th
May. (3) Intend ships be employed as soon as ready while
Group gathers, arrangements being made direct with C. in C.
W.A. as necessary. (4) Until required by C. in C. W.A. and
between assignments request ships be worked up as a Group.
271951Z Ends.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 281150Z to F.O.N.F., N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A.
Admty. B.A.D.)

J.H.50 My 272136 MOYRA has now arrived.
MOYRA. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 281304Z to Admty)

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 281512Z, 281513Z, 281552Z
April 28th. 281553Z, 281554Z, 281620Z)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

O.N.S.4, O.N.S.4, CAPE ARGONA has insufficient coal
CAPE ARGONA. remaining to continue with convoy to Halifax
and will be detached with rescue trawlers
LADY MADELEINE and VIZALMA to St.Johns N.F.
from Westomp.
(C.M.O.T.U.24.1.16, 281516Z to C.T.F.24 etc.)

BEAUREGARD, Request information present position BEAUREGARD
Straggler (U.S.) reported straggler from O.N.S.1 March
from O.N.S.1. 31st.
(N.S.H.Q. 281520Z to Connav, (R) Admty.)

New / ...

War Diary.

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.(Contd.)

New Construction, Sailing dates. My 071352Z April and 192008Z April. Read the following amendments in four columns.

Name.	Number.	Sailing date.	Destination.
RAVAGER	ACV 24	4th week June	U.K.
BLACKWOOD	BDE 4	4th week Apr.	U.K. via Bermuda.
WEAZEL	BAT 14	1st week May	Eastern Fleet via Trinidad, Belem, Recife and Freetown.
BYMS 31			
68			
YMS 187			
209		2nd week May	Levant (route not known).
BYMS 37 47 48			
YMS 186		3rd week May	U.K. via Halifax St. Johns and Londonderry.
BYMS 49 50			
YMS 155,			
156		4th week May	Levant (route not known)

Note: BYMS 31 and BYMS 37 have changed groups. (B.A.M.R.281526Z to Admty)

CHOLET.

Your 241231. Regret CHOLET cannot be replaced. U.S. Navy have concurred that vessel no longer required at Kingston, and M. of W.T. are satisfied commercial bunkering will not be impaired. (D.T.D. 281550B to Capt. I.C. Jamaica)

Dispositions.

Section East.

O.N.179, M.O.E.T.U.24.1.12 50° 15' 047° 04' 180° 8.3 alter course 19° in 049° 00' N.
W.L.E.T.U.24.18.8 sail p.m. to join O.N.179.
First Escort Group 049° 15' 046° 35' 190° 13 alter to 268° in 047° 45' 047° 00'.
5th Escort Group vicinity 176° 30' 053° 00' to Argentinia 12½ knots
S.C.128 W.L.E.T.U.24.18.4 044° 46' 051° 12' 065° 7.5.
40th Escort Group 047° 06' 051° 46' 127° 11 to join S.C.128 283 045° 38' 048° 51'.
LANDGUARD vicinity 046° 25' (? 036°) 10' to join S.C.128 in 045° 38' 048° 51'.
H.X. 236 W.L.E.T.U.24.18.2 043° 44' 054° 38' 083° 10.
DUNDAS MINAS depart St. John's N.F. 2100Z April 28th to join O.N.S.4 in 047° 40' 047° 00'.
BUCTOUCHE escorting SS. VAN DE VELDE damaged in collision vicinity 045° 34' 054° 01' returning St. John's 5 knots.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 281620Z to Admty)
My 281620Z delete reference to LANDGUARD amend DUNDAS MINAS to read T.U.24.18.11 add LANCER, BUSTLER 46 (? 41) 52.02 157° 12 en route H.X.236 add U.S.S. BARNEGAT, SAERE SUN depart Argentinia 2100Z April 28th course (? 196°) speed 13.5 altering to 252° in 59.59 W.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 282211Z to Admty)

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War Diary.28.4.1945.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Dispositions (Contd.) Section South West. O.N.178 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.7
(E) 042° 16' 061° 25' 240° 9. H.F.X. portion
O.n.178 Task Unit 24.18.9. vicinity (? 042)
44' 061° 21' to Halifax 9.5 knots.
O.N.S. 3 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.1 044° 30' 062° 40'
to Halifax 7.5 knots. X.B.48 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5 044° 24' 062°
39' 253° 7.5 altering to +(?332°) in 064° 00' W. at 267° in
063° 26' W. X.B.47 A.BROCKVILLE 043° 05' 066° 56' 268° 7.5
altering to 232° in 069° 13' W. F.H. 51 KENTVILLE UNGAVA 042°
55' 063° 42' 088° 8 altering to 046° in 063° 15' W. B.X.47
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.3 departs position 042° 30' 070° 28' 342°
2100Z April 28th course 088° speed 7.5.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 281650Z to Admty)
+ Alternative 177°)

Convoy B.X.47 Sailing telegram para 2 (List etc.)
(H) Total 17 ships.
(Cmdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, 281829Z,
to Cominch C. & R. Admty etc.)
Convoy sailing telegram part 1. Ref. my 281500
(N.T. in W.D.) and C. in C. C.N.A. (? 221542). NEW WESTMINIS-
TER additional escort.
(Cmdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, 281851Z to Cominch C. & R.
Admty etc.)

QUEEN Convoy A.T.42. Request you will sail QUEEN
ELIZABETH ELIZABETH from New York so as to arrive Clyde
(A.T.42) p.m. 10th May. (2) Port Director New York is
requested to report estimated position of ship
at daylight 10th May. (3) C. in C. W.A. is
requested to arrange maximum air protection.
(4) Fighter protection code word should be provided from Block
allotted to U.S. A.M.201746 refers.
(D.O.D.(H), 281959B to Port Director New York)

St.Johns development. Ref. B.A.D.'s 261525 Replies to paras. 2, 3, 4
and 5.
B.A.D.'s 262203/4/43 also refers.
(F.O.N.F. 282004Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. B.A.D.
B.M.W.T. Montreal, C. in C. C.N.A.)

St.Johns, Floating Dock. During recent visit, Seal, of B.A.D. informed
us that a floating dock in St. John's to be
operated by Canadian Navy for repairs to naval
vessels was again under discussion.
We must await advice from you before we can take
any further active steps in the matter.
(Newfoundland 282040 to D.O)

Sub.attack and sighting summary. All times Z.
(A) PBY sights subs. course 285 60.53 N. 29.38 W.
1039/28 and course 330 60.26 N. 29.50 W.
1149/28. Catalina sights sub.course 295
60.18 N. 29.53 W. 1310/28. (C) Sound contact

attacked / ...

1077

War Diary.28.4.1945.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

- Sub, attack and sighting summary. (Contd.) attacked 42.30 N. 64.30 W. 0130/28. (D) K 34 has made contact 31-16 N. 80.19 W. 1451/28. Army plane sights sub. course 350 00. 30 N. 49.05 W. 1630/27. U.S.S. JOUETT attacks sound contact 08.47 S. 31.15 W. 1740/27. (Cominch 282129Z to Adnty)
- U.G.F.8. Admiralty pass to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar and C. in C. Med. for information. (1) Sailing telegram Part 1. (2) 1600Z April 29 Point Z seaward end of swept channel. (3) Position B at R/V 1700Z. S. of A. 13½ knots. (4) 1st "Chop" 0800Z May 7 diversion control changes from Connav to Admiralty. 2nd "Chop" 1200Z May 9 diversion change from Admiralty to C. in C. Med. Fleet radio watch F. all ways. B.N. and G.A. from 2000Z/4 to 2300Z/7. Gibraltar 2300Z/7 to destination. (5) B (?36) (?45) N. 67.50 W. C 36.45 N. 60.45 W. D 37.05 N. 52.20 W. E 36.50 N. 44.10 W. F 35.45 N. 34.10 W. G 34.10 N. (?25).40 W. H 35.25 N. 16.20 W. J 35.50 N. 09.45 W. K 34.01 N. 08.03 W. (6) Task Force 67 U.S.S. TEXAS. S.O. U.S.S. HOBBY (?CAR) U.S.S. THATCHER, U.S.S. KALK, HARRISON, GUEST, TERRY, BROWNSON, GILLESPIE, CAR(?M)ICK escorting tanker U.S.S. MERRIMACK (Port Director New York, 282144Z to Connav (R) C.E.S.F., Cdr. N.W. African Sea Front, Adnty, N.S.H.Q., N.O.B. Oran, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda.)
- Solops 17. Heavy enemy barge activity reported from Vangavanga to Ringicove and Vila, also from Buka Passage to Numa Numa. (B.A.D. 282107Z to Adnty, C.O.I.C. E.F. (R) Concentric, Colombo, Capt. on Staff Kilindini, F.L.O.Delhi.)
- × L.S.T's position in convoy. Report from C.O. H.M.L.S.T.305 recommends that L.S.T's should be given rear positions in convoy. Request this may be arranged. (D.T.D. 282205B) to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. C. in C. W.A.)
- PELICAN. Several bergs and scattered floes encountered on longitude of 047° W. and south of 049° N. My P.C.S. at 2230Z 048° 20' N. 046° 57' W. 170° 13 knots. Weather report. (PELICAN, 282222 to F.O.N.F.)
- Convoy U.G.S.8. (1) Sailing Telegram part 2, (List, cargoes etc) (Port Director New York, 282250Z to Cominch C.& R.)

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War Diary.28.4.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

- X Kiwi 24. 4 Corsairs attacked Kolombangara a.m. 25/April and on return flight attacked ten enemy bombers 20 Zeros probably round Guadalcanal 5 Zeros destroyed remainder withdrew two Corsairs lost. Three Liberators attacked Kahnsip (Bougainville) early a.m. 26/April starting five small fires. Reports indicate 60 damaged aircraft have returned to Buka during last two months. (C.W.F. Wellington 280034Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)
- ? Digest serial No. 463. April 27th. Midday R/C Fortress sighted 2 medium cargo vessels and many small boats in Kavieng Harbour. 2. Forenoon photos show 2 large power boats, 11 coastal craft, 31 landing barges visible Wewak Harbour. 3. At noon 1 wooden coaster of 500 tons apparently loaded with fuel strafed (off but) by Fortress which later strafed Marienburg (on Sepik River) a camouflaged barge at Alexishafen and buildings at Finschhafen starting fires. 4. Afternoon search Fortress bombed wireless station Gasmata destroying Antenna mast and setting buildings afire also strafed stacked fuel drums concealed West Coast Willaumez Peninsula. 6. Three Liberators attacked Lae Aerodrome evening 26th and following morning six Beaufighters strafed barge concealment locations near Lae. 8. During early hours bombs dropped Merobe Area probably by 1 enemy aircraft and about same time unsuccessful attack made on patrol craft off Cape Ward Hunt. 9. Liberty ship LYDIA M. CHILD torpedoed 33° 08' S. 153° 24' E. at 0845Z/27th. S/M sightings reported by 3 aircraft this vicinity at night during 24 hours 27th all possibly same unit. 10. Further interrogation survivors KOWARRA, reference digest 461 Para. 8. shows ship hit by 1 torpedo and only 1 S/M sighted. 11. At noon 1 Liberator dropped incendiaries on Nabire (Southernmost shore Geelvine Bay) where motor transport observed on runway in fair condition and stores or dumps in town. En route target aircraft attacked 2 medium cargo ships 50 miles N.W. Course 145° scoring direct hit and near miss larger vessel, and two near misses on smaller. (G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 280856Z.)

Movements. Arrival Lyttelton H.M. Fijian Ship VITI.
(Wellington 280410Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrivals Darwin 27th LATROBE Thursday Island 26th WARREGO Milne Bay (? 27th) GYMPIE Townsville 27th U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD. Newcastle 27th F.S. CHEVREUIL departure Cairns 26th U.S. Patrol Gun Boat TULSA for Milne Bay Brisbane 27th COLAC, BALLARAT for Sydney (N.S.W.) Newcastle 27th F.S. CHEVREUIL for Sydney (N.S.W.) Melbourne 27th H.M.A.S. BENALLA commissioned.
(A.C.N.B. 281051Z to Admty.)

Arrival 27th April Townsville R.A.F.A. KURUMBA hired transport DUNTROON Fall River U.S. Transport BONTEKOE Cairns Dutch Naval store ship MINJAK TANAH 28th Townsville U.S. Transport CREMER. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departed Fall River 27th due Port Moresby 28th. Hired Transport KATOOMBA departed Brisbane 27th due Sydney (N.S.W.) 30th.
(C.S.W.P.F. 281103Z to Admty.)

/LYDIA...

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War Diary.

28.4.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

LYDIA
M. CHILDS
torpedoed.

U.S. Liberty Vessel LYDIA M. CHILDS torpedoed
and sunk 0845Z/27th in 033° 08' S. 153° 24' E.
(A.C.N.B. 281109Z to Admty. C. in C. E.F.
N.Z.N.B.)

Solops 17.

(B.A.D. 282107Z to Admty. etc.)
See America and West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 281400B, 281409B.)

1080

29.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

- X U.C./C.U. Convoys. 1. Comnavcu proposes to take over operational control of U.C./C.U. convoys.
- X U/B attacks on Convoy O.N.S. 5; one ship torpedoed. 2. At 0049 a message was received from B.7 Group that a U-Boat had been sighted by the escorts of O.N.S. 5 in approx. 61.37 N. 32.49 W. and that H/F D/F activity suggested that several more were near the convoy. During the night, 5 attempted attacks by U-Boats were driven off and DUNCAN reports that two of her attacks were very promising. At 0500Z all 43 ships and the escorts were in company. SS. PENHALE was sent to Iceland (C) with defects. At 0735Z in 61.22 N. 35.09 W. (about 260 miles N.E. of Cape Farewell) U.S. MCKEESPORT (6198 tons) was torpedoed and sank later. The 3rd Escort Group sailed from St. Johns at 1330Z today, to support O.N.S. 5.
- X 3. M.T.Bs on patrol off the Dutch coast last night engaged 4 enemy trawlers off Ymuiden at 0336B today, and torpedoed one of them which is believed to have sunk. M.T.B.233 suffered slight damage.
4. U.S. S/M HAKE arrived at the Clyde today from U.S.A., to join U.S. Submarine Squadron 50.
- X Flight D of L.C. 5. A further flight (D) of 27 landing craft sailed from Plymouth this morning for Gibraltar.
6. Escort Group 2 (STARLING, CYGNET, KITE, WILD GOOSE, WREN and WOODPECKER) sailed from Iceland at 1200 to 1445, to support Convoy H.X.236.
- X U/Bs attacked. 7. At 290020B Wellington aircraft N9LH attacked an outward bound U-Boat in 45.00 N. 09.20 W. (120 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal). The U-Boat was seen stopped on the surface after the attack. An aircraft of 84 Squadron reports two hits with depth charges at 1510 on a U-Boat in 60.18 N. 29.53 W.
- X 8. Convoy M.K.F.13 was bombed p.m. today by 2 F.W. Kuriers in 47.48 N. 17.45 W.; no damage was caused.

/Minelaying ...

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

X Minelaying effort repeated.

9. 178 ^{2,175 (P.1087)} out of 226 aircraft of Bomber Command which were despatched last night laid 584 mines successfully in the Baltic, off South Norway, and in Heligoland Bight. 23 aircraft are missing.

South Atlantic.

X 10. F.O.C. West Africa is sending a Sunderland from Port Etienne to investigate an unconvincing report of a U-Boat ashore in the Canary Islands in 27.43 N. 15.34 W. Air reconnaissance did not confirm the presence of a U-Boat.

11. M.V. NANKING (5931 tons), Table Bay for Freetown and U.K., is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk today off Grand Bassa (Liberia).

Mediterranean.

X Destroyer sweep.

12. Destroyers LAFOREY and ^{TARTAR (W.I.R., 172(3))} ~~WHEATLAND~~ of Force Q, carrying out a sweep last night in the Sicilian Channel encountered at least 6 E-Boats and a submarine in 37.46 N. 11.33 E., steering S.W. The destroyers attacked: LAFOREY rammed and cut in half an E-Boat, and 2 others were damaged by gunfire, one of which probably sank. LAFOREY's fore peak is flooded.

Italian destroyer sunk.

13. S/M UNSHAKEN on patrol north of Sicily reports that she has sunk a destroyer.

14. A convoy of 3 personnel ships, 11 storeships and a tanker for Tripoli (L), and 4 storeships, 2 tankers and a personnel ship for Malta left Alexandria today.

/Air ...

1082

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Air
Operations.

15. Wellingtons last night attacked a burning vessel 10 miles from Zembra Island; the ship was seen to explode.

U.S. Mitchells attacked 2 M/Vs 50 miles N.E. of Cape Bon and scored 1 direct hit and a near miss on one.

U.S. Marauders on a shipping sweep in the Gulf of Tunis scored a near miss on one vessel.

Kittyhawks and U.S. Warhawks, in an attack on shipping in the Gulf of Tunis, sunk 1 M/V of 3000 tons and 1 E-Boat, while 1 M/V of 3000 tons was set on fire, and 2 E-Boats and a Siebel ferry were damaged.

U.S. Mitchells on a shipping sweep scored one hit on a small M/V.

30 U.S. Warhawks, 12 of which were carrying bombs, attacked a beached merchant ship at Ras ed Drek (5 miles S.E. of Cape Bon) and another smaller vessel, and hit both ships and set them on fire.

12 U.S. Marauders attacked a beached merchant ship at Ras el Jebel (36 miles N.W. of Tunis) and obtained hits and near misses on the stern of the vessel.

Italian hospital ship AQUILEIA reported being bombed by a U.S. aircraft at 1635 G.M.T.

East Indies.

16. D/F bearings of a Japanese submarine have been obtained to S.S.E. of Mauritius. Catalinas are being sent from Mauritius to search.

Malacca
Straits S/M
Patrol.

17. Capt. (S) 4 reports that D.S. O.21 carried out Operation "Strive" on 18th April. On 22nd April she sank a northbound 7500 ton merchant ship escorted by a torpedo boat in approx. 03.26 N. 99.48 E. (Malacca Strait).

18. 9 B.24s attacked shipping at Rangoon today; several hits were made on the docks.

29.4.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

Suspicious
ship.

19. An American Export plane reports sighting at 1627 today in 34.10 N. 57° W. 11 U-Boats in three groups of 4, 4, and 3 respectively, about 35 miles between each pack. Submarines fired on the aircraft. At 2140Z he sighted in 36.49 N. 44.30 W. a large suspicious ship which he considered might be a raider. These sightings are evaluated as positive by Commandant, Moroccan Sea Frontier and the ship cannot be identified by Cominch.

20. The escort carrier TRACKER left New York today in Convoy U.G.F.8, with 68 U.S.A.A.F. aircraft for Casablanca.

Australia and New Zealand.

21. G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. reports that SS. WOLLONGBAR (British 2239 tons) was torpedoed and sunk by a U-Boat at 0040Z today in 31.17 S. 153.07 E. (about 130 miles N.E. of Newcastle N.S.W.) (A.C.N.B. give the position 80 miles north of Newcastle).

22. Six Liberators attacked Halong Seaplane Base (Moluccas) this morning and four B.25As. bombed Kupang in the early hours.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

BAYNTON, Proposed programme. Re "A" and "As".
BERRY. (C. in C. W.A., 291857B).

Movements.

ABERCROMBIE Request you sail ABERCROMBIE to the Clyde when ready where she will work up under C. in C. W.A. (D.O.D. H., 290032B to C. in C. Rosyth).

KING GEORGE V. Sail at 1600/30 and proceed by searched channels to Scapa carrying out required exercises en route. Take destroyer escort under your orders on joining (R.A.(D) H.F's 281020 April refers).

Report E.T.A. before sailing.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 291047B to KING GEORGE V).

MAHRATTA, STEVENSTONE proceed passing Switha and ST. MARYS Hoxa at 0700B Friday 30th April to R/V with KING GEORGE V off Eyebroughy Buoy at 1830/30.

2. When met provide escort to Scapa and for subsequent exercises to west of Orkneys.

3. Fighter protection arranged passage to southward. Codeword "Flunkey". Help message 385 k/cs.
(F.O.(D) H.F., 291130B to destroyers named.)

S/M Your 281125B. Intend sailing P.239 SURF escorted
Movements. by H.M.T. HAYLING to R/V in para. (1).

2. When met HAYLING return with P.66 ULA and P.34 ULTIMATUM to Scapa.

(A.C.O.S., 291102 to Capt. (S) 3).

Para. 4 of my 281125B. Cancel and substitute: thence DORNOCH to Clyde passing P.57 (UNIVERSAL) as ordered by S.O.(S) Lerwick. DORNOCH to Londonderry on completion.

(Capt. S.3., 291435B).

F.O.C. Gibraltar 251726 not to all addressees. Onward route on route Rose to R/V AN escort in position X 180° Lizard Head 12 miles as arranged Capt. (S) 5th S.F. at 1200/7th May.

(F.O.S., 291523B to UNBENDING. (R) Admty. F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth N.O.I.C. Falmouth, C. in C. Portsmouth, Capt. (S) 5 A.O.C. in C. C.C.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/30th and movements for the following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 291636B, 300729B).

S/M movements tonight 29th April. 1. P.225 and P.55 escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE F.S. leaves Clyde 2100B Southbound 10 knots.

2. P.58 escorted by ELSE RYKENS leaves Londonderry 2359B for Campbeltown 10 knots.

(C. in C. W.A., 291940B to AQUAMARINE, RHODODENDRON (R) LA CAPRICIEUSE, F.S. ELSE RYKENS).

On completion of tonight's exercise TEMPLAR (P.316) and UPSTART (P.65) proceed to Londonderry.

(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 292046B).

/ANSON...

1085.

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

- ANSON My P.C. and S. 059° 56' N., 014° 42' W., 310° 17 knots. JAMAICA in company. Weather report 1956 0236.
(V.A.2, 291202B to H.F.)
- X Flight D of L.C. Sailed flight D. of L.C. at 1000/29th for Gibraltar consisting of L.C.T. (3) 320, 343, 345, 346, 353, 357, 382, 383, 391, 396, 397, 417, 308, 313, 317, 318, 322, 324, 325, 339, 341, 354, 361, 446, L.C.F. (3) 16 - 18. Tug EMPIRE ANNE and EMPIRE SPITFIRE escorted by H.N.M.S. MOLDE and HUDDERSFIELD TOWN.
Routed as in A.M.1935/30 March 1943. Q.K.A. message issued for Gibraltar only, latest Q.K.A. 97. C. in C. Med., is requested to signal onward route from position N. Communications. Codeword "Porter".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291229B).
- SCYLLA My P.C. and S. 059° 46' N., 014° 02' W., 105° 18 knots. E.T.A. Scapa 0900B/30th. Request Hoxa Gate 0930B. Weather report 3855 0237.
(SCYLLA, 291301B to C. in C. H.F., A.C.O.S., HOWE, (R) FURIOUS).
- INDOMITABLE Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 291407B).
- FURIOUS My P.C. and S. at 1500B 059° 017°* N., 013° 005°* W. 100° 14 knots.
FURY, ACTIVE, TROUBRIDGE in company. + Request Hoxa Gate 1100B. A.C.O.S. acknowledge weather report 3556 0237. +E.T.A. Scapa 1030B/30.
(FURIOUS, 291522B)* Presumably minutes intended.
- X Destroyer for Danish Foreign Minister. Count Reventlow, Danish Foreign Minister in London, wishes to visit the Faeroes.
2. Request that if convenient you will make a destroyer available for him to leave Invergordon on 15th May.
3. It is proposed that he should return in the destroyer escort of F.D.6 leaving Faeroes about 27th May. Destroyer would part company at Cape Wrath and proceed to Invergordon.
4. Request you will confirm that arrangements can be made and signal name of destroyer.
(D.O.D. (H), 291540B to A.C.O.S.)
- GLASGOW Your 291230. My P.C. and S. 059° 37' N. 010° 57' W., 105° 16 knots. Speed reduced owing to weather. Intend make my own gate signal.
(GLASGOW, 291601B to HOWE).
My P.C.S. are 059° 37' N., 010° 57' W., 105° 16 knots. E.T.A. 0700B/30 request Hoxa gate at 0800B/30. Weather 3865 0436.
Acknowledge. (GLASGOW, 291602B to A.C.O.S.)

/SIMOON...

1086

29.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.SIMOON^M

Sailed P.225 (SIMOON) and P.55 (UNSPARING) escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Capt. S.3., 261437 as amended by his 272152 and 281835 codeword "Sultan". (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 292204).

Operations.Coastal
Patrols.

My 282116B. "Device" returned 0705.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 290725B).

1. Intend to sail M.T.B. 236 to southward departing Start Point 2200/29th returning 0745/30th.
2. Fighter protection has been arranged with St. Eval. Request surface bombing restrictions 10 miles either side line joining Start Point and Ile de Bas.
3. Codeword "Arena".
4. Constant watch on 2300 k/cs P.C.W.O.303 state D. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 291039B to C. in C. Plymouth (R) F.O.I.C. Portland, Admiralty).
 1. Intend M.Ls. 247 (S.O.) and 233 to patrol tonight Thursday 29th April on lat. 50° 20' N., between longs. 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
 2. Leaving Portland at 2045 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/30.
 3. Object anti E-boat patrol.
 4. Constant W/T watch 2300 k/cs. Usual books to be landed.
 5. Codeword "Device".
 6. Request air protection be arranged. (F.O.I.C. Portland, 291120B to C. in C. Portsmouth, (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).
Portsmouth night patrols 29/30th April.
4. BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, 9th M/S F. and Coastal Forces operating to southward of Isle of Wight. Constant watch 1700 k/cs.
5. M.L. 247 (S.O.) 233, from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W., and 02° 25' W. Constant watch 2300 k/cs.
6. Chasseur 13 at St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth. Constant watch 2450 k/cs. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 291250B to F.O.I.C. Portland, N.O.I.C. Newhaven, X.D.O.E., (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, C. in C. Nore, N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, R.A.F. Thorney Island. R.A.F. Tangmere, H.Q.B.C., H.Q.F.C., H.Q.C.C.10, 11, 16, 19 Groups).
 1. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 are to patrol 8 miles 235° and 055° from 125° start 13.
 2. Object. Anti E-boat patrol.
 3. Execution. Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2130B. Leave patrol to arrive Dartmouth 0630B.
 4. E-boats may operate from Cherbourg, Guernsey or Brittany.
 6. Codeword "Warrant".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291319B).
Your 291319B. "Warrant" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 292136 to C. in C. Plymouth).
My 291039B "Arena" sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 292137B).
My 292137B "Arena" returned owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 292300).

/Destroyer...

1087

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations. - Contd.

- Destroyer patrol off Eddystone. LIMBOURNE and MELBREAK are to concentrate outside breakwater at 2130B/29 and are then to take up anti E-boat patrol between positions 145 Eddystone 15 and 210 Eddystone 20 as arranged by LIMBOURNE. Codeword "Gibson".
2. Leave patrol at 0400/30 and return to Plymouth
3. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 collective call sign 3 S.C.R. patrolling north east from 160 Start Point 13. M.T.B. 236 proceeds southward from Start Point at 2200 returning 0730/30. 10 coastal force craft S.O. in M.G.B. 312 exercising north of 50° 10' N., until 2359 today.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 291453B to LIMBOURNE, MELBREAK (R) N.O.I.C. Dartmouth F.O.I.C. Falmouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth, Admiralty, M.G.Bs. 324, 330).
- X Attack on convoy off Ymuiden. Preliminary Report of C/F Activity night 28th - 29th April. 2 M.T.Bs. 234, 241 and 233 had been ordered to patrol between Ymuiden and to Hook of Holland to intercept Northbound shipping. A large number of lights were seen off Ymuiden and Unit remained in this vicinity. Nothing was sighted until 0318B when 4 Trawlers were sighted in 52° 28' N., 04° 28' E., steering South, and M.T.Bs. closed to attack. M.T.Bs. 234 and 241 fired at 0336B the latter scoring a hit on the rear most Trawler, fire having been opened on M.T.Bs. at 600 yards range. M.T.B. 233 disengaged, not having reached a firing position and endeavoured to attack again from seaward, but was unable to approach unobserved due to star shell. M.T.B. 233 came under fire and starboard torpedo tube was put out of action. She accordingly disengaged. Casualties - one rating slightly wounded in M.T.B. 241. Material damage - slight damage to hull of M.T.B. 233 and to starboard torpedo tube.
3. M.T.Bs. report only three Trawlers sighted afloat after final engagement.
(C. in C. Nore, 291744B).

Exercises.

X.C.J. Exercise X.C.J. completed.
(F.O. 2 B.S. 291159B to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

- X Bomber Command Report. Covering period 1200/27 to 1200/29.
Day 27th. 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S Patrols. There were no sightings.
Night 27/28 April. Minelaying. 160 A/C were despatched 121 laid mines in their allotted areas. 1 A/C is missing.
Day 28th April. 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried out A/S patrols. There were no sightings.
Night 28/29. April. 226 A/C were despatched, 175 laid mines in their allotted areas. 23 A/C are missing.

/Wilhelmshaven...

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity

Bomber
Command
Report.
(contd).

Wilhelmshaven. 6 Mosquitos of 2 Group report having attacked. 3 A/C dropped flares and 3 A/C bombed, all from heights between 20,000 and 25,000 feet. One crew reported seeing a steady red glow below cloud. Weather was 5/10th - 6/10th cloud and 15,000 feet.
(H.Q.B.C., 291315B).

Mining.

Yarmouth

Sweepers detonated acoustic mine at 0912/29 in 100° No. 4 Buoy 6 miles. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 291005B and 301801B).
Sweepers detonated 2 red magnetic mines at 0949 in 150° 55 A Buoy quarter mile.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth, 291021B).

N.L. 83,
N.L. 84.

My 281734B. Operations N.L. 83 and 84 cancelled owing to weather.
(V.A. Dover, 291010B).

Q.L. 9 A.

1. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.L. 9 (A) tonight with available M.Ls. of 51st Flotilla and M.G.Bs. of 6th Flotilla.
2. Position between 52° 10' N., 4° 10' E., and 52° 13' N., 04° 15' E.

4. Additional Escort 4th M.T.B. Flotilla in vicinity Hook of Holland.
5. Unit "S" 51st M.L.F., Unit "W" 6th M.G.B.F. Unit "V" 4th M.T.B.F.
(C. in C. Nore, 291014B to BEEHIVE).

Operation
K.L.1.

Portsmouth number O/0221/159 of 27th April 1943.
Para. 4. Times are amended as follows E.A. 3 2220. A.A. 0110 BB 0245 BB 0325 AA 0455 EA 3 0800.

Para. 5 amend read CC 0245 DD 0325 thence return at best speed to Newhaven etc. add para. 5 (a). If night is dark this programme may be earlier in which case a signal will be made giving amended time of passing E.A.3 Buoy. To help timing of covering force a signal will be made during southward passage of minesweeping force giving their position.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 291052B to S.O. Covering Force, S.O. Escort Force, S.O. Destroyer Force, S.O. M.S.9, N.O.I.C. Newhaven (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O. Dover, N.O.I.C. Portland H.Q.C.C., H.Q. No. 11 Group).

/Carry...

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War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining

Operation K.L.1 (contd). Carry out operation K.L. one tonight 29/30th April.
Escort M.L. 292 (S.O.) 343, 291, 189, 346, 464.
Covering Force S.G.B.6 (S.O.) M.G.B. 608, 615, 614.
Call signs for Forces:- Escort Force 3 Q.C.W.
9th M.S. Flotilla, M.S.9, SIDMOUTH, TENBY, BANGOR, BRIDPORT, BLACKPOOL, EASTBOURNE Covering Force S.G.B.6, M.G.B.608, M.G.B.615, M.G.B.614, M.L. 292, M.L. 343, M.L. 291, M.L. 189, M.L. 346, M.L. 464 destroyer force, BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 291141B to S.O. 9th M.S.F., N.O.I.C. Newhaven, S.O. Escort Force, (M.L. 292), S.O. destroyer force, (BLEASDALE) S.O. Covering Force (S.G.B.6) (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover, F.O.I.C. Portland, H.Q.C.C.11 Group).
(1) Operation K.L.1 (Portsmouth number O/0221/159 of 27th April, 1943 not to D.1).
(2) BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE are to act as destroyer covering force to westward of operation.
(3) Leave Needles 2230/29th to patrol to northward of Cherbourg peninsula. Destroyers are not to cross meridian 001° W., nor approach within 10 miles enemy coast except to attack enemy. Return passing Needles 0630/30th.
(4) Codeword "Match" 3.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091509B, 1803).

Operation S.N.111 A. Your 281227B* FURY, ST. MARYS detailed. (R.A.D., 291100B to C. in C. H.F.)
*F.O.C. (D) F.H.F., to sail 2 destroyers to Port ZA (Most Secret Distribution).

Bomber Command Minelaying. Nights 27/28 and 28/29 April. See H.Q.B.C. 291315B in Allied Air Activity.

x Operation "Bottle" Operation "Bottle" was carried out last night 28/29th April, in 115 Q.Z.X. (D.D.O.D. (M) 291316B to A.C.O.S. (R) C. in C. H.F., F.O.(S))

x German Mines in Skager Rak. My 191803, 221651, and 261557.
A. Chief of Naval Staff informs me search for ULVEN will be continued on May 3rd in area between parallels 57° 44' and 57° 46'.
B. This area is already partly clear of German mines which have been established at depth 20 metres below surface. Sweeping at 40 metres cut only mines at same 20 metres depth and none deeper. Personal examination of minesweeper plot showed 10 mines recently exploded up to a distance of at least one point four miles within territorial and 10 outside territorial waters lying within above mentioned latitudes. It now seems probably that line of

/mines...

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War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

German Mines
in Skager
Rak.
(contd).

mines continue westward towards Skager.
C. Mines are almost certainly small 50 Kilogramme
type and were possibly laid in 1940. During
searching operations S/M NORDKAPAREN was on
surface exactly above one of these mines exploded
by approaching vessel. She suffered no damage.
(N.A. Stockholm, 291751 to D.N.I.)
Comment: N.A. Stockholm has been asked to define
the limit of Swedish Territorial Waters.

U-boats.

x U-boats
reported and
attacked in
Biscay
Area.

Am over enemy S/M in 45° 00' N., 09° 20' W.
(A/C N9LH 290020B to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges. Enemy
is still on the surface.
(A/C N9LH 290022B to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 44.30 N., 11.01 W.
S/M was sighted on surface and observed to
submerge. When first sighted was on course 100°
speed 6 knots.
(A/C F. of 10 Sqdn. 290930B).
Am over enemy submarine in 45.15 N., 11.50 W.
(A/C F 10 Sqdn. 291104B).
Enemy submarine previously reported was on surface have
attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C F. 10 Sqdn. 291109B).
Have lost touch with enemy S/M, last seen in position
45.15 N., 11.50 W.
(A/C F 10 Sqdn. 291142B).

x U-boats
reported and
attacked in
North Atlantic.

At 281239 G/87 (84) sighted U-boat submerging
3 miles ahead in 60° 28' N., 29° 52' W.
A/C arrived too late to attack. Circled
position for 51 minutes but nothing further
seen. At 281349 in 60° 26' N., 29° 50' W. second
U-boat sighted bearing 030/11/2 miles 330 6
already submerging. A/C over U-boat 35 seconds
after submerging no attack made and circled 17 minutes. At
281510 in 60° 18' N., 29° 53' W. sighted U-boat bearing 340/4
miles course 280/8 kts. and attacked with 4 depth bombs Mark 24
model 1(1?) SK XV11 model 1 from 150 feet depth 25 feet
spacing 60 feet. Decks awash on attack?. A/C fired 200 rounds
from 100 (800)yards. A/C remained 26 minutes in vicinity.
(R.A.F. Iceland, 290151Z).

Navigational.

Fog.

H.M. Minesweepers FY 185 and GY 14 arrived
St. Ives Bay ex CEMENT owing to fog.
(R.N.O. Penzance, 291600B).

War Diary.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

ADVENTURE

My 281531B. Codeword Petronel returned to Milford Haven severe condenseritis. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 290009B)

EYEBRIGHT

Proceeding to Hvalfjord with hemp rope fouled in screw. Request diver on arrival. My P.C. and S. at 1200Z 061° 27' N., 021° 51' W., 235° 9½. E.T.A. Reykjavik 0600Z/30th. (EYEBRIGHT, 291145 to A.C.I.C.)

SHERWOOD

My 121501B*and C. in C. W.A's 131419B+it would be appreciated if a decision could be given at an early date. The present uncertainty and inaction cannot but adversely affect the spirit of ship's company. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 291811B to Admty). *Repairs to SHERWOOD, +Proposal that ship should be finally paid off.

Mine barge No.3.

My 221013. Mines have been recovered and stowed in a LBV (1). Mine barge has been salvaged. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 291545).

**M.F.V. MARIE
THERESE DEBRA.**

Has engine breakdown and will be unable to proceed until repairs have been affected. Suggest crew is paid off tomorrow and ship is de-stored until ready to proceed and new crew appointed. Further report will be made as soon as probable date of completing repairs is known. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth, 291612).

MATCHLESS

Sailed my 281604B. MATCHLESS is steaming on one air ejector maximum speed 24 knots. (Cdre. (D) W.A., 291945 B to R.A.D. H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys.

x U/B attacks on O.N.S.5.

My 282120. This U-boat was detected by H/F D/F sighted at 3000 yards and attacked by gunfire (?). No A/S contact in heavy sea. 5 other formations by escort during daylight (corrupt group) to sight U-boat. After dark escort drove off 5 attempted attacks from windward side during which 3 S/MS were sighted. 2 of DUNCAN's attacks very promising. All 43 ships and Escort in Company. PENHALE number 81 was sent to Iceland with defects. DUNCAN has expended 35 depth charges. My P.C. and S. 61.02 N., 34.34 W. "X" 245° 7. Weather report 5527 8433. (B.7 290500Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) Connav, C.T.F.24, Admty. A.C.I.C., ORIBI, N.O.I.C. Londonderry, Escorts O.N.S.5, S.O.E.G.3, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., C.O.A.C., Halifax, C.T.G.24.7 H.Q.C.C., S.O. E.G.4.)

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29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

E.G. 2
(H.X. 236).

Cancel my 281146B.*
(Cdre. (D) W.A., 291029B to A.I.C.)
*Re intended sailing STARLING, CYGNET, WILD
GOOSE, WOODPECKER, WREN, KITE.
Sailed STARLING, CYGNET, KITE, WILD GOOSE, WREN
at 1200 and WOODPECKER at 1445 in accordance with C. in C.
W.A. 281542.
(Com. (D) W.A., 291459).

U.R. 73

Cancel my 281418. SHIKARI is not now required
for U.R. 73 and should be sailed to Londonderry
on completion of duty with Capt. (S) 7.
(C. in C. W.A., 291119B to S.7).

R.C.N.
support
Group NENE,
TWEED.

Your 270013 A.M. 172349. and C.N.S. Ottawa's
211843 none to all addressees. Request you will
arrange for NENE and TWEED to be loaned
temporarily to reinforce R.C.N. support group
in the following manner:-
(a) NENE to be attached temporarily to A.3 group
leaving U.K. with O.N.182. On the return of
this group to U.K. with H.X. 240 arrangements to be made for
KOOTENAY to relieve NENE. (It is anticipated this should take
place about 30th May in mid Atlantic). On being relieved NENE
to return to St. Johns to join R.C.N. support Group.
(b) TWEED to be sailed to St. Johns as convenient on completion
of work up in June.
(D.O.D. (H) 291653B to C. in C. W.A., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

M.K.F.13

Destinations of ships.
(C. in C. W.A., 291725).

M.K.F.13
BERMUDA.

D/F bearings on 4412 k/cs at 1617Z indicate U-
boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 291901B to M.K.F.13 BERMUDA, (R)
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C.)

X Operational
Control of
U.C./C.U.
convoys

CR. No. 393. Cinclant's 291442, informs as
follows: Consider it simpler if operational
control of U.C./C.U. convoys is exercised by me
in view of Cominch 272126. Therefore cancel my
262218 January 062138 April and last sentence my
300102 March. Reference not to all addressees.
(Comnaveu, 292053 to Admty).

/EMPIRE...

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29.4.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

EMPIRE GULF, Your 281030B.* EMPIRE GULF (ex LARISTON). This
EMPIRE CHIEF. work is to be carried out.
2. EMPIRE CHIEF. This vessel is not to be
fitted for oiling at sea.
(D.T.D., 292131B to F.O.I.C. Cardiff)
*Re stability of EMPIRE CHIEF, and EMPIRE GULF.

* H.X. 234 Preliminary report of convoy H.X. 234 escorted by
Attacked by B.4 group HIGHLANDER (S.O.) VIMY, ABELIA,
U-boats PENNYWORT, ANEMONE, ASPHODEL, CLOVER, ROSTHERN.
on 22nd and Convoy of 42 ships in eleven columns. No rescue
23rd April. ship.
(1) General. Co-operation with aircraft was
excellent. Numerous sightings were made by
aircraft and two successful attacks carried out.
Communication with 15th Group was first class but Catalinas from
Iceland were not all familiar with W.A.E.C. and some did not
establish R.T. communication of joining after having been homed.
(2) 6 Separate sightings by aircraft and escorts confirmed the
H/F D/F plot that U-boats were working in pairs.
(3) Escorts carried out five attacks upon U-boats but did not
remain in area sufficiently long to observe results.
(4) First attack 0021 April 22nd. No indication that convoy
was shadowed. AMERIKA No. 75, who was straggling slightly,
was torpedoed. Half Raspberry was not ordered due to weather
and fact that convoy had not been sighted. Consider that this
was chance encounter by U-boat being homed on O.N.178 which was
to South east. U-boat was not heard to report before or after
the attack.
(5) Second attack 1357 April 23. HIGHLANDER and VIMY were
hunting two U-boats 12 miles on starboard beam, U-boat
delivering attack submerged from starboard bow. Torpedo was low.
Torpedo was apparently fired from extreme range as it exploded
on or near surface close alongside SILVERMAPLE No. 101. Ship
suffered little damage and remained with convoy. Submarine
was heavily counter attacked by escorts.
(Cdre. D. W.A., 292335B to C. in C. W.A.)

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29.4.1943,
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy G.C.6. sailed CAP PINEDE, DJEBEL AURES, also EMPIRE HEATH for O/2 (70/R) to Safi. (F.O.Gibraltar 290901 to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav).

UNBENDING U/B estimated near you today southbound from A/C sighting 0853Z/28. (D.D.I.C. 290931B to UNBENDING (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Convoy O.T.4. Onward route from position (W) through (X) 35.45 06.35 and Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar. (V.A. Gibraltar 291024 to Escort O.T.4. (R) Comnavfron, C. in C. Med. Admty.).

Dispositions Situation 2001B/29th.
Swedish relief ship WIRIL 35.56 09.49 to Gibraltar 11.
(2) P.556 on patrol between meridian of 08.01 West and 06.30 West and North of 36.40 North dive by day 9/2.
(3) G.C.6, 2 P.C, 35.33 06.39 to Casablanca 7.
(4) ROTHESAY, PIROUETTE 1 merchant ship 36.38 06.29 through 35.56 06.20 to Gibraltar 8.
(5) 1 U.S. destroyer 1 merchant ship 32.45 12.05 to Casablanca 19½.
(6) U.G.L.2, C.T.G.68.1, 34.05 08.13 through 34.10 08.10 thence Gib.8.
(7) LOTUS, DIANELLA 2 merchant ships off Cape St. Mary thence coastwise to Setubal 9 merchant ships enter Setubal and escort patrol outside territorial waters.
(8) O.T.4, C.T.U. 21. 5, 33.15 11.11 through 33.50 09.50 to 34.01 07.59 thence through Straits of Gibraltar 13½. 2 patrol craft R/V 0900/30 to escort 2 tankers to Casablanca. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 291120B to A.I.G.63).

Situation 2001B/30th.
(1) L.C.I.(L) (?damaged) approx. 32.01, 32.58 092 degs. 7.
(2) G.U.S.6, A.C.T.F.69, 36.31 34.36 through 36.59 37.01 thence 28½ 9.
(3) Swedish relief ships FORMOSA and YARRAWONGA 34.01 40.06 through 34.01 39.01 086 degs. 13. (F.O.Gibraltar 291137B).

Situation 2002B/29th.
X.K.5. BRISSENDEN 36.(754) 10.41 through 38.25 12.30 thence 293 degs. 10.
{ 2 } P.37 039 degs. 20' 010 degs. 30' 000 degs. 8/2.
{ 3 } R.S.4 A, COWSLIP, 30.38 11.23 through 28.01 13.50 thence (?281 degs) 10½.
{ 5 } ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH 1 Tanker 36.21 17.59 282 degs.9.
{ 7 } S.L.128, BLACK SWAN, 27.38 13.34 034 degs. 6½. (F.O.Gibraltar 291150 to A.I.G.55).

Situation 291959B.
U.G.S.7A and U.G.L.3, C.T.F. 64, 31 09.28 (?24) 101 degs. 8½.
(2) 18 L.C.I (L)'s S.O. in L.C.I.(L) 170, 32.01 31.56 092 degs. 10. (F.O.Gibraltar 291218B to A.I.G. 64).

/ Situation...

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd.) Situation 291958.
G.U.S.(76) C.T.F.69, 35.40 30.18 284 degs. 9.
(F.O.C.N.A.291254B to A.I.G.65).

Lighted ships. 2 ships sighted with lights burning brightly at 2208 and 2212 G.M.T. in 048 degs. 30' North 009 degs. 30' West by Captain of B.A.O.C. Aircraft. (N.A.Lisbon 291139B to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Movements Gibraltar. Departure 0845 OAKLEY BUDE escorting L.C.T.328 to Oran. L.C.T. 388, 300, 301, 375, 307, 380, 395, 329, 330, 344, 356, 358, 384, 385, 387, 386, 401, 389, 400, 416, 445, 420, 404, L.C.F.13, 14 L.C.I. (L) (corrupt group) to Algiers. U.S.S. Tanker SUNFLOWER to Philippeville. (F.O. Gibraltar 291143B to Admty. etc.).

Swedish Shipping. Para.2. Admty. 2330/25 Nov. 1942. (repeated to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa as Admty. 150351 Jan. 1943) does not refer to Swedish ships on Gothenburg traffic who will continue to follow routes in my 161820 July 1942. (Head of M.I. 291405B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af. A.C.I.C. C. in C. S.A. C.S.A.Lisbon, N.S.H.Q. (R) A.C.O.S.).

CABO ESPARTEL Spanish CABO ESPARTEL, Bahia Blanca 6th April for Barcelona, should be intercepted in Straits and sent in for normal examination. (2) Master reported very Anti-British and may be carrying illegal mail. (3) Also believed to have shipped a quantity of liver extract and 80 kgs. of saccharine both unnavicerted. (D.E.W.D. 291648B to C.C.S.O. Gibraltar).

TRESPASSER P.312 (TRESPASSER) sails p.m. 1st May for patrol in Gulf of Lions (11) routed - (p) 180 degs Cape Calaburras 5 miles (?at) 03 (?00) 2nd. (q) 179 degs Cape Gata 5 miles at 0300 3rd and unless otherwise ordered by Capt.S.8. (r) 135 degs Cape Palos 5 miles at 0100 4th. Capt. S.8. is requested to assume operational control at 0300 3rd. S. of A. 9 knots 111 miles per day. Zone time minus 2. (F.O.Gibraltar 291924 to C. in C. Med. Capt.S.8.).

Movements Gibraltar. Departures LOTUS, DIANELLA, Escort duties Setubal P.C.481, 474, with G.C.6. FORMIDABLE, VELOX, TYNEDALE to R/V Force H then Mers el Kebir. (F.O.Gibraltar 291957B to Admty. C. in C. Med. Cominch).

War Diary.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic -(contd.).

PENTSTEMON

Left (corrupt) 2000B 29th 10 knots.
E.T.A. Gibraltar 0900B/30th.
Weather report.
(PENTSTEMON 292001B to V.A. Gibraltar).

R.S.5.

Propose sail for inclusion R.S.5 EMPIRE ADDISON
(Dakar) ESSEX TRADER, FORT RUPERT, ORIENT CITY
(Freetown).
Request R/V.
(C.M.S.F.F. 292012 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.
(F.O.C. W.Af.).

U/B survivors landed at Altea (Spain). Your 031852 states S/M was proceeding close inshore when she sank. Request you will confirm that this means that vessel sank within territorial waters, reporting also to Ambassador Madrid, who is being requested to take up question of internment of this crew and of crew of the Las Palmas U/boat on same grounds as indicated in para. 2. of my 200327.
(Head of M. Branch 1. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 292221B to N.A.Madrid, (R) F.O.Gib).
Reply N.A.Madrid 041030B.

x SEGUNDO
EFIGENIA
interception

Seizure of Spanish SEGUNDO EFIGENIA. Spaniards protest vessel intercepted within Spanish territorial waters. Request you will signal position of interception.

No action should be taken regarding disposal of vessel or cargo until instructions received from Admiralty.
(Head of M. Branch I. 292222B to F.O. Gibraltar).

LARIAT

H.M.R.T. LARIAT is to remain based at Gibraltar for operations until further orders.
(Capt. i/c Rescue Tug 292321B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. E.F.).

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War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

SILVERELM, Advise owners anchored 285° 7 miles Abrolhos
breakdown. (Corrupt Group). Attempt to supply Scavenge air
using 2 (2½) H.P. Motors with 21 inch diameter
fan driving through. Trunk into Scavenge Trunk
failed. Proposals. If better suggestion please
advise. Estimated time fortnight. Essential in order to carry
on repairs provisions be supplied immediately.
(SILVERELM 290000 G.M.T. to Admty.) Recd. 290200.

U-Boat. Ref. your report concerning U-Boat sunk South
sunk off of Grand Canary, have received doubtful report
Canaries. of U-Boat ashore in 027° 43' North 015° 34' W.
(1) Request verification of this report and if
this is boat you reported. (2) Request immediate
report of present whereabouts of crew of U-Boat
you reported sunk. F.O. Gib. 071232 (N.T. in W.R.) refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 290056X to Consul, Las Palmas (R) Admty. B.N.L.O.
Dakar, F.O.C. Gib.) Reply 301315.

Have received unconvincing report of U-Boat ashore in
Canaries in 27° 43' N. 15° 34' W. Sunderland from Port Etienne
will investigate today, Thursday, but will take no action at
present. My 290056Z to Consul Las Palmas refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 290057Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty.)

LISS. My 201926B, please confirm that arrangements can
be made for mounting anti submarine gun in LISS
at Dakar and approx. date of completion.
(D.T.D. 290153B to F.O.C. W.A. N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

FORTOL Following received from S.O. E.G. 38. and Cdre. of
O.S.46. convoy O.S. (?46) (begins) FORTOL can only make
good 8 knots and is delaying whole convoy. After
escorts have topped up request she be diverted or
detached, T.O.O. 281750N. (Ends.)
(ANCHUSA 290627Z to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty. C.in C.
W.A. S.O. E.G. 38.)

GEORGES Sailed (Fr.Cr. GEORGES LEYGUES) 0100Z/29th for
LEYGUES. patrol.
(Comar, Dakar, 290926Z to R.A.W.Af. Admty.)

MANCHESTER Arrived.
CITY. (Cdre. Durban 291041B to Admty. etc.)

ARCOLA, Following passed to Admty. for information.
TAIGETE. Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE under safe
conduct approx. position 1200/29, 16° 10' N. 28°
55' W. course 081° 7.5 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 291050Z to B.A.M.S.3A.)

1098

28.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

O.S. Commodores. Your 262335. (Re Commodores arriving at Freetown in O.S. Convoys shall return to U.K. in next S.L. Convoy). Unless contrary instructions received intend both Cdre. Cramje and Cdre. Manners return in next S.L.
(F.O.C.W.A. 291133Z to Admty.)

MALOJA, MOOLTAN, FOXHOUND. H.M. MALOJA and MOOLTAN escorted by FOXHOUND sailed 1030Z/29th April S. of A. 14.5 knots E.T.A. Pointe Noire p.m. May 4th. Routed through (D) 033° 13' S. 017° 36' E. (E) 025° 00' S. 013° 05' E. (F) 017° 30' S. 010° 45' E. thence to Pointe Noire. Route to Freetown as ordered by R.A.W. Africa. Emergency position (G) 002° 00' S. 004° 40' E. has also been given if ordered to Takoradi.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 291145Z to Admty. etc.)

Capetown departures 1035Z/April 29th FOXHOUND escorting MALOJA and MOOLTAN to Pointe Noire and Freetown. Routed (E) 025° 00' S. 013° 05' E. (F) 017° 30' S. 010° 45' E. thence to Pointe Noire and as ordered by F.O.C. W.Af., S. of A. 15, E.T.A. Pointe Noire p.m. May 4th. Shifting to W/T organisation for area P. at 1400Z/May 3rd.
(C. in C. S.A. 291246B to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af. B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

U-Boat attacked. Aircraft attacked S/M on surface in 008° 45' N. 014° 35' W. at 1135Z/29th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 291216Z to S. and A. Afloat, West African Command. (R) Admty.)

Floating dock for Cape. A.M. 231744Z. Information received from owners that dock is being strengthened and repaired at Bahia and will not be ready to sail before 18th May.
(D.O.D. (F) 291250B to F.O.C. W.A. F.C.I.C. Gib.
(R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. S.A. Com. 4th Fleet.)

Convoy N.C.10. Sailing telegram. 2. 1300B/29th April. 3. Blank 4. 10 knots. 5. Coastal 6. GENISTA and CMDT. D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.
(N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay, 291301, to Admty. etc.)
Sailed GENISTA and F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting convoy N.C.10 to Capetown, E.T.A. 1900B/2nd May.
(N.L.O. Walvis Bay 291303B. to Admty. etc.)

SPINDRIFT. Your 260833. Alterations considered necessary by MANCHESTER CITY to SPINDRIFTS Mining Gear not yet carried out. SPINDRIFT will be examined Simonstown 1st May and further signal made.
(C. in C. S.A. 291408B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty.)

/Suspected...

1099

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Suspected
U-Boat
Survivors.

Your 232139. Argentine SS. NORTE arrived Buenos Aires p.m. April 23rd. No survivors on board and Captain reports normal voyage without incident.
(S.O. (I) Buenos Aires 291415Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)

CHESHIRE.

Your 271920. In view CHESHIRE arrived your area tonight request you modify her route as you may desire to co-ordinate with your patrols.
F.O.C.W.A. pass to Admty.
(Com. Fleet 4, 291522 to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements,
Bathurst.

Your 281714Z. (N.T. in W.D.) Following ships ready for Freetown:- LADY DENISON-PENDER 12 knots PINZON 6½ knots M.L.1209, 6½ knots.
(N.O.I.C. Bathurst 291524Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Comar, Dakar, Admty.)

CILICIA.

Am proceeding to Recife (? to land) serious suicidal mental case before proceeding to patrol area. My position 012° 32' S. 033° 45' W.
Request approval and information whether hospital accommodation available.
(CILICIA 291601Z to Com. 4th Fleet. (R) F.O.C. W.A.)

SEMBILAN
(sunk 17
April.)

Com.i/c. Durban's 25-1832Z April. Ref. para. 3. Lascar confirms ship was SEMBILAN torpedoed at 1130B/17th. April in estimated position 31° 30' S. 33° 30' E. (2) He was picked up by U-Boat two hours after sinking when vessel blew up and states he saw no other survivors.
(S.O.I. Cape Town 291605B to Admty. etc.)

U-Boat
attacked.

Aircraft attacked possible conning tower 008° 34' N. 014° 24' W. at 1540Z/29th.
(F.O.C.W.A. 291631Z to S. and A. Afloat, W.Af. Command. (R) Admty.)

Convoy
C.F.12.

Sailing telegram. (2) 1500/29th. (3) Nil.
(4) 15 knots. (5) All positions N. and W.
(A) 010° 48' 017° 52' (B) 018° 01' 018° 17'
(C) 025° 34' 017° 12' (D) 027° 10' 014° 21'
(E) 030° 11' 011° 39' (F) 045° 00' 021° 51'
(G) 053° 36' 016° 41' thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(6) WARSPITE S.O. DEVONSHIRE, QUILLIUM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 291757Z to Admty.)

/Convoy...

1100

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy S.T.63. Sailing telegram. (2) 1200/29th April.
 (3) 9 knots. (4) (list) and (6) (Route).
 (7) Ships for South America St. Helena and South Africa at 2000 G.M.T. 1st. May in position (C) approx. Takoradi ships at position (D) thence Takoradi direct. (8) Special signal will be made giving route and all particulars Cape and South America ships. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 291930Z to Admty.)

Following ships for South America sailed in Convoy S.T.63. They will be detached at 2000 G.M.T. 1st May in approx. position C. 03.22 07.42 W. to proceed independently GNBX ROYAL STAR Buenos Aires 15th May Chop 8th May F.2 35 N. 10.00 W. G.4 20 S. 14.50 W. H. 11.40 S. 20.00 W. (My 291938 part 2 follows (N.C.S.O. Freetown 291932Z to Admty.) W.D. Note. Part 2 not received.

Brazilian Movement. Brazilian Warship Aviso No.3 arrived Montevideo 28th. (S.O. (I) Buenos Aires 292030Z to Admty.)

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE. Sailed 29th E.T.A. Takoradi 3rd May. Fuel taken. (2) Ship requests (2225/275) tons (?water) at repair port. (3) After completion of disembarkation at Lagos ship required for Durban. If unescorted personnel within limit of A.M. 161140 may be embarked. (4) Personnel embarked see my coded 292123 to Takoradi and Lagos only. (D.S.T.O.W.A. 292126Z to S.S.T.O. Takoradi S.S.T.O. Lagos (R) D. of S.T. F.O.C. W.Af. C. in C. S.A.)

S.T.63. Departure 291120Z CORINTHIAN, THYME, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, VIRGINIA, BUTTERMERE with S.T.63. (S.O. (I) Freetown 292130Z to Admty. etc.)

1101

War Diary.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following read. P.C. and S. of 1 Destroyer
1 Medium M/V 38.20 N. 13.10 E. 270° 10 knots.
(A/C BVO/Q 290141B.)
P. C. and S. of 4 escort vessels (1 C.5 O 1 Z)
(As received), 38.22N., 12.32 E, course 020°
speed 10 knots.
(A/C 73K/Y, 291046A to A.H.Q. Malta.)

X D.19
LAFOREY,
action
with E/Boats. Encountered at least 6 E-Boats and one U-Boat in
037° 46' N. 011° 33' E. steering S.W. Destroyers
attacked. LAFOREY rammed and cut E-Boat in half.
2 others damaged by gunfire, one probably sunk.
LAFOREY's forepeak flooded. We were very
fortunate. E.T.A. Gate 1000.
(Capt. D.19, 290407 to F.O. 12 C.S., C. in C.Med.
(R) V.A. Malta, F.O.I.S.)
My P.C. and S. 037° 52' N. 009° 08' E. 250° 18? stem buckled,
forepeak and cable locker ?may be flooded.
(Capt. D.19, 290600A to WHEATLAND, (R) F.O.I.S. C. in C.
Med.)

K.M.S.13. Arrived FORT PITT and WILLOWDALE.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie, 290645A to A.I.G.259.)

ASTER Your 270901. (N.T. in W.D.) Sailed ASTER.
(Cdre, Aden, 290651Z to C. in C.E.F., (R) F.O.
Ceylon, S.N.O. P.G., Com R.I.N., Com. Durban,
C. in C.S.A., Admty.)

IERAX. Departure 28th April Greek Destroyer IERAX.
(N.O.i/c Famagusta, 290857C to Admty. etc.)

Movements, 28 April. Departures M.L.350 SNOWDRIFT.
Beirut. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 290905C to Admty.)

Movements Arrivals 28th April. ABDIEL, KANARIS.
Alexandria. Departures 28th April. DELPHINIUM, CROOME,
ROMEO, M.L.1007.
Arrived and sailed 28th April. WOLBOROUGH, BURRA.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 290914C to Admty. etc.)

SILHOUETTE Your 271245. (Originated by W.R. requesting
SNOWDRIFT. repetition of 300934 quoted in 241042.) Following
is a repetition of my 0954B/30. (Begins). Admty.
(R) A.S.L. Comla, from C. in C. Levant. Your
1303/17th Jan. to C. in C. only. Request
confirmation that transfer of SILHOUETTE and SNOWDRIFT to
Royal Norwegian Navy is to be regarded as being in accordance
with the terms of C.A.F.O. 1717/41. (Ends.)
(C. in C. Levant, 290931C to Admty. (R) Comla.) W.R. Note -
Re SILHOUETTE and SNOWDRIFT to join Group 168.

Repatriations...

1102

War Diary.29.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Repatriations. D.S.T.O. Kilindini's 270815Z/4. My 272051C/4 281320C/4. As SONTAY does not now leave Zanzibar until 30th April she will not be in time after disembarkation Suez to proceed to Berbera to embark the 526 exchangees for Suez. (2) This will mean ORANJE and AMRA will have to lift the total of 1160 from Tanga Mogadisciou and Berbera as no other shipping can be made available from Middle East. (3) SONTAY on arrival Suez from Zanzibar is to disembark and proceed to Alexandria to await third Flight about 24th May. (P.S.T.O.M.E. 290937C to Admty. for D.S.T., (R) C. in C. E.F. etc.)

DZIK,
ULTOR.

Onward routeing from position P through Q and R. thence direct for end of Malta searched channel. P.53 (ULTOR) to arrive 0830B/3rd May. P.52 (DZIK) to arrive 0830B/5th May. (Capt. (S) 10, 290947B to P.52 (DZIK) P.53 (ULTOR). (R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med. Subs on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Levant.)

Malta
M.T.B's.

(A) My 281138 para. (B) and 282024 April (3) M.T.B's 82, 62 and 65 sailed Malta 2130/29th through position A 15 miles north of Linosa to Sousse E.T.A. 0730/30th. S. of A. 20 knots. Code word "Merit" fighter ?protection S priority. Wireless guard 115 K/cs. (B) Request you will route M.L. return to Malta clear of M.T.B. (C) Submarines are to be attacked as in my 271247 para. (C) Submarines are not to be attacked north of this line. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 291102 to N.O.I.C. Sousse (R) A.I.G. 67 negative Sfax Tripoli, H.Q. R.A.F. W.D.N.W.A.T.A.F., H.Q.N.W.A.C.A.F. F O.I.S.) My 291102 para (A) postponed 24 hours due engine defects. (V.A. Malta, 291717B)

REGENT.

Following is a repetition my 29 (?10)17 (N/T of previous receipt) (Begins) - A.I.G. 76 N.O.I.C. Tripoli C.C.F. Eastern Med. A.I.G. 79 (R) REGENT. REGENT proceeding on surface at 11½ knots during daylight 30th April approaches 055° 06' 030° 30' at 1730C/30th April on mean course 104° routed to pass through 031° 48' 032° 34' to arrive Port Said searched channel at 0600C/1st May (Ends) (Capt. (S) 1, 291121C to REGENT)

Air
Sections,
Tafaroui.

R.N.E. Air Section Tafaroui will be brought into use on Monday May 3rd with Lieut. J.R.S. Thompson, R.N. as O.i/c. (2) R.N.A. Section Tafaroui will be a tender to CORMORANT and to CORMORANT II on commissioning. My 141200 refers. (C. in C. Med. 291127A to Admty)

Destroyer/ ...

1103

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)Destroyer
Sweep
S/M's.

2 destroyers from Malta are sweeping tonight in Marittimo area routed along south coast Sicily and returning along P.Q.R. - Malta route. Sanctuary rules will be observed throughout but S/Ms should dive in good time if H.S. (? activity) is heard.
(Capt. (S) 10, 291132 to P.49 (UNRULY), P.42 (UNBROKEN) RORQUAL, (R) Capt. (S) 8, S/Ms on patrol, C. in C. Med.)

M.L's.

Arrival M/L's 462, 134, 135, 168.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 291150A to Admty)

TACTICIAN.

Try and be in position 115°, focal point G 27 miles at 0630A/30th Freedom 045° 22 miles sector A. Withdraw as necessary after 1000A/30.
(Capt. (S) 8, 291200A to P.314 (TACTICIAN))

UNSHAKEN.
DOLFIJN.

P.54 (UNSHAKEN) P.47 (DOLFIJN) try and be in position 117° 30 miles by 1100A/30th and 170° 15 miles by 1400A/30th respectively both from focal point F. Freedom 316° 22 miles sector 1. P.54, P.47 resume patrol as previously ordered after 1500 and 1900/30th respectively.
(Capt. (S) 8, 291244A to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) P.47 (DOLFIJN, (R) Capt. (S) 10).

A.A.F.
Report.

To: Eaker, Eighth Air Force. To: Brereton, Ninth Air Force. From: Spaatz, N.A.A.F. advanced.
(1) 28th April, Day: 18 B.25s escorted by 19 P.38s attacked convoy. The B.25s dropped 94 x 500 pound bombs, .1 and .025, directly hitting the vessel. It was left stationary and in flames. (2) 4 P.38s carrying bombs attacked from deck (0), dropping 500 pound bombs, 3 delayed fuses scoring two direct hits another vessel. The formations were attacked by enemy aircraft, 7 of which were destroyed and 1 damaged. (3) 26 P.38s on uneventful shipping sweep ran into a heavy overcast over sea. 1 P.38 is missing.
(Allied Air Force 291255A to Etousa)

E.T.19A.

Intend sailing 51 OCEAN CAMERON ballast 10, Algiers for onward routeing.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 291304A to F.O.I.S. etc.)
My 291304. Add, Trawler STROMA will be local escort and additional escort to Algiers.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 291428 to F.O.I.S. etc.)

Operation.

Capt. (S) 8's 290942 (N.T. in W.R.), comply. Order for attacking submarines as in my 291102. (V.A. Malta 291327 to (Corrupt Group) (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S., S.N.O. Sqdn. Eastern Med. C.C.F.)

1104

War Diary.29.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- 7th
M.T.B.F. Sail in accordance with C. in C. Med. 290942A, leave Sousse at 1730A, codeword "Magog" B.C.N. (N.O.I.C.Sousse, 291531A to S.O. M.T.B. Flot 7. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Sqn. E. Med. V.A. Malta, N.L.O.8th Army Tripoli, N.L.O.211 Group)
(5 corrupt groups) M.T.B's from Sousse sweeping to Sidi Daud. (V.A.Malta, 291531 to A.I.G.67, H.Q.N.W.Af.Coastal A.F. S.O.I.S., H.Q.R.A.F., W.D., N.W.A.T.A.F., C.C.F.)
- Convoy
O.T.4. O.T.4 arrives Point W 300930Z, arrives Gibraltar 010030Z. Escort vessels will require fuel at Gibraltar. SS. CORNELL Comdre. of convoy has no charts for Straits of Gibraltar or onward. Request local escort furnished at W. (U.S. Destroyer ROPER, 291525Z to S.N.O. Casablanca, F.O.I.C.Gib., (?C.M.S.F.) C. in C. Med. Admty)
- E.T.19. Algiers section arrived. Ships sailed as in my 261006 plus (?VICTOR), FARRAGUT Gibraltar for U.S.A. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 291559A to F.O.'s I.C. etc.)
- x Trans - Examination of proposal to open a trans-North
North Africa Africa route for personnel proceeding to Middle
Personnel East from U.K. has shown undesirability of
Route. using all land route from Algiers to Nile Delta because of (a) difficulties of operating it, and (b) probable results of two weeks journey overland in summer heat on physical condition of unseasoned troops. (2) We have therefore to consider whether we could develop sea route from either (a) Sousse, Sfax, and/or Gabes, or (b) preferably Tripoli to Alexandria. (3) Request report of- (a) limiting factors on troopships which might be allocated for this purpose. (b) How many would be required to maintain a flow of 20,000 troops per month. They would be moved from Algiers to Gabes etc. at a rate not exceeding 1,000 per day. (4) Request you will discuss question of convoy intervals etc. with C. in C. Levant. Above positions has been discussed with Gen.Lindsell here who agrees this as a basis for consideration (5) Emphasised that all this is purely exploratory. (D.S.T. 291644B to P.S.T.O.M.E. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)
Reply: C. in C. Levant 051753C May.
- K.M.S.13. K.M.S.13 arrived (List)
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 291658, 291817A to A.I.G. 259)
K.M.S.13 arrived less BOLLSTA and EMPIRE HEYWOOD.
(F.O.I.S.291801 to A.I.G.259)

Enemy / ...

War Diary.29.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

- X Enemy A/S Tactics. It is thought possible that enemy A/S measures may include following form of counter attack. On assumption that S/M will turn stern on to H.E. heaviest impluses, 2 or more vessels carrying out an orthodox hunt, whilst a third vessel is placed in a striking position. As S/M draws clear from hunting vessels she will be approaching the striking vessel who moves to strike only at appropriate moment.
(Capt. (S) 10, 291707B to S/Ms on Patrol (R) F.O.S. Capt (S) 1, Capt. S.(8) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
- Malta Destroyers. Sailed NUBIAN, PALADIN.
(V.A. Malta 291709 to Admty, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)
- M.L's. Departure M.L.462, 134, 135, 168 for Malta.
(N.C.I.C.Sousse, 291740A to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. Fleet, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C.Malta)
- Movements, Port Said. Port Said Arrivals: 29th April WOLBOROUGH, M.L.1007
Departures: SOUTHERN ISLE, M.L.1007, WOLBOROUGH.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said, 291833C to Admty etc.)
- X AQUILEIA (Italian) alleged bombing. Intercept 1635 G.M.T.500 K/cs bearing 132° approx. Gonio A (Begins)
C.Q. DE IBEO (AQUILEIA). All to American aircraft, be careful, you are dropping bombs on an Italian Hospital ship. (Ends)
(Niton Radio, 291835B to Admiral Portsmouth. R.A.F. No.11 Group Uxbridge.)
- Situation report No.86. Para 1. On 26 April four mines type Q were swept in position 37.02 N. 07.52 E.
Para. 2. SS.MEROPE was mined or torpedoed at 1345/27 off Cape Bengut.
Para.3. During night 27/28 April destroyers of Force K operated South of Marittimo, M.T.B's from Sousse carried out sweep along the East coast of the Cape Bon Peninsula and American M.T.B's from Bone were North West of the Gulf of Tunis.
(C. in C. Med. 291900 to Admty)
- > Malta Air Report. A.I.561 29th April. (A) Part 1. Offensive. Night 28/29th April. 2 special equipment Wellingtons 2 Wellingtons with torpedoes and 2 Wellingtons with bombs despatched on armed search for convoy of 1 M/V and 1 D/R reported southbound from Naples by aircraft of N.W.A.A.F. encountered A.S.V. jamming and low cloud and did not locate target. On return journey 1 Wellington bombed Empedocle Harbour. To cover this shipping strike Mosquitoes made Intruder patrols in Sicilian Narrows and between Pantellaria and Marittimo.

1106

War Diary.29.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report (Contd.) All offensive operations were hampered by low cloud and poor visibility. Day 29th April. 4 Spitfires made offensive sweep between Cape Passero and Catania (addition, see 301615Z) Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 28/29th April. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols south west of Sicily, 4 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. (A.H.Q.Malta, 291919Z)

BEAUFORT. My P.C. and S. at (716)15 C will be Q.G. B.A. 43.26, 208° (713) knots. Intend altering course as follows: to 270° - 20 45, 180° - 22 15, 090° - 22 45, 180° - 00 45, 270° - 01 15, 180° - 02 45, 09° - 03 15. (BEAUFORT, 291925C to 235 Wing (R) A.I.G.72 (SPARE for C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Arrived H.M.Trawlers MULL and RONALDSHAY. Philippeville. (N.O.I.C.Philippeville, 292001A to Admty etc.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, BRIXHAM, STORNOWAY, KING SOL, FOXTROT, L.S.T's 303, 409 304, M.L's 338, 458, 564 CARLISLE. Departures ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, BRIXHAM, STORNOWAY, KING SOL, FOXTROT L.S.T's 303, 403 CONVULVULUS. (Cdre. Algiers, 292007A to Admty etc.)

Algiers arrivals SPORTSMAN (P.229) French S/M MARSOUIN. Departures SAFARI (P.211) (Cdre. Algiers, 292009A to Admty etc.)

UNSHAKEN, Destroyer Sunk. My position 038° 38' N. 012° 36' E. one torpedo remaining. Conforming to your 291244A passing through position 180° Ustica 5 at 0100A/30th.

* (on 28/4, see of 1912 A May page 207)
One destroyer sunk.*
(P.54(UNSHAKEN), 292130A to Capt. (S) 8, (R) Capt. (S) 10, S/MS on Patrol)

Algiers Air Report. To: C.G. 8th Air Force, C.G. 9th Air Force. From: Spaatz, H.Q. N.A.A.F. ADV, NR A 1734. (3) 24 Spitfires bombed 4 small ships at D.6097, results unobserved. (16) Kittyhawks attacked 2 motor vessels with 500 pound delayed action bombs. Both were hit, 1 was seen to blow up this action. (W.D. Note: Off Cape Bon, see 27/4) (17) A Hudson on a 'U' boat search crashed off Cape Tenez, killing crew, probably due to weather. (Allied A.F. Algiers No. T.O.O. Recd. Etousa, 1236/30th)

1107

War Diary.29.4.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure AMRITSAR escorting I.W.T. KAPURTHALA.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 290101Z to Admty)
Departure 0130Z BOMBAY with B.P.78.
0420Z, CESSNOCK escorting TOSIDE (As received)
to 020° N. (?059°) E. S. of A. 11½ knots thence independently
to Aden S. of A. 10½ knots.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 290533Z to Admty etc.)
Left 0515Z EMPIRE SAM. E.T.A. Colombo 12th May.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles, 290710 to C. in C. E.F.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) 0130Z/29th April.
B.P.78. (3) E.T.A. position (S) Karachi R/V 0500Z/1st
May. (A) Expected time of crossing 062° 1100Z
(?3rd) May. (B) E.T.A. west of Quoin Is.
0400Z/4th May. (4) 10 knots to position (S)
thence 8½ knots. (5) (Route) (6) BOMBAY.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 290141Z, 290143Z to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F. etc)

X U/B. D/F bearing of Japanese submarine have been
obtained to S.S.E. of N. Mauritius, Catalinas
are being sent from Mauritius to search.
(C. in C. E.F. 290645 to Admty)

BUSHWOOD. Sailing BUSHWOOD from Abadan 3rd May independ-
ently for Colombo via Bombay for coal, your
261401.
(S.N.O.P.G., 290711Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.
Ceylon, Comrin, DURBAN, N.O.I.C. Shatt-el-Arab,
Admty.)

O.21. Colombo arrival 29th April.
0915Z Dutch S/M O.21.
(F.O. Ceylon, 291109Z to Admty etc.)

X O.21 D.S. O.21 patrol 11th to 29th April. 18th
R. of P. April carried out operation "Strive". 0540 F.G.
22nd April attacked northbound 7500 tons mer-
chant ship escorted by 1 torpedo boat in approx.
005° 26' N. 099° 48' E. 2 torpedo hits, ship
sunk. Hunt of escort ineffective. 1149 FG attacked 1900
tons ship like KITORU, telescope torpedoes missed target
turned up track dropping depth charges.
24th April vicinity Sabang sighted 2 small coasters and several
A/C working from Sabang airfield. Vessel was seen to be
working on boom in entrance to Sabang Bay.
27th April 1039 FG in 005° 50' N. 088° 16' E. sighted 1 twin-
engined low wing monoplane believed Mitsubishi 96 (?course N.)
(Capt. S.4, 291132Z to F.O. Ceylon, C. in C. E.F. (R) B.S.O.
F.L.O. Delhi)
W.R. Note: Passed to Admiralty for information.

ALBATROSS. Departure.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 291332Z to Admty. etc.)

1108

29.4.1945.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. (Contd.)EMPIRE Arrival 29th.
TROOPER. (N.C.S.O. Basra, 291403Z to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

x Kilindini Information received from A.H.Q.E.A. that
R.D.F. the "A.M.E.S." stations covering Kilindini
Cover. area are to be reduced to a Care and Maintenance
basis with effect from May 5th. (2) Ship-
borne R.D.F. Kilindini Harbour cannot give (?)
adequate cover. (3) Even with present
anticipated scale of attack on East African coast, consider this
is unacceptable. (4) Request Air Min. be approached with
a view to retention of at least one "TRU" one "COL" and
skeleton fitter organisation.
(C. in C. E.F. 291419Z to Admty (R) Air Min. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E.
A.H.Q.E.A.)
Admty support (D.L.D.021511B)
Air Ministry reply (061000Z)

x Diego Further to my 200955, copies of a letter dated
Suarez, 14th April addressed N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez from
French Commandant De Marine Madagascar and former's
Dockyard reply thereto No.1073/74 of 20th April are being
personnel forwarded by quickest route. (2) Letter
and refits. includes specific requests both for appointment
of Civilian Dockyard Contractor M. Jacq,
another Civilian M. Tereau and a Constructor
M. Drappier as French Commissioned Naval
Officers, latter to act as representative of Commandant De
Marine in Dockyard. (3) Letter includes further proposals for
militarization of French Dockyard Civilian personnel and
certain requests regarding docking and work on French ships
at Diego Suarez. (4) Proposals concerning personnel are
neither necessary nor desirable for efficient operation of
Dockyard and Port, and Commandant De Marine has been informed
by N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez that they are being referred to
higher authority and cannot be acceded to in meantime.
(5) Also apparent that Commandant De Marine Galleret is trying
to retain French Vessels at Diego Suarez as long as possible
to use them as a lever for regaining control.. (6) Vessels can
not be properly refitted at Diego Suarez and I would urge
that arrangements are made with F.N.F.L. for ships to be
given quick docking when ready and then removed to a Union
Port for refit.
(Deputy C. in C. E.F. 291521Z to Admty (R) N.O.I.C. Diego
Suarez) *Concur in para 6. (Attky. 20 1501 B. June)*

CHITRAL. E.T.A. 0030Z 1st May. Weather Report.
(CHITRAL 291600Z to Cmdre. R.I.N.)

W.S.29. Following appears to be position regarding
onward passage of W.S.29 from South Africa:-
(a) Essential that Middle East Portion should
arrive Suez not later than 9/6. (b) Middle
East Portion will probably comprise - AORANGI plus M.T. ships
- EMPIRE KAMAL, CLAN LAMONT, PARDO, SILVER WALNUT and
EMPIRE MIGHT. (c) India portion will comprise ATHLONE CASTLE

ALMANZORA / ...

1109

29.11.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

W.S.29.
(Contd.)

ALMANZORA plus STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE joining in South Africa and M.T. ships - CITY OF EDINBURGH and STRAAT MALAKKA - last named is for Persian Gulf. (2) It is not clear - (a) Whether you will join BERGENSFJORD, LEOPOLDVILLE, ORBITA, RUYS and SIBAJAK for India to W.S. 29 (India Portion) (b) Whether you intend to run separately a convoy C.M.42 comprising EMPIRE WOODLARK and any other Group B ships which may be available either for Kilindini or Middle East. P.S.T.O.Capetown's 181057B para.2 not to F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C. Levant or D.N.C.X.F. refers. (3) Would appreciate report of your intentions.
(D. of S.T. 291716B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O.R.S.C.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.W.T.O.Capetown. D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O.India. P.S.T.O.Middle East, C. in C. Levant, D.N.C.X.F)
Reply:C. in C. S.A.011145B.

KEDAH
Refit.

(1) Your 1201/3rd Feb. Approved for KEDAH to be employed to reinforce escort vessels working from Kilindini, provided satisfactory arrangements can be made for her refit on station
(2) Request you consult D.G.S.R. India and report when refit can be undertaken, approx. time required, and whether any materials would require to be obtained from other than local sources. (3) F.O. Ceylon's 101206Z/April (which is being passed to you and D.G.S.R. in my 291859B) 260515 February and 041011 December 1942 refers.
(Admty. 291841B to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, D.G.S.R. Bombay)

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War Diary.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

- x L.S.Ts. New York departed 28th L.S.T. 322, 425, 410, 417, 419, 420, 422, 427, 430 and 423 to Bermuda. (N.S.H.Q. 290015Z to Admty.)
- Situation. My 281620Z Section East add U.S.S. MOHAWK, TRAVIS, ARVEK S.C. (?257) S.C. 688, S.C. 689 departed Argentia 1900Z/28th en route St. Johns N.F. 8 kts. (C. in C.C.N.A. 290025Z to Admty.)
- 3rd E.G.
O.N.S.5. Request you will sail 3rd Escort Group forthwith at 15 knots to meet O.N.S.5 P.C. and S. at 2120Z/28 061° 37' N. 032° 47' W. 245° 6. Cancel my 281547Z. (C. in C.W.A. 290026Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Escorts O.N.S.5 ORIBI, Connav, C.T.F. 24, Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. C.T.G.24.7 A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C.)
- Your 290026Z. 3rd Escort Group sailed at 1330Z April 29 routed through 47° N. 47° W. thence 57° 12' N. 44° 41' W. at 15 knots to support of O.N.S.5. (C.C.N.F. 291338Z to C. in C.W.A. E.G.3 Ships escorting O.N.S.5. ORIBI.)
- U.G.S.8. Admty. pass to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. for information. This completes my despatch 272114 (sailing telegram) U.G.S.8, part 1 (7) 74 ships. (Port Director New York 290116Z to Cominch C. and R. (R) C.E.S.F. Cdr. Northwest African S.F. Admty. N.S.H.Q. N.O.B.Bermuda.)
- U.S. S/M
Notice.
S/M estimate
April 29th. (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 290142Z, 291446Z, 291447Z, 291551Z, 291552Z, 291553Z.)
- BROCKVILLE
defect. Cylinder liner port engine damaged required renewal. Proceeding on one engine only. E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal with X.B.47A 0900Z/29th. Request immediate instructions. (BROCKVILLE 290143Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. Com. 3rd U.S.W.D. New York.)
- BUCTOUCHE. E.T.A. 1200Z/29 with VAN DE VELDE. (BUCTOUCHE 290215Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A.)

/LANDGUARD...

1111

War Diary.

29.4.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

LANDGUARD. This is recoded version LANDGUARD 282045Z.
(begins) Defects made good. Left Argentia
2045Z/28. Expect to R/V with convoy at 1830Z/29
in 46 N. 47.35 W. speed 15 knots.
(C.T. 24 290229 to E.G.40 (R) C. in C.W.A.)
Note by W.R. Passed to Admty. for info. by
C. in C.W.A.

F.H.51. F.H.51 E.T.A. Halifax 1500Z/29 6 ships. UNGAVA
and 2 ships separated in fog.
(KENTVILLE 290230Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)
Arrived F.H.51.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 291930Z to Admty.)

Movements. Departures from St. Johns N.F. April 28.
LANCER, BUSTLER to H.X. 236. LULWORTH, HASTINGS,
POPPY, MOYOLA, STARWORT, NORTHERN GIFT to
S.C.128. CHELSEA, MILLTOWN, SUDBURY, SHAWINIGAN
to O.N. 179. ST. FRANCIS, DUNDAS, FREDERICTON,
MINAS to L.O.S.4.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 290313Z, 291129Z to Admty.)
Arrived and left 29th April U.S. transports SAMSON and FRANKLIN
LEISENRING, St. Thomas 30th.
(Dominica 291155Q to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. This is Connav's 282112 to Comnaveu for action,
serial 28. LIMERICK torpedoed sunk April 26th
position 28.51 S. 153.54 E. KOWARRA torpedoed
sunk April 24th position 24.26 S. 153.44 E.
(Comnaveu 290708 to Admty.)

BROADWAY, CHELSEA. My P.C. and S. 0800 048° 50' 047° 01' 180° 8.5. kts.
Transmit your call sign every 2 hours commencing
1200 on 4400 k/cs.
(BROADWAY 290818Z to CHELSEA.)

G.U.S.6A G.U.S.6A 0800Z/29th P.C. and S. 35.39 N. 30.19 W.
284 9.5. Weather report.
(C.T.F. 69 290941Z to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R.)

Movements Summary	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T.	F.S. GLOIRE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	-
29th.	F.S. GEORGES) LEYGUES)	12° N. 24° W.	260°	20
	(D.O.D.(F) 291035B to Opnav (R) Comnaveu.)			

/BITER...

1112

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- BITER,
OPPORTUNE,
OBDURATE. E.T.A. Argentina 2300Z/29th April, OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE in company. Requirements on arrival. (BITER 291101Z to Capt. D. Argentina, (R) F.O.N.F.)
- DUANE,
SPENCER This is Comnavu's 291028. C.T.G. 24.7 has for action. Information to SPENCER, DUANE, Cominch, Cinclant, Admty. C. in C.W.A. Route of U.S.S. DUANE and U.S.S. SPENCER. Ref. my 261412. All positions north and west. (Route). Boston destination may 7th E.T.A. 16 kts. will be S.O.A. (Comnavu 291107 to Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S. Trinidad departures April 29th, B.Y.M.S. 19,13,28. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 291132Q to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.I. Jamaica.)
- X O.N.S.5. U/B attack MCKEESPORT sunk. O.N.S.5 attacked in 061° 22' N. 035° 09' W. at 0735Z by U-Boat who attacked submerged from between number 63 and 84 course of torpedo 180° convoy course 240°. No. 42 trail MCKEESPORT hit and subsequently sunk. All after crew in NORTHERN GEM. No contact with S/M. Weather report. (S.O.B.7 291152Z to A.I.G. 303 (R) A.C.I.C. S.O. Escort Group GOYL, Escort Group 4, ORIBI, Escort of O.N.S.5.)
- Movements
Halifax. Arrivals HAMILTON, THE PAS, BLAIRMORE, KAMSACK ex O.N.S.3. (C.Halifax 291219Z to Admty. etc.) Departures COWICHAN, NIPIGON escorting H.J.49. (C.Halifax 291621Z to Admty. etc.) Arrivals ST. ALBANS, REGINA, KAMLOOPS, TRANSCONA ex O.N. 178. (C.Halifax 292207 to Admty. etc.)
- LAKE ORMOC. Balboa 30th April 15 hours. U.S.A.T. LAKE ORMOC Brisbane 15th June (Route). (U.S.R.O. Cristobal 291338 to Admty.)
- KALMIA. Your 151241. Swedish KALMIA is following normal Gothenburg Traffic route into Caribbean viz route D. in Admiralty message 1820/16 July, 1942. (Head of M.I. 291406B to N.S.H.Q.)
- ST. ALBANS. Admty. 271605 March not to Cominch. ST. ALBANS date of joining Western Local Escort Force, 29th April. (C. in C.C.N.A. 291501Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) C.T.F. 24 F.O.N.F. C. in C.W.A. Cominch, Admty. C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Convoy...

1113

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy E.T.A. Halifax 301000Z. Escorting B.X.47, 17
B.X.47. ships. Boiler hours for MIDLAND, GANANOQUE,
NEW WESTMINSTER, SASKATOON. NEW WESTMINSTER
being detached to Sydney (C.13) in accordance
with C. in C.N.A.'s 271307 P. (N.T. in W.R.)
(W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.3 291600Z to C. in C.N.A.
Connav, (R) C.T.F. 24. Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Section East.

O.N.S.4. Mid Ocean E.T.U. 24.1.16, 47.47 46.56 218°
7 altering to 180° in 47.40 N. and 226° in 47.00 N.
T.U. 24.18.11 vicinity of O.N.S.4 to junction of
O.N. 179.
Mid Ocean E.T.U. 24.1.12 (E) 47.08 47.01 180° 8.5. altering to
242° in 47.01 N. and 215° in 50.10 W.
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 vicinity O.N. 179 to junction S.C.128.
40 Escort Group 46.08 47.29 063° 7.5 altering to 000° in 46.31 W.
W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.4 vicinity 46.50 50.30 en route St. Johns N.F.12.
H.X. 236 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.2 44.15 48.54 083° 10 altering to 090°
in 46.02 W.
M.O.T.U. 24.1.15 vicinity H.X. 236 to junction
1st Escort Group St. Johns N.F. Approaches inbound.
J.H. 51, 46.51 52.44 191° 7.5 altering to 234° in 46.37 N. 270°
in 53.05 (?W). and 286° in 53.(?58) (?W).
H.M. (?S) P.554 surface escorted by WASAGA depart St. Johns N.F.
2000Z to position 47.30 52.33 thence 191° 10 altering to 234°
in 46.37 N. 270° in 53.(?05) W. 289° in 53.38 W. thence Argentia.
B.W. 22 STIFFORD 46.02 58.48 109° 7.5 altering to 095° in 57.45 W.
3rd Escort Group 47.20 50.03 39 (corrupt group) 15 altering to
050° in 47.00 W. to O.N.S.5.
IZARRA 46.10 55.15 255° 6.
(C. in C.N.W.A. 291625Z to Admty.)

* U/Bs. working in pairs. C.Mid Ocean Escort Task Unit 24.1.18 271403Z/April
1943, (reports indicating U-Boats worked in pairs).
This theory is supported by personal experience of
Capt. D. Newfoundland when with O.N.168. Reports
of proceedings of HAVELOCK and VOLUNTEER loaned.
(C.C.N.F. 291638Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C.M.O.E.T.U.
24.1.18 C.T.24, Cdre. Londonderry, C. in C.U.S.
Fleet, A.C.I.C. Admty. C.T.G. 24.7 H.Q.C.C. N.S.H.Q.
C. in C.C.N.A.)

GEORGE E. BADGER. When ready about 2130Z/29 GEORGE E. BADGER proceed
Argentia to Londonderry (Route).
S.O.A. 15. E.T.A. 1000Z/5 May. Keep clear of O.N.
179 estimated P.C. and S. 2000Z/30 46.01 49.44 242°
8.5, and O.N.S.4 estimated P.C. and S. 1200Z/30
47.10 47.36 217° 5. Guard Halifax L until reaching
35° W. and Whitehall B.N. thereafter.
(C.T. 24 291647Z to GEORGE E. BADGER (R) C.T.U.
Cinclant, Cominch, C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. C. in
C.C.N.W.A. C.T.G. 92.3.)
(Comnav 300722 to Admty.)

/NENE...

1114

29.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.NENE,
TWEED,
R.C.N. Support
Groups.D.O.D.(H) 291653B to C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.
See Home Commands.X Information
to Russia.Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 594.
Ref. C.O.S.(W) 488 para. 7.

1. In view of fact that departure of Tizard Mission has been postponed owing to ill-health until end of May, we are anxious to proceed with disclosure of G.L.Mark III at once, through channel of No. 30 Military Mission.

2. We therefore propose to authorise our Mission to give this information to Russians unless we hear from you by end of this week that Americans have any strong objections.

3. Recent telegrams from Moscow reveal that Russians are displaying considerably more willingness to disclose information to us.

(Britman Washington 291720Z to Air Min.)

DEXTEROUS,
SAPPERDEXTEROUS and SAPPER being detached to St. Johns N.F. at 1800Z/29th in 047° 23' 046° 46' speed about 9 knots.
(C.2 291740Z to F.O.C.N.F.)

U/B Nevis.

St. Kitts report with maximum grading A. 1 S/M sighted off S.E.coast of Nevis at 1230 local time today Thursday. Course not reported.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, Jamaica 291805Q to Connav, Com. Caribbean Sea, Admty. N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)MONGABARRA,
AKKA, safe
conduct
to PiraeusSafe conduct vessels MONGABARRA and AKKA will sail from St. John N.B. for Piraeus at 1200 hours May 4th
2. Route (a) from St. John N.B. to Gibraltar reverse of route in A.M. 122129/March (b) from Gibraltar to Piraeus standard route for Greek relief ships.
3. Vessels should not be molested while following above routes. Air authorities concerned should be informed.
(Head of M(I) 291831B as amended 012008 May to N.S.H.Q. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. C. in C.N.A. Connav, C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, V.A. Malta, F.O.C. Gibraltar, F.O.S.)

VAN DE VELDE

S.C. 128 VAN DE VELDE. (Dut.) arrived, collision damage.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 291831Z to Admty.)

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

1115

29.4.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 813, 819 and 828 departed Port of Spain 291500 route (?west) via Serpents Mouth to Belem E.T.A. off Salinas Point 051500Z May knots 10. Communications. (U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad 291846 to Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. etc.)
- H.F.51. Sailing telegram part 1. 2. Halifax 1900/29. 3. E.T.A. St. John N.B. 1100/1 May. 4. 7.5 knots. 5. Route. 6. SWIFT CURRENT, PORT HOPE, FORT WILLIAM, UNGAVA. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 291845Z to Admty.)
- ✓ Bahamas Forces, Command C.O.S.(W) 595. 29th April 1943. Ref. C.O.S.(W) 591 (261526). Following Colonial Office telegram No. 103 dated 28th April has been sent to Bahamas. "My telegram No. 99. Command of Forces, last para. Have now been informed that instructions are being issued to O.C. Canadian Forces in Bahamas to place himself under Senior R.A.F. Officer in Colony as soon as latter is authorised to take command of forces there". (Air Min. 292030Z to Britman, Washington.)
- O.N.S.4. O.N.S.4. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 relieved at 2030Z in 047° 34' N. 046° 56' W. AGHIOS SPYRIDON proceeding St. Johns N.F. escorted by LADY MADELEINE, VIZALMA. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16 292039Z to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)
- ✓ N.Atlantic Convoys, Cycles & Speed. Cominch's 282048Z and B.A.D.'s 281615Z. Concur with Spark's estimation for May but this is covered by Admiralty proposals which allow for 5 H.X. and 4 S.C. convoys in the month, excluding H.X. 237 which catered for April presenters. 2. Our estimate of ratio of H.X. and S.C. ships for June and onwards was based on understanding that British new construction and all U.S. assistance on N.A. route would be by ships of H.X. speed. 3. To accept Cominch's proposal to raise H.X. speed to 10½ knots would cause a very large block of tonnage (including a proportion of new tonnage) to be relegated to S.C. convoys. It would mean also that very few ships except those relegated to S.C. convoys could stream their Net Defence. 4. We would therefore prefer to adopt proposals outlined in A.M. 280046B with particular reference to para. 5 viz., normally to run H.X. convoys at 10 knots but with New York Port Director or other authority as agreed between Cominch and C. in C.C.N.A. having discretion to vary the speed by half a knot if necessary.

1116

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.N.Atlantic
Convoys,
Cycles &
Speed.
(Contd.)

5. It is considered that Spark's Intelligence Centre should be organised to enable necessary information to be available to Port Director in good time to enable him to determine whether a reduction in speed of a particular convoy was desirable.

6. Changing conditions may necessitate a further review of Convoy programme at a later date. M. of

W.T. have now reported indications of a possible transfer of North Atlantic shipping to River Plate during summer months.

7. Meantime it is a matter of urgency that sailing dates for next six weeks should be promulgated so that loading dates may be definitely fixed.

(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S.(T) 292040Z to Cominch B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)
Concur (B.A.D. 301947) (Cominch 302121).

x Atlantic
Convoys,
Canadian
Control.

C. in C.Canadian N.W.At. will assume operational control of H.X., S.C., O.N., O.N.S. convoys West of "Chop" except in Eastern Sea Frontier at 1200Z/30th April, 1943.

(N.S.H.Q. 292052Z to All Home Ships and Establishments (not Renur Divs.) Admty. (U.S.) C. in C.U.S. Fleet, Cinclant, C. in C.W.A. C.T.F. 24, Air Force H.Q., A.O.C. in C.A.C.)

BULK OIL
breakaway
from F.T.7

N.C.S.O. Freetown 231707. Admty. 271639B. Master A.M. Axel, states he interpreted one red and one green star observed by 3rd Officer on watch as signal to disperse convoy as prescribed in Mersignals. Records escort merely flashed series of Ables and made no effort to detain him.

Next morning Master judged proceeding onwards at 16 knots was more prudent than attempting to rejoin the convoy.

(N.O.B. Trinidad 292105 to Connav, (R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Unit C.2.

E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1400Z/30th, subject to ice conditions. 2. Boiler hours for BROADWAY, LAGAN, PRIMROSE, MORDEN, DRUMHELLER, AMHERST, ALGOMA, CALGARY. 3. Major defects.
(C.2 292115Z to F.O.N.F.)

Sub. attack
& sighting
summary.

Action to Admiralty for O.I.C. All times Z. para. A Surface craft sights Sub. 61.35 N. 32.45 W. 282100. Para. D. Sub. sighted Area 16.49 N. 62.16 W. 230200. Coast Watcher sights Sub. 49.06 N. 53.40 W. 231900. Surface Craft attacks Sound Contact Area 31.08 N. 81.15 W. 271457.

(Cominch 292254Z to Admty.)

L.S.Ts.
U.G.8.

L.S.Ts. sailing in convoy U.G.8 carry call signs from S.P. 02182 (4) only.
(B.A.D. 292309Z to Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar.)

1117

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Japanese Kiwi No. 25. Patrol A/C attacked twice by twin
 Air Patrols engined Jap. also two sightings similar twin Jap.
 A/C area 06° 40' 209.20 169.29 to 173.34 all
 South and East 28. Sightings this area have
 occurred regularly last three months indicate
 Jap. R/C A/C base on Tarawa and Nagru Islands which commenced
 operations late January. Possible SS sighted 17° 45' S. 179.08
 East 28.
 (C.W.R. Wellington 290050Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B.
 G.H. New Delhi.)

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 28th U.S. GOLD STAR.
 (A.C.N.B. 290648Z to Admty.)
 Arrival Fremantle 28th U.S. Seaplane Tender
 WILLIAM B. PRESTON, Sydney 28th F.S. CHEVREUIL,
 Milne Bay 28th BUNBURY, VENDETTA. Departures Milne Bay 27th
 BOWEN for Oro Bay, GYMPIE for Townsville, 28th VENDETTA for
 Townsville. Thursday Island 26th WARREGO for Townsville.
 (A.C.N.B. 290802Z to Admty. etc.)
 Departure Noumea 2000Z/28 U.S.S. DELPHINUS for Auckland
 E.T.A. 0600Z/5th May.
 Departure Penrhyn Island 0930Z/28 U.S.S. CYGNUS for Bora Bora
 E.T.A. 1700Z/30th.
 (D.N.I. Wellington 291030Z to Admty.)
 U.S.A.T. BONTEKOE departed Fall River 28th April due
 Townsville 1st May.
 U.S.A.T. SWARTENHONDT arrived Port Moresby 28th departed 29th
 due Townsville 2nd.
 H.T. TAROONA arrived Fall River 28th departed 29th due
 Townsville 1st May.
 R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Townsville 28th due Port Moresby 1st.
 H.T. DUNTROON departed Townsville 28th due Brisbane 30th.
 R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK arrived and departed Gladstone 28th due
 Brisbane 30th.
 (C.S.W.P.S.F. 291328Z to Admty. etc.)

✓ Digest Liberty ship LYDIA M. CHILD sank 20 minutes after
 Serial No. attack. Refer Digest 463 para. 9. Ships complement
 464 April all rescued.
 28th. 2. Photos show 1 of vessels attacked 50 miles N.W.
 Dojo ?Dobo 27th ref. Digest 463 para. 11 to be
 1,000 tons Merchantman. 4 B.25s attacked
 probably same 2 vessels forenoon 28th, 90 miles
 N.W. Dojo (?Dobo) course 320° speed 4.5 knots. 500 pound delay
 action bombs dropped from mast height scoring direct hit and
 near miss under stern of larger ship reported as 2000 tons,
 also 2 near misses alongside smaller ship. Both vessels strafed
 and left motionless with smaller on fire. One B.25 lost to
 Bofors fire.
 6. Jap. submarine off Cape Orford afternoon course South.
 7. Liberator sighted at Wewak before midday 2 vessels 1,000 tons
 each, whereof 1 stationary in harbour other departing to N.W.
 At noon saw single tanker 2500 tons 50 miles N.E. of Wewak course
 310°
 (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 290740Z.)

/RECINA...

1118

War Diary.29.4.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

RECINA, My 120816Z. 1.A SS. RECINA. B. 037° 24' S. 150°
(sunk 11/4.) 19' E. C. Slight sea, weather clear. D. One 12
Convoy O.C. 86 pdr.
2. Vessel was in convoy, leading ship starboard
side.
3. No torpedo track sighted or able A/S contact
before explosion.
4.A.(i) Not known. Vessel carrying iron ore, sank in less than
one minute. (ii) Torpedoed starboard side in wing bunker.
B. Nil.
5. Nil. 6. A. No. B. No. 7. 32 missing.
8. MORESBY (escort) dropped 7 depth charges after having obtained
A/S contact. Result negative.
(A.C.N.B. 291202Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

LIMERICK My 261001Z. 1A. M.V.B. LIMERICK. B. 028° 54' S.
(sunk 25/4.) 153° 54' E. 1504Z/25. C. Sea rough visibility
good. D. 1 4.7" two M.G.Bs.
2. Vessel was in convoy. 3. Not seen at any time.
4. A(i) one. (ii) Aft engine room after bulkhead.
(iii) From bridge red 135°. B. Nil.
5. No offensive measures by ship. 6. A. No. B. No.
7. Two missing, (fifth engineer and third mate.)
8. COLAC dropped depth charges after A/S contact. Result
negative.
(A.C.N.B. 291249Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 291347B 291411B.)

1119

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

x North Atlantic convoy escorts: operational control.

1. From 1200Z today, C. in C. U.S. Fleet is relieved of all duties in connection with H.X. S.C. O.N. and O.N.S. convoys. Operational control of the U.S. Naval surface craft employed in connection with these convoys passes to the Admiralty (east of "Chop") and to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa (west of "Chop" except in the Eastern Sea Frontier) respectively, and the Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board assume complete responsibility for protection and routing of H.X., S.C., O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.

Home Commands.

2. KING GEORGE V completed repairs at Rosyth and sailed for Scapa this evening escorted by MAHRATTA, ST. MARYS and STEVENSTONE.

HADD0

3. U.S. S/M HADD0 arrived at Greenock today from U.S.A. after an uneventful passage.

4. MEYNEL was damaged last night in collision off the Humber.

x Operation "Haulabout".

5. The transfer of 300 barges from south coast ports to Tilbury without loss had been completed by M/S trawlers and tugs lent from other commands, and these vessels have been returned to their bases.

U/B sunk.

6. A/C L8TX reports hits on an enemy S/M on the surface in 64.30 N., 07.10 W. (145 miles North of the Faeroes) at 0956B. Thirty men were seen in the water after the attack. The Air Staff report that the U-boat was sunk.

7. M.V. PORT VICTOR (British 12411 tons, Montevideo for Liverpool) reported being torpedoed at 2234Z in 47.49 N., 22.02 W. (about 550 miles S.W. of Cape Clear). WREN and CYGNET were detached from Escort Group 2 to assist her, and WREN rescued the survivors from lifeboats. The ship was sunk by 4 torpedoes and several of her crew are believed to have been lost.

8. A convoy of 15 coastal craft sailed from Milford Haven for Gibraltar today, escorted by COVERLEY and BREAM.

1120

30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

9. A flight of 16 landing craft arrived at Gibraltar this morning from U.K.

X Operation
"Mincemeat".

10. SERAPH reported operation Mincemeat completed at 300648B (See Home Commands 19 April).
p. 700.

X 11. Three magnetic mines were swept in the approaches to Casablanca yesterday and today.

South Atlantic.

X U/B
attack on
T.S.37.
4 ships
torpedoed.

12. Convoy T.S.37 was attacked by U-boats at 2124Z today in 07.15 N., 13.49 W. (about 130 miles S.W. of Freetown) and SS. BANDAR SHAHPOUR (British 5236 tons), CORABELLA (British 5682 tons) and NAGINA (British 6551 tons) were torpedoed and sunk. A fourth ship, KOTA TJANDI (Dutch 7295 tons) was later reported torpedoed, and was apparently sunk.

Mediterranean.

X Light force
operations.

13. NUBIAN carried out an offensive sweep south of Marittimo with PALADIN last night, and at 0355 sank a small merchant ship escorted by E-boats in 37.14 N., 13.04 E. and suffered no damage or casualties. The E-boats withdrew. M.T.Bs. from Bone operated off the Gulf of Tunis and U.S. M.T.Bs. in the approaches to Bizerta. M.T.Bs. from Sousse swept Cap Bon peninsula.

14. C. in C. Levant proposes that A/T defence should be provided for ships at anchor outside Tripoli (L) if the latter is to be used as a convoy change over port.

30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- ? M.Ls. 15. The 32nd M.L. Flotilla (7 vessels) has been reallocated to the Mediterranean from West Africa, owing to urgent operational requirements.
- * French Sqdn. Alexandria. 16. C. in C. Levant sends a brief summary of the docking and other requirements of the French Squadron at Alexandria, following a conference held today.
- ✓ Air operations. 17. Of 22 U.S. Liberators sent to attack the ferry terminus at Messina, 21 bombed the target, some bombs falling near the naval oil storage tanks. During 214 Kittyhawk (P.40) and 287 U.S. Warhawk (P.40 F) bombing sorties, escorted by 190 Spitfires, 1 destroyer, 1 large launch, 1 E-boat, and 1 Siebel ferry were sunk, and 1 M.V. of 1500 tons and 1 E-boat were set on fire in the Gulf of Tunis. Docks at Kelibia (16½ miles S.S.E. of Cape Bon) and Sidi Daud (9½ miles S.W. of Cape Bon) were also effectively bombed. U.S. Marauders, escorted by Lightnings, on a shipping sweep scored direct hits on a merchant ship, and a formation of 18 U.S. Mitchells attacked a light cruiser which was left burning.
- Light cruiser set on fire.

East Indies.

18. 5 B.24s of U.S.A.A.F. attacked shipping at Rangoon today. No ships were hit, but there were several hits in the dock area.

America & West Indies.

19. The cruiser, ARGONAUT, arrived at Philadelphia today from the Mediterranean for repairs.

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

BAYNTON, C. in C.W.A. 291857 para. 4. BERRY will be ready
BERRY. to sail for Clyde a.m. May 3rd.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 301836B to C. in C.W.A.)
Your 291857. Concur. Request programme of trials
with dates may be forwarded when BERRY's completion
date is known.
(D.O.D.H. 302039B to C. in C.W.A.)

Movements.

HOWE. HOWE escorted by BRECON, BLANKNEY, MIDDLETON arrived
Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 300638B.)

GLASGOW, Scapa arrivals GLASGOW, FURIOUS escorted by FURY,
FURIOUS. ACTIVE, TROUBRIDGE.
(A.C.O.S. 300818B.)

INDOMITABLE. Sailed INDOMITABLE for exercises.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 300910B.)

SCYLLA. Scapa arrival SCYLLA.
(A.C.O.S. 300930B.)

ADVENTURE. Omit position U. Route through new position X.
45.00 N. 12.45 W. thence position V.
(D.O.D.H. 301054B to ADVENTURE.)

Landing L.C.Flight D on crossing longitude 09° W. steer
Craft for new position O. 48.30 N. 14.01 W., thence to M.
Flight D. (D.O.D.H. 301055B to MOLDE.)

ANSON, Hvalfjord arrivals 1045B ANSON, JAMAICA, MILNE,
JAMAICA. INTREPID and ECHO.
(A.C.I.C. 301127B.)

S/M Request you will loan TUNA to 7th S/M Flotilla
Movements. temporarily for anti S/M training vice H.M.S.H.32
now carrying out important trials in Lyme Bay.
TUNA will be required to leave Lerwick 16th May for
patrol.
(F.O.S. 301247B to Capt. S.3.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/1st May and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.S. 301602B, 302112B, 302156B, 302314B, 011654B.)

/Sailed...

1123

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

- S/M
Movements.
(Contd.)
- Sailed TRUCULENT, ULA, ULTIMATUM, O.10 escorted by DORNOCH in accordance with S.3's 281125B as amended in S.3's 291435B.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 301738B.)
O.10 sailed to R/V escort, thence escorted Lerwick, E.T.A. 1900/2 May.
(Capt. S.7 301636B.)
- Coastal Craft
"Tiara"
for Gib.
- C. in C.W.A. 141752 April. Routed A.M. 172035 February. Sailed H.M. Trawlers COVERLEY and BREAM escorting M.Ls. 218, 232, 240, 559, 562, 568, 575 M.T.Bs. 654, 655, 667, 670 M.G.Bs. 648, 657, 658, 663. Speed 10 knots. Codeword "Tiara". E.T.A. May. 6th.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 301631B to F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- BERMUDA. Estimated P.C. and S. of BERMUDA at 1940Z/30, 054° 01' N. 015° 01' W. 050° 18.
(C. in C.W.A. 301636Z to SPENCER.)
My position at 2100B 054° 56' N. 013° 10' W.
Route as in your 301340B to 180° Barra Head 10, 20 knots.
Type 252 I.F.F. will be switched on.
(BERMUDA 302042B to C. in C.W.A.)
- ROBERTS. Request you will sail ROBERTS to the Clyde when ready to work up in accordance with Admiralty letter MO3475/43.
(D.O.D.H. 301706B to C. in C.W.A.)
- ECLIPSE. Scapa arrival ECLIPSE.
(A.C.O.S. 301755 to E.G.4.)
- PRODIGAL. A.M. 081601. 1. H.M. Trawler PRODIGAL now ready at Greenock is to be sailed to Gibraltar and Algiers as soon as convenient.
2. She is a specially armed A/S fitted Diesel trawler with long endurance.
3. Request you will use her as additional convoy escort as requisite.
(D.O.D.H. 301912B.)
- KING GEORGE V. KING GEORGE V take METEOR, TROUBRIDGE, TUSCAN under your orders and proceed Gibraltar passing Hoxa Gate at 2330B/1st May.
2. Route through positions A. 53.39, 07.55
B. 57.52, 09.10 C. 50.01, 14.59. D. 43.01, 14.59.
S.O.A. 16½ knots to lat. 50° N. thence 17½ knots. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to signal onward route from position D.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide A/S air escort from daylight 2nd May. Codeword "Distaff."
4. Admiralty recypher and pass to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.
(C. in C.H.F. 301915B to KING GEORGE V.)

/Rosyth...

1124

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.KING
GEORGE V
(Contd.)

Rosyth departure KING GEORGE V escorted by MAHRATTA, ST. MARY, and STEVENSTONE passing May Island 1945B. E.T.A. Scapa 0600B/1st May, Hoxa after exercising 1100B/1st May.
(C. in C.Rosyth 301947B to A.C.O.S.)

Operations.Coastal
Patrols.

M.G.Bs. 324 and 330 have returned to harbour.
(C. in C.Plymouth 300257B to LIMBOURNE, MELBREAK.)
Your 291319B. "Warrant" returned owing to weather.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 300300B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
My 291444B. Arrived MELBREAK. LIMBOURNE proceeding Milford Haven.
(C. in C.Plymouth 300644 to Admty.)
My 291120B. "Device" arrived 0753.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 300758B.)

1. Intend M.Ls 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving Portland at 2100 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol-line at dawn/1st.
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Spaniel."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 301105B.)
M.Ls. 208, 124 patrolling south of E.A.5 Buoy.
3. M.L. 205 (S.O.) 246 from Portland patrol 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
4. Chasseur 10 at St. Helens. GLAISDALE, KRAKOWIAK, KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 301442B and 301944B.)

✘ Operation "Haulabout". On the return to their bases of M/S Trawlers and Tugs lent for operation "Haulabout" I should like to express my appreciation of their work. The transfer of 300 barges from South Coast Ports to Tilbury without the loss of one displayed a high degree of good seamanship by all concerned.
(C. in C.Nore 301221B.)

S/M Patrols Positions of submarines at 0800B/1st May and movements for following 24 hours.
A. BLACKFISH on patrol north of Kolbinsey 67° 08' N. 18° 38' W. as far as 68° N.
B. BARB on patrol between 67° 30' N. and 68° 30' N. on meridian of 16° W.
C. SATYR on patrol between 67° 30' N. 16° 01' W. and Iceland coast on meridian of 16° W.
D. O.14 on patrol line 20 miles north and south of 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W.
E. USURPER on patrol line 20 miles 030° and 210° from 62° 15' N. 02° 16' E.

/J...

1125

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M Patrols J. SIMOON, UNSPARING, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE
(Contd.) vicinity Trevoze Head E.T.A. 180° Bishop Rock 10
miles 1700/1st May. Thence UNSPARING through
49° N. 06° 30' W. to 46° N. 06° 30' W. SIMOON
through 49° 00' N. 06° 01' W. to patrol between
46° 40' N. and 47° 05' N. on meridian of 05° 30' W. Both S/Ms
diving by day after leaving 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles.
K. UNBENDING passes through 43° 01' N. 10° 28' W. at 2330B/1st
May, thence to 44° 20' N. 10° 28' W. diving by day.
(F.O.S. 301602B to Admty.)

F.O.S. 231214B. Request you will sail TRUCULENT at 0400B/
3rd May routed through l. 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles (m) 064°
10' N. 006° 50' W. (n) 067° 01' N. 013° 00' W. thence direct
patrol line X. Proceed on the surface at C.O.'s discretion.
SATYR proceeds to patrol line Z at 0001B/5th May.

(Capt. S.9 302351B and 021111B to S.O. S/M Lerwick.)

All times Zone B.*

My 302351B. A. Total lines 20 (B) Lerwick through (L) to (M)
2300/2nd May to 2100/4th May. (M) to (N) 1500/3rd May to
0100/6th May. (TRUCULENT.)

(Capt. S.9 302353B to H.Q.C.C.)

*See further amendment Capt. S.9, 051033B.

Exercises.

Exercise Description and results.
X.C.J. (F.O.2 B.S 300159B to C. in C.H.F.)

Enemy Air Activity.

X Murmansk 5 short raids over town and A/A batteries between
bombed. 0300 and 1700 April 29th. No British damage or
casualties.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 300931B to Admty.)

F.W. A/C Engaged and drove off one F.W. Kurier 047° 51' N.
engaged. 012° 36' W.
(?ADVENTURE 301159B to Admty.)

Mining.

Bomber Please convey my warm congratulations to all
Command concerned on the magnificent minelaying effort of
operations. the past two nights.
2. We all extend our sympathy to you and to your
Command in the losses sustained in this record
achievement, which we hope will meet with the
success it so thoroughly deserves.
(1st S.L. 300120B to A.O. C. in C.B.C.)

Operation Operation K.L.1 will be carried out on night
K.L.1 of 1st/2nd May.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 301325B to M/S 9.)

/Yarmouth...

1126

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

- Yarmouth. L.L. sweepers detonated blue magnetic mine at 1240 in 216° 57A Buoy $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 301345B 301527B 012237B.)
- S.N.123 S.N.123. Tests on Southern Hydrophone system have been finished and are completely satisfactory. Work will be commenced on Northern System tomorrow.
(N.O.I.C. Stornoway 301630B to S.M.D. Havant.)
- Q.Z.X. 910 Clearance of A.M. Q.Z.X. 910 completed except for clearance area bounded by lines joining the following positions. A. 056° 17' 18" 007° 03' 48"
B. (056°) 16' 12" 007° 11' 24" C. 056° 21' 24" 007° 13' 48" D. 056° 22' 18" 007° 05' 48".
which area propose not to sweep. Result completely negative.
Am returning to Oban tomorrow.
(LYME REGIS 301835B to C. in C.W.A.)
- Q.U.4 Prepare to carry out following operation on first Q.K.4D. suitable night.
1. Q.U.4 with sixth M.G.F.
2. Q.K.4D with 51st M.L.Flottilla, scattered laying between 051° 18' 30" N. 002° 51' E. and 051° 15' 30" N. 002° 48' E.
(C. in C.Nore 301840B and 011106B to BEEHIVE.)

Enemy Intelligence.

- PRINZ EUGEN, Gdynia - April 26th.
EMDEN, A. PRINZ EUGEN at See Bahnhof jetty appearing to
SCHLESWIG- be in commission.
HOLSTEIN, B. EMDEN at number five basin.
ERICH STEIN- C. SCHLESWIG HOLSTEIN in usual berth.
BRINCH. D. U-Boats estimated to number 60 berthing at night are screened by camouflage.
2. Neufahrwasser - April 20th.
A. Destroyer ERICH STEINBRINCH and three others.
B. U-Boats about 35. Graded B.2.
(N.A.Stockholm 301759.)

1127

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.U-Boats
reported in
Biscay Area.

Aircraft reports and W/T activity indicate several U-Boats on passage to and from Bay of Biscay between latitudes 44° 01' N. and 48° 30' N. and long. 12° 02' W. and 17° 03' W. Centre of activity appears to be within 100 miles of 45° 04' N. 14° 05' W.

(D.D.I.C. 300940B to ADVENTURE.)

D/F bearings at 1232Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 45° 30' N. 13° 30' W.

(D.D.I.C. 301512B to ADVENTURE.)

U-Boats
reported &
attacked
in N. Atlantic

Am over enemy S/M in 64° 30' N. 07° 10' W. Have attacked with depth charges. Result of attack hits observed. S/M was on surface.

(A/C L8TX 300956B.)

BOGUE A/C attacked S/M on surface in 046° 16' N. 025° 53' W. course 060° at 1852Z/28. Surprised completely. 4 depth bombs bounced off or near

missed and exploded 75 to 100 feet from conning tower while stern still visible. A/C remained until 2820/(?15 or 01)Z RESTIGOUCHE despatched to position sighted nothing. No report from S/M intercepted. Consider attack probably successful. (CHURCHILL 302010Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Navigational.BLENCATHRA,
MEYNELL.

Anchored 201° Spurn Point 1.4 miles MEYNELL in company.

(BLENCATHRA 300744B to C. in C.Nore.)

Yarmouth.

Port closed owing to fog.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 300955B.)

Port is now open.

(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 301045B.)

Technical.Enemy A/S
tactics.

Following received from Capt. S.10 begins. It is thought possible that enemy A/S measures may include the following form of counter-attack. On the assumption that S/M will turn stern on to hydrophone effect or impulse 2 or more vessels

carry out an orthodox hunt, while a 3rd vessel is placed in striking position. As S/M draws clear from hunting vessels she will be approached by striking vessel who moves to strike only at appropriate moment T.O.O. 291707 ends.

(F.O.S. 301029B to Capts. S. Capt. S.12.)

Casualties & Defects.

EYEBRIGHT.

Hvalfjord arrival EYEBRIGHT at 0347B/30.

(A.C.I.C. 300437B.)

/Hvalfjord...

War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

EYEBRIGHT
(Contd.) Hvalfjora departure EYEBRIGHT at 1255B/30.
(A.C.I.C. 301327B.)

MEYNELL. Sustained following damage through collision during the night. 5 foot of stem post from Forecastle level at bullring buckled back to number 2 frame. No other damage. Proceeding to Spurn Point. Request instructions.
(MEYNELL 300605B to C. in C.Nore.)
MEYNELL's 300605. MEYNELL can be taken in hand for repairs by The Humber Graving Co.
(D.O.D.H. 302043B to C. in C.Nore.)

VIVACIOUS Request permission to enter Harwich for repair to R.D.F. E.T.A. Cork 0915.
(VIVACIOUS 300721B to N.O.I.C. Harwich.)

SALAMANDER C. in C.W.A. 281102. Sailed HALCYON for Scapa E.T.A. 1900May 1st. SALAMANDER delayed by defects.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 300751B.)

Unknown Light or flare was reported by A/C in 51° 18' N. Craft. 033° 18' W. at 0124Z/30th. Pass through this area and look out for survivors.
(C. in C.W.A. 300914Z to POLYANTHUS, CHAMBLY, SPENCER, DUANE.)

Tank Lighter. Following from N.O.I.C. Fleetwood begins: Icelandic Trawler SVERRIR arrived here 2100 today with American twin-engined 50 ft. Tank Lighter No. C14301 in tow. Leaking badly. Picked up at 0350 April within 55° 52' N. 7° W. Apparently had parted tow. No confidential books. T.O.O. 292150B. Ends.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 301021B to Admty.)

FAULKNER, INGLEFIELD, ONSLAUGHT. FAULKNER, INGLEFIELD, ONSLAUGHT left convoy 0500Z. E.T.A. 0900Z tomorrow Saturday. Following defects. Details.
(E.G.4 301101Z to C. in C.W.A.)

ROSE ROSE returned from O.N.S.6 with A/S defects.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 301246B to C. in C.W.A.)

CUMBERLAND. It is estimated that temporary damage repair to bottom which firm and overseer state should make CUMBERLAND seaworthy, and exchange of propellers will allow ship to be undocked A.M. 10th May. Anticipate date of sailing 14th.
(N.O.I.C. Newcastle 301253B to Admty.)

1129

30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- X.K.4. Clyde arrival RHODODENDRON from X.K.4.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 300818B.)
- Groups
A.3 &
C.5. In accordance with N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 212152
March, A.3 Group has been renamed C.5.
(C. in C.W.A. 301309Z.)
- X.K.5. Alter course forthwith for new position H.43.01 N.
12.30 W. J. 50.03 N. 12.33 W. K. 55.00 N. 10.30
W. L. 55.30 N. 07.50 W.
2. BRISSENDEN proceed to Londonderry on crossing
08° W. thence as ordered by C. in C.H.F.
3. LAMBROOK destination Clyde.
(D.O.D.H. 301318B to BRISSENDEN.)
- O.N.S.6. (a) 0900Z/30. (c) 24.1.4. DEVERON H/F D/F,
EGLANTINE, ROSE, VERVAIN, ACANTHUS, KINGCUP,
POTENTILLA. VISCOUNT (H/F D/F) sails late and
becomes S.O. on joining. Additional A/S escort
and F/S rescue duties NORTHERN REWARD, NORTHERN PRIDE. Escort-
oiler JOHN D.ARCHBOLD American canvas hose 870 tons. Ships
fitted with oiling at sea gear but carrying no fuel - none.
Ship carrying depth-charges JOHN D.ARCHBOLD 60 in improvised
stowage (b) 30
(C. in C.W.A. 301409Z to A.I.G. 334.)
- S.C.L.127. E.T.A. Skagi 1930Z/30 with S.C.L. 127. Request
permission to fuel and have the services of an
A/S officer and then to proceed to St. Johns
N.F. in accordance with C.C.N.F's 181114 April.
(NAPANEE 301501Z to C.T.G. 24.6.)
- H.X.235. Incomplete D/F bearings at 1505Z suggest convoy
may possibly have been reported.
(D.D.I.C. 301814B to Escorts H.X. 235.)
- E.G.5. C. in C.W.A. 271630B. Group-operated throughout
25 - 55 miles from convoy changing relative
bearing. Weather very favourable for Atlantic
but night flying possible but hazardous on only
2 nights. Believed all escort group requirements met until
after dawn patrol 26th April when fog conditions intervened.
3 U-Boats sighted (1 doubtful); 1 attacked by aircraft and
sunk by destroyer, 1 attacked by destroyer with Hedgehog
explosion.
R/T results between ships and aircraft good, range 65 miles.
Increase of screen above minimum of 3 increases offensive and

/in...

1130

War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- E.G.5.
(Contd.)
- in this operation possibly 3 U-Boats sunk instead of one. Value of Martlets questionable. Much practice landing into number 4 and 5 wires required.
Floating hose for oiling escorts required.
Operating clear of convoy instead of inside convoy recommended because; (1) rapid operation of A/C possible allowing more flying in particular in bad weather, at night and to investigate H/F D/F bearings. (2) Cross bearings on H/F D/F. (3) Additional force to confuse and surprise enemy. (4) Groups can retire in bad flying conditions. (5) A/C can work with own screen and convoy screen thus providing in two places most killing combination - A/C / A/S vessels. Apart from limiting flying, operation in convoy - practicable if escorts are withdrawn but risks similar if not greater.
(BITER 301845Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- R.U.72.
- If ALRESFORD is seaworthy and capable of continuing to U.K. she is to join R.U.72 S.O. of Escort CAPE PALLISER. Estimate R.U. will pass you in Swept Channel.
(A.C.I.C. 301846 to NAPANEE.)
- X Minimising damage to Escorts when ramming U/Bs.
- Your 211846/March.
Owing to many factors affecting this matter it is proposed that a meeting should be held between representatives of C. in C.W.A. D.A.S.W. and D.N.C. as soon as convenient after the analysis mentioned in your letter W.A. 966/4150M dated 31st March 1943, has been completed.
(D.A.S.W. 301910B to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.180.
- A first sighting report bearing 184° at 2105Z indicates O.N.180 has been spotted. Catalina aircraft not met.
(C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13 302120Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- F.D.5.
- CHARLESTOWN should part company from LEINSTER on passing lat. of Butt of Lewis and proceed to Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 302126B to N.O.I.C. Faeroes.)
- M.K.F.13.
Survivors of EMPIRE STANDARD, EMPIRE ROWAN, POLO, HAILANGER, WINDSOR CASTLE, OCEAN SEAMAN.
- Convoy M.K.F.13 is due U.K. p.m. 2/5 comprising the following troop transports. A. Personnel on:-
FRANCONIA - Survivors ex: EMPIRE STANDARD 32, EMPIRE ROWAN 16, HAILANGER 3, WINDSOR CASTLE 1, POLO 1, OCEAN SEAMAN 1, D.B.S. 30. Total 84.
(D.S.T. 302137B.)
- K.M.S.14.
PRODIGAL.
- Admiralty 301912. Anti Sub. trawler PRODIGAL is to proceed Gibraltar with K.M.S.14 for onward routing to Algiers.
(C. in C.W.A. 302353B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

1131

War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

X SERAPH, Following has been passed to Admiralty for
Op. information. Addressed. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
"Mincemeat".. (R) F.O.(S) Operation "Mincemeat" completed.
(?Request) onward route. My position 036°
 $30' 007^{\circ} 20'$. Weather report. Position to
nearest degree $360^{\circ} 7$.
(SERAPH 300648B)

TCAO 16. (A) Total. (B) SERAPH. (C) 1100/30 $36^{\circ} 30'$
 $07^{\circ} 20'$ 1800/30 $35^{\circ} 53'$ $06^{\circ} 15'$. 1900/30 $35^{\circ} 49'$ $06^{\circ} 06'$ $30''$
to arrival Gibraltar at about 2300/30.
(D) Ten knots. Times zone minus 2. Positions N. and W.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 300931B to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel my 242357 (SERAPH bombing restrictions) (242356
intended) and 250954.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 301944Z to R.A.F. Gib. H.Q.C.C. (R)
Admty. etc.)
Arrival SERAPH.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 302234B to Admty etc.)

Movements, Arrivals HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK, B.D.V's BARHILL,
Gibraltar. BARMOND, Tug EMPIRE HARRY, L.C.T. 547, 548, 549,
550, 551, 552, 554, 559, 578, 585, 607, 605,
613, 618, L.C.F. 3, 4.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 300946B to Admty etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/30th.
(1) O.T.4, C.T.G. 21.5, 35.29 06.48 through
35.45 06.35 to Gibraltar $13\frac{1}{2}$. (2) P.219 (SERAPH)
approaching (?Q) K.A.87 from N.W. at 1800/30th
bound Gibraltar. (3) JONQUIL one merchant ship sailing
0500/1st to 36.55 09.06 8. (4) LOTUS, DIANELLA patrolling
off Setubal.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301005B)
Situation 2002B. (1) P.37 $041^{\circ} 05'$ $010^{\circ} 30'$ 359° dived
by day 8/2. (2) X.K.5 BRISSENDEN 40.17 12.47 $353^{\circ} 10$.
(3) R.S.4A COWSLIP 27.28 14.26 through 25.40 16.22 thence
 $208^{\circ} 10\frac{1}{2}$. (4) S.L.128 BLACK SWAN 29.42 12.18 through 29.59
12.04 thence $028^{\circ} 6\frac{1}{2}$ (5) BULLDOG 46.53 13.13 through 43.01
13.30 41.01 13.30 thence ($?151^{\circ}$) $13\frac{1}{2}$. (6) ADVENTURE 46.05
13.38 through 45.01 14.01 and 40.01 13.01 thence $149^{\circ} 17$.
(see amendment 301313)
(F.O.Gibraltar 301027B)
Situation 2002B. Amend para.(6) my 301027 to read
46.02 12.48 through 45.01 12.45 and 40.01 13.01 thence 149°
17.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301313B)
Situation 1959B/30th. U.G.S.7 A and U.G.L. 3, C.T.F.
64,30.43,21.35, $081^{\circ} 8.8$. (2) ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH one
tanker 37.05 22.21 through 37.35 25.01 to Ponta Delgada 9.
(3) 17 L.C.I.(L)'s Senior Officer 170 (E) 31.55 29.51 through
31.50 26.15 thence $094^{\circ} 10$. (4) One L.C.I.(L) damaged approx
32.01 32.58 $092^{\circ} 7$.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301049B)

EMPRESS OF Request routing EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND Casablanca
SCOTLAND. to Halifax departing 1 May.
(Commorseafon, 301020 to Admty)

EMPRESS / ...

1132

30.4.1945.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. (Contd.)EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND
(Contd.)EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND arrived 1315A/30 escorted
by U.S. Destroyer HERNDON.
(M.S.F.F. 301306 to Admty)U/B sunk
off Canaries.Your 290056Z. Chief of Staff Naval Base at
my request declares U-Boat reported by me is
sunk in 027° 44' 50" N. 015° 32' 50" W.
Crew disappeared April 14th presumed to have
been conveyed to U-Boat waiting outside.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 301315 to F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) Admty. N.A.Madrid, B.N.L.O.Dakar, F.O.C.
Gibraltar.)

Reply: Admty. 031255B May.

MYOSOTIS.

MYOSOTIS reports owing to slight defects
unable to complete trip without refuelling.
Propose to detach her to arrive Casablanca 1200Z/
2nd refuelling and rejoining convoy at ZK at
dawn on 3rd May. ULRIC HOLM has straggled unable to maintain
convoy speed, she is now 11 miles astern. Uncoded weather
report.(S.O. Escort Group 27 (?37 intended), 301340Z to F.O.C.Gib.
(R) N.O.I.C.Casablanca, MYOSOTIS)Your 301340. Approved. Attention is called to A.C.I.
article (?38). (2) MYOSOTIS is to report P.C. and S. of
(corrupt group) S.L.128 and E.T.A. Casablanca, when 40 miles
clear of convoy.(F.O. Gibraltar 301855B to S.O. Escort Grp.37, (R)
MYOSOTIS, C. in C. W.A., Commorseafon)

ROPER.

Arriving Gibraltar 1930Z to fuel. Others
can make destination. Will rejoin South of
Europa Point (?23)00Z.
(U.S. Destroyer ROPER, 301445Z to F.O.Gibraltar)EMPIRE
MORN
(mined 26/4)My 281815 (Re position of EMPIRE MORN when
explosion took place). ANTHONY gives position
approx. 33° 58' N. 07.54' W. 33° 58' N.
07.54 W. and the time 2217 April 26.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 301529B to Commorseafon.
(R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)* Shipping to
France
From
Valencia.British Consul Valencia states it is reported
ships to France will in future be convoyed
from that port.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar, 301614B to Admty etc.)
Following ships arrived Valencia April 28th and
29th and will probably sail shortly for
French Ports; TOM, BACH and JOSE ILLUECA.
(F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 301618B to 8th S/M F.
(R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med.)

MONTE /...

1133

War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (Contd.)MONTE
SOLLUBE.

My 261335. MONTE SOLLUBE arrived and left yesterday 29th destination Barcelona no survivors on board.
(Consul Las Palmas 301630 to Admty)

BULLDOG.

Intend diverting BULLDOG to Gibraltar to take opportunity of including her as escort to CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND to Freetown.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 301653B to C. in C. Med.
(R) Admty. F.O.C.W.Af.)

Cancel my 281827. Q route from (F) through (K) 42.01 N. (13?) 30 W. (L) 37.01 N. 12.01 W. (M) 36.01 N. 08.01 W. and Q.K.A. 87 to Gibraltar.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301801B to BULLDOG, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A. F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Commorseafon)

Fighter
Code
Words.

Confusion arises where Mediterranean Fighter protection Code Words are allotted to M.K. convoy instead of Standard "Torch" Code words.

(2) Request that you will signal Fighter Protection Code Words in sailing telegrams of all M.K. convoys repeating to C. in C. Western Approaches, C. in C. Plymouth and H.Q.C.C. (3) C. in C. Med's 221035 and your 252333 in case of M.K.F.13 who is presumed to be using "Untrue" throughout, in particular refer.
(D.O.D.(H) 301717B to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

HONEYSUCKLE,
LOTUS,
DIANELLA.

Your 301115 (request date of arrival in U.K. of HONEYSUCKLE, LOTUS, DIANELLA, urgently required for escort duty.) 16th May approx.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 301807B to C. in C. W.A.(R) Admty etc.)

LUGANO.

Swiss LUGANO 6942 g.t. speed 12 knots, black hull with National colour and word Switzerland on side sailed Gibraltar 1900/30th April for Genoa by approved route. Not to be molested this voyage.
(F.O.Gibraltar 301910B to S. & A. Area G. etc.)

+ U/B's and
possible
raider
sighted by
A/C.

11 U-Boats reported seen by American Export Plane N.C.82 at 1627Z/29 in 34.10 N. 57 W. 4 seen on course 180° 4 course 90/3 course 045° 35 miles between packs. Firing from subs. Captain believes 10 probably 500 ton class one larger. Addition ship sighted by same plane in 36.49 N. 44.30 W. at 2140Z/29. One large M.V. course 225 speed 15 knots. Cargo on deck no flag or armament one stack main far aft. Flush deck. Plumb bow. Altered course radically. Possible raider.
(Commorseafon, 302045Z to Cominch (R) Comeastseafon. N.O.B. Bermuda, (S.B.N.O.Bermuda pass to) Admty)
Sightings evaluated positive, see 010855.

Movements/ ...

30.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals ANTHONY ex R.S.4A. PENSTEMON ex escort duties Melilla. ROTHESAY, PIROUETTE from escort duties Huelva.
Departures LIDDESDALE to R/V convoy O.T.4. (F.O.C.Gibraltar, 302113B to Admty etc.)

SEGUNDO
ELEGENIA.

Your 292222 (Re seizure of Spanish SEGUNDO ELEGENIA). SEGUNDO ELEGENIA position 170° Tarifa six miles. Vessel tried to enter territorial waters to avoid interception. Report follows by air mail.
(F.O.Gibraltar 302200B to Admty)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals U.S. NELSON, GLENNON, BUTLER, U.S.S. MADDOX, SEER, SENTINEL, PILOT, KAWEAH, PEPPERWOOD, NARRAGANSETT, L.S.T.6, 309, 310, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 332, 337, 352, 357, 360, 372, 373, 375, 376, 394, L.C.I.(L) 36, 37, 194, 195, 196, 233, 237, P.C. 233, 237, P.C. 543, 546, 562, S.C.534, 535, 692 Y.M. 62, 69, L.S.T. 323, 404, 405, 408, 411, 414, 415, 416.
(F.O. Gibraltar 302239B to Admty etc.)

1135

30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Convoy O.S.46. F.O.I.C. West Africa's 291703 Part 1 (N.T. in W.R.). O.S. 46 will pass R/V 15.52 N., 18.00 W. at 0600Z/30th April. Request Comar Dakar sail COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S. forthwith to meet convoy. COREOPSIS is being detached first light 30th April escorting DUNKERQUE, QUERCY, FORTOL and FINISTERRE and rejoin convoy as quickly as possible. Bathurst ships are being detached dusk 30th April to arrive first light 1st May. (S.O. Escort Group 38, 300210Z to F.O.C.W.A., N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Comar Dakar, COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S.)

Convoy C.D.16 Sailing telegram (2) 0730Z/30th. (3) 7½ knots (5) Coastal reference positions Saldanha Bay M.D.1 to 8. (6) NORTHERN CHIEF, ARCTIC EXPLORER, STANDERTON. (15) Convoy callsign C.D.D., to 9, convoy codeword "Janitor" B.B.384. (N.C.S.O. Capetown 300736Z to Admty. etc).

Convoy D.C.21. Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z/30th April (3) 8 knots (5) 8 reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay (MD) (6) NORWICH CITY, WELLARD, CEDARBERG. (12) E.T.A. Capetown p.m. May 4th. E.T.A. Port Elizabeth a.m. May 2nd. E.T.A. East London p.m. May 1st. (15) Convoy wireless callsign A.V.D.1 to 9. (N.C.S.O. Durban, 300817Z to Admty. etc).

Movements, Freetown. Departures 1540Z/29th April. WARSPITE, QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUALITY, QUAIL with C.F.12. 1740Z/29th April DEVONSHIRE. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 300951 to Admty. etc).

Movements Dakar. Arrived INKPEN 0900Z. Arrived CORLANDER (as received) escorting SILVER LAUREL, 1000. (Comar Dakar, 301019Z to Admty etc).

Lifeboats Following has been read:- S O S 2 lifeboats sighted 36° 25' S., 22° 10' E., at 1200B. (3 C3R 301035Z). Survivors from lifeboat referred to as being picked up by RELENTLESS in para. 5 of my 281449 have not been rescued. (Cdre. Durban, 301577Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F.) W.R. Note - Re SS. JOHN DRAYTON presumed sunk.

RELENTLESS Simonstown arrival 30th April. (C. in C. S.A., 301045B to Admty. Com. Durban).

/Dispositions...

1136

30.4.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. Position at 2000Z/30th April.
 FOXHOUND escorting MALOJA and MOOLTAN 026° 25' 013° 50' to Pointe Noire 15 knots.
 GENISTA, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES F.S.
 with N.C.10 028° 15' 015° 25' to Capetown 10.
 ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN CHIEF, STANDERTON with C.D.16 034° 45' 019° 20' coastal to Durban 8.
 ARISTEA, ROODEPOORT, SOUTHERN BARRIER searching in vicinity 037° 023°.
 FROBISHER 034° 55' 021° 15' to Simonstown 17.
 STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY Escorting EVERLEIGH 033° 45' 027° 15' coastal to Durban 10.
 PRUDENT searching vicinity of 033° 40' 029° 40'.
 NORWICH CITY, WELLARD, CEDARBERG with D.C.21 031° 20' 030° 10' coastal to Capetown 8.
 SATSA, STORMRACK 021° 00' 035° 25' to Beira 10.
 (C. in C. S.A., 301129B).
 Situation at 2002Z/30th April. LEWES, BOREAS escorting 17.21 18.30 to 16.00 18.29 thence to Dakar 13.
 LEITH (?WOLVERINE) (?COREOPSIS), VIOLET, AUBRETIA, F.S.
 COMMANDANT DROGOU, WHIMBRELL, ROHILKHAND with O.S.46, 14.05 18.01 to 14.02 18.05 thence 172° 8' (?½).
 ANCHUSA off Bathurst to join O.S. 46, 10.
 DUNCTON, WASTWATER escorting 13.30 17.19 to Dakar 6½.
 Fleet Unit QUILLIAM, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F.12, 12.24 18.16 to 13.20 18.30 thence 003° 15'.
 DEVONSHIRE 10.10 21.11.
 French Despatch Vessel DU COUEDIC 18.
 French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 10.30 29.30 19.
 S.O.(S) 1 LA GRANDIERE escorting 21.44 17.04 Coastal to Dakar 9.
 (F.O.C.W.A., 301339Z).

BRITANNIC, STRATHEDEN. Ref. Admty. 1140/16th March para. 6. Request whether instructions regarding women and children in P.O.W. Ships have been relaxed in view of BRITANNIC and STRATHEDEN.
 (D.S.T.O.W.A., 301345Z to D.S.T.) Reply: D.S.T. 050616B May.

NEWCASTLE Your 281415/April. NEWCASTLE is to remain with convoy.
 (D.O.D. (F) 301351B to F.O.C.W.A.)

M.Ls. Cancel A.M. 161801 February.*
 2. M.L. 574 is re-allocated to 27th Flotilla at Freetown.
 3. 32nd M.L. Flotilla now consisting of M.Ls. 558, 559, 562, 563, 568, 569 and 575 is re-allocated to Mediterranean.
 4. This re-allocation is necessary owing to urgent operational requirements in the Mediterranean.
 5. Claims of West Africa for additional M.Ls. will be given full consideration when the next flotilla become available, about mid July.
 6. F.O.C. Gibraltar pass to M.Ls. 559, 568, 562, and 575 on their arrival at Gibraltar.
 (D.D.O.D. (C) 301352B to F.O.C.W.A.)*32nd M.L. Flotilla allocated to West Africa.

/CILICIA...

1137

30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CILICIA CILICIA arrived Recife 301300Z to land sick man. Intend to sail her at 301600Z to Point C on her patrol area via X. 0700 S., 33.00 W. Y. 03.00 S. 35.00 W. Z. 05.00 N., 33.00 W. S. of A. 14 knots. (Com. 4th Fleet, 301436 to Cominch (R) F.O.C.W.A. and pass to Admty).

Convoy S.T.63. My 291930. Amend E.T.A. Takoradi ships to 3rd May. Amend E.T.A. Lagos ships to 5th May. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 301502Z to Admty).

Movements Dakar. Sailed BRIDGEWATER escorting EMPIRE GLEN 9 knots 1030Z COMMANDANT DETROYAT 15 knots 1400Z, after fuelling all to join convoy O.S.46. Arrived French cruiser GLOIRE 1430Z. (B.N.L.O. Dakar, 301511Z to R.A.W.A. etc).

CATTERICK Pointe Noire arrival a.m. and departure 1400 30th April CATTERICK supplied in accordance with your 291917 (N.T. in W.R.) S. of A. (24?) knots. E.T.A. Takoradi 1200Z/2nd May. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 301515Z to F.O.C.W.Africa (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C. Takoradi)

EMPIRE BRONZE, STANDELIA. Following is a repetition of my 29/1434Z/April addressed as above. (begins) - Your 201142 to Admty.
1. Request you will route EMPIRE BRONZE independently. R/V in 10 N., 20 W.
2. Request similar action with STANDELIA (ends). (F.O.C.W.A., 301545Z to B.R.L.O. Trinidad (R) Cominch, Admty).

Movements, Dakar. Arrived SILVER LAUREL with F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT 1400. Arrived FORTAL, SS. DUNKERQUE, SS. QUERCY escorted by COREOPSIS, COREOPSIS fuelled from FORTAL then sailed to rejoin. (Comar Dakar, 301800Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) LEITH, Admty).

DEVONSHIRE Your 281936. Cancel para. 1 of A.M. 261950 not to DEVONSHIRE. Request you will re-route DEVONSHIRE in order that she may be available to cover S.L.128 from 42° N., if required. (D.O.D. (F), 301815B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., DEVONSHIRE).

/ARCOLA...

War Diary.

30.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE.

Italian tankers ARCOLA and TAIGETE arrival 30th.
(N.C.S.O. (St. Vincent) 301830 to Admty.
F.O.C.W.A.)

x T.S.37,
3 ships
torpedoed.

3 (?ships) torpedoed (?sunk) 007° (?15 or 37')
N., 014° 49' W.
(BELLWORT (via Freetown W/T) 302124Z to
Ascension W/T).
Picking up survivors 3 ships sunk BANDAR
SHAHPOUR, CORABELLA and NAGINA.
(BIRDLIP, 302210Z to F.O.C.W.A.)
Three ships in T.S.37 torpedoed in 7° 15' N.,
13.49 W., at 2124Z/30. That is all for now.
(F.O.C.W.A., 302218Z to Admty)
Position about 130 miles S.W. of Freetown.
(D.O.R., 1351).

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

UNSHAKEN (destroyer sunk). Your 292130, well done. After 1100A today proceed to pass position P at 2030 A 1st May thence Malta as ordered by Capt. S.10. P.47 keep clear to Northward.
(Capt.S.8. 300114A to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) (R) 8th S.F. Capt. S.10).

Capt.(S) 8 300114. Return by usual route to arrive Malta 0830B. 4th May. Keep special lookout for E/boat patrols which have been reported on last 2 nights by our destroyers.
(Capt.S.10 300948B to P.54 (UNSHAKEN) (R) C. in C. Levant, S/M's on patrol, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Med. Capt.(S) 8).

Enemy Units One unknown bearing 135 degs. 3 mile course 122
M/V sunk by degs. 37.14 N. 13.04 E.
NUBIAN. (12th Destroyer Division 300355 to Malta W/T).
1 Merchant vessel (medium) unknown number of
E/boats 310 270 37.09 N. 13.04 E.
(NUBIAN 300435 to Malta W/T).

One small merchant ship/sunk, my P.C. and S. are 037 degs. 13' 013 degs. 02' 140 degs. 30 knots, no damage or casualties.
(NUBIAN 300551 to Malta W/T).
/2000 tons, see 301910Z.

Following read. 2 enemy destroyers 37.23 N. 12.04 E. and 2 K.T. (Signification unknown possibly "tankers"), one destroyer circling the other at 0710Z.
(A/C KT/1, 300855).

P.A.34 Convoy P.A.34 arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Aden 300550Z to Admty.).

W.S.28 Convoy W.S. 28 arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Aden 300647Z to Admty.).

Movements Arrived and left same day 29th GLOXINIA, PRIMULA,
Sfax. POOLE, KLO.
(N.O.I.C.Sfax 300716A to Admty.).

ILE DE Arrived 0345/30th April G.M.T.
FRANCE (N.C.S.O. Suez 300855C to C. in C. E.F. Connav,
S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I)
Alexandria. Admty.).

G.U.S.7. Request Ocean Route for G.U.S.7. sailing Bone
May 4th.
(C. in C.Med. 300858A to Admty.).
F.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy G.U.S.7 at

1800 May 5th.
(2) S. of A. 9 knots.
(3) Route through 91.36 39.2 76.3 16 letters D to K omitting

/ I via....

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G.U.S.7. I via Q.K.A.87 then through (L) 035 degs. 45'
(contd.). North 006 degs. 41' West to R/V with Casablanca
section in (M) 034 degs. 12' North 008 degs. 09'
West (?at) 1400 May 9th stragglers route as
convoy.
(4) Ocean route as ordered by Admiralty.
(5) Sections join and detach with local escorts, Philippeville
in 037 degs. 14' North 007 degs 02' East at 2300 May 5th,
Bougie in 037 degs 05' North 005 degs. 07' East at 0900 May 6th
Algiers in 51 at 1800 May 6th, Oran in 036 degs. 10' North 000
degs. 43' West at 1700 May 7th, Gibraltar in (?16) at 1830 May
8th.
(6) All times A.
(7) First two letters of W/T call signs V.Q. Incon 320.
(8) Fighter priority 3 by day, 2 by night, code word "Trafford".
(9) (?Med.) escort CIRCE S.O. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, HUSSAR,
ESPIEGLE, REIGHTON WYKE, MAN O' WAR.
(C. in C. Med. 301739A to A.I.G. 260 Commorseafon).

TRIDENT Intend to sail TRIDENT 1830/1st May for patrol
in Gulf of Genoa East of 007 degs. 40' East and
North of 042 degs; 00' North when west of
Corsica. North of 41.40 N. when east, Corsica routed through
038 degs. 19' North 003 degs. 53' East at 0500 2nd 042 degs. 00'
North 007 degs. 53' East at 2200 4th.
(Capt.S.8. 300904A 302240A, to C. in C. Med. (R) ANTIOPE, F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, Cdre. Algiers, Capt.(S) 10, S.(8).

Movements Following is a repetition of my 292053A (begins).
Bone. Bone arrivals LAMERTON, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK,
CIRCE, ESPIEGLE, HUSSAR, SAINT DAY.
Departures P.T.559 P.T. 624 (Ends).
(S.O.I.S. 300916A to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.).

Movements Arrivals 29th April SEVASTI, VICTORIA 2.
Alexandria Departures 29th April, HURWORTH, EASTON, ROCKWOOD
JAVELIN, KELVIN, ISIS, SANTA SAHRA, H.H.M.S's.
ADRIAS, KANARIS, SAKTOURIS, QUEEN OLGA.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 300923C to Admty. etc.).

Malta Arrived M/L 462, 134, 135 and 168.
M.L's. (N.O.I.C.Malta 300927 to Admty. etc.).

ALBA My 271247C, ALBA JULIA still loading, sailing
JULIA orders awaited hourly.
Greek consular source reports that vessel will
proceed to Salonica via Imbros Dodegatch, Grade
this D.4. only.
Consider more probable will proceed Piraeus where reported B.3.
she will discharge part (of) Cargo.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 300950C to C. in C. Levant etc.).

/ALBA....

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ALBA My 300950C and 301256C.
JULIA ALBA JULIA has completed loading. Standing by
(contd.). for sailing orders.B.1.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul ?301738C to C. in C. Levant etc.)

X Convoys I consider that a request to Cominch on grounds
re-routeing put forward in your 181921 would not meet with
use of W/T. success and might merely result in an instruction
by him that escorts should not break W/T silence
to ask for M.O.M.P.
(2) We have no cause for complaint if convoys do not run to
schedule owing to re-routeing, inconvenient though it may be,
and if aircraft reports are inaccurate that is a matter for us
to rectify.
(3) If however you can quote an example of a U.G.S. convoy
being so far from its dead reckoning position that aircraft had
difficulty in finding it we should then be on firmer ground.
(C. in C.Med. 301053 to F.O.Gibraltar (R) Admty.).

Movements Arrived NUBIAN, PALADIN, UNBROKEN.
Malta (V.A.Malta 301124B to Admty. etc.).

MARSOUIN Intend sailing MARSOUIN 1830 1st May for patrol
North of 042 degs. North between longitude 005
degs. 50' East and 007 degs. 15' East routed through
038 degs 20' 003 degs. 05' at 0500 2nd, 039 degs. 46' 004 degs.
25' at 0500 3rd 042 degs. 00' 006 degs. 00' at 2230 4th, all
positions north and east all times zone minus 1.
(Capt.(S) 8. 301216A to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.Gibraltar,
Capt.(S) 10, Care. Algiers, 8th S.F. ANTIOPE).

BALCIC My 300950C. Report B.3.
ALBA JULIA BALCIC will arrive Dardanelles bound for
(Roumanian) Istanbul with ALBA JULIA'S escort.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 301256C to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, S.1. S.10, D.N.I.).

X Tripoli Your 281310A and Admty. 271217.
A/T defence (1) Consider A/T defence for ships at anchor
outside Tripoli (L) most desirable if it is to
be used as a through convoy change-over port.
(2) Anchorage is open to attack by aircraft and submarines and if
large numbers of valuable ships are anchored in exposed positions
the scale of air attacks may well be formidable.
(3) Anchorage selected is to N.W. of breakwater, which is only
satisfactory area which can be covered by A.A. umbrella.
(4) Can provide 1½ miles of A/T defences by accepting present
low standard of defence at some of the Levant ports and using
up all reserves. This will give reasonable protection for 15
ships outside breakwater by end of June.
(C. in C.Levant 301314C to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.).
Reply D.L.D. 041702B.

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30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

32 M.L. Flotilla Your 280800.32nd M.L. Flotilla consisting of 7 M.L.'s is being re-allocated from West Africa to you.
(2) Four of these boats should leave U.K. for Gibraltar today Friday. Remaining three boats should be ready to leave U.K. about first week in June.
(3) Owing to the need to fit special tanks and equipment no further M.L.'s can be made available for you or West Africa before mid July at the earliest apart from those building at Alexandria and the 13 boats referred to in para.4. of a.m. 161055B. (D.D.O.D.(C) 301354B to C. in C. Med. (R) C.C.F.).

Convoy E.T.19 sailed (list).
E.T.19 (Com. N.O.B. Oran 301512 to A.I.G.259).

Movements Arrivals 0400Z LAUNCESTON.
Aden. 0430Z CANTON, BULOLO, KEREN and LARGS in company.
Departures BULOLO, KEREN and LARGS in company.
(Cdre. Aden, 301527Z to C. in C. Levant etc.).

JERVIS Intend to sail JERVIS (D.14) NUBIAN, PALADIN and
NUBIAN PETARD at 2130A 30th routed 25 miles south of
PALADIN Lampedusa to approx. position 090 degs. Sousse 40
PETARD at 0530A 1st at S. of A. 25 knots. Thence in
accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 301009.

(2) Route after withdrawal.
(AA) 036 degs. 10' 011 degs. 00'.
(BB) 034 degs. 50' 012 degs. 10'.
direct to Malta at best speed till south of 036 degs. North then 25 knots.
(V.A. Malta 301552 B to A.I.G. 263, C. in C. Med. C.S.12. (R) C. in C. Levant).

4 destroyers leave Malta 2245B 30th routed south of Lampedusa to make daylight sweep from Kelibia tomorrow in N.E. direction, returning by reverse of outward route arriving Malta night of 1/2 May.

(2) One M.T.B. from Sousse due Malta 0600 1st.
(3) S/M's will not be attacked north of line Cape Bon 131 degs. (Capt.S. 10, 301743B to P.49 (UNRULY) P.53 (ULTOR) RORQUAL, (R) Subs. on patrol, Capt.(S) 8, C. in C. Med.) Cancelled by 011759 q.v. My 301743 para.(1). Postponed 24 hours.
(Capt.S.10, 302341B to P.49 (UNRULY) P.53 (ULTOR) RORQUAL, (R) Subs. on patrol, Capt.(S) 8, C. in C. Med.).

Malta Air A.I. 594 30th April. Add to part 1 My A.I.561 29th
Report. April (291919Z).
2 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep east of Sicily as far as Reggio. Another 2 long range Spitfires on offensive sweep south west of Sicily sighted a large 2 masted schooner south west of Granitola and attacked causing a fire and large explosion after attack schooner was burning fiercely.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 301615Z).

/ Malta...

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30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.--(contd.).Malta
M.T.B's.

Cancel my 291617 (291717 intended - sailing of M.T.B's 82, 62 and 65 postponed 24 hours due engine defects). Engine defect still not remedied.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 301633B to N.O.I.C. Sousse).

N.W.A.A.F.
Reports.

To: C.G. 8th Air Force.
To: C.G. 9th Air Force.
From: Spaatz H.Q. N.A.A.F. Adv.
Ref. N.R.A.-9866. 330785 Ref. No.J.M.0225.

- (1) Dropping 7-500 pound and 4-100 pound bombs, 12 P.38's bombed 2 Seibel Ferries and 3 small vessels on day 29th. 1 direct hit on one Seibel Ferry and a near miss on another. Formation attacked by enemy aircraft of which one destroyed and 2 damaged.
(4) 3 P.38's bombed railway bridge Cagliari, dropping 1 500 pound and 2 100 pound bombs from 2,000 feet. Results unobserved.
(5) Weather prevented completion of bombing attacking on Bizerta by 28 P.17's, 90,000 leaflets were dropped.
(6) 12 B.26's dropped 216 100 pound bombs on motor vessel previously reported beached at E0004. Hits and near misses scored on stern of ship.
(7) 36 P.40's dropped 12 500 pound bombs from 4,000 feet on small motor vessels at K8490. Both vessels hit and left burning.
(9) Night 28/29. 19 Wellingtons bombed El Aouina aerodrome. 1 500 pound bomb made a direct hit on burning ship 10 miles from Zomba Island. Ship exploded and debris flew in all directions.
(10) Day 28th April. 18 B-26's escorted by 24 P-40's attacked vessel from 7,500 to 8,000 feet, dropping 288 100 pound bombs. Results unobserved. 3 B-26's crash landed, all due to flak.
(14) Kittyhawks attacked 7 motor vessels, 1 of which was blown up, 3 set on fire. The formation was encountered by enemy aircraft and damaged 3 destroying 5. 1 Kittyhawk is believed to have been forced down behind our lines.
(15) Day April 27, 11 B-25's dropped 58 100-pound and 56 300-pound bombs from 6,500 feet on 5 vessels in harbour on South side of Zombra Island. Among buildings on shore, bombs fell.
(N.W. African A.F. 301728A to Etousa and Mideast).

M.T.B's
Sousse

Departure M.T.B. 635, 633, 637.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 301755A to Admty.).

Convoy
E.T.19

E.T.19 arrived. CALVIN, COOLIDGE, RICHARD GATLING, MAMMY, LINGE, TORFINNJARL, GEORGE TAYLOR, DUX, CAUDEEC, L.S.T.364 L.S.T.409 L.S.T.303.
(N.O.I.C. Oran 301805 to Admty. etc.).

Movements
Port Said.

30th April Port Said arrivals nil, departures NEBOJSCA, PARTHIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 301806 to Admty. etc.).

ANTIOPE

ANTIOPE leave: patrol through 042 degs. 24'

/008 degs....

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Mediterranean.

ANTIOPE (contd). 008 degs. 00' at 2100A 2nd May 038 degs. 08' 003 degs. 28' at 2100A 5th May thence R/V escort Algiers 12 miles North of Cape Caxine at 0615A 6th May.
All positions N. and E.
(Capt. S.8.301836A to 8 S.M.F. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

X Malta Air Report, M/V sunk by destroyers. A.I.599 30th April.
(A) Part 1 offensive. Night 29th 30th April poor visibility, with sea fog and ground haze restricted all offensive operations. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols in Sicilian Narrows and over Western Sicily. No suitable target was found.
Day 30th April. Offensive sweeps made by 4 long range Spitfires in Sicilian Narrows and by 2 long range Spitfires between Cape Passero and Messina 4 other Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily strafed a W/T mast southwest of Pachino.
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Night 29th/30th April, 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol southwest of Sicily. Day 30th April 4, long range Spitfires provided escort for 2 D/R's returning from west.
X (C) Naval. Last night our destroyers carried out a sweep in the Sicilian Channel and sank a 2000 ton merchant ship which was escorted by E-boats off the Sicilian coast, We suffered no damage or casualties.
(A.H.Q.Malta 301910Z).

EREBUS Your 282252A/April (N.T. in W.D.) which has been repeated to C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. Levant.
No objection subject to remarks of C. in C. E.F. but EREBUS could hardly reach Tripoli in less than 24 days.
(2) Request you will concert arrangements with C. in C. E.F. and C. in C. Levant.
(D.O.D.(F) 301925B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant).

Movements Bone. Arrivals M.M.S.68. Departure LAMERTON, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CIRCE, ESPIEGLE, HUSSAR BADSWORTH, SAINT DAY.
(S.O.I.S. 301957A to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Target towing Aircraft. Means by which the requirements stated in your 272323 can be met are being considered as a matter of urgency.
(2) Request you will report types and numbers of Naval target towing aircraft now available in 775 Squadron.
(D.N.A.O. 302007B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med.).

X DOMINION Your 261727C not to F.O.Ceylon. We propose, subject to C. in C. E.F.'s concurrence, to use DOMINION MONARCH for personnel of M.N.B.D.O.1. after /disembarkation...

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Mediterranean.

DOMINION MONARCH (contd.). disembarkation at Suez of New Zealanders. This should give sailing date ex Suez of about 8/6. After disembarkation at Colombo DOMINION MONARCH would continue to U.K. via South Africa.
(2) Further signal will follow regarding proposals for movement of vehicles and stores.
(3) Agreed.
(D.S.T.302009B to P.S.T.O.M.E.(R) C. in C. E.F. P,S.T.O.I. P.S.T.O. Capetown, G.H.Q.M.E. F.O.R.S.C.A. D.S.T.O. Suez, F.O.Ceylon).

Movements Oran Following arrived RODNEY , NELSON, FORMIDABLE, WHEATON, FARNDALE, VELOX, WILTON, VENOMOUS, ILEX, PUCKERIDGE, CALPE, TYNEDEALE, HAYDON, H.M.H.S. OXFORDSHIRE, L.S.T.303, 409, U.S. L.S.T.364,
Departures FARNDALE, TYNEDEALE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran 302012A to Admty. etc.).

Attacks on U/B's.	A.	B	C	D	E	F
	429	1552B	8th EXMOOR	032 degs. 51'	I	Nil
		March		022 degs. 39'		
	430	0950B	17th EXMOOR	032 degs. 14'	F	Nil
		March		019 degs. 51'		
	431	2335B	19th F.S. LA	031 degs. 44'	I	Nil
		March	MOQUEUSE	025 degs. 55'		
	432	1423B	26th PAKENHAM	032 degs. 59'	H	Nil
		March	G.D.	013 degs. 52'		
			BASILISSA			
			OLGA			
	433	0935B	18th TETCOTT	033 degs. 01'	H	Nil
		March		022 degs. 18'		
	434	1804B	27th PROTEA	032 degs.	H	Nil
		March	SOUTHERN	(?015') 30"		
			ISLE	020 degs. 01'		

(C. in C. Levant 302032C to Admty.).

X Enemy torpedoes. Your 242208A (Re adjustment of enemy torpedoes at Algiers) Request a specimen be sent home when available consigned as in C.A.F.O. 1085/42. (D.T.M. 302102B to C. in C. Med. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements Algiers. Arrivals D.19 LAFOREY L.S.T. 364.
Departures MINNA L.S.T.364.
(Cdre. Algiers. 302209A to Admty. etc.).

CROOME Arrived and left.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 302240C to Admty.).

/Movements...

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30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -(Contd.)

Movements
Tripoli

Arrived GLOXINIA, POOLE, PRIMULA KLO.
(N.O.I.C. Libya 302317A to Admty.).

x French
ships,
Alexandria
docking etc.

Your 272126. As preliminary gesture (which seemed to be needed) I had agreed to quick dock TOURVILLE this weekend to clean bottom repair condensor inlet and a few leaking oil fuel tanks. (2) At same time I asked for conference to discuss any possible future requirements. This took place this afternoon. All ships require quick docking of about 48 hours. Destroyers require hull and upper deck constructional repairs. BASQUE is constructionally fitted for asdics with gear on board but not fitted. Cruiser and LORRAINE have no hull defects. Base constructor officer is visiting ships when fuller details will be obtained. (3) Engines said to be in good condition but some boilers need partial retubing but not necessary at Alexandria. Armament said to be in good condition, but close range A/A weapon obsolete. Consider all ships will probably require complete A/A rearmament eventually. One destroyer requires asdics and all ships are constructionally and technically prewar. (4) Giraud's representative shortly expected but before embarking on a docking programme I intend to see Godfroy and try to obtain a better guarantee of his intentions than I possess at present. (5) C. in C. Med. pass to Resident Minister, Algiers. (C. in C. Levant 302332C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- SOEMBA. Departure SOEMBA. S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots, 66 N. 185, 667, 24, 19, 258, 473.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 300331Z to Admty etc.)
- Movements. Arrival NETRAVATI.
(N.O.I.C.Madras, 300344Z to Admty etc.)
- ARONDA. Para. A my 251123Z April and my 261126 Z April. ARONDA will embark approx. 500 Polish families at Karachi for Beira, sailing about 20th May. Ship replaces EASTERN PRINCE.
(P.S.T.O.India, 300518Z to D.S.T.(R) C. in C. E.F. etc.) Cancelled, see P.S.T.O.India, 061108Z/May.
- FALMOUTH. FALMOUTH will be ready to sail a.m. 7th May. Request instructions whether it is still desired FALMOUTH to proceed to Kilindini first observing endurance is sufficient for passage to S.African Port calling at Mauritius for fuel.
(F.O.Ceylon, 300615Z to C. in C. E.F.(R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)
FALMOUTH is to proceed to Kilindini first. Your 300615 refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 301257Z to F.O. Ceylon)
- P.A.38, Intentions for escort. PUNJAB P.A.38, sailing P.B.40. 0300Z/9th May, Ocean route number 1. RAJPUTANA, P.B.40 sailing 0600Z/10th May Ocean route number 3.
(S.N.O.P.G. 300639Z 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)
- Arabian-Bengal Add R.N.N. WILLIAM VAN DER ZAAAN to -Ceylon A.B.C.E.F. in my 280803.
Escort (C. in C. E.F. 300645 to F.O. Ceylon.F.O.C.R.I.N.
Force. S.N.O.P.G. (R) Admty. Cdre. R.I.N. Com. i/c Aden, F.O.I.C. E.Africa. F.L.O.Delhi.)
- VITA. On completion of refit about 7th May H.S.VITA is to be sailed for Suez where she will come under orders of C. in C. Levant. My 120846 April to Admiralty refers. Bombay C.C.O. pass to H.S.VITA.
(C. in C. E.F. 300753 to P.S.T.O.I. (R) F.O. Ceylon, H.S.VITA C. in C. Levant, Admty.)
- U/B's. No.284 U-Boat dispositions.
Japanese: One possibly now North East Mombasa by sighting 24th April and single D/F bearing 26th April. One by D/F near 025° 00' S. 060° 00' E. 28th April.

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

U/B's
(Contd.) German: One by D/F near 030° 00' S. 047° 00' E.
21st April.
(2) The following Y message is cancelled:
219 Y of 5th March.
(C. in C. E.F. 300741Z to E.F. (263 Y) (R) A.H.Q.
E.Af. 246 Wing, F.L.O.Delhi, Admty. C. in C.
S.A., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B., Cdre. Aden.)

Convoy Colombo Portion B.M.51 arrived 0200Z.
B.M.51. (N.C.S.O.Colombo, 300744 to Admty)

ALSTERUFER Raider situation No.31. No information of
Japanese or German raiders. ALSTERUFER
believed acting as U-Boat supply ship possibly
still in South Atlantic.
(C. in C. E.F. 300751 to E.F. 264 Y, F.L.O.
Delhi)

Flying 222 Group Flying Boats in South Africa as they
Boats. become due for motor overhaul are being replaced
by aircraft from Western Area. It is not an-
ticipated therefore that in continuance F.O.
Ceylon Flying Boat detachment in South Africa
will be required. (2) Retention of your 3 flying boats until
they become due for major overhaul would however be appreciated.
(3) Para. 1 of your A.424 timed 290935/April (N.T. in W.D.) is
noted. Concur in proposal in para. 3.
(C. in C. E.F. 300806Z to 222 Group (R) A.H.Q.E.A., C. in C.
S.A., Admty. Air Ministry)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) 0545Z/30th April/45.
M.B.34. (4) Ten knots. (5) X 09° 51' N. 77° 58' E.
Y 08° 02' N. 77° 01' E. keeping 10 miles off
shore. (6) TAMWORTH. (7) 2 Ships JALAGOPAL,
SANTHIA, troops and stores, Bombay.
(N.C.S.O.Colombo, 300920Z, 300923Z to Admty)

X Flying WX.9598. A.335 30th April.
Boat Para. 3 your AX 567 23 April. Thorough R/C
Bases. has revealed Jiwani unsuitable as operational
base for flying boats. Restricted run and
lack of mooring andmanoeuvring area limits its
value to emergency alighting and take off
facilities for lightly loaded aircraft only. Am already
preparing accommodation and maintenance facilities for 2 flying
boat squadrons at Karachi and am satisfied when these
established on arrival 191 squadron to join 212 already there
they can afford adequate G/R cover Persian Gulf area.
(A.H.Q.India, 300941Z to Air Ministry)

Movements, Colombo arrivals 30th April. 0100Z SCOUT.
Colombo. 0112Z VAN DER ZAAN. Departures 0527Z TAMWORTH.
0930Z VAN DER ZAAN.
(F.O. Ceylon 301205Z to Admty etc.)

Movements / ...

1149

30.4.1945.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies (Contd.)

Movements,
Kilindini.

(? LUCIA) arrived.
Left (? RANPURA).
(F.O. East Africa, 301212Z to Admty etc.)

+ India
Air
Report.

Pt.2 my A.337 dated 30th April.
(F) U.S.A.A.F. reports 28th April. Katha 4
hits on River Steamer, other hits on docks,
River Craft machine gunned on Irrawaddy. 11
B.25's to Monywa. Hits on docks and railway
installations.
(A.H.Q. India, 301245Z)

AMRA.
ORANJE.

Ref. P.S.T.O.Middle East's 290937. AMRA will
embark to capacity at Tanga and proceed direct
to Suez. ORANJE will embark ordnance Tanga
personnel and then Mogadishu Berbera and Suez.
To give AMRA more time in Durban, considered
that her embarkation date at Tanga can be advanced to 11th May.
My 291201 not to C. in C. Levant refers. D.S.T.O.Durban is
requested to advise confirm date embarkation as soon as possible
in order that MOJBGEMENT (As received, corrupt group) can be
laid on.
(D.S.T.O.Kilindini, 301241Z to D.S.T.O. Durban (R) D. of S.T.
etc.)

F.O.2,
GAMBIA,
NEWCASTLE.

F.O. 2nd I/C Eastern Fleet in GAMBIA sails May
4th for 3 days exercise in vicinity of Kilindini
proceeding thence to (arrive?) Durban 11th
May. Flag will be transferred to NEWCASTLE
at Durban, F.O. 2nd i/c Eastern Fleet (in?)
NEWCASTLE subsequently sailing for Kilindini.
(C. in C. E.F. 301547Z to Admty (R) C. in C.
S.A. F.O. 4th C.S., N.O.I.C.Durban.)

M/V's
Boiler
Cleaning.

M.O.W.T. have represented that cases have occur-
red of merchant ships' boilers and machinery
suffering heavy deterioration through abnormal
wear and tear and lack of opportunity for
boiler cleaning and overhaul owing to being
required to keep main steam at short notice.

It is requested that when the situation permits merchant ships
may not be required to keep main steam at short notice and that
they may when possible be given at least 36 hours notice for
main steam.

(D.T.D. 302036B to C. in C. E.F.)

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War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Convoy F.H.51A. (1) F.H.51A sailing telegram. (2) St. John N.B. 2359Z/April 29th. (3) Halifax 1800Z/May 1st. (4) Knots 8. (5) Route). (6) FRENCH. (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 300010Z to Admty.)

U.G.F.8. This completes my despatch 282144. Part 1 (7). 24 ships. Organisation S.Ps. Q. information. (Port Director, New York 300030Z to Cominch C. & R.) Sailing telegram Part 2. List etc. Total 24 ships sailed. Task Force 67 has by hand. (Port Director, New York 300056Z to Cominch C. & R.)

H.X.237. 1 Sailing Telegram Part 1. 2. Position (AE) at 1730Z/May 1,3,5,8. Routes and R/V as per Comeastseafrons 2230/26 April as amended by 1724/27th April except all times 21½ hours later. 6. Task Unit 24.18.6. TRAIL. (S.O.) TIMMINS, NORANDA. Escort Tanker BRITISH VALOUR, Pennant position 72,100 depth charges improvised flotation gear. Standby escort tanker SPINANGER 62. No depth charges. LAURENT MEEUS 31 W. with 60 depth charges improvised flotation gear not fitted with oiling gear. NORHOLM 42 with 60 depth charges improvised flotation gear not fitted with oiling gear. (P.D. New York 300044Z, 011948Z to Admty.)

SPENCER, DUANE. Departed for Boston at 0030Z/30th in accordance with Comnaveau 291028. (C.T.G. 24.7 300058Z to Cinclant, Cominch, Admty. C.T.F.24, etc.)

U.G.S.8. Amend my 290116. Item 16. (Q information held.) (Port Director New York 300058Z to Cominch C. & R.)

ST. KENAN. Intend sailing ST. KENAN for Halifax 0900Z tomorrow Friday for urgent defects. Estimated time required for completion 24 hours. E.T.A. 1400Z/30th. (SOREL, 300159Z to C. in C. Canadian N.W. Atlantic, Capt. (D) Halifax, (R) Cdre. Halifax.)

Movements, St. Johns, N.F. St. Johns N.F. April 29th. Arrivals PATHFINDER ex support duty, BUCTOCHE ex S.C. 128 escorting SS. VAN DE VELDE, PELICAN, SENNEN, SPEY, JED, WEAR ex support duty, U.S.S. MOHAWK, U.S.S. TRAVIS, U.S.S. DARVEK, U.S.S. S.C. 705, U.S.S. S.C. 688, U.S.S. S.C. 689, ex Argentinia. Departures OFFA, PENN, IMPULSIVE, PANTHER to O.N.S.5, PATHFINDER to Argentinia, P.554 escorted by WASAGAI to Argentinia. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns 300455Z to Admty.)

/PASTEUR...

War Diary.

30.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

PASTEUR. SS. PASTEUR Brit. arrived New York 291042Z.
(Usnavcom Washington 300516Z to Cominch C. & R. etc.)
Sailed PASTEUR via (J) 30.58 72.03 (K) 38.59
60.30 (L) 39.01 48.35 (M) 39.02 37.03 (N) 40.58 31.10 (O) 40.15
22.30 (P) 36.55 13.59 (Q) 34.02 08.01.
(Cominch C. & R. 301711Z to Port Director New York, (R)
C.G.S.F, C.E.S.F. Admty.)

S/M Estimate. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet 300525Z, 300540Z, 300640Z,
U/S. S/M. 301514Z, 301515Z, 301608Z, 301610Z).
Notice. (Connaveu 300719.)

GEORGE E. C.T.F.24 291647Z addressed to GEORGE E. BADGER
BADGER. for action and to Connaveu, Cinclant, Cominch, etc.
for information, informs as follows. (quoted). *
(Connaveu 300722 to Admty.) * E.T.A.051000Z May
S. of A. 15 knts.

Shipping This is Connav serial 29 from Connav to Connaveu
Casualties. for Action, dated 292050. LYDIA M. CHILDS torp.
sunk April 27th, position 33.08 S. 153.24 E.
SANTA CATALINA serial 24 sunk, survivors landed
San Juan.
(Connaveu 300846 to Admty.)

Movements 1800 G.M.T. 30th April.
Summary. Ship Position Course Speed
F.S. GLOIRE 08° N. 28° W. Patrol Blank
F.S. GEORGES 11° N. 30° W. Patrol Blank
LEYGUES.
ANDES. 35½° N. 26½° W. 290° 19.
(D.O.D. (F) 300910Z to Opnav (R) Connaveu.)

French E.Vs. Your 081641. (Appointment of French Liaison
Bermuda. Officer while French escort vessels are re-arming
in Bermuda). 6627 pounds advanced to Officer De
Liaison Francais. 2. Do you require notification
future advances by signal? Request classification
(Cdre.i/c. Bermuda 301043P. to Admty.)

NIAGARA, Attacked doubtful contact 42.48 N. 69.37 W. at
U-Boat contact. 1100Z.
(NIAGARA, 301130Z to Connav, Admty. etc.)

My 301130Z, contact, rejoining convoy. NIAGARA
MATA (?F) I.A. carried out 7 attacks. Contact classified possible
S/M, MATAFIA and U.S. Navy blimp continue search.
(W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.5. 301300Z to Connav (R) Admty. etc.)

PASTEUR /...

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30.4.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- PASTEUR. New York arrived 29th April.
(N.S.H.Q. 301229Z to D.S.T.)
- EMPIRE BITTERN, submerged object. O.N.178 EMPIRE BITTERN. Following extracted from report of Master. At 1750Z/21 April. 56.17 N. 46.35 W. a ship in column Port side of Commodore believed to be Pts. 31 torpedoed. At 0125Z/22 April. 56.15 N. 45.58 W. wind N. 6/7, showing visibility 50/100, sea rough, with long heavy northerly swell, Chief Engineer reported contact with submerged object under ship's bottom in vicinity of stokehold. Contact was of such force as to displace all forward ash pit dampers on all boilers also lagging on backs of centre boilers. No apparent damage to hull. Masters report follows by letter.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 301232Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
- * Control, North Atlantic. My 131318. Operational control passes to Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board at 1200Z on 30th April. Admiralty and Canadian Naval Board will then assume complete responsibility for protection and routing of H.X. S.C. O.N. and O.N.S. convoys.
(Head of M.11 Appd. A.C.N.S. (U.T) 301259B to C. in C. etc.)
- SAN ADOLFO. Your 231736. Para.2 D. SAN ADOLFO. Do we supply stern chute hose fairlead for this ship and others as in SPINANGER (Nor.) modified Admiralty N.C. 26A/O/350 sheets 6 and 7, or as in NOREG (Nor.) KALDFONN (Nor.) BRITISH GLORY (American pattern).
(B.R.L.O. New York 301332Z to Admty.)
- Movements, Halifax. Arrivals INGONISH, GUYSBOROUGH, BAYFIELD, CARAQUET LOCKEPORT from Bermuda. Departure UNGAVA to relieve DIGBY Cable Grounds.
(C. Halifax 301436Z to Admty. etc.)
- U-Boat. Nevis. My 291805 (1 S/M sighted off S.E. coast of Nevis) Sighted first by Government official later by British Army Major. Submerged when about 6 miles from Redonda.
(S.O. (I) Kingston, Jamaica. 301458Q to Connnav, Admty. etc.)
- FENCER. FENCER expected departure 2000Z/1st May. Routed New York (?MACRO) convoy route. E.T.A. Ambrose 1200Z/2nd May. S. of A. 16 knots.
(Caver Office, Norfolk. 301517Z to C.E.S.F. Admty etc.)

/North...

War Diary.

30.4.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

North Atlantic Convoy Cycles, Escort Groups.

Admty. 280046B, B.A.D. 281615Z Cominch's 282048Z. Consider 11 Mid Ocean close escort groups and 8 western locals will suffice for either of proposed programmes. Important from escort point of view that fast and slow convoys arrive at Westomp at approx. even intervals. Requested that convoy cycles be adjusted accordingly. Admty. pass to Comnavu. (N.S.H.Q. 301520Z to Admty. (R) Cominch, Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A. Comnavu, B.A.D.)

Escort group re-arrangement would be facilitated by sailing S.C. 132 on 26th May and thereafter at 11 day intervals. Please amend para. 2 (D) of A.M. 280046B. accordingly.

(D.T.D. 301526B to Cominch, N.S.H.Q. (R) B.A.D. Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. N.A. Comnavu.)

Your 292040/April. Concur. Your 280046 April para 3. Please confirm that upper limit of S.C. is 80 ships. A.A/S.S.B. 122114 April refers.

(B.A.D. 301947 to Admty. N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A.)

Admty's 280046. Sailing H.X.238 May 7th, H.X.239 May 13th, H.X.240 May 19th, then five and six days intervals alternately.

(Conroute 302042Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Comnavu, Port Director N.Y. Admty. C. in C.W.A., C. in C. C.N.A. N.S.H.Q.)

Your 292040 no further comment. Sailing dates Admty. 280046 will be promulgated. Admty. pass to Comnavu.

(Cominch 302121Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A. Comnavu.)

BLACKWOOD, DRURY.

About 1800Q/May 1st depart Ambrose and proceed via Point Z. to 39.52 N. 73.00 W. thence to 38.00 N. 73.00 W. thence direct to N.O.B. Bermuda.

On arrival report to Commandant for further order. Report E.T.A. and E.T.D. to C.E.S.F. and information addressees, speed 15 knots. Guard 4410 kc/s

guard 2716 kc/s voice, 3000 kc/s voice at scene of action. By hand to BLACKWOOD and DRURY. B.N.L.O. New York informed. (C.E.S.F. 301603Z to Admty. Cominch, N.O.B. Bermuda, C.T.G. 02.3, 02.4, 02.5, 02.9, C. in C. Lant, (R)S.B.N.O. W.A.)

X Panama Canal, carriage of benzine.

Your 281056B. (Ban on ship carrying benzine through canal during dark hours.) Para. (3) yes. Ban still exists but is open to relaxation now as each case arises.

(B.R.L.O. Cristobal 301606R to D.N.I.)

G.A.T.58.

Convoy G.A.T.58 arrived.

(B.R.L.O. Trinidad 301616Q to Admty.)

War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- U.G.L.4. 1. Sailing telegram Part 1.
2. 2000Z/April 1 point Z. seaward end of swept channel. 3. Position K. at 2300Z/May 2nd.
S. of A. $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots. 5. 8. Ocean route and stragglers route. (K) 38.48 N. 69.01 (?West). (L) 32.52 N. 64.30 6. Task Unit 21.7.1. U.S.S. CHAMPLIN. S.O. (?ORDORNAUX) P.Cs. 591, 542, 551, 557, 558, 621. Escort oilers U.S.S. CONASBUGA, U.S.S. GUYANDOT. 7. 13 ships.
(Port Director, New York 301842Z to Cominch C. & R. (R) Admty. etc.)
- TRACKER. New York departed April 29 TRACKER in U.G.F.8. (N.S.H.Q. 301900Z to Admty. (R) R.L.O. B.A.D.)
- X Development of St. Johns. B.A.D. 261525Z/April. Canadian Govt. concur in proposals for expansion St. Johns recommended during recent conference there. Immediate action taken to implement, further reply supplementing F.O.N.F. 282004 April is being made to B.A.D. 262203 April regarding floating dock and Bay
Bulys in few days.
(N.S.H.Q. 301900Z to Admty. B.A.D. F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A.)
- Movements, U.S.A.Ts. U.S.A.T. MORMACPORT arrived Port Hueneme Calif. April 28. U.S.A.T. MORMACHAWK arrived San Francisco April 29.
(N.S.H.Q. 301930Z. to Admty.)
- B.X.47. Arrived B.X.47 (? between) 1720Z and 1915Z April 30th.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 302016Z to Admty.)
- New Construction. A.M. 242101/February. Anticipated arrivals of new construction ships manned by R.N. at Bermuda for full A/S work up are as follows:-
May 1943. Captains Class Frigates DRURY, BLACKWOOD. Algerine ARIES. June 1943. Algerines CLINTON, FRIENDSHIP. River Class Frigates EVENLODE, FINDHORN. July 1943. Captains Class Frigates BURGESS, CALDER. B.A.M.S. CATHERINE, CATO. B.E.C.3. and B.E.C.4 Algerines GOZO, LIGHTFOOT. Corvettes STATICE, WILLOWHERB.
(D.A/S.W. 302033B to MALABAR. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O. W.A. Com.i/c. Bermuda. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. C.N.A.)
- U/Bs. and possible Raider. Sighted by A/C. (Commorseafron 302045Z). See North Atlantic.

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War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

U.G.F.8A. Convoy U.G.F.8A expected ready to sail Hampton Roads for North Africa about May 10th. Composition 6 A.Ps. and 2 A.Ks. named my 211337 plus SEATRIN, TEXAS, U.S.S. LAKEHURST, A.P. NEA HELLAS and A.K. FREDERICK LYKES. Total 12 ships. Destination all ships Mediterranean ports. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet (307) 2056Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (U.S.) (R) C.E.A.S.F., Cmdt. 5th U.S.N.D. Hampton Roads, Admty. C. in C. Med. C. Mid Ocean Frontier Forces, Comnavaw, F.O. Gib. N.O.B. Bermuda.)

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z. A. H.M.S. DUNCAN attacks two subs area 61.30 N. 32.49 W. p.m. 28th. D. R.C.A.F. plane sights make 46.55 N. 63.22 W. 1300/30 H.M.C.S. NIAGARA and MATAPEDIA attack sound contact 42.48 N. 69.37 W. 1100/30. U.S.S. BLAKELEY attacks sound contact 11.28 N. 62.44 W. 2230/29. R.A.F. plane sights sub course 33019-35 N. 68.40 W. 1605/29. Sub sighted 17 N. 62.30 W. 1630/29. P.B.Y. sights sub 38.32 N. 74.50 W. 1652/29. American Export plane sights 11 subs 34.10 N. 57 W. 1627/29. (Cominch 302106Z to Admty. for O.I.C.)

ANDES. Your 291458Z. In view of other requirement in U.K. request ANDES be sailed so as to arrive Liverpool not before 19 May. 2. Vessel is urgently in need of drydock. Can this be arranged before sailing in A.T.44? 3. Commorseafon is requested to signal requirements of ANDES at Halifax. (D.S.T. 302107B. to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. B.A.D. Commorseafon P.S.T.O. Med.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav Serial 30. MCKEESPORT torpedoed sunk April 29th, 61.22 N. 35.09 W. convoy O.N.S.5. Request information HENRY BACON your serial 24. (Conroute 302114Z to Comnavew (R) C.G.S.F. C.P.S.F. C.C.S.F. N.S.H.Q. N.O.B. Bermuda, S.O. (I) Kingston, C.E.S.F.)

X Suspected Raider. This is a re-encypherment of Cominch's 301550 information C.T.F.69 N.O.B. Bermuda SS. MARIPOSA C.T.G. 21.8 (Begins) Amex planes sighted suspected raider or runner near 036° 49' N. 044° 30' W. at 2140Z/29 speed 15 course 225 altering radius call Y upon sighting. No armament or flag seen. Flush deck. One stack. Mainmast well aft. Cargo on deck. Straight bow cruiser stern. Dull grey. Unidentified here. (Cominch 302115 G.M.T. to B.A.M.S.2A. MARIPOSA.)

/ADVANTAGE...

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30.4.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ADVANTAGE, A.M. 291353. (N.T. in W.D.) ADVANTAGE is expected to arrive Bermuda 15th May and will be relieved by ASPIRANT in due course. A.M.151917 ASPIRANT. March refers. 2. Ref. Para. 3 of letter quoted these vessels carry 465 fathoms of 5½ inch wire on self rendering winch. (B.A.D. 302125Z to Admty.)

X.B.48. X.B.48. Boston section arrived 301257Z. Cape Cod Canal section arrived 302110Z. (Cdr. 1st U.S. Nav. Dis. Boston 302139Z to Cominch C. and R. C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. Admty.)

D/F Fixes Commencing 0001Z/May 1st N.S.H.Q. will broadcast U/B (1) H/F D/F Fixes to ships N. of 40° N. and W. of 28° W. reading broadcast "L". Estimates. (2) Daily U-Boat estimates area N. of 40° N. and W. of 40° W. on broadcast "L". (N.S.H.Q. 302145Z to Admty. Cominch (R) S.B.N.O.W.At., C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A. S.O.P.A., Argentia, F.O.C. Iceland (C) H.Q.C.C. C.E.S.F.)

? S.C.128, A.C.35, 30th April. Convoys S.C.128 and O.N.S. 5 both look seriously threatened in next few days. Have you enough aircraft with adequate air cover. range to give cover or would you like two or three Liberators from Iceland to help you out? Repeat reply to Iceland who is to take this as warning order and to despatch up to three Liberators on short detachments if required by 1 Group. (H.Q. Coastal Command, 302210Z to No.1 Group St. Johns, N.F., (R) E.A.C. Halifax, Iceland, 15 Group, Admty.)

U/Bs, Recent W/T activity on series 1 and 8 suggests O.N.S. 5, U-Boats may have lost contact with O.N.S.5 and several are possibly south and west of O.N. 180. Latest transmission of 52 groups at 1706Z on 12950 k/cs places 1 within 120 miles of 060° 30' N. 039° 00' W. (N.S.H.Q., 302231Z to Ships escorting O.N.180, Ships escorting O.N.S.5, C. in C. C.N.A., F.O.N.F., (R) Admty., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O.W.At., A.C.I.C.)

ST. CLAIR, E.T.A. 1300Z/(31st ? 1st intended). Boiler hours ST. CLAIR. In company CHICOUTIMI, QUESNEL CHICOUTIMI, TRURO. Defects. (ST. CLAIR, 302243Z to F.O.N.F., (R) Capt. D.) TRURO.

/ U/B ...

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War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

U/B Assessments. Request early reply to my 1446/20 March (Assessments of attacks on U-Boats). (N.S.H.Q., 302319Z to Admty.)

U.S./Africa Convoys, "Chop". Cominch's 101715 and Admiralty's 221701, proposed new "Chop" line on May 1st U.S./African convoys is satisfactory to N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q., 302333 to Admty., Cominch, (R) B.A.D., C- in C. Lant.)

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Wellington H.T. DOMINION MONARCH. (D.N.I. Wellington, 300440Z to Admty.)
Arrival Auckland U.S.S. ? HERCULES. (D.N.I. Wellington, 300527Z to Admty.)
Arrivals Milne Bay 28th BROOME, 29th GLENELG, WHYALLA. Townsville 29th WARREGO. Sydney (N.S.W.) 29th BENDIGO, COLAC, STUART. Departures Milne Bay 29th GLENELG for Orodar. BUNBURY for Port Moresby. BROOME on escort. Cairns 29th ECHUCA for Port Moresby. (A.C.N.B., 301204Z.)
Arrival Fremantle 29th U.S.S. TRINITY. (A.C.N.B., 301218Z to Admty., etc.)
H.T. IROMBA arrived Sydney 29th April. Dutch naval store ship MINTAK TANAH departed Cairns 29th due Brisbane 5th May. Hospital ship CENTAUR departed Brisbane 29th due Townsville 2nd. (C.P.S.F., 301237Z to Admty., etc.)

Digest Number 465, April 29th. British freighter WOLLONGBAR (2239 tons) hit by two torpedoes at 0030Z/29 in 31° 17' S. 153° 07' E. and sank rapidly. Five survivors rescued 32 missing. Catalina saw submerging submarine at periscope depth six minutes after attack 200 yards from ship.

- (2) Morning R/C Liberator encountered float bi-plane over wide bay. Later bombed possible dump near beach at Finschhafen.
- (3) Same time second Liberator bombed villages vicinity Saidor.
- (4) After midday third Liberator bombed Madang township.
- (5) Strong enemy defence positions encountered by allied patrols half mile south of Komiatum and at Greens Hill (1½ miles north-east Mubo).
- (6) Six Liberators attacked Halong seaplane base near Ambon, Kid (? this) morning causing large explosion and conflagration among barracks also fires in two hangars. Interception by 12 to 15 Zeros whereof two probably destroyed plus one damaged. Photos reveal two fighters and 12 twin engined aircraft including one

/damaged ...

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War Diary.30.4.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New ZealandDigest
Number 465,
April 29th.
(Contd.)

damaged at Laha. Two moored float planes also two ashore Halong. One old type destroyer, three freighters of 3,000 tons each, two smaller merchantmen in Ambon Bay. (7) During early hours four B.25A bombed Koepang. (8) Before noon one search Hudson attacked and probably sank 50 foot lugger off East Coast Jamdyja Island and subsequently bombed Kolseer village adjacent Langgoer airfield. (9) Enemy R/C plane over Darwin area during forenoon. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 300832Z to Admty. etc.)

WOLLONGBAR
(sunk 29
April)

SS. WOLLONGBAR 2239 tons was torpedoed and sunk 0040Z/29th 80 miles North of Newcastle, 5 survivors 32 missing. (A.C.N.B. 301131Z to Admty. etc.)

LYDIA M.
CHILDS
(sunk
27 April)

My 281109Z. 1. (A) LYDIA M. CHILDS. (B) 033° 08' S. 153° 24' E. 0910Z/27th. (C) Moderate sea, visibility bad. (D) 1 heavy low angle gun and machine guns. 2. Vessel was not in convoy. 3. Not sighted before or after attack. 4. (A) (1) 2 (2) Both struck port side on bulkhead between 2 and 3 hatch. Vessel sank 20 minutes after attack. (3) Tracks not sighted until approx. 40 feet away. (B) Nil 5.2 shots fired at random 6. (A) and (B) no. 7. All of crew saved. (A.C.N.B. 301217Z to Admty. etc.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 301302B, 301317.)