

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

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

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

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

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

ADM 199 226B

War Diary.

1.5.1943.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

NÜRNBERG

1. At 0414B this morning one Enemy Destroyer was sighted by A/C off the Norwegian coast in 61° 39' N., 03° 08' E; and at 0630B a B.2 report stated that one cruiser, apparently NÜRNBERG with 4 destroyers and an escort of 6 Fighters passed Floro (61° 36' N., 05° 03' E). steering south at 16 knots. At 0900 this formation was reported to be passing Gjojta Light to the southward at slow speed. 18 torpedo Beaufighters with escort of 40 Beaufighters were despatched, but did not sight the enemy.

Operation
VP - R.

2. M.T.Bs. 620 and 653 returned to Scapa at 1130 today from Operation VP - R. On leaving Hovden (61° 41' N., 04° 52' E) at 0200B this morning they each fired 2 torpedoes at an enemy patrol destroyer or T.B. which M.T.B. 653 claims to have hit; and two hours later they were fired at by another destroyer which was lost sight of at 0430.

KING GEORGE
V.

3. KING GEORGE V arrived at Scapa this morning from Rosyth and sailed again this evening for Gibraltar, escorted by METEOR, TROUBRIDGE and TUSCAN.

O.N.S.5.

4. DUNCAN reported at 0801Z that convoy O.N.S. 5 was almost stopped since 2000/30 in a south-westerly gale. The convoy was attacked unsuccessfully during the night by one of two U-boats which were in contact. All 42 ships and escort were present but spread out. During the day the gale increased to Force 10 and at 2000/Z B.7 reported that the convoy was badly scattered.

Coastal
force
operation.

5. 3 M.T.Bs. of the 31st Flotilla and 4 M.G.Bs. of the 17th Flotilla attacked with gunfire 4 enemy auxiliary vessels off Terschelling early this morning and severely damaged and set 3 of them on fire in an action lasting 40 mins. One of the ships was later seen to sink, our ships suffered some casualties and M.G.B. 605 and M.T.B.632 some damage.

6. It is intended that the Fighter complement of Escort Carriers should remain for the present at 10 Seafires.

7. 48 out of 78 Fortresses of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked St. Nazaire today. 20 Liberators flew a diversionary sweep towards Brest.

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SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands. - Contd.

8. Aircraft L of 25 Squadron reports 3 hits with depth charges on a U-boat in 47.28 N. 10.27 W., at 1030B today. A Whitley aircraft made a promising attack on a U-boat at 1725, 90 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre.

South Atlantic.

Further
attack on
T.S.37
7 ships
in all
torpedoed.

9. Convoy T.S.37 was further attacked today. At 0342 in approx. 7.58 N., 14.14 W., 3 ships were torpedoed:-
CITY OF SINGAPORE, 6555 tons, British (sunk in approx. 07.55 N., 14.16 W.
CLAN MACPHERSON, 6940 tons, British, foundered at 1014 while under way to Freetown.
MOKAMBO 4996 tons Belgian, set on fire in approx. 07.40 N., 14.16 W, taken in tow but foundered in Freetown harbour about 020200Z.
Between 0353 and 0442, RAPID, destroyer dropped 40 depth charges on a confirmed contact.
RAPID, MALCOLM and WOLVERINE sailed from Freetown at 010945Z, to assist the convoy.

10. ADELPHOTIS, Greek, which left Buenos Aires on 17th April for Freetown and U.K. was torpedoed today in 03.32 S., 21.33 W, about 450 miles N.W. of Ascension.

West Africa
Convoys.

11. F.O.C. West Africa regrets that convoy S.R.5 cannot be sailed owing to an adequate escort not being available. The ships will sail in S.L. 129, making about 45 ships from Freetown in that convoy.

Mediterranean.

Convoy from
Benghazi
attacked.

12. Air attacks were made at 2000 and 2050 today on Convoy "Liquid" proceeding westward from Benghazi escorted by destroyers of the 22nd Flotilla in 32.40 N., 19.53 E. about 40 miles N.N.W. of Benghazi.

/ERINPURA...

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SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean

Convoy
from Benghazi
attacked.
(contd).

ERINPURA (with about 1000 army personnel on board) and BRITISH TRUST (with 11400 tons of black oil fuel were sunk. On 4th May P.S.T.O. Egypt reported that the approx. number of known survivors from ERINPURA was 464. Some of the enemy aircraft were shot down.

13. M.T.B. operations from Bone last night were cancelled on account of the weather.

14. Long range fighters attacked a small merchant vessel off Siphnos Island (85 miles S.E. of Athens) and left it stationary and on fire.

65 U.S. Liberators were despatched to attack the harbour of Reggio di Calabria today, but owing to bad weather only 10 reached southern Italy and only 4 dropped their bombs.

130 Kittyhawks of the N.W.A.A.F. carrying bombs, escorted by 156 Spitfires, 58 Kittyhawks, and 84 U.S. Warhawks carried out shipping searches over the Gulf of Tunis and in the Cape Bon area. One beached destroyer (in the Gulf of Tunis) was bombed and as no other targets were found jetties and buildings at Sidi Daoud (10 miles S.W. of Cape Bon) were attacked.

East Indies.

Flying
boat bases.

15. The Air Ministry today sent a message regarding the development of flying boat bases in Madagascar and Mauritius.

16.

SS. KINGYUAN was reported aground at 1630Z in 19.57 N., 86.23 E.

17. 7 or 8 B.24s of the U.S.A.A.F. attacked shipping at Rangoon today. One report states that several hits were made on a 200 ft. merchant vessel which is believed to have sunk, but A.H.Q. India report no hits on shipping, several hits on wharves and shore installations.

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War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America & West Indies.

18. Flight 8 of 22 L.C.I.(L)s sailed from Bermuda today for Gibraltar.

Australia & New Zealand.

19. U.S. PHOEBE A. HEARST (7176 tons), on passage from Noumea to Samoa, was torpedoed and sunk at 0615M today in 20 S., 177 W. (about 120 miles N.W. of Nakualofa, Tonga Is).

20. Two Liberators attacked a 5,000 ton vessel in Manokwari harbour (Dutch New Guinea) this afternoon and made a direct hit and a near miss, leaving the ship settling by the stern.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

N.O.I.C.
Inverary.

Captain H. Ardill, R.N. assumed duty as N.O.I.C. Inverary in succession to Commodore C.G.B. Coltart, C.V.O., to date 1st May 1943. (N.O.I.C. Inverary 010801 to Admty).

SUFFOLK

When ready for service SUFFOLK is to join the Eastern Fleet.
2. She will be required to escort W.S.30 sailing from Clyde on 19th May.
(D.O.D. H., 011246B to C. in C. H.F.)

Movements.

E.G.4
ARCHER.

FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT, and one ESSE to be detailed by Commodore D.W.A. Will be required to escort ARCHER to Hvalfiord.
(2) Ships will form 4th Escort Group and are to be ready for service p.m./2nd.
(C. in C. W.A., 011007B).

Your 011007B. SABRE detached.

(2) C. in C. W.A. 261829B. N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to retain SABRE at Greenock on arrival.

(Cdre. D. W.A., 011511B to C. in C. W.A.)

N.O.I.C. Belfast is requested to sail ARCHER a.m./3rd May to proceed Iceland (C) N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail Capt. (D) 8, in FAULKNER with ONSLAUGHT and SABRE to R/V ARCHER as arranged N.O.I.C. Belfast. After R/V these ships will form 4th Escort Group. After disembarking reserve aircraft at Iceland (C) this group will be ready for service. Arrangements will be made to relieve SABRE at Iceland by a Home Fleet destroyer.

(C. in C. W.A., 011938B).

KING GEORGE V. Scapa arrival KING GEORGE V, MAHRATTA, ST. MARYS, and STEVENSTONE.

(A.C.O.S., 011152Z to C. in C. Rosyth).

Scapa departures. KING GEORGE V escorted by METEOR, TROUBRIDGE, TUSCAN.

(A.C.O.S., 012330 to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M
Movements.

1. Intend to sail HERRING and SHAD escorted by F.S. LA. CAPRICIEUSE from Clyde at 1000B/4th via Minches and West of Orkneys and Shetlands to 270° Muckle Flugga 5 miles, E.T.A. 0001/6th.
2. Thence HERRING and SHAD as ordered by Capt.

(S) 9.

(Comsubron 50, 011215B).

Positions of S/MS at 0800/2 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S., 011644B, 011821B, 020836B).

/Intend...

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HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M
Movements.
(contd).

Intend sailing Z.5 from Rothesay at 1000B/3rd by normal route to Lough Foyle buoy E.T.A. 2000B to R/V with H.50 speed 12 knots. Thence H.50 escorted by D.S. Z.5 by reverse route to Rothesay, E.T.A. 0800B/4th, speed 8 knots. (Capt. S.7., 011405).

KENT

KENT proceed to Greenock passing Hoxa Gate at 1000B/2nd.
2. Route via Minches and War Channels. (C. in C. H.F. 011649B to KENT).
Intend to proceed passing Hoxa at 1000B/2nd. E.T.A. Clyde 0445B/3rd. (KENT, 012236B to A.C.O.S.)

BERMUDA

Scapa arrival BERMUDA. (A.C.O.S., 011858B).

VALIANT

Admiralty 262005B. Intend sailing VALIANT escorted by ORKAN, PIORUN and one Hunt Destroyer at 1100B/5th May for Scapa.
2. Speed of advance 20 knots to dark 5th, thence 18 knots.

3. E.T.A. position (A) 55.05 N., 05.31 W., at 1200B/6. C. in C. Home Fleet is requested to detail relief escorts to take over at position (A). Above named destroyer will return to Plymouth on relief.

4. Route.

5. Codeword "Plumb".

(C. in C. Plymouth, 011941B).

X Landing
Craft Flight
E.

A.M. 192006 March. Sailing of L.C. Flight E is delayed until earliest Mid May for necessary modifications to L.C.Gs. (D.O.D. H., 012058B to C. in C. Plymouth).

Operations.

Coastal
Patrols.

1. 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 2100 via Q.Z.S.382 and leaving patrol line at dawn.
3. Object: Anti-E-boat patrol. Codeword "Spaniel". (F.O.I.C. Portland, 011045B).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (contd).
 2. M.L. 346, 572 patrolling southward of E.A.5 buoy.
 3. CHASSEUR 41 at St. Helens. KINGSTON TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
 4. M.L. 269, 233 from Portland patrolling 50° 20' N., between 1° 45' W., and 2° 25' W.
 5. 9th M.S.F. Coastal Forces, 2 destroyers southward from Portsmouth.
 (C. in C. Portsmouth, 011319B).
 M.L. 269, 233 sail Portland 2100 to patrol 10' South of St. Albans.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 011619B).
 M.Ls. 139 and 143 at Bullock Bank. M.T.Bs. 235, 240 at Vergoyer Shoal and M.G.Bs. 41, 43, 42 at Bullock Bank route via No. 10 buoy each way. E.T.D. 2130/1, E.T.R. 0550/2.
 (V.A. Dover, 011750B).
 My 011045B. "Spaniel" sailed.
 (F.O.I.C. Portland, 012118B).

Operation VP - R.
 Enemy destroyer damaged.
 M.T.Bs. 620 and 653 returned 1130 1st May.
 2. While lying up in Hovden (061° 41' N., 044° 52' E) much surface and air patrol activity observed. (My 281323B and 281530B).
 3. Boats left Lurking place 0200B/1st May and fired 2 torpedoes each at destroyer or T.B. patrolling close to seaward.
 4. M.T.B. 620 missed with both. 653 claims one possible hit. Evidence as follows.
 (a) Flash and column of smoke seen aft.
 (b) Only counter action was short and ill-directed exposure of feeble searchlight.
 (c) Enemy did not open fire and did not chase.
 5. 2 hours later while returning boats realized they were being followed by a destroyer thought to be one of 2 others originally patrolling in vicinity of Lurking place. Enemy opened inaccurate fire and was lost at 0430 in approx. 061° 39' N., 003° 08' E.
 (A.C.O.S., 011550B to Admty).

S/M Patrols.
 Positions of Submarine at 0800/2nd and movements for following 24 hours. All times zone B.
 (A) BLACKFISH, BARB, SATYR, O.14, USURPER, H.32 as in my 301602.
 (D) UNBENDING 43° 59' N., 10° 28' W, diving by day through 44° 20' N., 10° 28' W, and 44° 20' N., 06° 30' W, then to northward.
 (E) SIMOON 48° 05' N., 06° 01' W., dived by day to patrol vicinity of 46° 50' N., 05° 30' W.
 (F) UNSPARING 48° 10' N., 06° 30' W. dived by day to southward.
 (F.O.S., 011644B).
 Tonight USURPER moves to new patrol line 20 miles north and south of 063° 30' N., 002° 01' E.
 (F.O.S., 011739B to USURPER).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

A/C in
sea.

Spitfire reported in sea 200 yards from Lands End
at 1409.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011413B to Ships).

Enemy Air Activity.

Enemy A/C.

Enemy long range aircraft may have been
operating in vicinity of 48° N., 19° W.
during last few days.
(D.O.D. H., 010140B to BOGUE, Escorts H.X.235).

Jan Mayen

Following from Jan Mayen. A/C heard North of
Island 0718/30 westerly direction.
(A.C.I.C., 010226B).
From Jan Mayen. Aircraft heard crossing island
north to south 0903B. Weather foggy.
(A.C.I.C., 011741B).

Mining.

K.L.1

Paragraph (1) and (2) my 011247.
{1} Carry out operation K.L.1 tonight.
{2} Steam Gunboat 6 is to join escort Force.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011324B).
My 011347 May. Operation is postponed and will
not take place tonight.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011735 to M/S 9).

X The Sound.
Ferry
steamer
mined.

1. Copenhagen Malmo ferry exploded magnetic mine
about 2 miles from Copenhagen and then beached
herself near Barsebacks North Malmo yesterday
April 30th.
2. During April German aircraft have been
observed for first time making daily flights to
sweep magnetic mines in Sound.
(N.A. Stockholm, 011725).

S.N.111 A

My 281227. Para. 2 and (?) delete SCYLLA and
substitute BERMUDA.
(C. in C. H.F., 011908B).
Sailed SCOTT.
(TRELAWNEY, 012120).

Yarmouth

At 1400/30 one Mine exploded by Sweepers in
193½° No. 57 A Buoy. 1.4 miles. Details.
(Capt. M/S Gt. Yarmouth, 012235B).

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HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy destroyer. 1 destroyer. Bearing 090° 5 miles, position 61.39 N., 03.08 E.
(A/C 24 Sqdn. Duty X. 010414B).

Off Egersund. 2 medium, 1 small vessel bearing 090° distant 8 miles course 135°. Position 58° 22' N., 05° 35' E.
(A/C T. of 161 Sqdn. 010744B to 19 Group)

Enemy Force. At 0630B/1st one cruiser, 4 destroyers, escorted by 6 fighters passed Floro (61° 36' N., 05° 03' E) speed about 16 knots, course South (Graded ?NURNBERG. B.2). From description cruiser would appear to be NURNBERG.
(D.D.I.C., 010939B to A.I.G., 47, A.I.G. 21, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C.)
1 cruiser 160 350 HERLO 5.
(G/PRU 011216 to 18 Group).
A.M. 010939B. At 0900/1 formation was reported passing Gjejta Light, course south, slow speed.
(D.D.I.C., 011248B to A.I.G. 47, A.I.G., 21, H.Q.C.C., H.Q.B.C., F.O.S.)

Cherbourg P.R.U. of Cherbourg at 0945/1st May showed 1 Elbing destroyer and 3 T class T/Bs present.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 011313B)

U-boats.

U-boats reported and attacked in Biscay Area. Am over enemy submarine in 44° 45' N., 11° 57' W.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty N., 010010, to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty N., 010010 to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 45° 06' N., 11° 08' W.
(A/C C. of 427 Sqdn. 010822B to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C C. of 427 Sqdn. 010844B to 19 Group).
Am over enemy submarine in 47° 28' N., 10° 27' W.
Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate 3 hits.
(A/C L of 25 Sqdn. 011030B to 19 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 44° 00' N., 07° 40' W.
(A/C H. of 427 Sqdn. 011242B to 19 Group).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C H of 427 Sqdn., 011305B to 19 Group).

/U-boats...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats. - Contd.

U-boats reported and attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy submarine in 48° 21' N., 21° 18' W. (A/C L of 61 Sqdn., 011335 to 15 Group). By D/F at 1515Z U-boat estimated to be anywhere within 45 miles of 48° 30' N., 22° 00' W. (D.D.I.C., 011751B to WREN, CYGNET). M/V KORAD II on arrival at Scrabster at 0730 May 1st reported that on April 28th at 0615 G.M.T. she sighted submarine periscope about one and a half miles distance from ship in 62° 25' N., 11° 25' W. Sea was smooth and sun was shining on glass of periscope. KORAD II fired a burst from his Oerlikon at the periscope which proceeded on its course. KORAD II put out a smoke-screen and increased speed and then lost sight of periscope. Two hours later KORAD II sighted an empty overturned ships boat but did not see any name on it. (A.C.O.S., 012050B to Admty).

Technical.

Depth Charge Flotation Gear. A modification to depth-charge flotation gear release has been suggested by the Management of Smith's Dock North Shields. This was tried out yesterday in presence of W.P.S., S.V.E.O. and a representative of Trade Division, and promises well.

It is desired to fit a set of 5 releases with appropriate stowage for flotation drums and depth charges in a ship for trial at sea.

Request you will arrange.
(D.T.D., 011123B to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

Smoke Trial WAXO.3 in convoy O.N.182. My 271606B. O.N.182. Anticipate 6 smoke-making vessels will be available. Intend to carry out WAXO.3. (C. in C. W.A., 011402Z to Admty).

OTTAWA is requested to make arrangements to embark V.A. Usborne and Cdr. Hodgson for passage with O.N.182 and to transfer them to ship of Western Local Escort Force at Westomp if weather permits. V.A. Usborne and Cdr. Hodgson are taking passage to observe and advise on C.S.A. smoke trial WAXO.3 which will be carried out on O.N.182. (C. in C. W.A., 011407Z to Cdre. D. W.A.)

Depth Charge Embarkation Gear. ATHEL PRINCE. Your 011054Z. Depth charges embarkation trials with ATHEL PRINCE carried out before sailing with O.N.S.4 and while in convoy completely successful. Gear in ATHEL PRINCE perfect and standardization recommended. (HESPERUS 012044Z to C. in C. W.A.)

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects.

M.T.B. 234

M.T.B. 234. Returned with engine defect.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 010016B).PORT VICTOR
sunk.Following received from North Foreland Radio.
Intercept - 2238Z. de G.C.K. SSSS 47.49 N.,
22.02 W. PORT VICTOR torpedoed 2234/30.
(C. in C. Nore, 010038B to Admty).Detach 1 vessel to assist ship believed PORT VICTOR torpe-
doed in 047° 49' N., 022° 02' W., at 2234Z/30.

(C. in C. W.A., 010109B to E.G.2).

Your 010109B. WREN detailed.

(STARLING 010223B to C. in C. W.A.)

Have been detached in accordance with your 011131B. E.T.A.
2000Z.

(CYGNET 011130Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Detach a second vessel to assist to locate 6 crowded life
boats reported by A/C in 47.50 N., 22.04 W. at 1040B.Aircraft will co-operate. Survivors should all be embarked in
one vessel. Vessels detached report P.C.S.

(C. in C. W.A., 011131B to E.G.2).

Have embarked 130 which is all survivors from PORT VICTOR
including Master in position 48.02 22.03. Ship was sunk by
four torpedoes. All books destroyed. Estimate 32 missing
believed drowned. Am steering for 50° N., 10° W, speed 17 knots.

(WREN, 011745Z to Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

WREN returned to Liverpool to land survivors proceeding
via Q.Z.L.18.

CYGNET rejoin 2nd escort Group.

(C. in C. W.A., 012231B).

MARIE

THERESE.

Your 291612 April. Crew to be paid off.

3. Signal to be made when vessel is in all
respects ready for sea. New crew will then be
sent.

(D.S.V.P., 010212B to N.C.S.O. Weymouth).

AZUR

Intend to sail AZUR to Marvins Yard, Cowes for
annual refit at 1000/3. E.T.A.1200.
(MARSHAL SOULT 010950 and 020950B).

MIDDLETON

Proceed passing Switha 2100 today, to Rosyth
for boiler cleaning.

(R.A.D., 011015B to MIDDLETON).

CUMBERLAND

Your 1253/30. Request time between undocking and
sailing be reduced.

(C. in C. H.F., 011239B to F.O.I.C. Tyne).

/M.G.B.11...

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Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

- M.G.B.11 Director of Dockyards D013782 dated 12th April. Intend to sail Hull of M.G.B.11 in tow of tug SUN at 0730/4th for Millwall. E.T.A.1200 approx. (Cdre. Sheerness 011244B to F.O.I.C.London).
- M.G.Bs. 608, 614, 615. Following Coastal craft damaged due to collision during operations 30th April.
2. M.G.B.608 extensive damage to hull and deck in way of engine room starboard side extending 2-3 feet below water-line. Estimate repairs completed in minimum of eight weeks.
 3. M.G.B.614 holed above water-line. Estimate time for completion repairs 4-5 days.
 4. M.G.B.615 defective rudders involving slipping estimated time completion 9 days.
 5. This leaves no M.G.Bs. available at present in the Portsmouth Command.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 011817B).

- ASCANIA Reference boiler repairs required to ASCANIA. It has been agreed with R.A.V. that she will participate in forthcoming exercises but will be withdrawn for repairs between 24/5 and 14/6. It may be possible to withdraw her on 18/5. (D.S.T., 012010B).

Shipping & Convoys.

- E.G.4 My 301324B. Destination for fourth Escort Group should read Clyde not Londonderry. Proceed Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 010053B to Capt. D.8).
- O.N.S.6 Repairs to dome have been effected. (VISCOUNT, 010110B to N.O.I.C. Londonderry). Sailed VISCOUNT for O.N.S.6. (Cdre. D. W.A., 010341B to C. in C. W.A.). Sailed with HOPEMOUNT in company to overtake O.N.S.6, Cannot join convoy before 026° 00' W., speed 9½ knots. (ROSE 010740Z to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
- X P.S.1 P.S.1 sailed 0622.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 010650B).
- X O.N.S.5 attacked by U-boat. O.N.S.5 almost stopped since 2000/30 in S.W. gale. 2 U-boats in contact during the night one, which attacked, was detected, sighted, and driven off by SNOWFLAKE. Dropping depth-charges (?is) hazardous performance in this weather. U-boats have shifted to Series 8. All 42 ships and escort present but spread out. My P.C.S. 059° 33' N., 039° 25' W, 225° 2½ knots. Weather 5481 8858. (DUNCAN 010801Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/My...

War Diary.

1.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.5,
Attacked
by U-boat.
(contd).

My 010801Z, your 011642Z and E.G.3's011600Z. Gale has increased to Force 10 and convoy is badly scattered. When weather moderates and I can collect ships, course will be for position (XH). Aircraft has reported icebergs on port bow. Am in company with Commodore. U-boats appear quiet. My P.C.S. 59.14 N., 40.10 W,

230° 1. Please inform S.O.P.A. Greenland that DUNCAN does not now require fuel. Weather 6370 9859.
(B.7 012000Z to C. in C. W.A.)

D/F bearings of transmission at 1544Z suggest that convoy may have been reported.

(D.D.I.C., 011848B to Escorts O.N.S.5).

When 3rd E.G. joins O.N.S.5, ORIBI is to rejoin 3rd E.G.
(C. in C. W.A., 011916Z).

Murmansk
Bunker
Coal
situation.

Admiralty 291950. Approx. quantity of bunkers remaining is as follows; Ships and Tons.

2. Approx. net quantity of coal delivered to Russian authorities is as follows. Figures not yet agreed with Russians.

3. Since arrival of J.W.53 Russians have delivered approx. 2000 tons British coal to crane ships. No further British coal remains ashore at Murmansk. Have arranged that H.M. trawlers shall bunker with British coal for (?homeward) passage from cross bunker of crane ship.

4. Practically all cargo of BRITISH GOVERNOR has been delivered to Russian authorities. When discharging Molotovsk ISRAEL PUTNAM delivered 615, CITY OF OMAHA 268 tons.

5. Before sailing Kola Inlet for Molotovsk MARATHON 600, BEACONHILL 400 tons.

6. BRITISH GOVERNOR lost some cargo and bunkers as a result of near miss damage.

(Dalgleish, Murmansk 011017B to Admty).

H.X.235

No local trawler available. Ships for Loch Ewe are to proceed independently from position Dt. B portion is to be escorted to position off the Mull of Kintyre. Thence independently.
(C. in C. W.A., 011018Z to Escorts H.X.235).

S.C.127

Escort detailed for B portion is to continue to position off the Mull of Kintyre. Ships then to proceed unescorted. No local escort available.

(C. in C. W.A., 011023Z to Escorts S.C.127).

H.X.236 P.

S.O. of escort HURRICANE, 47 ships. Escort Oiler BRITISH GLORY, DAVILA both fitted with emergency buoyant hose. Rescue Tug BUSTLER.
(C. in C. W.A., 011126B to E.G.2, ROCKINGHAM).

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

X P.W. and W.P. convoys. My 141811B April. In order to minimise the risk of delays to P.W. and W.P. convoys, and to make the fullest use of long hours of daylight, Authorities addressed are requested to advance convoy sailing times so that P.W. convoys can reach Falmouth by dark on the second day of sailing. Convoys will be re-sailed from Plymouth and Falmouth at 0600. New routine to commence with Convoys No. 333. (C. in C. Plymouth 011133B and 011549B).

AMSTERDAM, Intend sailing loaded transport AMSTERDAM
PRAGUE. and PRAGUE from Cromarty at 0100B/5th, speed 17 knots. Routed A.M. Q.Z.S. 150, to 35 buoy thence to 058° 52' N., 002° 16' W. where AMSTERDAM parts company for Kirkwall, E.T.A. 0700B. PRAGUE to 3 miles east of Fair Island, E.T.A. Lerwick 1200B. Request escort and fighter protection. (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 011203B to C. in C. Rosyth)

M.K.F.13 Convoy is to be escorted to 007° W, ships then proceeding independently to destinations. (C. in C. W.A., 011221B to Escorts M.K.F.13).

O.N.J.181. Your 302348. Intend sail BRUSH and NORTHKING escorted by NAPANEE as O.N.J.181 on May 2nd to Icomp with O.N.181 at 1000B/4th. Proceed Icomp 058° 57' N., 025° 20' W. (A.C.I.C., 011346B to C. in C. W.A.)

Whitehaven. Cancel my 121643 November 1942.
2. Until further notice ships bound from U.K. Ports, not calling at Intermediate Ports in Eire, may enter Whitehaven without examination or recognition provided that their arrival has been notified in advance through the Naval Authority at the Port of Departure.
3. Examination at Workington is waived for such vessels. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 011515B).

K.M.F.15 and W.S.30. 1. ACTIVE, SLAZAK are required to provide escort for K.M.F.15 and W.S.30 leaving Clyde 19th May.
3. Request you will signal date when CLEVELAND will be ready for service and if she can be ready for the same duty. (D.O.D. H., 011550B to R.A.D. H.F.)

DELHI will be required to provide A/A escort to W.S.30 from 46° N.

2. W.S.30 is due to sail from Clyde on 19th May. (D.O.D. H., 011821B to C. in C. Plymouth).

H.X.237 Route from New York to join Ocean route
A. E. 40.06 N., 73.00 W., at 011730Z May.
A. F. 40.13 N., 68.05 W. A. G. 43.05 N., 62.45 W.
A. H. 43.55 N., 55.01 W. Escort Oiler 1 BRITISH VALOUR with 100 D/Cs.

/Escort...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.H.X.237
(contd).Escort Oiler 2. SPINANGER No D/Cs. LAURENT
MEEUS and NORHOLM with 60 D/Cs each.
(D.T.D., 011617B to C. in C. W.A.)Atlantic
Convoy
Rescue
Tugs.My 260951Z April. F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland
and F.O.I.C. Greenock are requested mutually to
arrange the schedule for sailing rescue tugs and
their attendant trawlers with fast O.N. convoys
informing me as far in advance as possible of
intended allocations. The same tug and trawler
should as far as is possible remain working

together as a pair.

2. It is appreciated that allocations to H.X. convoys cannot
be fixed as they will be dependent on ultimate destination of
Westbound tugs. The object is to include one tug and
trawler in each fast convoy and early information regarding
intended allocations by F.O.N.F. would be appreciated.
(C. in C. W.A., 011631Z).

X.K.5

My position 1600B/1st 041° 36' N., 012° 56' W,
course 016°, speed of advance 6½. LAMBROOK
doing maximum speed. My fuel remaining 65%.
(BRISSENDEN 011647B).

K.M.S.15

C.A.M. Ships EMPIRE DARWIN and EMPIRE TIDE have
been allocated for inclusion in convoy K.M.S.15.
(D.T.D., 011720B to C. in C. W.A.)Atlantic
Convoy
Escort
Carriers.The proposals in your 261505/April involve the
disruption of formed fighter squadrons which
has serious reactions on organisation, training,
and squadrons efficiency. Moreover these
squadrons must be kept in being as formed units
in view of a possible requirement for their
employment in protection of convoys against air

attack in other areas or for amphibious operations.

2. The operation of Seafires from the decks of Escort Carriers
has not so far presented serious difficulty and it is considered
that it should be feasible in North Atlantic during the summer
months. It is also considered that the moral effect of cannon
fire on surface U-boats will be much greater than the effect
of point five.3. It is therefore intended that the fighter complements of
Escort Carriers should remain at 10 Seafires at any rate until
we have further operational experience.4. It is not desired to split up a Swordfish squadron and it
is regretted that sufficient aircraft are not available to
allot more than 9 I.E. to each Escort Carrier, although it
should be possible to provide them with a small number of
reserves to carry on board as was done for BITER.
(D.N.A.O. 011753B to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.

1.5.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

D.F.5

D.F.5 sailed 011752B.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 011805B to N.O.I.C.Faeroes).

E.G.1
E.G.5.

Request you will sail PELICAN, SENNEN, WEAR,
and JED as 1st escort group a.m. May 4th to pro-
ceed toward O.N.S.6 and O.N.181 at economical
speed. Intend BITER and 5th Escort Group to sail
to cover H.X.237.
(C. in C. W.A., 011821Z to F.O.N.F.)

A.T.42 A.

Request you will sail SS. AQUITANIA from New
York when ready (about 6th May) so as to arrive
Clyde p.m. on the day of arrival.
(D.O.D. H., 012057B to Connav).

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

L.C.I. (L) 112
U-Boat. Incomplete D/F bearings on 7770 kc/s at 2355Z/30th April indicate that you may have been reported by U-Boat.
(D.D.I.C. 010315B to S.O. in L.C.I. (L) 112 (R) Cominch N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.Af.)
A.M. 010315. U-Boat now estimated to be in area within 150 miles of 28° N. 30° W.
(D.D.I.C. 010401Z.)

LOTUS Convoy. Convoy rejoined.
(LOTUS 010323B. to F.O.I.C. Gib.)
Your 011806B (N.T. in W.R.) understood.
Casablanca E.T.A. 1130B/02. Weather report.
(LOTUS 011930B. to F.O. Gib.)

JONQUIL. Sailed JONQUIL escorting SS. ALPERA to Lisbon thence R/V BARON FORBES from Lisbon both joining convoy S.L.128.
(F.O. Gib. 010615A. to Admty. etc.)

U-Boat Sightings. All sightings my 302045 (11 U-Boats in 3 packs) evaluated positive. Your 292250 (N.T. in W.D.) Altitude plane 7,000. Naval Officer passengers concur.
(Commorseafron 010855 to Cominch (R) Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/1st. S.L.128 BLACK SWAN (E) 31.51 10.56 28.6 $\frac{1}{2}$. MYOSOTIS detach to arrive Casablanca 1400/2nd. Stragglers P.C. to rendezvous in approx. 34.05 09.30 and escort one merchant ship to Casablanca. (2) BULLDOG 40.43 13.07 through 37.01 12.01 thence 107.15 $\frac{1}{2}$. (3) ADVENTURE 39.21 12.30 through 36.01 10.01 to Gibraltar 17. (4) M.K.S.12, SHIPPIGAN sails 0700B/2nd 270° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. (5) JONQUIL one M/S 36.22 07.34 through 36.55 09.06 to where merchant ship enter and H.M.S. JONQUIL patrol outside Territorial waters. (6) U.S. Destroyer HERNDON one Tanker 34.38 07.28 through 35.45 06.25 to Gibraltar 14 escort then return Casablanca 18. (7) NORTHLYN, DIANELLA on patrol off Setubal.
(V.A. Gib. 011018B.)
Situation 2001B/1st. H.M.S/M P.37 UNBENDING, 42.42 10.30 359° cross 43.01 at 2330B/1st diving by day 8 February.
5. U.G.S. 7A, U.G.L.3, Comtask 64, 31.13 17.40 through 31.25 15.50 thence 060° 8.8.
(V.A. Gib. 010056B.)

Ships for Casablanca. Intend sailing HOUSATONIC, KAWACK and NARRAGANSETT to Casablanca at 1230/1st May escorted by NELSON BUTLER U.S. Destroyer MADDOX, PILOT. 2. Routed through Q.K.A. 87 (a) 35.45 N. 06.30 W. (b) 33.55 07.53 and Q.K.A.92. S. of A. 10 knots.
(V.A. Gib. 011210B. to Commorseafron (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

SUEVIA. Expected sailing within 48 hours SUEVIA Spanish for North Spain, Cargo preserves.
(R.O.Oporto 011221A to S.O. (I) Gib. (R) Admty.)
/HEBE II.

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

HEBE II. SAINT NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH arrived 1300/1 G.M.T. escorting HEBE II. (N.C.S.O. Ponta Delgada 011448 to S.O. (I) Gib. (R) Admty.)

Landing Craft C.Os. A.M. 242356 (242355 intended re Ocean Commanding Officers of Landing Craft sent to Gibraltar.) and 260256 April. Ocean C.Os. of Flights B. and C. were flown to U.K. p.m. 30th April. (F.O. Gib. 011516B to Admty.)

Axis Shipping Bilbao. Telegram 82 May 1st. NORDFELS, SPERBER sailed 2200/April 30th. (Consul Bilbao, 011732 to M.E.W. (R) Admty.etc.)

JONQUIL U-Boat. Following has been read. One submarine sighted on surface in 36.17 N. 07.27 W. course 220° speed 9 knots. (JONQUIL 011732B.) S/M sighted on surface, course and speed 220° 16, unable to overtake. My position 036° 17' 007° 27'. (JONQUIL 011735B to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty.) My 011735B lost touch. My P.C. and S. 036° 07' 007° 42 220° 15. (JONQUIL 011800B to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty.) Searching vicinity where S/M last seen one Hudson co-operating. Request instructions. (JONQUIL 011916B to F.O. Gib.)

Movements, Casablanca. May 1st Warships, U.S.S. HERNDON for Gibraltar. P.C. 482 for Agadir from Casablanca. (Commorseafron 012028 to C. in C. Med.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals p.m. 30th U.S.S. ROPER ex O.T.4. Departures U.S.S. ROPER, FANTOME (? to) O.T.43 L.C.T. 547, 549, 551, 554, 578, 585, 548, 550, 552, 559, 584, 605, 607, 613, 618 L.C.F. 34 for Algiers. U.S. ships NELSON, MADDECK, BUTLER, PILOT, GLENNON escorting U.S.S. HOUSATONIC, KAWEAH, MARRAGANSETT to Casablanca. M.Ls. 176, 174 on A/S sweep East. TRESPASSER to Patrol East. (F.O. Gib. 012131 to Admty. etc.)

1.5.1943.

Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

X Attacks on Survivors as follows:- BANDAR SHAHPOUR 70.
Convoy T.S.37. NAGINA 77. KOTA TJANDI 70. CORABELLA 28. No
3 more cot cases. My P.C. and S. 007° 30' N. 013° 14'
ships W. 300 10 knots. A/S and R.D.F. equipment
torpedoed. broken down. Wreck of CORABELLA showing one
foot above water in 007° 10' N. 013° 40' W.
Think there may be more survivors in vicinity.
Sea calm, visibility very poor. Am proceeding
Freetown.
(BIRDLIP, 010110Z to R.A. W.Af. (R) Capt. D.
Freetown.)

My 010035Z May (see 011115Z). Fourth ship torpedoed KOTA
TJANDI.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 010558Z to Admty.)

Departures 010010Z/May, RAPID, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, to
assist T.S.37.

(S.O. (I) Freetown 010945Z to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
R.N.O. Lagos.)

Following is a repetition of my 010035Z (received
undecypherable) addressed to Admty. (begins). My 302218.
Three ships sunk BANDAR, SHAHPOUR, CORABELLA and NAGINA. (Ends).

(F.O.C.W.A. 011115Z to Admty.)

Convoy T.S.37. Four ships torpedoed and sunk in first
attack as previously reported. At 0342/1st May in 7° 58' N.
14° 14' W. CITY OF SINGAPORE, CLAN MACPHERSON and MOKAMBO were
torpedoed. First named sank and CLAN MACPHERSON foundered at
1014 while under way to Freetown. MOKAMBO was on fire, rescue
tugs hope to have her under tow by dusk. 40 depth charges
dropped by RAPID between 0353 and 0442 in 8° N. 14° 14' W. on
confirmed contact.

(F.O.C.W.A. 011804Z. to Admty.)

Suspicious Ref. N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 242206B. (no trace in W.
Ship, R.) Unidentified ship passed South St. Helena on
St.Helena. General N.W. course 1800 to 1840 G.M.T. 30th
April. No description.
(General, St. Helena 011000Z to C. in C. S.A.
(R) Admty. etc.) Identified, see C. in C. S.A.
022145.

FROBISHER. Simonstown arrival 1st May.
(C. in C. S.A. 011105B to Admty. C. in C. E.F.
Cdre. Durban.)

Weekly Capetown to (Pointe Noire?) FOXHOUND, GENISTA,
state S.A. FRITILLARY, F.S.COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES,
Station. VIVIANA, Capetown to Durban, NORTHERN CHIEF,
1st May ARCTIC EXPLORER, STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY.
1943. Durban to Capetown, NORWICH CITY, WELLARD,
Durban area, PRUDENT, FREESIA, JASMINE. Walvis
Bay B.Y.M.S.5,6,7,8. Saldanha Bay FERNMOOR.
Capetown, ROCKROSE, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN ISLES,
CHIDDINGFOLD, HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, NORMAN, ST. ZENO, LADY
ROSEMARY, ROTHERHAM, MEAD, CECILE MAPLESON, MASTERFUL.

/Simonstown...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Weekly state S.A. Station 1st May, 1943. (Contd.)

Simonstown P. 552 H.D. M.L.1150 M.L. 381, 830 BLACKMOOR, FROBISHER, RACEHORSE, TRUSTY, RELENTLESS, SPINDRIFT. East London KIRRIE MOOR, WORCESTERSHIRE. Durban NIGELLA, REDOUBT, QUADRANT, ETHIOPIAN, LADY ELSA, DRANGET, MANCHESTER CITY, CAPE WARWICK, LE TIGER, ST.LOMAN. M.L.1200, M.L. 1197, CORSICA (Armament Store issuing ship) SONDRRA. (C. in C.S.A. 011109B to C. in C. E.F. etc.)

Movements,
Dakar.

Arrived 0800 DUNTON, WASTWATER escorting ARCTURUS. (2) Arrived 0930 BOREAS, LEWES, escorting AORANGI, CLAN LAMONT. Intend sailing after fuelling about 1800Z. (Comar, Dakar 011122Z to F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Bathurst, Admty.)

W.S.29,
C.M.42.

A.M. 291716 April para. 1 B. and C. From information here it appears that ORION should be included in Middle East portion and AORANGI in India portion. 2. Para. 2. 5 ships mentioned are due Durban 1st week in May and assuming that they have no defects preventing their turn-round, 1st 2 to arrive will be sent on to Capetown to embark about 4,000 personnel for India now in camp there and subsequently sail with Capetown portion of W.S.29 for India. Remaining 3 will join Durban section also for India. E.T.A. EMPIRE WOODLARK not yet known but she and any other group B. ship becoming available will later form convoy C.M.42 probably for Kilindini and Middle East. 3. Para 3. presumably this message should have been addressed to me. (C. in C. S.A. 011143B to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.R.S.C.A., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.C. India, P.S.T.O. Middle East, C. in C. Levant, P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.N.C.X.F.)

LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE.

Ref. Q.M/71367 27 April. D.S.T.O. W.A. 292126Z/4/43 to S.S.T.O. Takoradi. Reads:- "LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE sailed 29 T.A. Takoradi 3 May fuel taken 1160 tons total on board 18 (60?) tons. 2. Ship request 200 tons water at each port. 3. After completion of disembarkation at Lagos ship required to Durban. If unescorted, personnel within limit of A.M. 161140 may be embarked. 4. Personnel embarked see my code 292123 to Takoradi and Lagos only." Propose embarking (details). (Cdr. Nigerian Area 011255A to G.O.C. in C. West Africa (R) D. of S.T. etc.)

/CHESHIRE...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CESHIRE. (1) To be better placed for interception of blockade runners(s) amend route from position.
J.A. 011° 01' N. 026° 59' W. proceed through.
J.B. 019° 59' N. 036° 01' W. J.C. 040° 02' N. 036° 02' W. J.D. 053° 30' N. 016° 05' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (2) Shift to North Atlantic W/T organization at 0400Z/7th May and to Home W/T organization at 0400Z/10th May. (F.O.C.W.A. 011311Z. to CESHIRE (R) Admty. Com. 4th Fleet, Cominch, C. in C. Plymouth.)

DEVONSHIRE. A.M. 301815B April. My 281936Z April.
(1) Alter course forthwith for new position S.025° 01' N. 026° 15' W. thence readjust to 035° 01' N. 019° 41' W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth. (2) Shift to North Atlantic W/T Organisation at 032000Z.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011245Z to DEVONSHIRE (R) F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. Plymouth, Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001Z/1st May. F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE, LA GRANDIERE, escorting 018° 14' 016° 52' coastwise to Dakar 9. BOREAS, LEWES, escorting about 013° 25' 017° 34' to 009° 56' 017° 31' thence (2118°) 13. LEITH, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, WHIMBELL, ANCHUSA, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, ROHILKHARD with C.S.46 010° 43' 017° 41' to 009° 59' 017° 36' to 009° 59' 015° 34' thence 118° 8½. COREOPSIS about 012° 21' 017° 22' 162° 12½ to (?rendevvous) S.46 Fleet Unit QUILLIAM QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUALITY with C.F.12 018° 20' 017° 12' 008° 15. French Cruiser GEORGES LEYGUES on patrol about 010° 01' 029° 30' 19. DEVONSHIRE 012° 30' 026° 19' 000° 18. ORFASY one (corrupt group) escorting off Bathurst to Freetown 6½. BRIDGEWATER about 009° 40' 015° 01' to Freetown 14½.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011420Z.)

Situation 1959Z/1st May CORINTHIAN, VIRGINIA, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, THYME (? BUTTER)MERE with S (?T) 63.14 48.08 24 to 03.22 33.42 thence 078° 9. COPINSAY off Marshall M.L. (?278) off Robertsport, M.L. 271 off (?Port Bouet). M.L. 274 off Accra. Tug AIMWELL, ORSOREA 4 M.Ls. about 07.08 14.15 to Freetown 3. PICT escorting DESPAIR 14.5 32 302° 9½. CATTERICK 01.28 03.13 E. to Takoradi 21.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011616Z.)

* Floating
Dock.

Your 231742 April. (231744 intended). To shorten voyage and to avoid U-Boat concentration in the Freetown area which shows no signs of dispersing suggest dock should proceed direct from Bahia to Dakar. Air cover would be approx. the same.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011645 to Admty. (R) Com. Fleet 4. C. in C. Med.) Concur (D.O.D. (F). 030161B.

/R.M...

1.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

R.M. My 271501 April. Impeon not to C. in C. S.A.
Draft. (N.T. in W.D.) Further signal to Durban No. 74741
(Q.M.) 2C 291210B April from Troopers confirms
previous instructions that R.M. draft is to be
sent to Ceylon. Impeon state they have no
alternative but to comply with these instructions. This action
will be directly contrary to instructions in following signals.
"R.A.T.E., Impeon (R) Force Overt R.M. Det. 280 from C. in C.
Levant. Begins R.M. draft ex W.S.28 is to be sent Middle East
as soon as possible and not to India. 251315 April" (Ends.)
Also "Impeon Durban (R) R.A.T.E. C. in C. Levant from H.Q.R.M.
G.P. M.N.B.D.O.1. (begins). Request R.M. draft 1 C/Sgt. and
300 D.Ms. (?R.Ms.) ex F.9 sent Mideast for M.N.B.D.O.11 not
Ceylon. Admiralty concur. M.N.B./40561 April 261946C". (Ends).
In view of Admiralty concurrence quoted, request arrangements
may be made for amended instructions to be sent to Impeon
Durban.
(R.A.T.E. Durban, 011421Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A., C. in C.
Levant.)

ALCANTARA. Admiralty 231742 April. In view of experience
gained by ALCANTARA in refuelling escorts with
A.F.D. 24 most desirable to use her again.
Anticipate ALCANTARA should then be ready to
return to U.K. towards end of June. Can this be accepted?
CILICIA R.D.F. is out of action until she returns here.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011647 to Admty.) Approved (Admty. 021625B.)

CLAN LAMONT CLAN LAMONT engine defect limiting speed to
W.S.29. 11 knots. Anticipate 5 (?days) to remedy.
Intend holding convoy pending that.
(Comar, Dakar, 011727Z to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty.
BOREAS, LEWES, D. of S.T.)
Your 011727Z request you will sail CLAN LAMONT with convoy
without delay at 11 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 012036Z to Comar, Dakar. (R) Admty. D. of S.T.
BOREAS, LEWES.) Reply Comar, Dakar 020033 Admty. 020110.

CAMBRIA. Cable ship CAMBRIA sailed April 30th to carry out
cable repairs in 035° 39' S. 054° 20' W. and on
Uruguayan coast thence to Rio de Janeiro due
May 10th.
(B.R.L.O. Montevideo 011820Z to Admty.)

+ Convoy S.R.5. Cancel my 261026. Regret that convoy S.R.5.
cancelled. cannot be sailed owing to adequate escort not
being available. Ships will sail in S.L.129
making about 45 ships from Freetown in that
convoy.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011907Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty.
Commorseafon, Comar, Dakar, C. in C. Med.
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

/CORBIS...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

CORBIS
sunk
18 April.) 10 survivors landed at East London from British
tanker CORBIS sunk by 3 torpedoes from U-Boat
at 0356Z/18th April in estimated position
(034°) 56' S. 034° 03' E.
(C. in C. S.A. 011916Z to Admty. etc.)

MALOJA,
MOOLTAN,
FOXHOUND. N.C.S.O. Capetown's 291145Z. Sail MALOJA,
MOOLTAN, and FOXHOUND onward to Takoradi with
least possible delay.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011925Z to B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) Admty.
N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

BOREAS. Owing to S/M activity off Freetown intend
sailing BOREAS onwards with W.S. convoy to
Takoradi and employing her on the return journey
as part escort for MOOLTAN, MALOJA, ANTENOR and
CALIFORNIA. These ships will be dispersed to
proceed independently to the U.K. from about 17 N. and BOREAS
will then proceed Gibraltar. Anticipate this will delay the
return of BOREAS by about ten days.
(F.O.C.W.A. 011930Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty.)

DEVONSHIRE. A.M. 301815 April (Re route DEVONSHIRE to cover
S.L.128.) not received. S. of A. 19 knots.
Your 011245 May refers. Weather.
(DEVONSHIRE 012223Z. to F.O.C.W.A.)

ARCOLA,
TAIGETE. Following is a repetition St. Vincent's 010900
(begins) Admiralty S.O. (I) Capetown B.N.L.O.
Dakar, Washington from St. Vincent begins:-
342 arrival 30th Italian tankers (?ARCOLA) and
TAIGETE. (Ends).
(St. Vincent 012224Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Freetown. Arrival p.m. 1st May, 1943.
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, BELLWORT, BIRDLIP,
ARRAN, FANDANGO with 11 ships of F.S.37.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 012300Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi,
R.N.O. Lagos, Nigeria, Admty.)

MOST SECRET

23A.

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

011330B/May.
MESSAGE

IN

From Algiers.

Date: 2.5.43.

CYIPHER

Addressed Usfor, Troopers, 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 Marshal Chakmak)) Passed by Foreign Office. Resident Minister Achimota Passed by Colonial Office, Defender Wellington (for Puttick) passed by War Office.

LINREP No. 42 dated 1st May 1943.

TUNISIA - Situation Report

Summary of Operations 26 to 28 April

1. 8 Army. During the period our troops have made further gains on the left flank of the Enfidaville position. In the coastal area activity has been limited to artillery exchanges.

1 Army.

a. 19 Corps. French troops have made considerable progress against the withdrawing enemy in the mountainous country Southeast of Pont Du Fahs. Important high ground overlooking the Village has been captured, and Pont Du Fahs itself has been entered by patrols; these were subsequently withdrawn. Strong forces have advanced to the Northeast, across the Road Enfidaville-Pont Du Fahs, and that they are fighting for possession of the high ground to the North of this road.

b. 9 Corps. Fierce fighting has continued Northeast of Sebket El Kouzia. In armoured engagements in this area over 20 enemy tanks are claimed destroyed. On the 27th April, 6th Armoured Div. was withdrawn into reserve, and 1st Br. Armd. Div. made a slight advance.

c. 5 Corps. Dj Amara, an important feature 9 miles East of Medjez El Bab has been captured. Bitter fighting has continued in the hills Northeast of Hoidous, where our troops have resisted enemy counter attacks destroying a number of enemy tanks, and where our advance progresses slowly but steadily.

3. 2 (US) Corps. Northeast of Medjez, 1st U.S. Inf. Div. have made progress in the high ground. This Division is now reorganizing on account of the difficult nature of the country. On the left flank, units of the Corps D'Afrique have pushed forward to positions 14 miles East of Cap Serrat.

4....

4. Enemy. Enemy has continued to offer bitter resistance on all sectors of the front. He has been forced to give ground in the North.

Enemy endeavouring to maintain his strong defensive positions by counter attacks south of Medjerda Valley. Our forces being opposed by strong anti-tank screen and infantry with enemy armour in reserve. Withdrawal from northern Dorsale complete and enemy has regrouped his forces and is holding line on high ground SE of Pont Du Fahs, Enemy has retained cohesion of his line but is forced to move battalions from one part of the front to another in order to plug holes as they occur.

5. Naval. Our light forces have carried out sweeps to Marrittimo and MIES and MGBS have been active off the approaches to Bizerta. In the course of these later operations our Forces have sunk 1 small merchant vessel and 2 large lighters carrying petrol. Our submarines report the sinking of 3 enemy merchantmen and 1 escort vessel.

6. Air. Heavy bombers of the Strategic Air Force have bombed enemy landing grounds in Sardinia and Italy. Medium bombers have made attacks on enemy shipping, in the course of which 2 enemy merchantmen received direct hits. Our fighters and light bombers have concentrated a heavy scale of attack in support of our forward troops. Enemy airdromes and shipping in the Gulf of Tunis have also been attacked.

7. Political. Admiral Muselier has been requested to come to Algiers by Giraud. There is good possibility of Giraud-DeGaulle negotiations reaching a final stage in the next 10 days time.

011330B.

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

Circulation:

Brig. Jacob.
Foreign Secretary.
First Sea Lord.
C.6. Tels. W/O.
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang F/O
Mr. Radcliffe M.O.I.

D.A/S.W.
D.T.D. (3)
D.T.D. (M)
D.T.D. (C)
Hd. of M. (2)
C.N.I.
D.P.D.

W.D.
I.P. (2)
U.S.N. (3)
Ad. Blake.
Ad. Mack. (4)

DR.

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

E.T.19A Philippeville Section sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 010034 to Cdre. Algiers, S.O.I.S. (R) Admty. etc.)
E.T.19A. SALVENTURE arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 010736A to F.O.I.S. Cdre. Algiers, (R) A.I.G. 259.)

E.T.19A. Arrived OCEAN VOLGA.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 011822A to F.O.I.S.)

Movements, Arrivals NEBULA and NIMBUS in company.
Aden. (Cdre. Aden 010546Z to A.I.G. 85.)

PAPANICOLIS 30th April departure Greek Sub. PAPANICOLIS.
(S.O.Levant 010805C to Admty. (R) C. in C.Levant.)

Movements Departures B.D.V. PLANET, Tug ST. MONANCE, JAN
Massawa. DE WAELE.
(N.O.I.C. Massawa 010825B to Admty.)
May 1st for Suez JAN DE WAELE a.m. 7th May.
H.M.Tug ST. MONANCE, with EMPIRE WARLOCK and
C.H.SPEDDON towing A.F.D. No. 30, S.O.A. not known. For Aden,
LLANGOLLEN E.T.A. 0800C May 3rd.
(N.C.S.O. Massawa, 011254Z to Admty.)

X U.G.Convoys, Request Commodores of U.G.convoys proceeding
Smoke Floats east of Oran be instructed that ships in convoy
may be required to drop smoke floats at short
notice on the order of S.O. escort.
(C. in C.Med. 010904A to Comnav, (R) Admty.
Connav.)

WOLBOROUGH. Arrival 30th April.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 010914C to Admty. etc.)

UNRIVALLED. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) leaves Malta at 1600B/1 for
patrol as ordered by Capt. S.8 routed R.Q.P.
keeping to starboard of route to pass position
P. at about 1600B/3rd.
(Capt. S.10 011007B to Capt. S.8 (R) Subs on
Patrol C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.1.)

ALBA JULIA My 301738C. ALBA JULIA has taken clearance.
Fact. E.T.D. p.m. May 1st. B.2.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 011029C to C. in C.Levant,
S.O.(I) Levant, S.1., S.10., D.H.I.)

/Target...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- x Target-
Towing A/C. Pass to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.
C. in C.Levant reports that owing to shortage of target towing aircraft in Levant he is unable to meet his heavy commitments for A/A training of ships for "Husky." His immediate requirement is for 12 fast target towing aircraft although 20 would not be too many.
2. All Admty. tropicalised Defiants so far delivered have been or are being shipped to C. in C.Med. for use at Gibraltar, Oran and Algiers and they will barely meet requirements in those areas. It will not therefore be possible for Admty. to provide aircraft required for Levant in time to meet requirements there.
3. C. in C.Levant reports that he has lately been relying on co-operation from R.A.F., A.A.C.U. but that this assistance is being withdrawn from 1st May - 10th June to meet heavy requirements of Army.
4. Can R.A.F. arrange to meet C. in C.Levant's requirements, in view of large number of ships involved and vital importance of A/A training for all services working up for "Husky?" (Dep. 1st S.L. 011341B to Air Ministry. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E.)

LEOPARD. Sailed Djibouti 1300Z/1st May for Suez E.T.A. Suez 1100Z May 5th.
(F.S.LEOPARD 011400Z to N.O.I.C. Aden, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A. N.O.I.C. Suez, C. in C.Levant, F.N.F.L. London.)

G.U.S.7. Following is a repetition of my 011049A (begins) G.U.S.7 Intend to sail GEORGE SHIRAS Oran for Belfast 11. EMPIRE FOREST coal, destination unknown 10. ESNEH, EMPIRE TERN, (Ends.) (N.O.I.C. Philippeville 011425A to F.O.I.S. etc.)

TRESPASSER,
MARSOUIN. 1. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 291924 not to MARSOUIN, onward routeing through 135° Cape Palos 5 at 0001A/7th (?042°) 19' N. 004° 08' E. at 0300A/7th to patrol off coast France North of 042° 19' N. and West of 005° 40' E.
2. MARSOUIN will be patrolling North of 042° N. between long. 005° 50' E. and 007° 15' E.
(Capt. S.8 011518A to P.312 (TRESPASSER) (R) 8th S.F. C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, MARSOUIN.)

M.T.B.Sweep
from Sousse
M.T.B.639
lost. On 28th April daylight sweep carried out by M.T.B. 633, 637 and 639 from Sousse. At 0930 M.T.Bs. attacked 2 motor minesweepers in creek by Ras El Amar. Ships not observed to sink but considered rendered useless. Also attacked R-Boat which was set on fire, Ju.52 on beach and Frieseler Storch which was probably destroyers. At 1245 attacked 3000 ton M/V escorted by 2 destroyers

/and...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

M.T.B. sweep
from Sousse.
M.T.B. 639
lost.
(Contd.)

and fighter umbrella off Kelibia. M/V has been confirmed broken up and sunk by P.R.U. Shore batteries opened fire on M.T.Bs. and fighters attacked. M.T.B. 639 was set on fire by fighters. Subsequently sunk by own forces. M.T.B. 633 suffered superficial damage. One fighter was shot down by M.T.B. 633.
(C. in C.Med. 011528A to Admty.)

UNRULY,
UNRIVALLED.

Arrival UNRULY (P.49). Departure UNRIVALLED (P.45)
(V.A.Malta 011530B to Admty. etc.)

✓ Situation
Report
No. 87.

1. On 28th April M.T.Bs. from Sousse on daylight sweep of Cape Bon Peninsula sank 3000 ton merchant vessel and damaged two motor minesweepers, an R-Boat and two aircraft. M.T.Bs. were attacked by shore batteries and fighters. One M.T.B. had to be sunk by own forces. One fighter was shot down. Details have been reported in my 011528

✗ 2. Three magnetic mines swept in approaches to Casablanca on 29th and 30th April and one more type Q mine in approaches to Bone on 27th April.

✗ 3. During night 29th/30th April NUBIAN and PALADIN in sweep south of Marittimo sank 2000 ton merchant vessel at 0355/30 in 37° 14' N. 13° 04' E. Escorting E-Boats withdrew. M.T.Bs. from Bone operated off Gulf of Tunis and American M.T.Bs. in approaches to Bizerta. M.T.Bs. from Sousse swept Cape Bon Peninsula.

4. M.T.B. operations from Bone on night 30th April/1st May were cancelled on account of weather.
(C. in C.Med. 011544A to Admty.)

YOMA.

No. 174. Arrived 1st May YOMA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 011555Z to Admty.)

TRIBUNE.

Intend to sail TRIBUNE 1830/3rd to Gibraltar for onward passage U.K. routed through A. 038° 03' N. 002° 11' E. at 0500/4th B. 135° Cape Palos 15 at 1330/5th C 180 Cape de Gata at 0600/(?7th).

D. 180 Cape Calaburras 15 at 0600/7th to arrive Gibraltar 1030/7th unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C.Gibraltar.

2. TRIBUNE will not pass D. before 0600/7th and will shift normal W/T watch to Gibraltar broadcast at 0500/5th.

3. All times Zone minus 1.

(Capt. S.8 011558A to C. in C.Med. etc.)

U.G.S.7A.

Destinations.
(C. in C.Med. 011601A to C.T.F. 64.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

1.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, 1st May Port Said arrivals IERAX, SOUTHERN ISLES,
Port Said. R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA, departures IERAX, R.F.A.
WAR KRISHNA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 011626 to Admty.)

OXFORDSHIRE. Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE sailed 1630 for Bone.
(Cdr. N.O.B. Oran 011640Z to D.S.T.)

Outfit Your 192145. Decided that until further
Q.V.4. experience with Outfit Q.V.4 has been obtained
a total of 15 sets only will be fitted. This
number will be made up by fitting S/Ms leaving
U.K. for 8th and 10th Flotilla.
2. Requested that any operational results obtained with Outfit
Q.V.4 may be forwarded as soon as possible.
(D.S.D. 011655B to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A.Malta, etc.)

Repatriations Following is extract of my 301827, not to
Admiralty, begins:
British Hospital Ships TAIREA, TALAMBA and
British Transport CAP ST. JACQUES will leave
Alexandria in company at 1800C/4th May to arrive Smyrna 0900C/8th
May (Ends.)
2. Route as in previous P.O.W. exchange.
(C. in C.Levant 011702C/5 to Admty. (R) Minister of State, Cairo.)

Malta Air A.I. 512 1st May. C.S.R. Malta. A. Air. Part. 1.
Report. Offensive. Night 30th April/1st May. Low cloud
curtailed all offensive operations. Mosquitoes
on intruder patrols in Pantellaria and Catania
areas found no suitable target.

Day 1st May. 2 Spitfires on offensive sweep over Southern Sicily
attacked a goods train near Marzamemi, etc. Further offensive
operations were prevented by low cloud and high wind.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity. Nil.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 011737).

Destroyer Cancel my ?301734 (?301743 intended). 3
Sweep, destroyers from Malta will be sweeping towards
JERVIS, Marittimo tonight routed through position R,
PETARD, and returning west of Pantellaria. S/Ms will
NUBIAN. not be attacked north of line Cape Bon, 131°.
(Capt. S.10, 011759B to RORQUAL P.53 (ULTOR)
P.54 (UNSHAKEN) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) (R) S/Ms on
patrol C. in C.Med. Capt. S.8.)
Sailed JERVIS, PETARD and NUBIAN.
(V.A.Malta 011813B to Admty. etc.)

/EREBUS...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

EREBUS. Admty. 301925. Request that EREBUS may be sailed for Levant as soon as possible. (C. in C.Med. 011818 to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

French N.Os. Personal. Your 151842. U.S. Authorities here N.Africa. arranged passage for Moret on their own Position of initiative and Resident Minister was informed by Adm. Muselier. Foreign Office as soon as possible. (F.O. Telegram No. 457.)

2. Resident Minister's telegram 633 reports no objection to Muselier going to N.Africa and we understand that his passage has been arranged by U.S. Embassy here for today. Muselier does in fact claim that he has received invitation from Giraud. You are presumably aware of substance of Algiers telegram 603 to F.O.

3. Muselier originally approached us in January about going to North Africa. De Gaulle had no objection, although Muselier is his bitter opponent and might have expected him to make agreement between the two French parties difficult.

4. Muselier states that he has delayed his departure because he was so unfavourably impressed by Amanrich's outlook on the war. Muselier was an excellent Chief of the Free French Navy and co-operated well with Admty. Moret, as his Chief of Staff showed the same excellent co-operation.

5. Muselier has received telegram from North Africa asking him to make unofficial contact with Admty. regarding employment of French Naval personnel in N.Africa. Muselier has stated that he believes about 35,000 men available without ships to man. Inter alia, he has been asked to make enquiries about corvettes, M.T.Bs. and possibly a small aircraft carrier.

6. Muselier is being informed that all French Naval requirements should be passed through you. We imagine his statement of men available to be much exaggerated and we should therefore like to know the true figure.

(Hd. of M.B.I. Approved 1st Lord 011820B to C. in C.Med.)

Reply: C. in C.Med. 032206.

Convoy One enemy aircraft shadowing convoy Codeword "Liquid" "Liquid" 32.41 N. 20.07 E. attacked, (HURWORTH 011845B to Alexandria W/T.) ERINPURA & Have sustained moderately heavy attack. BRITISH TRUST ERINPURA hit. Report incomplete. sunk. (HURWORTH 012135B to C. in C.Levant.) ERINPURA and BRITISH TRUST both sunk. Am picking up survivors in 032° 40' 019° 53'. EASTON, ADRIAS and SANTA in company. Intend rejoining convoy with ADRIAS by first light. ISIS, QUEEN OLGA were retained with "Liquid".

(S.O.22 D.F. 012246B to C. in C.Levant, (R) R.A.Alexandria, N.L.O.8th Army S.N.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Benghazi, N.O.I.C. Tobruk, N.O.I.C. Mersa Matruh, 201 Group, 212 Group, 219 Group. Fighter Sectors between Alexandria and Benghazi. 247 Wing. 235 Wing.)

1.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

EMPIRE MORN equipment disposal. Commorseafron's 281540/April. Request following action be taken regarding the special equipment and Service personnel of C.A.M. Ship EMPIRE MORN.
1. R.D.F. and V.H.F. R/T be dismantled and sent to Gibraltar as spares. Radio mechanic or one R.D.F. operator to be retained temporarily till sets are dismantled.
2. Other Service personnel to be returned to U.K. at first opportunity.
3. H.Q.N.W. African Air Forces are being requested to make arrangements for disposal of aircraft.
4. Rockets and all other special equipment to be sent to Gibraltar as spares.
(D.T.D. Approved A.C.N.S. (U.T.) 011855B to C. in C.Med.
(R) Commorseafron, Comnavnaw, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cominch.)

P.R.U. May 1st visuals. 0 1510 (corrupt group) 2 battle-ships, 3 cruisers. 1610 Messina. No major naval units.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 011857B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

D.6. Maximum speed on easterly course 14 knots. Am returning Bone E.T.A. 2230. Request lights. Weather report.
(Capt. D.6 011941A to C.S.12 (R) C. in C.Med. N.O.I.C. Bone.)

Movements, Algiers. Arrivals French Chasseur III, ANGELE, PEREZ. Departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, LAUDERDALE, S/Ms. TRIDENT, MARSOUIN, M.Ls. 458, 564, M.T.B.636.
(Cdre. Algiers 012017A to Admty. etc.)

Movements Oran. Departures this day OXFORDSHIRE. Arrivals L.C.T.32 328.
(Com. N.O.B.Oran 012029Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements Philippeville BADSWORTH and ST. DAY arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 012130 to Admty.)

Movements Tobruk. Sailed from Derna and arrived Tobruk M.Ls. 349 and 359.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 012131C to Admty.)

Movements Haifa. Departure 1st May M.L. 1007, M.L. 350.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 012245C to Admty. etc.)

Algiers Report. 8590 Cypher 1 May. From G.3 Section. Sitrep 189, 30 April. Part 2. Para. 1. Naval. 28 April. M.T.Bs. from Sousse operating in daylight off Cap Bon sank a 3000 ton M/V and damaged two minesweepers and one R-Boat. M.T.Bs. were attacked by shore batteries and aircraft. One M.T.B. sustained damage and had to be sunk by our own forces. One enemy fighter was shot down and two damaged. Night 29/30 April. 2 destroyers carried out a sweep to Marittimo and sank a 2000 ton M/V off South coast of Sicily. Same night M.T.Bs. from Bone operated off Gulf of Tunis and American M.T.Bs. in approaches to Bizerta. M.T.Bs. from Sousse were active off Cap Bon peninsula.
(A.F.H.Q. Algiers No T.O.O. to Usfor Recd. 0400/2.)

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival CHITRAL.
(S.O.I. Bombay 010201Z to Admty. etc.)
Arrival AMRITSAR escorting I.W.T. KAPURTHALA
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 010544Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrival CLIVE.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi 010645Z to Admty.)
Departure CHITRAL.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 011335Z to Admty. etc.)
Colombo 1st departures 1100Z TULIP, 174C, 66, 187, 168,
24, 10, 265, 480.
(F.O.Ceylon 011434Z to Admty. etc.)

B.P.78. Karachi portion B.P. 78 sailed 0300Z/1st May to
R/V N.C.S.O. Bombay's 290141 refers. EL SEGUNDO
Bahrein Ballast knots $8\frac{1}{2}$ JALADUTA Basra Military
stores knots $9\frac{1}{2}$.
(N.C.S.O. Karachi 010331Z to Admty. etc.)
(S.T.O. Karachi 010901Z to D.S.T.O.P.G.)

A/S Forces C. in C.E.F's 280803 April. Para. 2 A DIPAVATI
Northern unsuitable for A.B.C.E.F. Owing to peculiarities
Indian Ocean of machinery she must be based on Bombay.
Suitable for local use only. Para. 2 D. Only
two R.I.N. auxiliaries suitable for Hormuz
patrol available now. When (?) INVESTIGATOR
refitted observing coalburners unsuitable S.N.O.Persian Gulf
180718 April refers.
2. Para. 2D. Consider F.O.C.R.I.N. must be the co-ordinating
authority for local harbour A/S patrols.
3. Para. 2A. Concurrence of Government of India necessary to
place ships (other than sloops) under operational control of
F.O.Ceylon.
4. Para. 4. Request date of commencement so far as C.A.S.F.
is concerned be postponed until after my visit to Ceylon on 17th
May.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 010618Z to C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon, (R) Admty.
Com. R.I.N. S.N.O.P.G. Com. Aden F.L.O.I.)
Reply C. in C.E.F. 021201Z.

Movement 1. RANPURA left Kilindini 30th April to relieve
Summary SUSSEX as escort to convoy C.M.41 due Bombay 11th
No. 59 May. SUSSEX due Kilindini 2nd May. NAPIER and
May 1st. RAIDER detach from escort daylight 2nd May due
Kilindini 3rd May.
2. Movement summary No. 58 item 3, ASTER left
Aden 29th April, due Kilindini 4th May.
3. Following Y messages are cancelled 252Y, of April 18th, 255Y
of April 22nd.
(C. in C.E.F. 010710Z to Eastern Fleet 262Y, (R) Admty. etc.)

/Convoy...

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East Indies - Contd.

Convoy P.A.36. Sailing telegram. 2. 0900Z/1st May. 4. 10 knots. 5. NN. 024° 05' N. 058° 40' E. PP. 022° 52' N. 060° 50' thence G.A.N. 6. CARNATIC. (N.C.S.O. Hormuz 010935Z, 010940Z to A.I.G. 357.)

Troop Movements. Cancel my 261201Z and 230923Z April. Following is a revised and up to date programme of troop movements.

1. B.M. 52, 1 personnel ship JALADURGA for Colombo and Addu Atoll sailing 5th May.
 2. B.A.43, 2 personnel ships DEVONSHIRE and ISLAMI sailing 8th May.
 3. J.M. 1 Bombay to Durban, 2 personnel ships STRATHAIRD and STRATHMORE sailing 6th May.
 4. B.P.79, 3 personnel ships VARELA, CITY OF CANTERBURY and SANTHIA sailing 13th May.
 5. B.P.80, 4 personnel ships NEVASA, DUNERA, EASTERN PRINCE and VARSOVA sailing 17th May.
 6. Karachi to Bombay NEVASA with approximately 600 Polish families sailing about 13th May.
 7. Karachi to Beira ARONDA with approximately 500 Polish families sailing about 20th May.
- F.O.C.R.I.N. pass to Armindia.
(P.S.T.O. India 011001Z to C. in C.E.F.)

M.E.I.R.I. Pass to N.C.S.Os. Amendment number 12 to Meiri. (C. in C.E.F. 011440 to N.Os.I.C. etc.)

Transports from Persian Gulf. In accordance with instructions from P.S.T.O. Port Said, sailing signals in respect transports leaving Persian Gulf will in future be sub headed as follows A. Name ship. B. Port departure. C. Date departure. D. Destination and E.T.A. E. Estimated draft on arrival.

F. Whether loaded or in ballast : - outline of personnel and/or cargo. G. Lifts beyond ships capacity and where stowed. H. Deck cargoes. I. Nature of services. K. Requirements defects etc. In case transports proceeding Middle East, E will be draft on arrival Suez.
(D.S.T.O. P.G. 011505Z to D.S.T.)

KINGYUAN aground. Following received from KINGYUAN. Aground estimated position 019° 57' N. 086° 23' E. (Burnham Radio 011630Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) Admty.) W.R.Note. Passing action being taken by W.R. to C. in C.E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. P.6148.)

Aircraft Bases, Indian Ocean. A.X. 233 1st May. Your A.321 April 26th (261720C) 2. Agree that Mauritius Flying Boat Squadron should be based Diego Saurez until Mauritius fully developed in light of experience. 3. Mahe - considered essential and is to be developed to accommodate 9 flying boats.

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East Indies.

Aircraft bases Indian Ocean. (Contd.)

4. Tullear - Flying Boat accommodation here is to be limited to 6.
5. Majunga - in view of unsuitability no action is to be taken to develop this base.
6. Our A.X. 567 April 23rd, should be amended in accordance with the above.
(Air Min. 011743Z to East Africa, (R) 222 Group H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.H.Q. India.)

X Torpedo Bomber Sqdns.

A.X. 226. May 1st. Your A.418 or 618 28 April (281012Z).

2. Present long term plan for Wellington G/R and Beaufighter Squadrons is as follows.
 - A. Indian Ocean. 4 Wellington Squadrons, 1 to be torpedo trained and probably based Madagascar.
 - B. India and Ceylon. 6 Beaufighter Squadrons. 2 Wellington Squadrons. 3 of former and both of latter to be torpedo trained. All the Wellingtons in A. and B. will be Wellington XIs.
3. Initial training of torpedo crews for overseas Commands now under consideration. Advanced torpedo training within the Squadrons to be responsibility of Commands where Squadrons normally based. Control of squadrons is under consideration and will be notified later.
(Air Min., 011759Z to 222 Group (R) A.H.Q. India, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. A.H.Q. East Africa.)

GAMBIA,
visit to
Bathurst.

- C. in C.E.F's 230800/April. Approved, subject to operational requirements.
2. C. in C.E.F. and F.O.C.W.Af. are requested to arrange GAMBIA's programme accordingly, F.O.C.W.Af. informing Governor when date of the visit is known.
3. C.O. should keep F.O.C.W.Af. informed of any arrangements made other than those normal to a courtesy visit.
(D.O.D.(F) 011832B to C. in C.E.F. F.O.C.W.Af.
(R) C.S.4. GAMBIA.)

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X L.S.T's for Mediterranean Cargoes. British L.S.T. which are on passage to or are about to sail for Western Mediterranean destination are carrying U.S. personnel and cargo as outlined below. (2) Object of this signal is to enquire whether you are receiving such advance information as you may require as regards contents of L.S.T. (3) L.S.T. carry as deck cargo - (a) One L.C.T.(five) or (b) Two tugs or (c) Other small craft. U.S. crews of (a) and (b) are embarked in parent L.S.T. (4) L.S.T. all carry about 600 tons diesel oil as cargo surplus to bunker fuel. (5) Following L.S.T. carry about 700 tons of U.S. ammunition - 410, 417, 419, 420, 425, 426, 427, 428 Note 419 returned to New York 30/4 with engine trouble. (6) L.S.T. 322, 423, 429, 430 carry pontoons. (7) L.S.T. 422 has British general cargo for Suez and one L.C.T.(five) for U.S. in Western Mediterranean. (8) Approx. 100 officers and 900 men of sea bees are embarked in ten L.S.T referred to above. (9) L.S.T.417 has 270 tons British stores consigned Gibraltar. (10) L.S.T.165 will be taking spare parts for British L.S.T. which have already sailed. (11) We are assured U.S. authorities in Mediterranean furnish you with above information in detail but would like to have this confirmed. Admiralty pass to Captain M.L.C.(Passing action being taken by War Reg.)
(B.A.D.010103Z to C. in C. Med. F.O.Gibraltar (R) Admty etc.)
Reply: C. in C. Med. 031913A, F.O. Gib, 041241.

ARGONAUT. Philadelphia. Arrived April 30th, ARGONAUT for refit.
(N.S.H.Q. 010200Z to Admty)

Movements. St. Johns April 30th. Arrivals Q.060 Q.063 ex Wabana. LINCOLN, BARRIE, PORT ARTHUR ex S.C.128. Q.062 ex St.Pierre. BROADWAY, LAGAN, MORDEN, ALGOMA, CALGARY, DRUMHELLER, AMHERST, PRIMROSE, DEXTEROUS, SAPPER Ex. O.N.179. CAPE ARGONA ex O.N.S.4. Departures TROIS RIVIERES, LACHINE, ESQUIMALT, escorting J.H. 51 to Halifax, Q.059 Q.056 ex Wabana.
(N.O.I.C.St. Johns N.F. 010231Z to Admty)
Norfolk arrived 30th NEA HELLAS.
(N.S.H.Q.010516Z to D.S.T.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
Summary,	F.S.GLOIRE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.
1800 G.M.T.	F.S.GEORGES			
1st May.	LEYGUES	10° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	DEVONSHIRE	11½° N. 27° W.	274° alter-	18.
			ing to	
			Northward.	

(D.O.D.(F) 011114Z to Opnav (R) Comnav)

U/B. By D/F on 4070 K/cs at 0227Z U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 75 miles of 53° 00' N. 32° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 011300B to POLYANTHUS, CHAMBLEY (R)
C. in C. W.A., H.Q.C.C., Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

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America and West Indies (Contd.)

(Landing craft)
x Flight
8 for
Med.

Following is a repetition of N.O.B. Bermuda's 011635 (N.T. in W.R.) (Begins). To Cominch for action to C. in C. Lant, Admty, S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.S.H.Q. for information from N.O.B. Bermuda.

My 291923.* Flight 8 departed 2000Z/30 (Ends) (S.B.N.O. W.At. 011354P to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

* Recyphered as S.B.N.O. W.At's 292034 (re route for Flight 8 consisting of 22 L.C.1 (L)'s.)

T.A.G.
(?57)

List (6 ships). All cargo fuel, all ships for New York.
(Willemstad, 011355 to Bank Block)

North
Atlantic
Convoy
Cycles.

Your 280046 para. 6 and para. 2 D as amended your 301526. Concur. Sailing dates will be promulgated.
(N.S.H.Q. 011434Z to Admty. (R) Cominch, C. & R. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

N.S.H.Q.
S/M
Estimate.

N.S.H.Q. Submarine estimate.
(N.S.H.Q. 011440Z to Admty etc.)

U.S. S/M
estimate
1st May.
U.S. S/M
Notice.

(Cominch, 011443, 011444Z, 011526Z, 011527, 011528Z)

H.X.238.

H.X.238 will now sail May 7th. My 302035 amend dates to read as follows. Departure May 7th H.O.M.P. May 10th, "Westchop" May 9th.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 011450Z to Admty (R) C.E.S.F. Connav, N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Com.3, C. in C. W.A.)

SAPPER,
DEXTEROUS.

SAPPER unable to maintain speed required by H.X. convoy. Intend sailing SAPPER and DEXTEROUS with S.C.129.
(F.O.N.F. 011525Z to C. in C. W.A.)

F.H.51A.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 011542 to Admty)

U/B.

A/C sighted S/M in 51.36 N. 48.16 W. at 1126Z May 1st course 100°.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 011545Z to G.B.7A (R) Admty. etc.)

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U.S.A.T's. San Francisco April 29th DAVID GAILLARD for Noumea. PORT HUENEME, CALIF, April 29th MORMACGULL for Nandi. Fini both U.S.A.T. (N.S.H.Q.011557Z to Admty, D.N.I. Wellington, Comsowespaceafron, Melbourne.)

U.G.L.4. Sailing telegram part 2. All 8.5 knots. All bound Bermuda. Total 13 ships sailed. Task Unit 21.7.1 has by hand. (P.D.New York, 011600Z to Cominch C.& R.)

Convoy H.F.51. Arrived. (N.C.S.O.St. Johns N.B. 011610Z to Admty.)

X Upper limit of S.C. convoy. Your 301947 (N.T. in W.D.) para 2 confirmed. A.M.151510 para. 5 refers. (D.T.D. 011621B to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q. etc.)

Dispositions. Section East S.C.128 40th escort group 051° 42' 046° 30' 000° 7.5. O.N.S.4 task unit 24.18.11 044° 35' 052° 42' 258° 7. O.N.179 W.L.E.T.U. 24.18.8 045° 53' 055° 52' 245° 9. B.W.22 STRATFORD 047° 42' 052° 38' 338° 7.5. U.S.S. MOHAWK, TRAVIS, ARVEK. S.C.705,688, 689 047° 22' 050° 54' 100° 8 Altering to 000° in 046° 40' W. H.J.(?49) NIPIGON, COWICHAN 045° 49' 035° 07' 087° 7., Altering to 061° in 054° 06' W. and 009° in 052° 32' W. J.H.51 LACHINE, ESQUIMALT, TROIS RIVIERES 046° 18' 056° 48' 252° 7.5 Altering to 273° in 058° 58' W. and 228° in 059° 41' W. U.S.S. MENEMSHA 046° 41' 035° 15' 236° 7. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011635Z, 012215Z to Admty)

Section South West. BAFFIN KYLE Sydney (C.B.) approaching inbound. H.S. 82 NEW WESTMINSTER Louisberg approaching inbound. H.J.49 A MALPEQUE SARNIA. Departing Chebucto Head 2000Z May 1st course 090° speed 9 altering to (?Group missing) in 061° 58' W. U.S.S. TAMPA, MOJAVE, SAGAM-ORE, WANDANK towing 2 (?groups omitted) Section Y D F 25 (A) 043° 25' 064° 14' 063° 6 IZARRA (Auxiliary Schooner) 044° 22' 062° 29' 270° to Halifax 6 knots IRISH ASH (Eire) 044° 25' 066° 35' 180° 7 Task Unit 24.18.9 departs Halifax 1900Z/1st to join O.N.179 in 022° 25' 060° 05'. (C. in C. C.N.A. 011705Z to Admty)

TRACKER (sailed New York 29/4) N.S.H.Q.'s 301900 April and my 291833 April para.3 TRACKER sailed with 68 U.S.A.A.F. aircraft for Casablanca. (B.A.D. 011655Z to Admty)

MORDEN. (1) MORDEN in C.2 group required in St. Johns prior to 19th May before proceeding to refitting port. (2) Intend MORDEN sail with C.2 and

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(Contd.)H.X. 237 detaching in Mid Ocean to either O.N.182 or O.N.S.6.
(F.O.N.F., 011746Z to C. in C.W.A.)Escort
Oilers.Important to obtain compliance by Port Director New York with A.M.191225B April and 271450B April. (2) Is Lieut. Rainey available as intermediary as result of conference called for 23rd April? Your 201637Z April refers.
(Admty. 011757B to B.A.D.)PORT
ARTHUR,
ALGOMA.C. in C. C.N.A. 271951Z para.3 (Repeated in 281150 from C. in C. C.N.A. Re allocations to Canadian support Group). (1) PORT ARTHUR and ALGOMA ready for service May 5th.
(2) Until entire support group has been formed intend using these ships to reinforce midocean escorts in returning them from mid Atlantic with westbound convoys. First assignment S.C.129.
(F.O.N.F.011801Z to C. in C. W.A.(R) Admty etc.)MONGABARRA
AKKA.
(safe
conduct)Your 291831B. Should sailing date be May 4th and not May 14th?
(N.O.I.C.St. John, N.B. 011835Z to Admty etc.)
My 291831B. Sailing date should read May 4th.
(Hd. of M.Branch 012008B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Various)SILVERELM
(Disabled)BPAX Tug MUNTZ FREIRE proceeding assistance SILVERELM should contact today and has been ordered by Letemar to tow vessel this port. Two additional sea going tugs available here if required. C.A.L.BAHIA furnished SILVERELM eight days rations giving total ten days for crew of 57. SILVERELM reports one week required repair main engines. ARATU advised connection air coverage, Com Fourt Fleet for action. U.S.N.O.B. Rio, for Info.
(Washington, 011840 to Admty)ANDES,
docking.Your 302107B. If absolutely essential vessel can be drydocked at Saint John N.B. but at expense of other vessels. Huband's cable 56651 refers. No other docks available.
(2) Request immediate reply and if vessel is to be drydocked further request that she be instructed to proceed direct to Saint John N.B.
(N.S.H.Q.011845Z to D.S.T.(R) B.A.D. etc.)

My 011845. To facilitate arrangements and avoid recurrence of situation as outlined in Huband's cable 56651 request in future N.S.H.Q. and M. of W.T. be advised well in advance of troopships requiring drydocking. (2) Request also that other essential information be signalled promptly vide your 160310 February. B.M. of W.T. New York 022225 April also refers.

(N.S.H.Q. 011926Z to D.S.T.)

Assignment/...

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

X Assignment of Docks. Ref. 222111Z, J.S.M.914 1st May 1943. (?B.A.D.'s signal intended. Re recommendations of Planners.)
At their meeting on April 30 C.C.S. agreed to accept following recommendations of C.C.S. Planners. (1) That first two sectional Capital Ship Docks should be assigned to Pacific area. (2) That third sectional Capital Ship Dock should be held in reserve until safe arrival of first two docks at their destination was assured. Its allocation then to be made in light of existing strategic and docking situations. (3) The provision from U.S. resources of 18,000 ton dock for India Ocean should be approved in principle, details to be settled by U.S. and British Naval Staff.
(J.S.M.011847Z to W.C.O.London) Recd. in W.R. p.m./2/5.

X Biscay A/S Air Offensive. J.S.M.916 - 1st May, 1943, Ref. C.O.S.(W) 587 (240205 April). Following reply (C.C.S.189/6) has been received from Joint U.S. Chiefs of Staff. "(1) U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff are Sympathetic toward Bay of Biscay anti-submarine operation. (2) Careful survey of L.R. aircraft available shows that they are not only of unsuitable types but lack special equipment. (3) Noted that memorandum by representatives of British Chiefs of Staff is promised on providing planes from any available reserve and on non-interference with V.L.R. and escort vessel programmes. Since only planes immediately available and suitable are V.L.R. planes, which are not yet operating in numbers adequate to meet requirements, it is necessary to advise that no planes can be made available at this time for Bay of Biscay project".
In the course of discussion at yesterday's C.C.S. meeting, Admiral King explained that he felt that suggestion of British Chiefs of Staff had been formulated on certain figures produced at Atlantic convoy conference, the origin and accuracy of which could not be entirely vouched for, and that these figures had raised hopes as to availability of aircraft which facts did not now warrant. Moreover, U.S. Navy were having trouble with the P.B.M's. This was delaying output for operational uses. U.S. Chiefs were told that their reply would be forwarded to British Chiefs of Staff, to whom it would be a great disappointment. Please let us have anything further about this that you may wish us to take up with U.S. Chiefs at next Friday's meeting or before.
(J.S.M.011957Z to W.C.O.London)

MONOWAI. Ref. N.Z.N.B's 102252Z. Not known whether N.Z.N.B has embarked any personnel in MONOWAI for either U.S.A. or U.K. N.Z.N.B. should report what numbers were embarked and what is total accommodation available. (2) If accommodation vacant, proposed to divert MONOWAI to New York to fill up within limits of 250 per Service.
(D. of S.T.012012B to B.A.D., N.Z.N.B.)

Sub / ...

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

Sub attack and sighting summary. All times Z. Para.A. Plane attacks Sub course 060 46.16 N. 25.53 W. 1852/28. Para.C. Army Plane sights Sub 51.36 N. 48.16 W. 1126/01. Para. D. Cap.Plane sights Sub. diving 43.42 N. 69.25 W. 1059/01. R.C.A.F. Plane sights Sub. 46.42 N. 64. 27 W. 1330/30. Surface craft attacks Sub. 38.22 N. 73.44 W. 1853/29. Surface craft attack Sub. area 38.55 N. 74 W. 2015/29. (Cominch, 012046Z to Admty for O.I.C.)

Convoy B.W.22. B.W.22 arrived. (N.C.S.O.St. Johns N.F. 012051Z to Admty)

LULWORTH U/B. U-Boat sighted on surface at 2115Z course 100° 17 knots. My P.C. and S. 51.04 N. 46.15 W. 338° 7. Weather report. (LULWORTH, 012118Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C. in C. C.N.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdr. (D) Argentia, H.Q.C.C., E.G.3, A.C.I.C.)

S.C.128. My 012118Z. My P.C. and S. at 2245Z 51.18 N. 46.23 W. 318° 7. MOYOLA, LANDGUARD chasing 2 U-Boats 107° (?60 or 7) miles course and speed 085° 20. Request air support at 0800Z position 52.17 N. 47.40 W. altering course then to 349°. (LULWORTH 012250Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, C. in C. C.N.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F. Cdr. (D) Argentia, H.Q.C.C., E.G.3. A.C.I.C.)

UNGAVA. DIGBY. Relieved DIGBY in position "C" at 2040Z. Have fuel for 100 hours at 12 knots. (UNGAVA, 012122Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C.E.S.F. Cominch C. & R., N.S.H.Q.)

H.J.49A. Departure MALPEQUE, SARNIA, escorting H.J.49A. (C. Halifax, 012126Z to Admty etc.)

U/B attacked. (For information Cinclant. C. in C. C.N.A. C.T.24, M.O.E.T.U.24.1.13) (This is S.O.P.A. Greenland 012100)). Army B.25 attacked 500 ton S/M on surface 58.55 N. 40.25 W. at 1544Z/1st Bombs did not explode. S/M crash dived at steep angle with screws showing. Painted blue grey. (Radio Washington 012141 to C. in C. C.N.A. M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13)

H.X.237. Sailing Telegram. List - 40 ships (P.D.New York, 012148Z to Admty)

ELK. My 011705Z (N.T. in W.D.) add ELK departed Sambro Light Vessel 1830Z, May 1st to Digby coastwise. (C. in C. C.N.A. 012214Z to Admty)

U/B / ...

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

U/B. By D/F on 12,950 K/cs at 1716Z/1, U-Boat estimated to be anywhere within 45 miles of 60° 30' N. 37° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 012220B to Escorts of O.N.180, EYEBRIGHT (R) C. in C. W.A., A.C.I.C. H.Q.C.C. Cominch, N.S.H.Q.)

AMHERST, My P.C. and S. at 2230Z 046° 16' 054° 04'
CALGARY. 249° 13.7 knots. CALGARY (group missed) in company. Weather report.
(AMHERST, 012330Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. N.At. Opnav.)

Movements. Bermuda arrivals L.S.T.427.
Bermuda. (S.B.N.O.012333P to Admty)

Australia and New Zealand.

Kiwi 26. U.S. Liberty ship PETER SILVESTER unsuccessfully attacked by SS (?Sub intended) 18° 34' S. 176° 21' W. 1744/30. Small task force unit unsuccessfully attacked by single Mitsubishi bomber east of San Cristobal a.m. 29/4. Enemy R/C party comprising 1 Officer 8 men who apparently landed Guadalcanal night 27-28/4 were annihilated a.m. 28/4 gear (? near intended) Beaufort Bay. Japanese warship called at Vila (Kulambangra) about midnight 29-30/4. Later departed N.W. extensive barge activity this area. Estimated 3000 troops in Buna area who are definitely short of provisions but no sign of serious sickness.
(C.W.R. Wellington, 010011Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty, D.N.I. A.C.N.B., G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

Two unsuccessful attacks by Japanese A/C on allied ships near San Cristobel April 26th and 30th. Large ship sighted 10 miles east Mariner Island, Isabel course N.W. at 0700M/1st Runway and dispersal area Munda Kolomanuara bombed A/A positions silenced barge and jetty destroyed first. Three A.K. at Vila 0100M/1st. Kieta (?) Bougainville bombed 29th fires visible 40 miles.
(C.W.R. Wellington, 012240Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.H.Q. New Delhi, A.C.N.B.)

MONOWAI. Commencing 0001Z 1st May MONOWAI will keep W/T watch for N as follows: Rugby G.M. routines. Balboa F continuous. Commercial wave Jamaica local broadcast.
(N.Z.N.B. 01046Z/May to Admty. B.A.D.)
See also Admty. 012012 to B.A.D. in America and West Indies.

Movements /...

War Diary.1.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand. (Contd.)

Movements. Arrival Milne Bay 30th BOWEN Sydney N.S.W. 30th
H.M.A.S. KALGOORLIE.
(A.C.N.B. 010658Z to Admty etc.)
Arrivals 30th April Brisbane: V.S.I.S.MERKUR,
R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK, H.T.DUNTROON. 1st May Townsville: H.T.
TAROONA, U.S.Transport BONTEKOE.
(C.S.W.C.S.F. 011034Z to Admty etc.)

Digest Before noon R/C Liberator saw five ships
No.466 Kavieng Harbour described from photographs as
April 30th. three coasters one merchant vessel of 1,000
tons another probable merchantman same size.
Unsuccessfully bombed 11 small craft moving
South through Steffen Strait apparently in
convoy. (3) Morning photos Rabaul Harbour reveal 41 or 42
ships including 25 merchantmen totalling 135,000 tons, six sub-
marines whereof one large two medium three small, five submar-
ine chasers, and one each light cruiser similar YUKARP, minelay-
er, converted seaplane tender, sub tender, destroyer tender.
Another last type vessel possibly present. SHIRETOKO class
tanker included in merchantmen. (4) Individual patrol
Liberators bombed Gasmata Aerodrome and Lae Town.
(6) Enemy R/C plane over Darwin area about noon.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 010740Z to Admty etc.)

C.O.92. Following is repetition my 010625Z/May From
N.C.S.O. Sydney (Begins); Sydney Section
Convoy C.O.92 sailed 1st May comprising 8 ships
RAHMANI, BANDA, CORINDA for Melbourne loading
for Hobart DAN BEARD for Aden MARIA MITCHELL, WILLIAM B. OGDEN
for Bombay. PEGASUS for Abadan (Ends).
(N.S.C.O. Sydney, 012246Z to Admty (R) Connav)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.S/M's Reported.

Estimated Positions.
(D.D.I.C.011338B, 011438B)

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.

X "Chop"
line.

1. The Mid Atlantic "Chop" line is amended and the east and west "Chop" lines are adjusted to meet this line. The new line was brought into force at 021949B.

Home Commands.

X Destroyer
redistribution

2. A message from C. in C. Home Fleet today gives details of redistribution of destroyers which will be necessary in order to meet Home Fleet requirements until mid June. Owing to the U-boat situation, however, C. in C. W.A. found it possible to fulfil his requirements only partially.

In view of the redistribution of enemy light forces in the Channel area C. in C. Nore is to send 4 Hunt class destroyers to Portsmouth and then is required by C. in C. Plymouth (who will co-ordinate their operations) primarily for the defence of convoys west of Portsmouth.

X 3. Submarines operating on patrol north of Iceland (C) may be ordered by F.O.S. to use Akureyri for rest.

HIPPER

4. R/C of Wilhelmshaven this morning showed that the ADMIRAL HIPPER has left the floating dock since 5th April and is not present anywhere in the parts of the harbour photographed.

U/Bs
attacked.

5. At 1917 today a Sunderland aircraft attacked an outward bound U-boat 80 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. About 15 men were seen to jump overboard before the U-boat disappeared stern first. *Assumed sunk.*

X Other promising attacks made today were at 0818 by a Sunderland 215 miles S.W. of Bishop's Rock and at 1018 by a Whitley 174 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal.

Operation
S.N.111 A.

6. R.A.(M) in MENESTHEUS left Port ZA this evening with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC and 4 destroyers, to carry out this operation. BERMUDA left Scapa late tonight to cover the operation.

7. 28 Aircraft laid 66 mines off Biscay ports last night.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

8. About 1300 G.M.T. today U.S. tanker LIVINGSTONE ROE laden with aviation spirit caught fire in Pernambuco harbour. The fire spread to the shore but was under control by 1730. LIVINGSTONE ROE was towed to a safe distance and beached. H.M. ships in port were not endangered.

Mediterranean.

REGENT
lost.

9. The S/M REGENT is overdue at Port Said from patrol in the Adriatic and must be considered lost. She was returning to Port Said for docking.

10. The Greek collier E.K. EMBIRICOS arrived at Suez today with serious fires in all holds, necessitating flooding, the ship was beached.

11. A.F.D.30 has left Massawa in tow of 3 tugs for Suez.

Destroyer
sweeps.

12. Destroyers of Force Q operated south of Marittimo last night and those of Force K carried out a sweep in the Sicilian Channel. Weather was unsuitable for M.T.Bs. to operate. Whilst proceeding on a sweep south of Marittimo TARTAR, BLYSKAWICA, LOYAL, BICESTER, OAKLEY and ZETLAND were attacked by aircraft at dusk today and again about 2331. In the first attack a bomb was dropped near LOYAL. One aircraft was shot down in the second attack.

13. M.T.B.311 was mined and sunk in 37.26 N., 09.53 E. at 2120 today whilst M.T.Bs. were carrying out a sweep between Cani Rocks and Zembra and to the northward.

14. U.S.T.Bs. from Bone operated in Bizerta Roads tonight, and M.T.Bs. from Soussse carried out a sweep from Cape Bon peninsula to Sidi Daoud.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

15. 12 Spitfire bombers escorted by 24 Spitfire fighters again attacked the beached destroyer in the Gulf of Tunis and scored near misses. Jetties at Sidi Daoud and Kelibia were hit by several bombs and fires were started.

Australia & New Zealand.

16. U.S. WILLIAM WILLIAMS (7181 tons), proceeding from Espiritu Santo to Suva, Fiji Is. was torpedoed at 1500M today in 20.09 S., 178.04 W. but was towed to Suva, Fiji.

17. An enemy coasting vessel was sunk by aircraft 82 miles S.W. of Rabaul.

18. Darwin airfield was bombed today by 21 escorted bombers. Several Spitfires were lost.

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.+ Attacks
on Shipping
in Plymouth
Command.

In view of the redistribution of enemy light forces in the Channel Area, C. in C. Nore is requested to transfer temporarily four HUNT Class destroyers to Portsmouth and then as required by C. in C. Plymouth. (2) These reinforcements are primarily for defence of convoys west of Portsmouth. C. in C. Plymouth is requested to co-ordinate their operations. (A.C.N.S.H. 020005B)

A.M.02005. QUORN, CATTISTOCK, FERNIE and COTTESMORE detailed. CATTISTOCK will form second escort of C.W.175, remainder are being sailed to pass E.A.5 at daylight 3rd May. (2) My 191844 para. 2(a). Only 1 destroyer escort of C.E. and C.W. convoys can be provided after C.W.175. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange with C. in C. Plymouth for additional escorts from force at their disposal if situation renders this desirable.

(C. in C. Nore, 021014B)

Your 142155 April. The situation is appreciated and you are being reinforced as much as our resources permit.

(D.O.D.(H) 022211B to C. in C. Plymouth)

+ Destroyer

In order that Home Fleet requirements may be met from now up till mid June following redistribution of Destroyers is necessary. (A) Home Fleet to retain MATCHLESS, METEOR, ECLIPSE. My 241745 refers. Four Q's of WARSPITE screen to boiler clean and arrive Scapa a.m. 21st May. Admiralty 211221 para. 4 refers. (C) Two of Eighth or 17th Flotilla now with W.A. to arrive Scapa 15th May and the remaining six to arrive 30th May. (D) After (C) has been withdrawn this will leave PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER with W.A. and PIORUN, ORKAN at Plymouth. It is not anticipated these will be required unless further Home Fleet commitments arise. (C. in C. H.F. 021731B to Admty)

Movements.

KENT.

Scapa departure KENT.
(A.C.O.S.021003B to F.O.I.C.Greenock)

S/M
Movements.

Capt. (S) 3, 281125B. Scapa departure SURF at 1115/2nd May. Arrival ULA and ULTIMATUM at 1216/2nd.
(A.C.O.S.021217)

Intend to sail P.57 escorted by DORNOCH 1600B/3rd for Holy Loch by usual route, E.T.A.2000B/5th.
(S.O.S/M Lerwick 021643).

Positions of S/M's at 0800B/3rd and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S.021719B, 022152B, 030704B, 031811B)

E.G.4,
ARCHER.

C. in C. W.A. 011938B. Intend to sail ARCHER at 1030B/3rd to R/V with FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT, SABRE in 000° 5 miles from Altacarry at 1500B/3rd.
(N.O.I.C.Belfast, 021248B to N.O.I.C.Greenock)

North / ...

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements (Contd.)

North Atlantic dispositions. Dispositions of operational units in North Atlantic: Area Iceland (C), ANSON, BELFAST, JAMAICA, 3 Destroyers.
Area Scapa. DUKE OF YORK, HOWE, MALAYA, BERMUDA, BERWICK, GLASGOW, SCYLLA, FURIOUS, 2 Destroyers.
Area Clyde, KENT.
Area Londonderry, INDOMITABLE, 9 Destroyers.
Area Plymouth, UGANDA, CHARYBDIS, 2 Destroyers.
Area Gibraltar, NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND, PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 5 Destroyers.
Passage to Gibraltar, KING GEORGE V, ADVENTURE, 3 Destroyers.
(D.O.D.(H) 021602B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 011045B. "Spaniel" returned.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 020719B)
(2) M.L.s 346 and 464 patrolling South of E.A. 5 Buoy. (3) M.L.s 291 and 343 to carry out anti E-Boat patrol on latitude 50° 25' N. between 1° 30' W. and 2° W. Pass Needles outwards at 2130/2 and inwards at 0600/3. (4) BLEASDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, and LORD WAKEFIELD at immediate notice at Yarmouth, and Chasseur 14 at St. Helens. (C. in C. Portsmouth 021420B)
M.L.'s 139 and 143 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight Buoys.
(V.A. Dover, 021731B)

S/M Patrols. My 011644 para (a), delete USURPER.
Add new para. (G) USURPER on patrol 20 miles N. and S. of 63° 30' N. 01° 59' E.
(F.O.S. 020836B)
F.O.S. 211806. Request you will sail 0.10 at 0500B/3rd routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles, thence direct to patrol line B.
(Capt. S.9, 021055B to S.O.S/M Lerwick)
Leave patrol 0100B/4th for 063° 10', 000° 40' E, thence direct to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9, 021059B to 0.14)
My 323353B. Add 5 hours to all times.
(Capt. S. 9, 021113B to H.Q.C.C.)
Submarine operating patrol North of Iceland may be ordered by F.O.S. to use Akureyri for rest. (2) Request facilities may be afforded.
(C. in C. H.F. 021251B to A.C.I.C.)
Positions of submarines at 0800B/3rd and movements for following 24 hours.
(a) UNBENDING 44° 20' N. 08° 50' W. dived by day through 44° 20' N. 06° 30' W, thence northward 96 miles per day.
(b) SIMOON on patrol in vicinity 46° 50' N. 05° 29' W.
(c) UNSPARING 46° 37' N. 06° 30' W. dived by day southward through 46° 01' N. thence eastward to 06° 01' W. thence southward towards 44° 01' N. 06° 01' W, speed 96 miles per day.
(d) 0.10 60° 30' N. 00° 30' W. probably on surface towards patrol area vicinity 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W. speed 8 knots.
(e) 0.14 leaves patrol 0100B/4th for 63° 10' N. 00° 30' E. thence direct for Lerwick probably on surface speed 7 knots.

(f) /...

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M (f) TRUCULENT 60° 37' N, 00° 30' W. probably
Patrols on surface through 64° 10' N. 06° 50' W. towards
(Contd.) 67° 01' N. 13° 01' W. speed 11 knots.
(g) USURPER vicinity 63° 30' N. 02° 01' E.
(h) SATYR vicinity 67° 01' N. 15° 59' W.
(j) BARB vicinity 68° 05' N. 16° 02' W.
(k) BLACKFISH patrol 67° 30' N. 19° 01' W.
(F.O.S.021719B to Admty)

✕ Engagement with Auxiliary Vessels. 1 Enemy Vessel sunk. 2 Enemy Vessels Damaged. M.G.B's 605, ~~630~~ and M.T.B. 632+630 damaged.

Following is preliminary report of C/F Activity Night 30th April/1st May.

(2) Available M.T.B's and M.G.B's of 31st and 17th Flotillas were ordered to search out area 15 miles off shore starting off Vlieland and working East in search of Westbound Convoy.

M.G.B's 606, 612 and M.T.B. 624 forming Northern Unit and M.G.B's 605, 610 and M.T.B's 632, 630 the Southern Units swept East until 0400 when M.G.B.605's unit altered course to R/V with other unit position 54° 00' N. 05° 00' E.

At 0505 in approx. 53° 46' N. 05° 13' E, 4 auxiliary vessels were sighted bearing 250°, course 230° in 2 columns, steaming 10 knots, at a distance of 4 miles. Unit altered course to close and increased to 23 knots, and succeeded in closing to 3 cables under stern of enemy and slowed down just ahead of rear ship of port column steering parallel course at 2 cables, without the enemy taking any action. Fire was opened on port rear ship with all guns and very severe damage inflicted. M.G.B's then engaged starboard rear ship, finally port foremost ship, scoring hits on both and leaving all three ships on fire. M.G.B's then turned and re-engaged the enemy breaking off action at 0545.

M.T.B. 632 attacked the starboard foremost ship which was the biggest and had been firing continuously with 40 m.m. guns. She fired both torpedoes from 600 yards but missed and disengaged under smoke.

M.T.B. 630 attempted to carry out a depth charge attack on the 2 rear damaged ships, but on running in she came under heavy fire from the starboard foremost ship, the C.O. being killed and 1st Lieutenant seriously wounded. Navigating Officer took over and disengaged under smoke without completing D/C attacks.

At 0600 unit reformed approximately 1=1/2 miles from enemy and during this time 1 ship was seen to sink and 2 others to be stopped and heavily on fire. (3) Unit withdrew 70' to N.W. at best speed before setting course for base and eventually arrived at 1630, without having seen any aircraft. 12 Group Fighters took off to give cover. (4) Casualties M.T.B.630 1 Officer and 2 ratings killed. 2 Officers and 6 ratings wounded. M.G.B.605 1 rating wounded.

Details in MIDGE's 011800B and 012030B to Admiralty.

(5) Damage M.G.B. 605 M.T.B. 632 Hull damage estimated 10-14 days to repair. M.T.B.630 slight damage to Hull and guns.

(6) All enemy ships were using what appeared to be an anti personnel bomb which burst overhead and caused most of the casualties. Further details will be signalled when known.
(C. in C. Nore 021257B to Admty)

A/S / ...

War Diary.2.5.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations (Contd.)A/S Sweep
by 15th
M/S.F.Request you will sail 15th M.S. Flotilla to
Iceland routed as follows position
(W) 57.30 N. 09.11 W. at 0700B/5th, thence
(X) 61.15 N. 14.45 W.FURIOUS aircraft will carry out R/C and A.L.T.
on flotilla during daylight 5th May.(2) On arrival position (X) A/S sweep is to be carried out
through position (Y) 62.35 12.45 and (Z) 61.40 16.01.(3) On completion this sweep Flotilla proceed to Hvalfiord.
(C. in C. H.F. 021411B to C. in C. W.A.)15th M/S Flotilla on passage to Iceland will be carrying
out an A/S sweep during daylight hours 6th May in Iceland Far-
oes Passage. My 021411 refers. (2) If U-Boats dispositions
for this period appear promising request special air co-opera-
tion may be arranged.

(C. in C. H.F. 021740B to Admt, H.Q.C.C.)

Intend sailing at 1600/4 to comply with your 021411.
LLANDUDNO, BEAUMARIS, WORTHING, ARDROSSAN, DUNBAR in company.
PETERHEAD now boiler cleaning, completion date 8th May.
Request sailing instructions for PETERHEAD.

(LYME REGIS, 021922B to C. in C. H.F.)

Exercises.A.L.T.
Exercise.
FURIOUS.FURIOUS proceed to pass Hoxa Gate at 2000B/4th
May to carry out flying exercise West of Butt
at Lewis and then to Clyde. (2) R.A.(D) H.F.
is requested to detail 5 destroyers to Screen.
(3) 15th M/S.F. (S.O.LYME REGIS) will pass throughan area Bound by latitude 60° N. and 57° 30' N
and longitude 09° W. and 12° W. on passage to Iceland and
will enter this area at 0700B/5th May FURIOUS is to exercise
R/C and A.L.T. with this force as target. (4) The exercise
is to cease in time to allow FURIOUS to arrive position
(A) 055° 05' N. 005° 31' W. at 1200B/6th. (5) VALIANT
escorted by O.R.P.ORKAN O.R.P. PIORUN and one HUNT expect
pass position (A) at 1200B/6th on passage to Scapa. FURIOUS
screen is to relieve Plymouth escort and escort VALIANT to
Scapa. FURIOUS enter Clyde after detaching destroyer.
(C. in C. H.F.021422B)Allied Air Activity.A/C for
Gibraltar,
UNICORN.UNICORN is required to ferry 18 Beaufighters
to Gibraltar. (2) Aircraft will be available
at Belfast for loading on 15th May and ship is
to sail with K.M.F.15 on 19th May returning
with M.K.F.15. (3) UNICORN will retain 887
and 818 squadrons for her own protection andthat of the convoys. (4) UNICORN is placed under the orders
of C. in C. W.A. until her return to U.K. A.M.031353A
April refers.

(D.O.D.(H) 022209B)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

S.N.111A. Request you will detail a destroyer to run a line of soundings from 66.54 N. 22.40 W. in 347° direction for 40 miles. (2) Results are to be forwarded to R.A.(M) by quickest route. (C. in C. H.F. 021152B to C.S.10)

R.A.M. sailed in MENESTHEUS with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, NEWARK, CASTLETON, ST.MARY's and FURY in company. (TRELAWNEY 021830B)

Scapa departure BERMUDA.

(A.C.O.S.022300)

Your 021152B. Capt. (D) 3 in MILNE has sailed to carry out this duty.

(C.S.10,022345B to C. in C. H.F.)

* Operation "Hostile". (1) M.Mark I mines should not be laid at less than twelve feet below chart datum vide C.B. 4082, Chapter I, para. 3. (2) In view of areas selected for laying M.Mark I and Mark XXVII mines it is considered essential that sterilizers or flooders be fitted. (A.C.N.S.(H) 021225B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

Operation K.L.1. Operation is further postponed. (My 011735B May) and will not take place tonight. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 021249B to M/S9.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Off Egersund. 3 medium vessels, 4 small vessels, bearing 180° distance 4 miles, course 360° Egersund. (A/C 182 Sqdn. Duty R. 021435 to 18 Group)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported and attacked in Biscay Area. D/F fixes and aircraft reports during past 48 hours indicate a number of U-Boats probably on passage to and from Bay of Biscay now between latitudes 45° 01' N, and 48° 02' N, and longitudes 10° 04' and 17° 03'.

(D.D.I.C.021006B to Escorts H.X.5, S/M's., Escorts L.C. Flight D.)

Am returning to base, engine trouble. Am over enemy submarine in 47° 16' N. 10° 08' W.

Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C. Duty R. 021200B to 19 Group)

U-Boats reported and attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 62° 54' N. 12° 48' W. (A/C. F.Z.1W, 021437B to 18 Group) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C, 123 Sqdn. Duty W. 021455B to 18 Group)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

Unknown Ship. Intercept 0832 G.M.T. 500 K/cs. DE unknown station "S.O.S. S.O.S."
(Humber Radio, 021034 D.B.S.T. to Immingham)

CHURCHILL. CHURCHILL has defect in oil fuel tank. Intend not to complete. Request pilot at 030330Z off Merville.
(CHURCHILL, 021215Z to Cdre. D.W.A.)

Shipping and Convoys.

M.K.F.13. Arrival Clyde portion of M.K.5 13.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 020618B)
Preliminary report of Convoy M.K.F.13, consisting of 8 ships escorted by 42nd E.G. WESTON (S.O) GORLESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, NESS and EXE with BERMUDA and ORKAN covering convoy between 42° and 50° N. (1) Convoy proceeded unmolested until p.m. 29th, when two F.W. Kouriers were sighted in 47.48 N. 17.45 W. Later two high-level bombing attacks were made on Convoy from about 10,000 feet. 500 pound bombs appeared to be used. No hits were made on Convoy. These aircraft were not detected on Type 286 which was closed up on first report of hostile aircraft. Sunderland A/C expected at 1815A/29 did not arrive. (2) Although H/F D/F indicated several submarines were in vicinity night 29/30th no attacks took place. (3) Control was heard telling submarines to home on aircraft transmissions, but no H/F D/F interceptions were made by Escorts. (4) The conduct of Convoy was excellent throughout the passage.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 021912B to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.5. My 012000Z. 20 ships in company with Cmdre. Escort and LIBERATOR rounding up remainder. O.N.S.5 altered to 190° at 0900Z. Speed 5 knots. My position 059° 04' N. 041° 17' W. Request following R/V for stragglers be broadcast in B.A.M.S. 1200Z/3rd, 056° 06', 042° 03'. 1200Z/4th, 053° 27', 042° 51'. (B.7 020901Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 012000. Inform Commodore N.K. On reforming of convoy alter course for (XR) 050° N. 046° W. thence XH.
(2) No amendment to stragglers route.
(C. in C. W.A. 021709Z to Escorts O.N.S.5)

S.C.128. D/F of transmission at 0712Z indicates that Convoy S.C.128 may have been reported.
(D.D.I.C.021019B to Escorts S.C.128)

R.U.72. Two or three U-Boats estimated in your general vicinity today.
(D.D.I.C.021029B to Escorts R.U.72)

F.N.9. F.N.9 stretched 14 miles closing slowly. Pilot will be at 20 C at 0530 tomorrow.
(WESTMINSTER 021039B)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)NEWFOUND-
LAND.Intend to sail Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND
0730B/3rd May. Gibraltar. Route.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 021133B)

F.D.5.

Intend sailing LEINSTER to Clyde escorted by
CHARLESTOWN to latitude Butt of Lewis at 2000/3rd.
Route. Speed 13 knots, E.T.A. 1200/5th.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 021244B to N.O.I.C. Greenock)+ Atlantic
Convoys.
Escort
Oilers.

Your 271851 April. It is considered imperative that the numbers of escorting oilers fitted with buoyant rubber case[^] should be adequate to ensure 2 such vessels sailing with every Trans-Atlantic convoy. The numbers at present available do not permit this and although there has been a great improvement in the facilities for oiling at sea there are still occasions when the absence of a properly equipped oiler has not only hampered the operations but has curtailed the freedom of movements of support groups. It is requested therefore that full consideration be given to above requirements before any reduction is made in programme of fitting oilers and above all before the removal of any that are fitted. The proposal to fit M.A.C ships is welcomed and it is considered that early steps should be taken to get these vessels equipped with buoyant hose. It must be borne in mind however that the flying and oiling requirements may often conflict and it is therefore essential that at least one ordinary oiler should accompany any particular convoy in addition to any M.A.C ships that may be present.

(C. in C. W.A. 021309B to Admty.)

BOGUE.

Arrived BOGUE.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 021450B)K.M.S.15
and
W.S.30.Your 011550B. ACTIVE, CLEVELAND, SLAZAK
will be ready for service on 19th May. ACTIVE
will require boiler cleaning and will be sailed
to arrive Greenock not later 11th May.
(R.A.D. H.F. 021530B to Admty)S.L.128.
M.K.S.12.
DEVONSHIRE.

F.O.C.W.A.F. 011245Z para. 1. From position (T)
035° 01' N. 019° 41' W. steer to be within 60
miles of S.L.128 and M.K.S.12 combined when convoy
passes 042° N. and act as cover against surface
attack until convoy passes 050° N. Onward route
will be signalled. (2) Estimate S.L.128 and
M.K.S.12 S.O. escort BLACK SWAN in 042° 01' N. 015° 04' W. at
2030B/6th steering for (ZN) 049° 20' N. 014° 35' W. thence 026°
at 6½ knots. (3) Your S.O.A. is to be not less than 18 knots.
(4) 4 Narvik-Class destroyers were in Gironde River on 30th
April. Blockade Runners to or from Bay of Biscay port may
be met.
(C. in C. Plymouth 021635B to DEVONSHIRE)

Neutral / ...

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys (Contd.)

Neutral
Shipping
and U.S.
Ports.

A.M.S.1331 and 2024 both of 24th November, 1942.
Substitute Pensacola for Mobile in para 1 as port
for loading coal.
(D.T.D.021749B to F.O's in C.)

* Mid-
Atlantic
"Chop"
Line.

Cancel A.M.041940 April.
(2) Mid-Atlantic "Chop" line is amended as
follows. From South Pole north of 26th meridian
to latitude $00^{\circ} 35'$ N. thence by rhumb-line to
 $06^{\circ} 15'$ N. $30^{\circ} 000'$ W. thence north on 30th merid-
ian to 020° N. thence by rhumb-line to 030° N.
 024° W. thence north on 24th Meridian to 040° N.
thence west on 40th parallel to longitude 047° W, thence north
on 47th meridian to Greenland coast. (3) East and West "Chop"
lines are adjusted to meet the above line. (4) These changes
are brought into force forthwith.
(D.T.D.021949B)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ADVENTURE E.T.A. Gate 1830 today Sunday. Diving will be necessary a.m. Monday to make good underwater defects. Weather report.
(ADVENTURE, 020721A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
Arrival ADVENTURE.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 022033B to Admty. etc).

M.K.S.12 My 301615. Sailed SHIPPIGAN, TADOUSSAC, ILFRACOMBE, ACUTE, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL escorting BACHAQUERO, DINGLEDALE, COWDRAY and M.K.S.12.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 020911B to Admty. etc).
(1) M.K.S.12 (sailing telegram) (2) 0700B/2 (4) 7½ knots.
(5) ZL, ZM, ZN, ZO, ZP. (6) SHIPPIGAN, ILFRACOMBE, TADOUSSAC, JONQUIL.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 020933B, 020934B to Admty).
M.K.S.(?12) sailed 21 ships.
(F.O. Gibraltar 021605B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
Connav, JAVELIN pass to Cdre).

G.U.S.7 Have following for inclusion (list) Request signal book numbers.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 020957B to C. in C. Med).

L.C.T. Flight. Your 300946. Unless further signal from you it will be assumed that L.C.T.584 arrived with this flight.
(D.O.D. (H) 021301B to F.O. Gibraltar).

ALMAACK Intend sail ALMAACK towed by ARAPAHO C.T.F.68
C.T.F.68. Cdr. Madeira on NELSON, MADDOX, BUTLER, LENNON, HERNDON, PILOT and CHEROKEE A. 0600Z May 3rd to Bermuda for onward routing to Norfolk (route). Thence Bermuda S. of A 6 knots (amended to 8.2 knots - 041222, q.v.)
Position L. 0300Z/3. First "Chop" 10° W. 0600Z/4, second "Chop" 47 W. 0600Z/17, E.T.A. Bermuda 0600Z/23. Accordance C. in C. Lant 191916 when crossing Submarine Area South of Azores. Comtaskforce 68 detach BUTLER, MADDOX, GLENNON, direct them proceed Navy Yard, New York, best speed via Bermuda for Fuel if necessary N.O.B. Bermuda relieve NELSON, HERNDON with A.M's as far to eastward as practicable. C.T.F.68 pass to ALMAACK. When destroyers relieved destroyers proceed to New York manner as first three. If Task Force refuel Bermuda proceed Base H where dissolved. Communications.
(C.M.S.F.F., 021500Z 041222Z to R.N.A.S., Bermuda (?N.O.B. Bermuda intended) (R) Cominch C. and R. C. in C. Lant, Admty. C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Comeastseafon, N.O.B. Casablanca Comnavnav C.T.F.68).

/R.A. (V)...

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

R.A.(V) R.A.(V) and General Simmonds delayed 24 hours C. in C. Med., pass to Force 141. (F.O. Gibraltar, 021517B to ?C. in C. Med., (R) D.N.C.X.F.)

E.T.19 E.T.19 arrived (25 ships). (F.O. Gibraltar, 021545B to C. in C. Med (R) Admty. etc).

MISTRAL Spanish trawler MISTRAL arrived Las Palmas April 28th from Fishing Grounds off Cape Blanco. Reported she would sail April 30th for Pasajes and would not be returning Canary Islands waters. My 261905 April refers. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 021556B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc).

SERAPH Intend sailing P.219 (SERAPH) p.m./4th May for Algiers. (2) Routed (t) 180° Cape Calaburras 5 at 0300/5. (u) 180° Cape de Gata 5 at 0200/6 and (?unless otherwise ordered by) Capt. (S) 8. (v) 135 Cape Palos 5 at (?00)30/6 Capt. (S) 8 is requested to assume operational control at 0200/6, S. of A. 10 knots, 120 miles per day, time zone minus 2. (F.O. Gibraltar, 021601 to C. in C. Med., etc).

Movements, Casablanca. May 2nd arrivals U.S.S. HERNDON, KANEAH, HOUSATONIC, PILOT, NARRAGANSETT, NELSON, GLENNON, BUTLER, MADDOX, MYOSOTIS. Arrived and departed P.C.481 and P.C.474, departed for Bari. (Commorseafron 021950 to C. in C. Med).

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals MINNA from Algiers U.S.S. HERNDON, SS. ESSO HARRISBURGH from Casablanca. M.L.176 174 from A/S Sweep. LOTUS, DIANELLA from Escort duties. SETUBAL, HOLCOMBE, AHTERSTONE, FOXTROT, CONVULVULUS, STORNOWAY, BRIXHAM, KING SOL with E.T.19. Departures, U.S. HERNDON for Casablanca, U.S.S. PEPPERWOOD Y.M. 62, 69 P.C.562 for Mers el Kebir. L.S.T. 315, 316, 317, 318, 332, 352, 360 for Arzeu. U.S.S. SENTINEL P.C. 543, 546, L.S.T. 309, 310, 314 372 for Tenez U.S.S. SEER, S.C.534, 535, 692, 337, 394 for Nemours, U.S. L.C.I.(L) 36, 37, 233, 237, 194, 195, 196, for Beni Saf, U.S. L.S.T.6 357, 373, 375, 376, A.M. L.S.T. 404, 405, 408, 414, 415, 416 for Oran, KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE, Escort duties, ALMERUA, STORNOWAY to patrol off Lisbon. (F.O. Gibraltar, 022140B, to Admty. etc)

/RODNEY...

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

RODNEY,
TROUBRIDGE,
TUSCAN,
METEOR.

1. RODNEY escorted by TROUBRIDGE, TUSCAN and METEOR is to be sailed to Devonport as soon as convenient after arrival of K.G.V. at Gibraltar.
2. TROUBRIDGE and TUSCAN will be returned to Gibraltar as soon as practicable.
3. C. in C. H.F. is requested to signal further orders for METEOR after arrival at Plymouth. (D.O.D. (H) 022304B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F., (R) C. in C. Med., S.O. Force H, RODNEY).

South Atlantic.

CLAN LAMONT,
Convoy W.S.
29.

Your 012036Z. Intend sailing convoy 0730Z/2 at best speed of CLAN LAMONT estimated speed 11 knots or over.
(Comar Dakar, 020033Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. BOREAS, LEWES, D. of S.T.) See also Admty. 020110.

BRIDGEWATER

Arrival 0737Z/2nd. May, BRIDGEWATER escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 020102Z to Admty etc).

W.S. 29
AORANGI,
CLAN LAMONT.

Com. Dakar 011727 May F.O.C.W.Af. 012036 May. Middle East portion of W.S. 29 must reach Suez not later than 9th June.
2. AORANGI should sail with convoy if possible.
3. If CLAN LAMONT is not able to sail with convoy request you will concert arrangements with C. in C. S.A. for earliest possible onward escort. (D.O.D. (F) 020110B to F.O.C.W.A.)
Sailed CLAN LAMONT, AORANGI escorted by BOREAS, LEWES.
(Comar Dakar, 020750Z to F.O.C.W.A., Admty. D. of S.T.)

CHESHIRE
U/B.

Incomplete set of D/F bearings of transmission on 9,965 k/cs at 2122Z/1 indicates U-boat may be in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C., 020125B to CHESHIRE (R) F.O.C.W.A., C. in C. W.A.)

Movements,
Beira.

Arrival 1st May p.m. STORMWRACK, SATSA. (B.S.A. Beira, 020913Z to Admty. etc).

/U/B...

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

+ U/B
Canaries.

My 290057 April (Report of U-boat ashore in Canaries). Air R/C does not confirm presence of U-boat.
(F.O.C.W.A., 021020Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty).

TRAMONTANA

Your 1717 21 April (Re Spanish trawler TRAMONTANA reported by French to be always in Port Etienne area when convoys are approaching. Presume 211707 intended from F.O.C.W.A.) TRAMONTANA owned by P.Y.S.B.E. normally fished off Fernando de Noronha but returns to Pasajes every 2 of 3 months. No suspicious circumstances known about her. She has no R/T but has W/T and D/F.
(N.A. Madrid 021117B to N.O.I.C. Freetown (R) S.O.(I) Gib. Admty).

Dispositions. FOXHOUND escorting MALOJA, MOOLTAN 014° 20' 110° to Merville 15.

B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7 and 8 027° 20' 014° 30' to 030° 016° 35' 8.

HERTFORDSHIRE, ST. ZENO, SPHENE, VIVIANA with C.N.18 032° 25' 017° 20' to 030° 016° 46' 8.

GENISTA, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, with N.C.10 entering Table Bay.

FRITILLARY with D.C.21 A 034° 55' 020° 05' to Capetown 12.

NORWICH CITY, WELLARD, CEDARBURG with D.C.21 034° 25' 023° 20' coastal to Capetown 8. ARISTEA ROODEPOORT, SOUTHERN BARRIER searching the vicinity of 036° 25' 022° 30'.

ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN CHIEF, STANDERTON with C.D.16 034° 00' 026° 45' Coastal to Durban 8.

JASMINE, FREESIA with D.N.34 C, 026° 40' 036° 50' to 026° 00' 038° 00' 11.

(C. in C. S.A., 021146B to A.I.G.125).

ALCANTARA

Your 011647 (Proposal to use ALCANTARA for refuelling of escorts). Approved.
(D.O.D. (F) 021625B to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements.

Arrivals 29th April. Simonstown, RACEHORSE, TRUSTY Capetown, ROTHERHAM.
(C. in C. S.A., 291209B to Admty etc).

CATTERICK

Arrival 2nd May.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 021410Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc).

ANTENOR,
BOREAS.

Your 011930. As ANTENOR on leaving Capetown declared speed only 14 knots ship should proceed Gibraltar with BOREAS to await M.K.F.15.
(D.T.D., 021710B to F.O.C.W.A., (R) F.O.C. Gib. C. in C. Med).

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Fire, Today 2nd at Approx. 1300 G.M.T. American tanker
Pernambuco. LIVINGSTONE ROE with cargo aviation caught fire
in harbour here and fire spread to number 2 shed
housing U.S. army stores, adjacent inflammable
stores shed, oil storage tanks, and American
tanker MEVANIA. Now out of danger, fire being under control
by 1730. LIVINGSTONE ROE towed off to safe distance and
understood beached fire under control.
U.S. Cruiser MILWAUKEE and sloop HUMBOLDT put out to outer
roads. H.M.S.s. in port not endangered. Military cordon
thrown around harbour district.
(R.O. Pernambuco, 021801Z/5 to Admty. (R) B.A.D., etc).

SPINDRIFT Your 260833 and my 291408 April. Alterations
to Recovery Gear and essential defects in SPIND-
RIFT will be completed 12th May.
(C. in C. S.A., 021832B to C. in C. E.F. (R)
Admty).

U/B Assessments My 252027A. November. No assessments made during
April of attacks in your area.
(D.A/S.W., 021838B 031156B to F.O.C.W.A.)

U/B attacked. Aircraft reports attacking S/M in 019° 03' N.,
017° 56' W., at 1935Z/2 course 180° periscope
only sighted.
(F.O.C.W.A., 022019Z to COWSLIP, (R) Admty.
Comar Dakar).

Suspicious Your 011000 (Unidentified ship passed south
Ship, St. Helena on N.W. course) and F.O.C.W.Af. 021120
St. Helena. (to C. in C. S.A. Station only). Ship identified
as JEANETTE SKINNER bound for Bahia from Walvis
Bay.
(C. in C. S.A., 022145B to General St. Helena,
F.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean

- U.S. Air Operations. No signal in W.D. for the following:-
On 29th April, U.S. Warhawks attacked a beached ship and another ship at Rass Ed Dock (5 miles S.E. of Cape Bon). Hits were scored on both vessels which were left burning. On 30th April, in Gulf of Tunis, U.S. Kittyhawks and Warhawks sank one destroyer one large launch, one E-Boat and one Siebel ferry. One vessel of 1500 tons and one E-Boat were set on fire. (D.O.R. 1353, 3rd May.)
- RORQUAL. My P.C. and S. 036° 27' 013° 01' 125° 5.
Delayed by weather. Intend to approach Malta dived to arrive searched channel 1900/2nd. Further signals if weather moderates. (RORQUAL 020101B to Capt. S.10, (R) Capt. S.8, 8th S.F.)
- Discharges, N.African Ports. For Prime Minister from D.Q.M.G. in absence L.G.A. Weekly Summary.
Sfax. Average daily discharge 1180 tons. 450 casualties evacuated in hospital ship.
Tripoli. Average daily discharge 2790 tons, excluding 5000 tons bulk petrol. 800 prisoners of war embarked. Large convoy 21 ships for Tripoli and Malta sailed from Alexandria 29 April
Benghazi. Average daily discharge 590 tons excluding 4470 tons bulk petrol.
Sousse. Harbour reconstruction progressing well. Most sunken ships can be raised.
(Mideast T.O.O. Nil Recd. 0535Z/2.)
- E.T.20. My 191715 April.
Sailing of convoy E.T.20 will be delayed until arrival at Bone of Convoy U.G.S.7A on 9th May. (C. in C.Med. 020901A to F.Os.I.C. and N.Os.I.C. French North Africa, Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Beirut. 1st May arrivals M.Ls. 1007, 350.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 020910C to Admty.)
- Movements, Alexandria Arrivals 1st May. BEAUFORT, EXMOOR, DULVERTON, PINDOS, Yugo Slav S/M NEBOJSCA. departures 1st May BEAUFORT, WOLBOROUGH, ABDIEL.
(S.O.I. Alexandria 020916 to Admty. etc.)
- SIBYL. Intend sail SIBYL 1830/3rd May for patrol in Tyrrhenian Sea routed through 038° 17' 004° 05' at 0500/4th 038° 27' 010° 01' at 2130/6th. (Capt. S.8 020918A to C. in C.Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, Capt. S.10, 8th S/M F.)

/U.G.S.7A...

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- U.G.S.7A. Intend to sail following. For Algiers, CHELMA, L.S.Ts. 323 (S.O.) 414, 416, 404, 415, 408, 411, 405. For Philippeville TORFINNJARL. For Bone JOHN A. DIX, MAMMY, DUX. Destination unknown LINGE. (?N.O.I.C. Oran 021039A to Admty. etc.)
- TACTICIAN
TRIDENT. 1. (P.314) TACTICIAN leaving patrol p.m. 6th through 041° 40' 010° 42' 039° 25' 010° 42' 038° 39' 009° 39' at 0800A/8th thence? 268° 120 miles a day.
2. TRIDENT is not to enter TACTICIAN's area until after dark 6th.
3. P.45 (UNRIVALLED) passing P. at 1500A/3rd proceed through zone B. to operate in zone C. and F. and Zone E. east 014°
4. P.47 (DOLFIJN) operating in zone D. after dark 3rd and leaving patrol through 038° 42' 011° 30' at 0001A/5th thence 268° 105 miles a day.
(Capt. S.8 021148A to 8 S.F. (R) Capt. S.10.)
- Bone
Situation. Situation forecast area G.C. to 011° East 2000A/2 S/Ms excepted:-
1. 3 M.T.B. 037° 24' N. 009° 32' E. to 037° 41' N. 011° 05' E. and return to Bone.
2. 3 M.T.B. 037° 20' N. 009° 27' E. to Gulf of Tunis and return to Bone
3. 3 M.T.B. 037° 21' N. 009° 29' E. to Biserta Roads and return to Bone.
4. TARTAR and 5 destroyers 038° 02' N. 010° 25' E. to (?Derna) 3 proceeding Malta and 3 returning to Bone.
(S.O.I.S. 021204A to A.I.G. 412.)
- Destroyer
Sweep. 3 Fleet destroyers and 3 Hunts left Bone at 1300 today to sweep in Marittimo area tonight. On completion Hunts proceed to Malta and fleet destroyers return Bone.
(Capt. S.8 021340A to 8th S.F. (R) Capt. S.10th S.F.)
- P.R.U. May 2nd visuals.
a.m. Naples Messina no results 10/10 Cloud.
1100 Taranto, 2 Battleships, 3 cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 021409B to C. in C.Med. etc.)
- ?U/B. "Paddington"* S/M may have crossed loops under surface vessel FIG South East. Within 5 miles of coast at night.
(Bougie W/T 021425A to M.Ls. 238, 283.)
*Code name for 25th M.L.Flottilla.
- O.T.4. Arrived VERA CRUZ, CORNELL, SHELDON CLARK.
(Cdre. Algiers 021438A to Admty.)

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

E.T.19A. E.T.19A, arrived, PENSURST, HELVIK STAR, OCEAN VIRTUE, ODYSSEUS, LES ISSERS, EMPIRE CAMERON. (Cdre. Algiers 021443A to S.O.I.S. etc.)

REGENT lost. 1. REGENT is now 33 hours overdue at Port Said has failed to answer my 010959 and regret must be considered lost.

2. Capt. S.10 is requested to make necessary report.

3. C.O.I.S. Alex. 281252 stated that a submarine was reported bearing probably 130° from Antikithera Island at 1130C/28th April may possibly refer if bearing could be 230° and not as stated.

(Capt. S.1 021444C to C. in C.Levant, Capt. S.10 (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C.Med. V.A.Malta, Capt. S.8.)
See also C. in C.Levant 022016C, and S.10, 031138C.

SUNFLOWER. Your 291143 SUNFLOWER arrived. (Cdre. Algiers 021447A to F.O.C.Gib. (R) Comnav, Commorseafron.)

Target Towing Aircraft. A.X. 282, 2 May. For Coryton from Gibbs. Ref. Admty. signal T.O.O. 011341B dated 1st May 1943 being passed to you by C. in C.Levant, can you assist in provision of target towing aircraft for Navy in Levant? (Air Ministry 021520Z to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (R) Admty.)

N.W.A.A.F. Report. To C.G. Eighth Air Force, C.G. Ninth Air Force, From Spaatz, Sgd. Eisenhower, A.G. N.R. 2010. 1. Shipping sweeps badly interfered with by weather. No sights made because of limited visibility. All other missions seriously hampered by weather. (N.W.A.A.F. 021524A to Etousa.)

ANDES. Following is B.N.L.O.'s Casablanca 301630 to B.M.W.T. New York, C.O.A.C. Halifax. "D. of S.T.'s 0310/16 Feb. SS. ANDES sailed for Halifax 1200A/28. Speed 19 knots. Passengers embarked 500 German prisoners of war. 97 Service personnel. One civilian. Total 598. 2. Further information not available as ship sailed before receipt of D. of S.T.'s signal." As this vessel has just completed a transatlantic voyage it is assumed that information is already in possession of those concerned. On receipt of your 240427 your 0310/16 Feb. had to be signalled to B.N.L.O. Casablanca. (P.S.T.O. Med. 021701A to D.S.T.)

/Movements...

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Departure KAI, M.L. 121.
Sousse. (N.O.I.C. Sousse 021754A to Admty.)

Movements, 2nd May Port Said arrivals L.C.T.3, BEAUFORT,
Port Said. TETCOTT, BELVOIR, MIAOULES, WOLBOROUGH,
departures SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLES, RESOURCE,
BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, BELVOIR, MIAOULES, M.L. 355.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 021805C to Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrived RORQUAL, JERVIS, NUBIAN, PETARD.
Malta. (V.A.Malta 021827 to Admty. etc.)

Malta Air A.I. 522. 2nd May, C.S.R. (Air) (A) Part 1.
Report. Offensive night 1/2nd May. High wind and
electrical storms prevented offensive operations.
Day 2nd May. Bad weather continues.
Part 2, enemy air activity nil.
(A.H.Q. Malta 021950Z.)

Movements, Bone. Arrivals BICESTER, ZETLAND, OAKLEY,
Bone. M.T.B.636. Departures BICESTER, ZETLAND, OAKLEY.
(S.O.I.S. 021957A to C. in C.Med.)

Movements, Algiers arrivals, LIDDESDALE, FANTOME, CIRCE,
Algiers. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, LAMERTON, ESPIEGLE,
HUSSAR, BUDE, LAUDERDALE, STROMA, U.S.S. ROPER,
BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR.
Departures, LIDDESDALE, CIRCE, BROCKLESBY,
QUANTOCK, BUDE, HUSSAR, REIGHTON, WYKE, MAN O'WAR, L.S.T. 394,
LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE.
(Cdre. Algiers 022001A to Admty. etc.)

Situation X Convoy of 3 personnel ships. 11 storeships and a
Report No. 27. (Levant) tanker for Tripoli (L) and 4 storeships, 2
tankers and a personnel ship for Malta left
Alexandria 29 April. Convoy attacked by two
Ju.88s 2000/1st May both shot down. 12 plus
Heinkels attacked at 2050/1st May and 5 shot
down. British Steamship ERINPURA (Commodore's ship) and tanker
BRITISH TRUST both hit and sunk in approx position 32° 40' N.
19° 53' E. Former had about 1,000 army personnel on board,
mostly of Pioneer Corps, and latter 11,000,400 tons of black
oil fuel. 207 survivors from ERINPURA and 51 from BRITISH
TRUST landed Benghazi from SANTA and SAHRA 2nd May. Many more
probably with convoy escorts and in other small craft.
2. Tripoli (L). Estimated further 6 weeks work required before
attempt to move blockship SAN GIOVANNI BATTISTA can be made.
Second minesweeping Flotilla sweeping to N.E. of Benghazi.
4. Regret to report REGENT overdue at Port Said and must be
considered lost. REGENT left Malta 12 April for patrol in
Adriatic and was returning to Port Said for docking. S.1's
021444 refers.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Situation
Report No.
27 (Contd.)

5. Suez. Greek collier E.K. EMBIRICOS arrived
2nd May with serious fire in all holds
necessitating flooding. Ship beached.
6. Red Sea. Admiralty floating dock number
30 left Massawa in tow of 3 tugs for Haifa.
(C. in C. Levant 022032C, 031014C to Admty.)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrivals May 2nd, ABDIEL, CUMBRAE, M.L. 385.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports (Haifa) 022053C
to Admty. etc.)

Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived and left M.L. 349, M.L. 359.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 022232C to Admty.)

2.5.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Departure AMRITSAR escorting I.W.236 KAPURTHALA W/T watch.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 020146Z to Admty etc.)
Arrival at 0400Z 2nd D.S. WILLEM VAN DER Zaan.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 020403Z to Admty.)

M.L.1102 and 1103 put into Vizagapatam on passage to Mandapam via Madras due to shortage of fuel.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 020506Z to Admty., etc.)
Departure TROMOY E.T.A. Bombay 1330Z/5th May. Not fitted with W/T.S. of A. 7 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Cochin, 020645Z to Admty., etc.)
CAPETOWN, SUSSEX arrived.
(F.O. East Africa, 020751 to Admty.)
Colombo departures 2nd May. 0520Z SCOUT, 1215Z, SONAVATI 174/66, 187, 168, 24, 10, 265.
(F.O. Ceylon, 021228Z to Admty. etc.)
Arrival TEWERA with four lighters in tow.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 021337Z to Admty., etc.)

Dispositions. Eastern Fleet disposition signal 54. (A)
Battleships WARSPITE at sea, RESOLUTION leaving Kilindini 3rd May for Durban. REVENGE at Kilindini.
(C) 8 inch Cruiser, SUSSEX at Kilindini.
(D) 7.5 inch and 6 inch Cruisers. GAMBIA, KENYA, MAURITIUS, CARADOC, CAPETOWN at Kilindini. HAWKINS at Bombay. FROBISHER refitting Simonstown. CERES to Kilindini. DURBAN in Persian Gulf DAUNTLESS Persian Gulf to Aden and Kilindini. (E) Fleet Unit to continue exercises in vicinity Kilindini.
(C. in C.E.F., 020826Z to C. in C.S.A., etc.)

Kilindini, R.D.F. Cover. A.639 2nd May. Proposal of C. in C. E.F. for retention of one T.R.U. and one col. plus (SKBLE (as received)) on filter organisation to cover Kilindini area would be gross waste of manpower in view of acute shortage of this class of personnel out here. To man these stations as suggested would mean employment of total of 5 officers and 90 other ranks in 3 separate detachments. Moreover as fighter squadron has now been withdrawn their functions would be limited to that of a warning organisation. Should have thought that Navy's R.D.F. guardship at their base would be sufficient for warning purposes.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E., 020934Z to Air Min.)

Air Report. A.202. Summary 2nd May. B. Offensive R/C 1st May.
2 Beaufighters attacked and damaged 2 small steamers and other river craft Monywa to Chauk.
2 Beaufighters successfully attacked small river craft and warehouses Magwe to Prome.
2 Hurricanes severely damaged steamer at My Bon?
(G) U.S.A.A.F. reports 29th April. 9 B.24s shipping Rangoon. Vessels at Wharf attacked. No hits. Several hits on docks.
9 B.25s Myitnge Bridge. 1 direct hit several near misses.
30th April 7 B.25s Gokteik Viaduct. Several hits on North approach. 4 B.25s. Railway installations Maymyo, believed

/probable...

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Air
Report
(Contd.)

probable hits but observation restricted due to haze. (H) Enemy activity. 1st May. 8 - 12 E/A bombed Buthidiang Jetty area East side River. Motor Ferry sunk. Motor ambulance damaged. Store huts burnt. Casualties believed light.
(A.H.Q., India, 021200Z, 021210Z, 021220Z.)

A/S
Forces
North
Indian
Ocean.

Following is reply to F.O.C.R.I.N.'s 010618 and 160535 April which it was agreed to following receipt of F.O. Ceylon 080712 April. (2) As only two R.I.N. auxiliaries suitable for Hormuz group of C.A.S.F. F.O. Ceylon is requested to arrange loan of 2 ships from A.B.C.E.F. to this group. Ships to be moved round periodically. (3) F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to obtain necessary consent of Government of India for Royal Indian Navy ships to continue their present escort duty in re-organized A.B.C.E.F. and C.A.S.F. (4) Reference to co-ordination of local harbour A/S patrols mentioned in paragraph 2 (d) of my 280803 is being deleted. It would now appear a differentiation should be made between escort vessels of C.A.S.F. Groups and local based harbour defence craft. (5) Fully concur with F.O.C.R.I.N. proposal to discuss C.A.S.F.'s matters with F.O. Ceylon and request agreed proposed limit may be signalled to me during F.O.C.R.I.N. visit Colombo. (6) Agree to commencement of C.A.S.F. being deferred to 22nd May.

(C. in C.E.F., 021201Z to F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon etc.)
As amended (C. in C.E.F., 031004Z)

Request my 280803 April be amended as follows:- Para. 2 (d) delete the five words: "local harbour A/S Patrol under". Para. 4 amend to read: "It is intended that A.B.C.E.F. Organization should come into force on 15th May and C.A.S.F. on 22nd May."

(C. in C.E.F. 021203Z to F.O. Ceylon etc. amendments made.

COMMANDANT
DUBOC.

Am proceeding Diego Suarez as instructed, E.T.A. 0400Z May 4th. Request berth alongside for fuelling. Have slight defect cone. Will require about 6 days to make good.
(COMMANDANT DUBOC, 021315Z to N.O.I.C Diego Suarez (R) N.O.I.C. Durban, C. in C.E.F., F.O.E. Africa and Zanzibar.)

Kilindini
R.D.F.
Cover.

Admiralty support request contained in para. 4 of message 291419Z April from C. in C.E.F.
(D.L.D., 021511B to Air Min.) Reply: Air Min. 061000Z.

/KINGYUAN:..

2.5.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

KINGYUAN.
Aground.

Following read from KINGYUAN:-
Still aground 019° 57' N. 086° 23' E. if (?not)
refloated at morning tide request assistance,
my 011630Z.
(Bombay, W/T and Colombo W/T 021515Z to Admt.)

STRAAT
MALAKKA.

In order that A/S escorts may be arranged request
early information whether STRAAT MALAKKA W.S.29B
will require to enter Bombay before proceeding
to Persian Gulf.
(C. in C.E.F., 021554 to P.S.T.O. Capetown, (R)
C. in C.S.A., Admt. etc.)

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Movements. 1st May St. Johns N.F.
Arrivals VALS - ST. CLAIR, TRURO, CHICOUTIMI,
QUESNEL ex H.X.236, WASAGA ex Argentina, LADY
MADELEINE, VIZAFAO, ex O.N.S.4. Departures -
AMHERST CALGARY for Boston. MOHAWK, TRAVIS, ARVEK, S.C.705,
S.C.688, S.C.689 to Greenland.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns 020128Z to Admty.).
Norfolk departed 1930/1 FENCER.
(N.S.H.Q. 020228Z to Admty.).

BLACKWOOD BLACKWOOD B.D.E. - 4 and DRURY B.D.E. 46 departed
DRURY Gate New York 1708 and 1714 respectively.
En route Bermuda. Speed 15. Q.J.B.6. Guarding
4410. 2716 Voice. ?3000 scene of action. E.T.A.
N.O.B. Bermuda 1800Q May 3rd.
(Con.3 020352 to N.O.B. Bermuda, (R) Comeastseafon, C.TG.02.4,
02.5, 02.9, B.N.L.O. New York, S.B.N.O.W.A. Admty.).

Dispositions My.011635Z Section east and my 012215Z AMHERST
CALGARY (E) 2230Z/1st 46.16 54.04 249 degs.
13.7 S.C.128 (E) 2115Z/1st 51.04 46.15 338 degs.7.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 020503Z to Admty.).
My 021705Z (7011705 intended) section south west amend
IRISH ASH (Eire) departed St. John N.B. 1900Z 1st 203 degs. 7
alter to 180 degs. in 44.25 north U.S. Ship TAMPA Group
43.53 62.57 063 degs. 6, alter to 051 degs. in 60.20 west.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 020540Z to Admty.).

U.S. S/M (Cominch 020643, 021505Z, 021506Z, 021624Z,
Notice and 021625Z, 021626Z).
S/M Estimate
May 2nd.

U/B's D/F Bearings at 0146, 0214 and 0713Z/2nd on Enigma
S.C.128. message of 32 groups indicate U/Boats in your
immediate vicinity. Transmissions were on new
series 2 unconfirmed schedule of which may be
7645 kc/s. 2200 to 0659, 10510 kc/s 0700 to 2159 and 5650 kc/s.
2200 to 0459, 7831 kc/s. 0500 to 0959 and 2000 to 2159, 12225 kc/s
1000 to 1959.
(N.S.H.Q. 020833Z to S.E.S.C.128 (R) C. in C.C.N.A. C.C.N.F.
C. in C. U.S.Fleet).

Movements 1800 G.M.T. 2nd May.
summary
Ship Position Course Speed.
F.S.GLOIRE 07 degs.N. 28 degs.W. Patrol Blank
F.S.GEORGES
LEYGUES 10 degs.N.31 degs.W. Patrol Blank
DEVONSHIRE 19½ degs.N.26½ degs.W. 002 degs. 19
(D.O.D.(F) 021031Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

X.B.49 Sailing telegram part 2. Total 9 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 021049Z to Admty.).

/STARLING....

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. -(contd.).

STARLING Intend passing through 44.42 North 29.38 West at 0600Z 3rd May steering 266 degs. spread on 20 miles line.
(STARLING 021145Z to Ships escorting H.X.236 (R) C. in C. W.A.).

Convoy O.N.S.4. W.A.G.M. (?614)N(T.O.O.161330. re U/Boat attacks, short report) Convoy O.N.S.4.).
(a) 4 (b) Nil. (c) Nil. (d) Nil. (e) 2 sunk.
(f) Convoy kept well together, but bad smoking from several ships made concealment of convoy almost impossible.
(HESPERUS 021146Z/5 to Connav (R) Admty. etc.).

Convoy S.C.129 Your 011525Z (Re intend sailing SAPPER and DEXTEROUS with S.C.129). In order to maintain policy of sailing Rescue Tugs and attendant trawlers with fast convoys request you will consider sailing LADY MADELEINE or VIZALMA with DEXTEROUS on H.X.237 and sailing SAPPER as A/S rescue trawler on S.C.129 (C. in C. W.A. 021228B to F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. etc.).
S.C.129 M.S. CRVILLE HARDEN carrying Pool gas oil number 21, has been designated escort oiler for S.C.129. This vessel is fitted with 1000 C 2½" canvas fire hose placed on board for this purpose. Recommended in this case that fuelling at sea be carried out by putting fuel hose through tank opening. This ship also carries 60 mark I depth charges. No other escort oiler or equipment available.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 021429Z/5 to Admty. (R) Cominch C and R, N.S.H.Q. etc.).
S.C.129. Sailing Telegram, Part 2. 26 ships.
(Halifax 021719Z to Admty.).

**U/B O.N.S.5.
O.N.180** Transmissions between 2302Z 1st and 0518Z 2nd mostly on series 8 while yielding no fixes due to poor D/F appear to originate from vicinity of O.N.S.5.
(N.S.H.Q. 021234Z to Ships Escorting O.N.S.5.
(R) S.E. O.N.180, C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, F.O.N.F. Admty. S.B.N.O. W.A. A.C.I.C.).

O.N.179 Departure BUXTON, MIDLAND, KAMLOOPS, REGINA TRANSCONA to O.N.179.
(C. Halifax 021238Z to Admty. etc.).

CHAMBLY POLYANTHUS You will be required to sail St. Johns N.F. 0830Z. May 5th. Proceed best speed arriving as early as possible and report E.T.A. as soon as known.
(F.O.N.F. 021401Z to CHAMBLY, POLYANTHUS).

/ Escort...

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -(contd.).

Escort Oilers C.U.2. Understood that choice of escort oilers
C.U.1. will govern instructions for loading in D.W.I.
C.U.2. (2) In C.U.1. ESSO PHILADELPHIA and ESSO
PATERSON on arrival in U.K. asked for 5" rubber
fuel by canvas hose but on inspection were found unsuitable
because no deck space was available on poop of either vessel for
handling this type of gear.
(3) Suggest careful selection be made for C.U.2. (Requirements).
(4) If change from American canvas to British rubber is desired
on arrival in U.K. necessary material can be supplied.
(5) Request you will discuss with Navy Department and W.S.A.
(D.T.D. 021429B to B.A.D.(R) C. in C. W.A. B.R.L.O. New York).

U.G.L.4. Following is Cinclant 012353, addressed to N.O.B.
Bermuda for action and to Cominch, Comnavu,
Comnavnav, Admiralty, C. in C. Mediterranean,
and Commorseafron for information informs as

follows:

U.G.L.4 consisting of about 3 British and 17 American L.S.T's
will proceed, when directed by Com. N.O.B. Bermuda, to
Gibraltar, escorted by T.F. 63, Cdr. Harrison, constituted as
follows:

RAPIDAN, ORDRONAU, CHAMPLIN, AROOSTOOK, CONASAUGA, GUYANDOT,
ACHELOUS, NAUSET, S.C's 497, 503, 596, 508, 522, 530, 533, 649, 651
655, 666, 690, 694, 695, P.C's 542, 551, 557, 558, 591, 621 and
Y.M.S's 12, 16, 18, 21, 36, 37, 43, 55, 63, 64, 207, 208 and 227.
Cominch (C and R) will prescribe route to be followed. For
diversion purposes, "Chop" passes to Admty. between 24 degs
and 30 degs. West.

Upon arrival in North African waters all vessels except CHAMPLIN,
ORDRONAU, NAUSET, RAPIDAN and British L.S.T's will report to
Comnavnav for duty.

Comdesdiv 32 with Champlin, ORDRONAU, RAPIDAN, and NAUSET will
report to Comnavnav for temporary duty, dissolving the Task
Force.

All left over Y.M.S's and L.S.T's at Bermuda are to report to
Cdr. Harrison.

(Comnavu 021431 to Admty.).

ANDES My 011845 following from B.N.L.O. Casablanca
(begins) to B.M. of W.T. New York, C. in C. C.N.A.
(R) P.S.T.O. Med. D. of S.T. 031016 Feb. S.O.

ANDES sailed for Halifax 1200A 28th speed 19 knots. Passengers
embarked 500 German prisoners of war 97 service personnel one
civilian total 598.

(2) Further information not available as ship sailed before
receipt of D. of S.T. signal 301630Z(ends.) B.N.L.O. Casablanca
signal received at N.S.H.Q. 020255.

(2) No previous information of these P.O.W. and personnel.
Request you will advise immediately destination, i.e. whether
for U.S. or Canada.

(3) B.N.L.O. Casablanca also being asked to reply in case you
have not got information.

(N.S.H.Q. 021508Z to D. of S.T. (R) Admty. B.A.D. C. in C. N.A.
Connav).

/N.S.H.Q....

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -(contd.).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 021510Z to Ships in Area D, Admiralty Opnav, C. in C.N.W.A. etc.).

SEARCHER Portland (Oregon) departed 011900Z SEARCHER for Seattle for gunnery trial E.T.A. p.m. May 2nd. (N.S.H.Q. 021541Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.).

B.X.49 Proposed convoy sailing.
B.X.49 S. of A. 7.5 knots. R/V position (J) 42.23 North. 70.42 West at 1900Z on May 6th.
Thence through (?reference) positions:
(K) 42.31 North 70.28 West. (L) 42.41 North 65.08 West.
(M) 44.06 North 63.24 West.
Thence via Q.J.A. 51 to Halifax. "Chop" 2115Z on May 7th.
E.T.A. Halifax 2130Z on May 8th. Expect Task Unit 24.18.1. as escort.
(Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval District Boston, 021615 to Cominch, C and R, C.E.S.F. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. N.W.A. Admty. Comdr. (D) Atlantic Fleet, C.T.24.).

Convoy S.C.129 Departure ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN, MULGRAVE Escorting S.C.129. (C. Halifax 021728Z to Admty. etc.).

P.512 Bermuda arrival P.512. (S.B.N.O.W.A. 021730P to Admty.).

KIDWELL 2nd May 18 hours W.Y.P.F. U.S. Army Tug KIDWELL Havana. (Route etc.). (R.O. Cristobal 021800 to Admty.).

POLYANTHUS Special weather report. Position at 1800Z (050 degs.?) 48' 035 degs. 46'. (POLYANTHUS 021800Z to Admty.).

B.X.48 Convoy sailing telegram.
B.X.48 7.5 knots. P.Z.Route, E.T.A. Halifax 2100Z/4. T.U.No. 24.18.5. Cdre. Master in S.S. A.C. BEDFORD, NIAGARA (S.O.) MATAPEDIA. MONCTON, KENORA. "Chop" 2045Z/May 3rd. Total of 13 ships.
(Cdr. 1st U.S. Naval Dist. Boston, 021801Z to Cominch C and R etc.).

B.Y.M.S. Trinidad arrivals May 2nd B.Y.M.S. 44,45,46. (S.B.N.O. Trinidad 021942Z to S.B.N.O. W.At. (R) Admty. B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. S.O.(I) Kingston).

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -(contd.).

See p. 38

Sub attack and sighting Summary. All times Z. Para A. B-25 attacks sub on surface 58.55 North 40.25 West. 011544. LULWORTH sights sub on surface course 100 51.04 North 46.15 West 012115.

MOYOLA and LANDGUARD chase two subs course 085 area 50.57 North 44.55 West 012245. Surface craft attacks sub area 58.40 North 41.40 West on 30. Para.D. Plane sights sub submerging 11.20 North 61.15 West 011530. (Cominch 021947Z to Admty. for C.I.C.).

O.N.178 Following ships arrived New York 2nd May. Total 32 ships. (B.R.L.O. New York, 022008Z to Admty.).

H.X.237 My 021605 refers (N.T. in W.D.). All ships sailed in H.X.237. (B.R.L.O. New York 022017Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.).

Suspicious Ship. Following is Cominch 301550. "Amex plane sighted suspected raider or runner in 36.49 North 44.30 West at 2140Z/29 speed 15 course 225 altering radically 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 022109Z to Admty.).

O.N.179 Cdre. reports he has 9 ships for Boston and Portland (Maine), Halifax portion having broken away. Request instructions. (T.U. 24.18.9. 022200Z to C. in C. N.A. (R) W.L.E.T.U.24.18.8. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F. Opnav)

U/Boat U.S. Army Air Craft sighted and attacked S/M in 51.32 North 45.40 West 000 degs. 8 knots at 1715Z. Pilot estimates probable destruction. (C. in C. N.A. 022207Z to G.B.7.A. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. Connnav. C.T.F.24. C.T.G.24.7, H.Q.C.C. F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A.).
American air-craft attacked S/M by machine-gun in 50.53 North 45.40 West at 1925Z. (C. in C. N.A. 022305Z to G.B.7.A. (R) Connnav, C.T.G.24.7. C.T.F.24. C. in C. W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. A.C.I.C.H.Q.C.C.)

DRESDEN Your 011606Z May. Cominch 301550 April not received but photographic R/C of Bordeaux at 1200/27th April showed DRESDEN still present and there is no evidence that she has since sailed. (D.D.I.C. 022300B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Cominch).

/Movements....

War Diary.2.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Departure Wellington N.Z. 0401Z/1 U.S.S. LIBRA for Noumea E.T.A. 2200Z/4. Arrival Bora Bora 1745Z/30 U.S. CYGNUS. Arrival Espiritu Santo 2000Z/30 G.F. SOAMER.
(D.N.I. Wellington 020434Z to Admty.).

Arrivals 1st May Port Moresby. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA.
2nd Townsville. Hospital ships CENTAUR, U.S. Transport GRANDE, both departed Brisbane 1st due Townsville 5th U.S. transport MAETSUYCKER departed Brisbane 1st due Townsville 4th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 020826Z to Admty. etc.).

Arrivals Sydney 30th April. U.S. Des. Tender RIBEL U.S. ships SAVFLEY. Townsville 30th April VENDETTA, GYMPIE. Port Moresby 1st May BUNBURY. Milne Bay 1st May BROOME.
Departures Brisbane 30th April, U.S. Des. JENKINS for Noumea, Sydney 30th April, DELORAINÉ, BENDIGO, KALGOURLIE for Brisbane. Milne Bay 30th April BOWEN for Townsville 1st May WHYALLA for Cairns, BROOKE for Comobay.
(N.B. Melbourne 021036Z to Admty. etc.).

Digest number 467
May 1st. Afternoon photos Rabaul Harbour show 42 vessels including 28 merchant vessels totalling 142000 tons and one hospital ship otherwise little change. 2 flying boats 13 float planes visible but pictures of Aerodrome obscure.

(2) At noon R/C fortress bombed Cape Gloucester Strip where photos show new strip being burnt off.

(3) Afternoon search Liberator bombed Reiss Point, 30 miles southeast Saidor.

(4) Five medium cargo ships sighted morning Wewak Harbour with some small craft nearby, also one light cruiser one destroyer outside harbour to northeast.

(6) Night 27/28 April, patrol raided enemy position southwest of Komiatum.

(7) Search Hudson sighted nil shipping Kaukenau Coast bombed Timika airfield at noon.

(8) From 6000 feet two R/C Liberators attacked 5,000 ton vessel in Manokwari harbour after midday scoring one direct hit and a near miss leaving ship settling by stern. Subsequently sighted large ship alongside wharf at Waron (45 miles south of Manokwari) and dropped incendiaries Nabiro where nil aircraft or activity noted but strip appeared in good condition. Same aircraft later saw five ships including one merchantman of 2,000 tons and three more under 1,000 tons plus a barge 30 miles northwest of Toeal (Kai Islands) course 200 degs. One hour earlier Hudsons reported three ships comprising two M/V of 1,000 tons each and a motor patrol craft 25 miles northeast of Toeal course 180 degs. Possibly two small convoys headed Kai Islands where four probable lighters at northern approaches to Tial ?strafed by Hudson which also bombed Langgoer.

(10) Morning R/C Liberator reported Bima aerodrome (Soembawa) lengthened surfaced and serviceable. Approx. 8 Zeros intercepted whereof 3 destroyed.

(11) Catalina sighted possible submarine 26 degs 57' South 156 degs. 17' East at 011111Z. Depth charges dropped but results unobserved.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 020832Z to Admty. etc.).

War Diary.

2.5.1943.
Sunday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 021335B, 021416B).

3.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. An aircraft reported two merchant vessels at 0050 in 46.08 N. 11.16 W., steering west at 12 knots.

2. C. in C. W.A. points out that under the existing regulations it is virtually impossible for an escort vessel to remain in full commission over a refitting period, with the result that a fully worked up and experienced complement becomes dispersed. He urges that the regulations should be amended, so as to remove this handicap to fighting efficiency.

O.N.S. 5.

3. DUNCAN reported at 0801Z today that the speed of Convoy O.N.S.5 had dropped owing to more south-west gales. About 32 of the 42 ships were in company. If the weather does not improve DUNCAN will have to proceed to St. Johns N.F. for fuel at dusk today.* Escort Group 3 joined at 2000Z yesterday. Present weather conditions will prevent the ships of E.G.3 from oiling at sea; and PENN, PANTHER and IMPULSIVE will be detached to St. Johns N.F. for fuelling at 0900 tomorrow, and OFFA and ORIBI a.m./5.

4. EL ALMIRANTE in H.X.235 was sunk off Oversay at 0100Z today.

*On 16th May C. in C. W.A., urging the conversion of A to I class destroyers to "Escort destroyers" (long-leggers) states: "DUNCAN had to leave O.N.S. 5 although heavily threatened. DUNCAN had already fuelled once during the passage, but was precluded from doing so again by bad weather. The following day a serious U-Boat attack developed, resulting in the loss of 11 ships."

Mediterranean.

Shortage of aircraft spares and pilots.

5. S.O. Force H reports that there are now no spares for Martlet aircraft in Gibraltar or North Africa; ^{FORMIDABLE} INDOMITABLE sailed from the U.K. in November 1942 with an incomplete stock and there has been practically no replenishment since. Pilots are also required. Unless the shortage of spares is remedied within a reasonable time, a rapid reduction in the number of aircraft available will result.

/French ...

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

French
fleet at
Alexandria.

X 6. C. in C. Levant expects that Admiral Godfroy will join General Giraud soon and he intends to proceed with the docking programme of the French ships with as little interference as possible with our own commitments.

X 7. In addition to ISIS (see 21st April) C. in C. Levant instances three other ships whose refits in Bombay Dockyard have been unsatisfactory.

Air
Operations.

8. A.H.Q. Malta reported on 4th May that at 2208 (apparently 3rd May intended) Albatrosses sighted in 36.41, 11.17 E. (Sicilian Channel) 2 merchant ships of 5000 and 1000 tons and possibly small merchant ship being engaged by friendly naval units; at 2240 an Albatross hit with bombs the bow of the 1000 ton merchant ship, causing a large fire.

N.W.A.A.F. report that at 1730 (apparently today intended) 14 B.17s bombed harbour and seaplane installations at Bizerta.

25 B.17s on the same mission ran into bad weather and landed at various scattered fields.

East Indies.

9. RESOLUTION left Kilindini today escorted by NIZAM and QUICKMATCH, to carry out a short refit at Durban, sufficient to keep her going for a further 6 months.

10. 8 B.25s of the U.S.A.A.F. attacked Sagaing Docks (Mandalay) today.

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

U.C./C.U. &
T.O./O.T.
Convoys.

X 11. The present plan for future U.C./C.U. convoys, commencing with U.C.3, is to escort them right through to New York with a layover of 12 days. Commencing with T.O.4 it appears from C. in C. U.S. Fleet 041909Z that T.O./O.T. convoys are to follow a similar routine. The convoys will retain the O.T.-T.O. and C.U.-U.C. designations entirely, beginning and ending at New York.

12. A.O.C. in C. E.A.C. Halifax reports that a U.S.A.A.C. Fortress probably destroyed a U-Boat in 51.32 N. 45.40 W. at 1945 G.M.T. From a message from Cominch on 10th May it would appear that the attack took place today.

Australia and New Zealand.

X 13. 58 Allied aircraft attacked Rekata Bay, Isabel Island a.m. today.

War Diary.3.5.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M . Your 021643B arranged. (P.57)
movements. (A.C.O.S. 030008B to S/M Lerwick)
Following movements are to take place:-
(1) TUNA and STUBBORN to leave Holy Loch 14th May
for Lerwick and patrol.
(2) SEADOG to leave Holy Loch 14th May for Scapa A/S training
vice ULA who will proceed Dundee on relief.
(3) ULTIMATUM to Lerwick 16th May thence A/S patrol about 21st May.
(4) UPSTART to Lerwick and A/S patrol on completion A/S
training at Londonderry about 16th May.
(F.O.S. 031034B to Capt. S.3.)
My 021643. Sailed. (P.57)
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 031616B)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800/4 and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.S. 031632, 041739B.)
Arrived and sailed Z.5 sailed H.50.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 032011B)

KENT. (?Arrived) KENT.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 030604B and 030704B)

ARCHER. My 021248B. Sailed ARCHER.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 031045B to A.C.I.C.)

KING C. in C.H.F. 301915.
GEORGE V. Alter course forthwith to new positions W.47° N.
20° W. thence through new positions X.43° N.
19° W. Y. 37° N. 10° 30' W. or as ordered by
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.
(2) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, is requested to cancel message 030936.
(D.O.D.H. 031226B to KING GEORGE V.)

INDOMITABLE. Request you will sail 3 destroyers to arrive
Greenock p.m. 4th May to act as screen for
INDOMITABLE.
(C. in C.H.F. 031233B to R.A.D.H.F.)

MATCHLESS with ECLIPSE, MAHRATTA proceed to pass Switha
2100B today to arrive Greenock p.m.4th May. (2) On arrival
you will be required to act as screen for INDOMITABLE as ordered
by R.A. (A) (3) When released return to Scapa.
(R.A.D. 031425B to MATCHLESS, ECLIPSE, MAHRATTA.)
Sailed MATCHLESS, MAHRATTA, ECLIPSE for Greenock. E.T.A
1630B/4th.
(R.A.D. 032104B)

Operations.

S/M TRUCULENT left Lerwick 0410B/3rd as in Capt. (S)
Patrols. 9th's 302351 proceeding unescorted and on the
surface at C.O.'s discretion.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 030413B.)

War Diary.3.5.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M O.10 is delayed at Lerwick. My 021059B. Amend
Patrols. time leaving patrol to 0900B/5th.
(Contd.) (Capt. S.9 030715B to O.14.)
Request you recall USURPER to arrive Lerwick
9th May, thence to Holy Loch.
(F.O.S. 031024B to Capt. S.9.)

Comsubron 50's 011215B. From 270°. Muckle Flugga 5 miles
S/Ms proceed as follows - HERRING through 066° 10' 012° 00' W.
and 067° 40', 016° 00' W. to patrol line Y. SHAD through 062°
01' 001° 20' W. and 066° 30', 010° 50' W. to patrol line W.
S/Ms are not to cross 015° W. before 1800B/8th.

(Capt. S.9., and 041641B, 031405B.)
Proceed to patrol-line Z at 0001B/5th.
(Capt. S.9, 031407B to SATYR.)

Following is a repetition of my 031507 addressed S/Ms north
of 051° N. begins - S/Ms on passage to and from Iceland patrol
are to proceed as much as possible dived between latitude 064° N.
and 065° 20' N. whilst crossing probable U-boat track to and from
Atlantic.

(F.O.S. 031511B.)

(1) BARB leaves patrol so as to pass through position (P)
068° 40' 014° 50' at 1800B/8th, thence through 065° 02' 005° 45'
W. and 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick.
(2) BLACKFISH leaves patrol proceeding through 068° 01' 018° 40'
W. so as to pass through (P) at 2300B/8th, thence as for BARB.
(Capt. S.9, 031545B and 041535B to BLACKFISH, BARB.)

Positions of submarines at 0800/4th May and movements for
following 24 hours.

- (A) UNBENDING 44° 20' N. 006° 30' W. thence Northwards 96 miles
per day.
(B) SIMOON on patrol in vicinity 46° 50' N. 005° 29' W.
(C) UNSPARING 45° 21' N. 006° 01' W., thence through 44° 01' N.
006° 01' W., thence towards 44° 01' N. 10° 01' W., 96 miles per
day.
(D) O.14 on patrol vicinity 63° 50' N. 000° 30' W.
(E) TRUCULENT 63° 56' N. 006° 20' W., thence through 66° 59' N.
013° 01' W. to patrol in vicinity of 66° 59' N. 015° 59' W.,
speed 11 knots.
(F) USURPER, vicinity 63° 30' N. 002° 01' E.
(G) SATYR vicinity 67° 01' N. 015° 59' W.
(H) BARB vicinity 68° 05' N. 016° 02' W.
(J) BLACKFISH vicinity 67° 30' N. 019° 01' W.
(L) O.10 leaves Lerwick 1300/4th, thence through 090° Muckle
Flugga 5 miles, thence towards 63° 50' N. 000° 30' W. Speed 8
knots.

(F.O.S. 031632B to Admty.)

In order to permit A/S patrol in the vicinity of an
operation north west of Faeroes proceed forthwith on parallel
route 15 miles to north east of your present route until past
064° 10' N. Bombing restrictions amended accordingly.

(F.O.S. 032324B to TRUCULENT)

/Coastal...

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

Coastal Patrols. 4. M.Ls. 124 and 208 patrolling south of E.A.5 buoy.
5. CHASSEUR 13 at St. Helens and LORD WAKEFIELD at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031255B)
My 031255B. Cancel para. 3 and 4 owing to weather. Add para. 6 as follows:- CATTISTOCK and QUORN at immediate notice at Yarmouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031823B.)

Exercises.

BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER. Intend following programme BOXER, BRUISER, THRUSTER on 6th May. Details.
(S.O.A.S.C., 031812B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Exercise off Wemyss Bay.

Practice. Your 022001. Following practice arranged for 5th May. Serial 100 at 1530A L.T., X.F.D. in 059° 33' N. 004° 55' W. M.L.A. South East. Subject to R.A.F. operational requirement.
Serial 101 at 1830 A/A firings at sleeve in position J.J.
(C. in C.H.F., 031817B to BERMUDA)

Allied Air Activity.

A/C Minelaying. On night 1st/2nd, 27 A/C laid mines in their allotted area.
(H.Q.B.C. 031230B)

Irish Sea. Cancel R.A.(A) H.F.'s 272004. Aircraft using mark III IFF may operate in Irish Sea North of 53° N. and W. of 003° 30' W. Carriers about to exercise in Irish Sea must signal time and approximate area to be covered by aircraft to F.O. Carrier Training.
(F.O.C.T. 031719 to INDOMITABLE, FURIOUS, ARCHER, UNICORN, BATTLER.)

Operation S.N.111A. My 021523. Anti S/M escort by single Catalinas will be continuous until about 2359 tomorrow. No escort from then until 1st light 5th when single Hampdens will carry on to Cape Wrath.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 031842B to R.A.M.)

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/C
attacked.

Am being attacked by Ju. 88 in 46° 00' N. 10° 00' W. at 1155.
(A/C X.L.3 S. 031202 to 19 Group.)

Biscay
Area.

Enemy A/C in your vicinity was homing U/Bs on to an outward bound convoy at 1900B/3.
(D.D.I.C. 032026B to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, MOLDE, BREAM, COVERLEY.)

Mining.

Operation
K.L.1

My 011735B. Operation is further postponed and will not take place tonight.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 031230B to M/S 9.)

Q.Z.X.950.

My 021411. On arrival of the 15th M/S F in Iceland request you will sail 1st M/S F HOUND and FLY for Scapa. 2. Propose that the area North of latitude 63.45 N. in A.M. Q.Z.X. 950 be cleared now that the channels have been established in order that the practice area may be available for use.
(C. in C.H.F. 031613B to A.C.I.C.)

Milford
Haven.

Your 031652B. Port closed for sweeping 0430 to 0730. Adjust speed as requisite.
(N.Q.I.C. Milford Haven 032225B to MELBREAK.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Biscay
Area.

P.C.S. of two merchant vessels 46° 08' N. 11° 16' W. 270° 12 knots.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty Z. 030050 to 19 Group.)
My 0120. Am still in touch with enemy. No change in situation. Am returning to base.
(A/C 030230B to 19 Group.)

P.C.S. of enemy 1 medium merchant vessel 1 unknown 45° 52' N. 11° 57' W. 27, 12 knots.
(A/C 172 Sqdn. Duty Z. 030240B to 19 Group.)

NÜRNBERG,
PRINZ EUGEN,
EMDEN.

Photo R/C 1130/3 shows: In 54° 56' N. 10° 52' E. Cruiser NÜRNBERG, 2 destroyers and 2 Sperrbrechers, Co. South, 8 - 10 knots.
In Gulf of Danzig. PRINZ EUGEN, Course south 10 - 12 knots, EMDEN course south east, 12 knots.
(D.D.I.C. 032050B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats
reported in
Biscay area.

0620Z/3 German aircraft were homing U-boats on to an outward bound convoy in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 030857B to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, MOLDE, BREAM, COVERLEY.)

/D/F...

War Diary.

3.5.1943.

Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported in Biscay Area. (Contd.)

D/F bearing at 1405Z indicate U-boat within 40 miles of 44 N. 16.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 031645B.)

D/F bearings at 1447Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 44 N. 15.30 W. (D.D.I.C. 031759B.)

Am over enemy submarine in 42° 58' N. 13° 40' W. (A/C 5 UZG 031831B to 19 Group.)

A.M. 032026. U/B. transmissions on Series 1 between 1729Z and 1947Z indicate at least one U/B. in contact with convoys and probably six more in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 032216B to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, MOLDE, BREM, COVERLEY.)

U-Boats reported in North Atlantic.

D/F bearings at 0809Z indicate U-Boat in area within 100 miles of 48 N. 26 W. May be Eastward bound. (D.D.I.C. 031535B.)

At 1305Z and 1436Z U-boat or U-boats in area between the two convoys transmitted. No definite fix obtained. (D.D.I.C. 032016B to Escorts S.C.128 O.N.S.5.)

Casualties and Defects.

PORT VICTOR. My 011745. Further master reveals 147 survivors. 16 including 2 women were lost in torpedoing. One man died on board WREN and has been buried at sea. (WREN 031104B to Admty.)

Lifeboat. Ship in convoy reports receiving S.O.S. from (?life boat) giving position 059° 56' N. 043° 35' W. In view of doubtful position, weather, and shortage of escort cannot detach ship to search. Request aircraft search. Weather 7963 0058. (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13 031502Z to A.C.I.C.) Your 031502. Air search not possible from Iceland. Your message has been passed to U.S. Authorities in Greenland. (A.C.I.C. 032030B to BURNHAM)

EMPIRE KNIGHT. Fire broke out No. 4 upper tween deck at 2000 hours 2nd May. Now apparently confined to square of Hatch. Intend discharging 4 landing craft to obtain access below. (D.S.T.O. W.A. 031534Z to D.S.T. London)

BRADFORD, SHERWOOD. Commodore (D) W.A. 291811/April. Repairs required by BRADFORD and SHERWOOD in order to make them operational are such that it is impracticable to undertake them at the present time. 2. BRADFORD and SHERWOOD are to be paid off into Dockyard Control at Devonport and Chatham respectively. (D.O.D.H. 031750B to C. in C.W.A.)

/LANCASTER...

3.5.1943.

Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

LANCASTER. My 300916B. LANCASTER delayed, defective.
(F.O.I.C. N.I. 031755B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

JAN VAN GELDER. Sailed JAN VAN GELDER (gyro defective) in accordance with my 021558.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 032200B to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Shipping and Convoys.

X O.N.S.5. My 020901Z. P.C.S. 057° 38' N. 041° 48' W. 202° for (XR), 3. Speed has dropped owing to more south-west gales. About 32 ships in company out of 42. Escort group 3 joined at 2000Z/2nd.

My oil fuel percentage remaining 40, VIDETTE 51. If weather does not improve DUNCAN must proceed St. Johns N.F. for fuel at dusk tonight followed by VIDETTE on Wednesday.

NORTHERN GEM has 70 survivors on board intend to send her to St. Johns N.F. at dawn Tuesday. BRITISH LADY has only 100 tons fuel available unless she proceeds to St. Johns N.F. from (XR) but weather makes fuelling unlikely. Remainder group oil fuel (74?) lowest percentage 40. Support group lowest 53. Weather 5471 0139.

(B.7. 030801Z to C. in C.W.A.)

B.7b. 030801Z. Weather will preclude oiling at sea. Intend detaching PENN, PANTHER, IMPULSIVE to St. Johns N.F. for fuelling at 0900/4th. Estimate they will have 17% oil fuel remaining on arrival. It is most unlikely weather will improve enough to make oiling from S.S. ARGON practicable, in which case OFFA, ORIBI must leave convoy a.m./5th. O.N.S.5 P.C.S. 57.18 N. 41.55 W. 220° 3 knots. Weather 3577 1258.

(E.G.3, 032000Z to C. in C.W.A.)

If you are not in contact with an escort proceed direct to Stragglers route, thence to St. Johns keeping as far west as ice permits.

(C. in C.W.A. 030805Z to Stragglers of O.N.S.5.)

PRAGUE, N.O.I.C Invergordon's 011203. CHIDDINGFOLD
AMSTERDAM. detailed.
(A.C.O.S. 031014.)

Intend sailing transport PRAGUE escorted by CHIDDINGFOLD at 0300/6th, speed 16 knots, routed 5 miles East Fair Island, 58° 56' N. 02° 27' W. E.T.A 0600, thence in company with AMSTERDAM routed 35 buoy Q.Z.S.352 150. E.T.A. Invergordon 1200/6th.
(N.O.I.C. Lerwick, 031147B to A.C.O.S.)

S.C.127 S.C. 127 oil transferred Beacon nil BEACONSTREET
H.X.235 2300 depth charges transferred Beacon nil
Oiling BEACONSTREET nil (1) Master BEACONSTREET reports
at sea. depth charges broke adrift during heavy weather
p.m. 14th April. (2) Racks in poor condition
should be renewed.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 031015B to Admty.)

/Admiralty's...

3.5.1943.

Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

S.C.127 Admiralty's 191225B/April. H.X.235 Oil
H.X.235 transferred FAGERFJELL 154; Depth Charges
Oiling transferred Nil; S.C.127 Oil transferred EL
at sea. CIERVO 916; Depth Charges transferred Nil.
(Contd.) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 031948B to Admty.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Sailed Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 0750B/3. E.T.A.
Gibraltar 0800B/9.
(N.O.I.C. Avonmouth, 031158B)

O.N.182 Group C.5 designated ocean escort for O.N.182.
Group (C.T.G. 24.7 031202Z to C. in C.W.A.)
C.5.

X Convoy My letter W.A. 493/1426M of 17/2/43 emphasised the
Escort increasing time required under present day
Vessels. consitions for the normal periodic refit of escort
Change vessels in which no major damage or defect is
of involved. At present the minimum time required
complements for such refits is at least six weeks and
after refit frequently were extending in many cases to eight
weeks. As a result the fully worked up and
experienced escort vessel which now undergoes a
periodic refit during the middle of her commission
automatically comes under the terms of A.F.O. 209/42 and is in
danger of being reduced to a care and maintenance basis. At
the best she must expect a large change in complement necessitating
a further absence from operational work while carrying out a new
working up period. Under para. 3 of this A.F.O. there is a
suggestion that ships may retain their full complement but even
if this is approved the C.O. must be prepared to surrender
various ratings for courses with no guarantee that they will be
returned to him. Under paragraph 1 (3) of the A.F.O. the S.O.
is not allowed to express any opinion regarding the desirability
or necessity of the ship remaining in full commission. In
effect under the existing difficult conditions and consequent
extended refits it is virtually impossible to retain a fully
worked-up and experienced complement over one refitting period.
My 291248 and Admty. 271610 (FAME) all of April show what little
hope a ship really has of surviving a normal periodic refit with
an efficient and experienced complement. Although the original
intention behind A.F.O. 209/42 is fully appreciated the present
situation concerning refits has allowed it to militate against
fighting efficiency and it is strongly urged that the policy of
this A.F.O. be surveyed in the light of the existing conditions
of today with a view to necessary modification.
(C. in C.W.A. 031713C to Admty.)

P.W. 333 Cancel reference P.W.333 in my 031222. In view
of weather P.W.333 is to proceed to Falmouth.
2. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to re sail
P.W.333 at 0600/4.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 031835B to P.W.333.)

/LEINSTER...

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

LEINSTER.

My 021244. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes, 032005B to N.O.I.C. Greenock)

O.N.182.

A.M. 292128B. Following tankers are to sail as
escort oilers in O.N.182. CHESAPEAKE, SAINTONGE,
ATHELDUCHESS, THORSHOVDI.
(D.T.D., 032034B.)

H.X.237
E.G.5.

My 011821. Request you sail BITER, PATHFINDER,
OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE as 5th Escort Group to
support H.X.237 from Westomp.
(C. in C.W.A., 032344Z to F.O.N.F.)

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

X FORMIDABLE,
Martlets,
lack of
spares.

There are now no spare Martlet aircraft in Gibraltar or North Africa. FORMIDABLE has 24 embarked and only 23 pilots. Her stock of maintenance spares is very low and there is none on shore.

(2) Shortage of spares is a very serious matter which unless remedied within reasonable time will cause a rapid reduction in number of aircraft available.

(3) Ship sailed from U.K. in November 1942 with an incomplete and (?limited) stock of Martlet spares and there has been practically no replenishment during 6 months, resulting in high rate of unserviceability, since broken or worn parts must be repaired instead of being replaced.

(4) Shortage covered whole range of several 100 items but most important and urgent are; engine cowl, exhaust stack, propeller.

(5) Request immediate steps be taken to provide adequate reserve of aircraft pilots and spares.

(S.O. Force H. 030945A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.).

Movements
Casablanca

Warships May 3rd Departures Task Force 68 with ALMAACK. French AMIRAL MOUCHEZ for Gibraltar. (Commorseafon 031015 to C. in C. Med. (R) Cominch, Comnavnaf, F.O.C. Gibraltar, Admty. C. in C. Med. Pass).

Dispositions.

Situation at 031959B.

U.G.S. 7A, U.G.L.3, C.T.F.64, (A) 33.07 12.23 through 34.20 09.50 and 34.10 08.10 to Casablanca 7.

(2) 15 L.C.I.(L) S.O.L,C.I.(L) 170 31.41 16.08 072 degs. 10.

(3) C.F.12 Fleet Unit 28.07 13.28 through 30.11 11.39 thence 332 degs. 15.

Swedish Relief Ships FORMOSA, YARRAWONGA 34.56 23.20 086 degs. 12½.

(5) Convoy Coastal Craft COVERLEY, BREAM 43.12 14.01 through 42.30 14.01 thence 152 degs.10.

(6) Convoy Coastal Craft MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 43.29 14.01 42.30 14.01 thence 152 degs.8.

(7) Spanish Training Ship GALATEA left Ferrol 1st May for Canary Islands.

(8) T.F.68, 1 Merchant Ship in tow of one tug 33.37 08.42 through 33.30 09.01 thence 283 degs.6.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 031022B, to A.I.G.55).

My 031022 add new para (9) S.L.128 BLACK SWAN 36.06 09.41 through 36.31 10.01 thence 310 6½ knots.

(F.O.Gibraltar 031450B).

Situation at 032002B. ST.NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH one Tanker leave Ponta Delgada p.m. 3rd through 37.35 25.01 thence 102 degs.9.

(2) L.C.I.(L) 279, 31.39 23.09 094 degs.7.

(4) DEVONSHIRE 26.43 25.11 030 degs. 19.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 031045B).

3.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic -(contd.).

- U.G.S.7A. Intend sail R.H. ALVEY (Philippeville) and NARRAGANSETT (Algiers) at 0800A May 4th to R/V with U.G.S.7A. at Position (T) 1400A May 4th. Escorted by P.C.473 (Senior) and 472 coded call sign P.C.473 4 May K.O. 40 P.F.O.C. Gibraltar please pass N.W. escorts Mediterranean Section and C.T.F.64 C. in C. Mediterranean pass to S.N.O. Philippeville. (C.M.S.F.F. 031025Z to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavnaw, Admty. S.N.O. Philippeville, N.O.B. Casa. NARRAGANSETT). Passed to C.T.F.64, POLRUAN, PIROUETTE, PENTSTEMON, ROTHESAY, ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, CLACTON. (F.O. Gibraltar 031634B).
- LUGANO Swiss LUGANO leaves Genoa about 7th May for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 031228B to F.O. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.).
- * U/B sunk off Admiralty please pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar and
Canaries 5/4. N.O.i/c Freetown. (Passing action being taken by War Reg.).
Your 301315. Please state whether or not Chief of Naval Staff gave you this information confidentially or realizing it might be (?quoted). He will not be (?compromised) in any circumstances but his situation must be clear. Ministry of Marine say they cannot fix exact position of submarine but (presumed?) they do not want to. (N.A.Madrid 031255B to R.O. Las Palmas (R) Admty. etc.). Reply: Consul Las Palmas 041600.
- Towage of A.M. 222305B/April. Tugs and escorts are
SEMINOLE, urgently required back in U.K. Request you will
FORT report situation.
PASKOYAC (D.O.D.(F) 031307B to F.O. Gibraltar).
- BENNINGTON Admiralty routing T.O.4. makes no provisions for
for BENNINGTON, now Dakar, discharge completed,
request information.
(C.M.S.F.F. 031310Z to C. in C. Med. (W) (R)
Comnavnaw, Admty. C. in C. Lant, F.O.C.W.A.).
Reply. C. in C. Med. 041133.
- U/B(?) Following has been read from S.S. GULFDAWN.
Sub. sighted on surface six miles from 28.52
north 28.11 west at 1325G.M.T./3.
(QUEEN ELIZABETH T.O.R.031410 to Whitehall W/T).
Sighting report at 031325 made by GULFDAWN does not
appear to be genuine.
(F.O. Gibraltar 032326B to C. in C. Med. S. and A. in Area
"Y" of Med. Station, S. and A in Area "Z" of Med. Station).

/Convoy....

3.5. 1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. -(contd.).

Convoy R.S.4F. Sailed for Freetown, CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND. Both ships hold S.P.02272 (23) and (24). CUBA holds oneship 501. NIEUW HOLLAND 528. (F.O.Gibraltar 031826B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C.M.S.F.F., C. in C. Med. Connav, Admty.).

Convoy R.S.4.F. Sailed BULLDOG, ANTELOPE, escort of convoy R.S.4 F. Q.L.A.167. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 031831B to F.O.C.W.A. Commorseafon).

Landing and Coastal craft. C. in C. Plymouth 291229 and A.M. 1935/30 March and 301055 April F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 301631 and A.M. 2035/17 February. Request confirmation that landing craft flight D and coastal craft flight D are on same route. (F.O. Gibraltar 031908B to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. Plymouth Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Milford Haven). Reply; C. in C. W.A. 041140B.

ARCOLA TAIGETE defects. Following 2 messages have been sent on authority of S.B.N.O. ARCOLA both addressed Navitalia Madrid. First begins: We beg your interest that if at end of mission tankers should return to Canary Islands to send them Las Palmas instead of Teneriffe, not enough missing ropes, impossible to find. Signed by Commander both ships. 2nd message begins: I beg to inform you condition of TAIGETE is such as to render impossible undertaking another voyage without necessary repair survey in dry dock. Signed by Commander. (N.C.S.O. St. Vincent 031915Z to Admty.).

Movements Gibraltar. Arrivals LIDDESDALE from Algiers. Departures POLRUAN, CLACTON, PIROUETTE, PENSTEMON, ROTHESAY to U.G.S.7A. ADVENTURE, WISHART, ANTHONY to Algiers. HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE to U.G.S.7A. (F.O. Gibraltar 031937B to Admty. C. in C. Med.).

Catalines escort. Coastal forces "Tiara" 1 Catalina dawn to 1530B 4th (2) 1 Catalina escort to coastal forces eliminator, dawn to 1530B 4th. (F.O. Gibraltar 032002B to S. and A. in Area "X" of Med. Station). +(as received).

Coastal craft convoy. D/F bearings indicate that you have been reported by enemy submarine. (F.O. Gibraltar 032228B to COVERLEY, MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, BREAM. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.).

/Altered....

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Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.-(contd.).

Altered course for KING GEORGE V. A.M.031226. Onward route from (X) (A) 39.01 North 15.01 West (B) 36.20 North 10.01 West thence through Q.K.A.87 to Gibraltar omitting (Y).

(2) Paravanes are to be streamed as convenient before crossing 07 degs. W.

(F.O. Gibraltar 032332B to KING GEORGE V.(R) Admty. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, S.O. Force H, C. in C.H.F. C. in C. Med. TUSCAN, METEOR, TROUBRIDGE).

3.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Ships torpedoed in T.S. 37. Your O11804. Were any escort vessels available to reinforce escort of T.S. 37 during latter part of its passage to Freetown? Request very early reply.
(D.O.D. (F) Approved 1st S.L. 030010B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- Your 030010B. No other escort vessels available. Available M.Ls. employed on A/S sweeps subsequent to aircraft attack on S/M report in my 291216 April. (F.O.C.W.A. 031119 to Admty.) List of ships torpedoed, see 031309Z.
- Movements, Pointe Noire. Arrivals 1400Z/2nd May (corrupt group) escorting tug ALLIGATOR towing KELT and (corrupt group) (corrupt group) and CHUB. (B.N.L.O. W. Africa 030755 to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- Movements, Dakar. Arrived 2200/2nd LA GRANDIERE and Fr. sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting MEDIE II from Casablanca. Admiral Afrique informed. (Comar, Dakar, 030937Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)
- + Port Etienne, A/S defence. A/S defence of Port Etienne and A/S work in offing is carried out by 2 H.D. M.Ls. working reliefs from Bathurst. Amenities and facilities at former are better suited to French personnel. 2. Propose we should offer 3 H.D. M.Ls. to French for this purpose, surplus British personnel being sent home. 3. N.C.X.F's. 301619/1 to Admty. is relevant. (F.O.C.W.A. 030951Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)
- ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE. My 271122 April. ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE departed Capetown 0800Z/May 3rd for Pointe Noire. S. of A. 19.5 knots. Routed:- (B) 022° 00' S. 011° 00' E. (C) 014° 00' S. 011° 00' E. thence Pointe Noire. E.T.A. 0630Z/7th May. Pass to W/T Organisation for Area P. at 1400Z/6th May. (C. in C. S.A. 031032B. to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.N.L.O. West Africa.)
- Dispositions. Situation at 2002Z/3. BRIDGEWATER, SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, RAPID, DUNKERY, BUTSER, PORTSDOWN 4 M.Ls. with O.S.S. 46, 07.25 13.47 122,9. PICT escorting about 07.15 13.49 to 07.58 14.14 thence Freetown. COPINSAY off Marshall M.L. 278 off Ports (sic), M.L.271 off Port Bouet, M.L.274 off Accra TURCOMAN escorting 02.40 05.18 E. to 02.00 N. 08.30 E. thence 180,8½. FOXHOUND escorting 08.42 South 11. (757) East to Pointe Noire 15. CORINTHIAN, VIRGINIA, ARMERIA, BUTTERMERE, CYCLAMEN, THYME, with S.T. 63, 04.28 02.36 to Takoradi 7. (F.O.C.W.A. 031043Z.)

/Situation...

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Dispositions. Situation at 2002Z/3rd. CHESHIRE 13.26 29.38
(Contd.) 316,14. GEORGE LEYGUES on patrol (?31) 10.30
30 (?05) 19. CILICIA 05.40 29.34 to (?06) 01
27.59 then to patrol about 08.30 27.30,14
(Corrupt group). CCWSLIP escorting 14.25 (?17)
53 to 10.40 17.50 thence 130,11. DUNCTON,
WASTWATER escorting 14.18 17.24 175,7. ORFASY one M.L.
escorting off Bathurst to South 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. BOREAS, LEWES escorting
08.54 15.31 to 08.34 14.55 thence Freetown 11 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(F.O.C.W.A. 031125Z.)

Movements, Departures. 030712Z/May. BRIDGEWATER, SNOWDROP,
Freetown. PETUNIA, DUNKERY, PORTSDOWN, BUTSER escorting
S.T.63A.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 031229Z. to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 0950Z/3rd. RAPID from survivor search.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 031359Z. to Admty. etc.)
Arrival 0940Z/3rd May LEITH, ANCHUSA, VIOLET, COREOPSIS,
WHIMBREL, AUBRETIA, ROHILKHAND, COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S. with
O.S.46. Admty. pass COMMANDANT DETROYAT F.S. to F.N.F. London.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 031401Z. to Admty. etc.)

DESPATCH. When do you expect DESPATCH to be ready for
service again?
(D.O.D. (F) 031308B. to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C.
S.A. B.N.S.O. Rio de Janeiro.)

Towage Report if experience on towing Lagos to Pointe
of KELT. Noire indicates ALLIGATOR and EMPIRE OBERON can
tow H.M.S. KELT from Pointe Noire to Walvis Bay
and if one tug would require to call at? Lobito
for coal. EMPIRE MINNOW on passage to Takoradi
has endurance for towing Pointe Noire to Walvis Bay but cannot
then tow to Cape (without?) refuelling. As this would require
tanker to be sent to Walvis Bay it is desirable not to use her
if possible.
(F.O.C.W.A. 031309Z. to B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A. Admty.)

T.S. 37. Following ships torpedoed and sunk by U-Boats.
Ships 1. KOTA TJANDI torpedoed 2055Z/30/4.
torpedoed 2. BANDAR SHAHPOUR torpedoed 2057Z/30/4.
30 April 3. NAGINA torpedoed 2100Z/30/4.
and 1 May. 4. CORABELLA torpedoed 2100/30/4.
(2) Approx. position of above four ships when
struck 07° 14' N. 13° 48' W. Times are approximate
5. CLAN MACPHERSON torpedoed 0345Z/1/5 position
not known. 6. MOKAMBO torpedoed 0330Z/1/5 position not known.
7. CITY OF SINGAPORE torpedoed 0330Z/1/5 position not known.
(3) MOKAMBO taken in tow but foundered Freetown Harbour 0200Z.
(approx.) 2nd May.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 031309Z. to Admty.)
W.D.Note:- For positions see 051035Z.

U-Boat. One estimated to be starting patrol between
St.Paul Rocks and Rocas.
(D.D.I.C. 031402B. to F.O.C.W.A.)

/TAMARISK...

War Diary.3.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

TAMARISK. Intend sailing TAMARISK with convoy S.L.129 to U.K. for annual refit.
(F.O.C.W.A. 031402Z. to Admty. (R) Capt. D.F.E.F.)
See F.O.C.W.A.071750Z.

Floating Dock. Your 011645. Concur.
(D.O.D. (F) 031601B. to F.O.C.W.A.)

Convoy W.S.29. Intend to sail NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, RAPID, BOREAS, LEWES, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, ARMERIA, W.S.29 at 0700Z/5th May.
ALMANZORA, OERANGI (?AORANGI) and EMPIRE MIGHT will sail in company.

2. Convoy is routed through positions B. 07.46 N. 14.30 W.
C. 06.40 N. 14.30 W. D. 00.40 N. 02.30 W. E. 05.30 S. 10.00 E.
thence by route instructions given in C. in C.S.A's 271122 April.

3. BOREAS and F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA will be detached at Mahe light 7th May escorting HIGHLAND PRINCESS and TROILUS to Takoradi. E.T.A. 1300Z/8th May.

4. B.N.L.O.W.Af. sail ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE as necessary from Pointe Noire to as to arrive at position 06.00 S. 10.02 E. at 0700Z/11th at 0700Z/11th thence toward position E. to join escort.

5. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH and RAPID will be detached when ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS and RACEHORSE have joined escort and will proceed to Pointe Noire to fuel thence as ordered by F.O.C.W.Af. LEWES will continue to Cape.

6. Escort will shift to Area Q. W/T organization at 0001/12th May.

7. Convoy will split at position L. escort acting as ordered by C. in C.S.A.
(F.O.C.W.A. 031731Z to C. in C.S.A. B.N.L.O.W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)

ASTURIANO. Have you any news of ASTURIANO (Argentine) due Buenos Aires 20th April from Capetown?
(D.T.D. 031913B to A.S.O.(I) Recife.)
Reply 041153.

S.L.129. Advance sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 031947Z 041636Z to Admty.)

CHESHIRE. Unable to decypher message 011931Z* My 241345Z+ referred. My 032000Z position 11.12 27.08
S.O.A. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$.
(CHESHIRE 032200 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)
*Submarine estimate originated by Cdr.4th Fleet.
+ Recurrent editions of area tables and S.Ps. 02176 and 02176 (as in signal) not held.
Note by W.R. 011931 in S. recyphered in M. as 040507.

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TARTAR, BLYSKAWICA, LOYAL. Arriving 0840A with O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA and LOYAL. No surface craft sighted. One aircraft shot down.
(TARTAR, 030601A to C.S.12, N.O.I.C. Bone).

Destroyer sweep. Request you will sail 3 destroyers to carry out sweep B in my 011154.
(2) Time of arrival at position (9036°) 50' N., 011° 20' E., 0530A May 4th.
(3) Codeword "Kraal". Fighter priority normal.
(C. in C. Med., 030927A to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C.S.12, F.O.I.S. A.I.G.263).

G.U.S.7 My 011425. GEORGE SHIRAS only will sail.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 030929 to F.O.I.S. etc).

+ French Request for Escort vessels. To Agwar, for Combined Chiefs of Staff Usfor, for British Chiefs of Staff. Sgnd. Eisenhower. Cite F.H.L.I.A.
N.A.F., 213, Ref. No. 8898 Etousa.
1. French submitted a request for 12 P.C. escort vessels on Jan. 8th. On Jan. 20th, with their list of Naval re-armament requirements, this request was amplified to a total of 30 P.C. escort vessels in three deliveries. First delivery 12, second delivery 8 and third delivery 10. Under date of April 29th, Gen. Giraud repeated their requests stating in substance that coastwise convoys are vitally necessary to the National Economy and that existing French escort vessels are unable to meet escort requirements.
2. There is a genuine need for French escort vessels of this type in this theatre to escort coastal shipping too slow for Allied convoys. All fast French merchant vessels have been turned over to Allied pool.
3. Approval of this request is recommended insofar as ships may be available, not to reduce those assigned, to be scheduled for N.A.V. N.A.O.N.X.
4. Requested that information be forwarded on which we may base a reply to Gen. Giraud.
(Algiers, 030959A to War and H.Q. Etousa).

ULTOR (P.53). Arrival.
(V.A. Malta, 031116B, to Admty etc).

ALBA JULIA My 011029C. ALBA JULIA delayed owing to discovery of attempt to smuggle foreign currency. Ship may be released and sail today B.3.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul 031120C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1. S.10, D.N.I.)

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

ORION

ORION will carry out bombardment practice at Filfla between 1600 and 1700. (C.S.15 031131B to BICESTER (R) ORION, V.A. Malta).

Loss of
REGENT.

Capt. (S) 1, 's 021444. REGENT left Malta 12th April for patrol in Adriatic routed along south Coast Italy.
(2) At 1743/14, an aircraft sighting report of 2 enemy ships off Cape Stilo was passed by S.10 to REGENT.

(3) At 1701/16 information was received from S.O.Y. Malta of a submarine sighting report. S.10 signalled REGENT 1831 to keep special lookout for A/S craft.

(4) Following received from C.O.T.S. "At 1645C/18 Italian Naval unit sighted submarine near Monopoli 181712". This indicated that REGENT had entered the Adriatic. However, no further sightings were recorded, which gave rise to some anxiety, as it was the intention of REGENT to carry out bombardments as opportunity arose, and previous patrols had shown that gunnery targets might be expected in Adriatic.

(5) Considered that the Monopoli report was false, there being no indication of any search carried out, and that REGENT had already been sunk by A/S craft from Taranto.

(6) Lieut. Knox before sailing had expressed his enthusiastic satisfaction with the efficient state of his ship and company. Their loss is keenly felt.

(S.10, 031138B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.S. Admty. etc).

M.T. Bs.

M.T.B. 95, 82, 62, 76 sail 2130/3rd through position "A" 15 miles North of Linosa for Sousse E.T.A. 0730/4th. Codeword "Cussed" fighter protection low priority. W/T answer or acknowledgment 115 k/cs.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 031205B to C. in C. Med., (R) A.I.G. 263, F.O.I.S., C.C.F., Med).

+ French Sqdn. Your 011322, not to Admiralty. My 302332 Alexandria, April and Minister of State's telegram 1034 of attitude of 28th April to Foreign Office refer.

Adm. Godfroy. (1) I had a long talk yesterday evening with Admiral Godfroy and he told me he had addressed all his officers last week explaining to them the situation as he saw it and saying he would join General Giraud as soon as it was practicable to do so. He was quite open with me and stated there were (?two) things which would change his decision -

(a) General de Gaulle becoming head of any provincial French administration which may be set up

(b) The formation of a "government" as distinct from an "Administration".

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

French Sqdn. (2) He considers his address won over all but Alexandria, about 6 of those who had been disinclined for attitude of action. These few (?I) gathered had ties in Adm. Godfroy. Alexandria and did not want to break them. (contd). He is confident that when he gives the order to move it will be implicitly obeyed.

(3) He welcomed Commandant Bateille coming here and was expecting a cheque (he mentioned no limit) from Giraud which he realised would have to be cashed through an English bank.

(4) In view of foregoing I intend after seeing Giraud's representative (due this week) to proceed with docking programme with as little interference as possible with our own commitments.

(5) Godfroy estimated he was about 4,000 personnel short but had been led to expect only about 2,000 from North Africa. He will of course discuss this with Giraud's representative. I suggested it would be helpful if some of this personnel should (?reconsider) being sent shortly and he agreed.

Comment. I feel the more Godfroy is committed with Giraud the more he is likely to act as we want him to but I consider first drafts should be specially selected.

(6) Minister of State informed.

(C. in C. Levant, 031231C to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

VILLE DE STRASBOURG, repairs, Lisbon. B.N.A. Lisbon's 291524. When weather is suitable propose sailing VILLE DE STRASBOURG for ostensible destination U.K. Ship would then put into Lisbon and apply for repairs. Request immediate reply.

(C. in C. Med., 031242 to Admty. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon). Reply: Not to be sent in. (Admty. 042104B)

ESKIMO, LOOKOUT. Your 031024 (N.T. in W.R.) ESKIMO and LOOKOUT sailed at 1200. 3rd destroyer not available. (C.S.12, 031246A to C. in C. Med., (R) NUBIAN V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 6, F.O.I.S.)

Force G. KEREN E.T.A. Suez 0630C/4. BULOLO and (?LARGS) 15 0900C/4. Request acknowledgment. (BULOLO 031330Z to F.O.R.S.C.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Ada Biyeh, KEREN).

Target Towing Aircraft. My 272323 April, para. 2. After further review R.A.F. inform me that they hope to be able to maintain their help on present scale which will go a long way towards giving short range practices on A.A. Ranges and to ships at anchor. Understood this will mean a considerable increase in number of aircraft at present employed in order to cope with increased army commitments at same time. 2. A.M. 302007 April para. 2. Following are now available for towing for ships under way:- (A) Four Swordfish and four Rocs at the end of their lives. Their serviceability cannot be relied upon and their maintenance is most uneconomical.

/These...

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Target Towing Aircraft. (contd). These aircraft will not in any case be fit for further service after mid-June 1943. (B) Two Fulmars, whose performance for target towing has proved unsatisfactory for present fleet requirements. Their serviceability is very low. 3. Co-operation of R.A.F. in para. 1 above cannot make up for our deficiencies in the quality and quantity of our F.R.U. and the gist of my 272323 April remains true. (C. in C. Levant, 031417C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med., H.Q., R.A.F., M.E.)

Movements,
Aden.

Arrivals 0445Z MARYBOROUGH, GAWKER and LISMORE in company.
(Cdre. Aden, 031428Z to C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.C.A., S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Colombo, S.O.(I) Bombay, Admty).

OXFORDSHIRE

OXFORDSHIRE sailed (route). S. of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. Oran, 0503.
(F.O.I.S., 031451A to N.O.I.C. Oran (R) Admty etc)

* 14th M.S.F.

No objection, V.A. Malta's 261709 (re 14th Minesweeper Flotilla be transferred from Com. (D) to Com. (M/S) Malta).
(C. in C. Med., 031519A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty. etc).

P.R.U.

May 3rd visuals. 1135 Taranto 2 destroyers 3 cruisers. 1315 Messina no major naval unit.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 031528B to C. in C. Med. etc).

* Alexandria
Minesweeping.

Weekly M/S Summary 2nd May, 1943.
Channels anchorages and D.G. range swept daily negative results. Red mine laid 9th June 1941 in declared Q.B.C. 264 (E) detonated Friday 30th April by LL/SA sweeper BOREALIS written report follows. Chart 243 refers.
(R.A. Alexandria, 031618C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Movements,
Port Said.

Port Said arrivals May 1st. BULLFINCH, SARKA
Departures AETOS, WOLBOROUGH, SPETSAI, SARKA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 031618C to Admty etc).

NUBIAN,
PALADIN,
PETARD.

Sailed NUBIAN, PALADIN, PETARD.
(V.A. Malta, 031631B to Admty. etc).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.N.W.A.A.F.
Reports.

To C.G. Eighth Air Force, C.G. Ninth Air Force.
From Spaatz, N.A.A.F. Hdqs. Adv. M.3004.
6. 12 Spit Bombers escorted by 24 Spits scored
near misses on beached destroyer in Gulf of Tunis.
2 of our aircraft were hit by flak, 1 is
missing. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed.
(N.W.A.A.F., 031656A to C.G.8th A.F., and
C.G. 9th A.F. for action).

M. 2063E cipher 3rd May.

May 2 part 3 190, signed Eisenhower Cite FHGT. N.W. African
Strategical Air Force. Adverse weather caused cancellation of
all missions except weather R/C by P.38s Lightnings, one of which
is missing, and photo R/C by F.4s, Lightnings, N.W. African Tac-
tical Air Force. Day May 1. Fighter Bombers with Spitfire
escort flew offensive reconnaissance in Cap Bon and Gulf of
Tunis area throughout day. A beached destroyer was attacked
and near misses scored. Jetties at Sidi Daoud and Kelibia
hit by several bombs starting fires. Day 2 May. A.20 Bostons
P.40 Warhawks with bombs Hurribombers and Spit Bombers bombed
enemy ground troops and installations throughout day with
results believed generally good. One Spitbomber missing and
one damaged in attack on beached destroyer.
(Spaatz (H.Q., N.W.A.A.F. Advanced) No T.O.O. Recd. 0715/4)

ISIS,
BUBIAN,
KIMBERLEY,
KELVIN,
defects.

Your 281529. Since return from (?refit) ISIS
has suffered from a number of minor defects the
most recent of which has been stern and "A"
bracket bushes worn to full limit after 16,000
miles steaming.

2. It is hoped that since completion of trials
on 28th April she is restored to full standard
though rapid wear of bushes is disturbing.

3. While no specific defect can be put down to bad work in
Bombay dockyard it is considered that many of the defects which
have arisen are attributable to the length of time she has
spent in dockyard hands.

4. I would not have drawn attention to this particular matter
were it not that NUBIAN's refit at Bombay has proved far from
satisfactory for similar reasons, and the recently reported
six months delay in completion of KIMBERLEY is equally ominous.
The trouble with KELVIN's "A" bracket is yet another case in
point.

(C. in C. Levant, 031745C to Admty).

BICESTER,
OAKLEY,
ZETLAND.

Arrived.
(V.A. Malta, 031846 to Admty etc).

P.R.U.

May 3rd Visuals.
1615 Taranto 2 battleships, 3 cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 031846B to C. in C. Med., etc).

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

L.S.Ts. for Med., cargoes. Your 010103 most helpful. Up to present great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining accurate information of stores, spares, and personnel being shipped in all convoys. (C. in C. Med., 031913A to B.A.D. (R) Admty. etc).

Movements, Sfax. Arsenals (?Arrivals) KAI and M.L.121. (N.O.I.C. Sfax, 032004A to Admty).

Movements, Algiers. Algiers arrivals QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE. Departures QUEEN EMMA, PRINSES BEATRIX, M.Ls. 1230, 1145, 1236. SIBYL (P.217) TRIBUNE. (Cdre. Algiers, 032009A to Admty. etc).

Movements Oran. Departures, RODNEY, NELSON, FORMIDABLE, WILTON, CALPE, TYNEDALE, WHEATLAND, PUCKERIDGE, VENOMOUS, FARNDALE, VELOX, ILEX, HAYDON. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 032019A to Admty. etc).

Requirements for Turkey. My 1144/31(sic) April (N.T. in W.R. but 101647 April refers) Cdr. Smith returned from Angora reports as follows with regard to Adana.
2. Immediate visit of technical officer is not required but N.A. considers that (G) (T) and possibly (S) officers could with advantage be sent in 2 months time for a period of about 1 month. These Officers are not available on Levant Station.
3. Surprisingly large-lists already forwarded are far in excess of immediate requirements. In spite of this a supplementary list is granted.
4. Turks hope for full delivery of all items though they appreciate that difficulties of supply and transport are bound to impose delay.
5. Turks appear to resent criticism of quantities demanded and discussion on this major point at issue was difficult.
6. Cdr. Smith will shortly be returning to U.K. on completion of three years on this station and will report to Admty. on arrival.
(C. in C. Levant, 032023C to Admty. (R) N.A. Ankara).

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CIRCE, BUDE, HUSSAR, REIGHTON WYKE, MAN O' WAR H.D.M.L.1145 1230 and 1236 B.W. (S.O.I.S., 032024A to C. in C. Med., etc).

Malta Air Report. A.I.532, 3 May C.S.R. (A) Air Part 1. Offensive Night 2nd/3rd May low cloud and haze curtailed all offensive operations. Mosquitoes on intruder patrols covering Sicilian narrows and eastern Sicily found no suitable target.

Day 3rd May. Poor visibility continued. Part 2 enemy air activity nil. (A.H.Q. Malta, 032028Z).

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.Movements,
Haifa.Arrival 3rd May SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA,
departure 3rd May SOUTHERN ISLE, MORECAMBE,
SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 032035 to Admty. etc)+ French
Personnel.
Position of
Adm.
Muselier.Your 011820. Minister informs me that Giraud
categorically denied to him any intention of
employing Muselier.
(2) There are various unofficial quarters which
are pressing to obtain ships for French Navy
to man and who point out the large numbers of
French officers and men ashore with no prospect
of seagoing appointment. A figure of 26000
officers and men actually in North Africa is nearer to the mark
than the official figure given here of 31000.
(C. in C. Med., 032206 to Admty. for 1st S.L.) Reply: Admty.
051331.Malta M.T.Bs. Sailed M.T.B.95, 82, 313.
(V.A. Malta, 032231 to Admty. etc).+ M/V
Repairs
to Spain.Your 121151A/April.
Valencia Firm Sucesor De Vda. Law Enrique
Illueca willing to undertake work on Allied and
British ships at Valencia. Dry dock available
for vessels up to 6000 tons dead weight only
but damaged hulls or superstructure not
involving dry docking can be undertaken on vessels up to about
12000 tons dead weight.
Firm is old established and experienced and can also make
machinery parts. Several salvaged Spanish vessels have been
reconstructed there lately. Firm would work night and day and
engage extra labour if necessary.
Shipping attache at this Embassy is in frequent contact with
firm and will settle all details whenever case arises.
Submitted requirements should be rendered in first instance to
M.W.T. Representative given. (Ends).
(N.A. Madrid 032303B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gib.
B.N.A. Lisbon).Movements
Derna. Sailed M.L. 356 and 359 from Derna.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 032305C to Admty).NUBIAN,
Enemy Units.2 Merchant Vessels, unknown number of destroyers,
bearing 270° distant 2 miles, course unknown.
My position is XLSP 5021*
(NUBIAN 032350 to Malta W/T)*Indecypherable in
W.D. but decode of lettered positions in force
during April gives 36.50 N., 11.21 E.

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XXVI

A.F.D. XXVI is due to complete Bombay Sept. 1943 ex trials. (2) Dock is to be towed in one piece and berthed at Trincomalee. (3) By September 2 BAT class tugs should be available on the Station. (4) Request you will arrange for towage and escort, keeping Admiralty informed.
(D.O.D.(F) 030106B to C. in C. E.F. (R) N.O.I.C. Bombay, F.O.C.R.I.N., F.O.Ceylon)

B.P. 78 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Sailing telegram (3 ships, list)
(2) 0530Z/3rd. (3) E.T.A. position (0) Karachi
R/V 0730Z/5th. (4) E.T.A. crossing 062° E.
0900Z/6th. (5) E.T.A. West of Quoin Island
2130Z/7th. (4) 10 knots. (5) (Route). (6) TRAVANCORE
to 062° where convoy disperses.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 030235Z, 030237Z to Admty)

KINGYUAN
aground.

Following has been read KINGYUAN (GDJN)
(?fast) aground (?019°) 57' N. 086° 23' E.
require immediate assistance of tug.
(Colombo W/T 030252Z to Admty)
Following has been read from KINGYUAN (GDJN)
(?fast) aground 019° (58') N. 086° 23' E. (Corrupt group)
immediate assistance required by 030252Z.
(Colombo W/T, 031443Z to Admty)

B.P. 78 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Departure TRAVANCORE with B.P. 78 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 030531Z to Admty)

JALARASHMI.

Transport JALARASHMI sailed 2nd May for Suez.
Draft 22 feet. Due Aden 10th May, requirements
(D.S.T.O. Bombay, 030629Z to D.S.T.O. Suez.
(R) P.S.T.O.M.E. D.S.T.O. Aden, A.H.Q. Mideast,
D.S.T., P.S.T.O. India.)

Movements.

Departure Burma M.L.'s 1102 and 1103 in company
bound Mandapam calling at Madras.
(?N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam), 030631Z to Admty)
STORMWRACK, SATSA sailed 3rd May 0530 Kilindini
E.T.A. a.m. 8th coasting 10 knots.
(C.S.A. Beira, 030847Z to Admty)
Departure RUKMAWATI by sea route.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta, 030949Z to Amty)
Colombo departure 3rd. Arrivals 0915 (? SCOUT).
(F.O. Ceylon, 031220Z to Admty)
CERES, MARGUERITE arrived. Left ULSTER MONARCH.
(F.O.E. Af. 031251Z to Admty)
(?Arrived) ULSTER MONARCH, RAIDER, NAPIER left RESOLUTION
NIZAM, QUICKMATCH.
(?C. in C. E.F.), 031256Z, to Admty)

EREBUS /...

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East Indies (Contd.)

EREBUS,
CARADOC,
Gunnery
Training. Referring to my 280716 April. This will involve carrying about 40 tons of 6 inch shells on upper deck. Will this require additional ballast in double bottom. (2) No stability information in ship concurring result of inclining experiment carried out in 1942 following addition of 76 tons ballast.
(C. in C. E.F., 030717Z to Admty., (R) C. in C. S.A., F.O. 2nd i/c E.F., R.A.T.E. Durban.)

A.K. 7. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini, 030820Z to C. in C. E.F.)

India Air Report. A.207 3rd May. Int. Summary No. 414 3rd May
(B) Offensive R/C 2nd May. 6 Hurricanes direct Army support. Thmayu. 1 Wellington Arakan coast. 4 x 250 lbs. GPTD Q25 (secs.?) from 1500 ft. on schooner off Sandokay without result. Another smaller boat machine-gunned and sunk.
(A.H.Q. India, 031040Z to Air Ministry.)

CHALLENGER. Arrival? CHALLENGER? 1122Z/3rd May.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee, 031125Z to Admty.)

A/S Forces Northern Indian Ocean. C. in C. Eastern Fleet's 021201, 280803 and 280801. My proposals are as follows:
(1) A.B.C.E.F. to be composed of (A) Bombay Group: MADRAS, PUNJAB, BOMBAY, BENGAL, BALUCHISTAN, KOUKAN, RAJPUTNA, ORESSA, KHYBER, CARNATIE, TAMWORTH, BATHURST, LAUNCESTON plus 3 BANGORS not yet arrived on station. (B) Colombo Group:

SCOUT, HINDUSTAN, WILLEM VAN DER ZAAAN, SONAVATI.
(2) Bombay Group to provide escort to convoys in Bombay-Persian Gulf-Aden triangle each escort consisting of GUT ships. Convoys in this triangle will be required to conform strictly to a regular eight day cycles as follows:

Arrive	Place	Leave
-	Bombay	Day 1
Day 7	Khorkuwai	Day 9
Day 16	Aden	Day 18
Day 25	Khorkuwai	Day 27
Day 33	Bombay	Day 41

After cleaning boiler convoys table composed as in priority given in para. 3 of C. in C. E.F. 280801 and limited to maximum of 12 ships. Ships in category (4) and (5) will be sailed independently if total number awaiting convoy exceeds 12. It is considered that the convoys running to a regular cycle as proposed it should be possible for S.T.Os. concerned to plan troop movements to conform with sailing dates.

(3) Colombo Group will be employed mainly for escorts between Ceylon and Island Bases. (4) C.A.S.F. Propose Hormuz patrol should be composed as follows:

SEABELLE completes refit 22nd May as PANGKOR commences refit 21st May.

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A/S Forces RATNAGIRI due Khorkuwai about 16 May.
Northern HIRAVATI refitting Bombay ready about 1 June.
Indian CLIVE now at Karachi.
Ocean. INVESTIGATOR on completion of refit date
(Contd.) uncertain. Ref. para (?2) of C. in C. E.F. 021201 consider it is most undesirable to employ ABCFF ships on Hormuz patrol at expense of ocean escorts. In existing circumstances consider depleted Hormuz patrol can well be accepted if coal burning R.I.N. Auxiliaries are unacceptable. (5) Remainder of CASEF will be employed primarily on coastal escorts operated by F.O.C.R.I.N. Local defence duties and A/S patrols being co-ordinated. I will give F.O.C.R.I.N. as much notice as possible of escort requirements. (6) Above proposals have been drawn up in collaboration with S.O.(O) to F.O.C.R.I.N. pending F.O.C.R.I.N.'s visit to Colombo.
(F.O.Ceylon, 031202Z to C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. F.L.O. Delhi. S.N.O.P.G., Com. R.I.N., N.C.I.C. Aden.)

GAMBIA. Following is intended programme for GAMBIA's return to U.K.

Arrive.	Place.	Leave.
Blank	Kilindini.	7th May.
1st May	Durban	18th May.
20th May	Capetown.	23rd May.
1st June	Bathurst.	3rd June.
12th June	U.K. (Liverpool)	

(2) C. in C. S.A. and R.A. W.Af. are requested to sail GAMBIA to comply with this programme as far as is possible.

(3) My 230800 April and my 301547 April refer.

(C. in C. E.F. 031207Z to Admty (R) GAMBIA, R.A.W.A., R.A. E.F. C. in C. S.At. Com. i/c Durban.)

Torpedo A.X.548 3 May 45.
Bomber Ref. our AX. 226 1st May.
Squadrons. This was advanced information on long term repetition long term plan and will not materialize till mid-1944. Meanwhile your build up of Beaufort and Beaufighter Squadrons operational in India and Ceylon will be approximately as follows:
June 1945 2 Beaufort 2 Beaufighter Sqdns.
Sept. 1945 2 Beaufort 3 Beaufighter Sqdns.
Dec. 1945 3 Beaufort 3 Beaufighter Sqdns.
March 1944 3 Beaufort 3 Beaufighter Sqdns.
June 1944 1 Beaufort 5 Beaufighter Sqdns.
Sept. 1944 0 Beaufort 6 Beaufighter Sqdns.
All these Sqdns. will be Beaufighter X from between March and June 1944 onwards. (2) This would seem an over insurance in light of present strategical situation in Indian Ocean, but in accordance with para. 4 C.O.S.(India) 70 21 July 1942 A.O.C.in C. will have free rein in employment of these squadrons subject to inevitable limitation that crews will be torpedo and G.R. trained. We will do our best to adjust the proportion of such crews with the Admiralty. (3) The Beaufighters mentioned above are quite separate from the 3 long range fighter Squadrons in India's programme. These will have Mosquitoes and estimated

build / ...

3.5.943.
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Torpedo	build up will be as follows:
Bomber	June 1944 2 Squadrons.
Squadrons.	Sept. 1944 3 Squadrons.
(Contd.)	(Air Min. O31600Z to A.H.Q. India (R) 222 Group)

* Aircraft Squadrons, Indian Ocean. Your 200630Z/April. Following message has been sent by Air Min. to A.H.Q. India (R) 222 Group. Begins: "OX.6497 1 May 1943. Your A.217 26th March. Proposals in our OX.6530 dated 15th March dealt with both war and post-war period. (2) Matter has been discussed with Admiralty and have agreed policy with them on basis of their requiring accommodation in Ceylon and Southern India for 30 squadrons including fleet requirement units. Admiralty requirements in this area up to 1946 are under review at present and the ultimate requirements may well be considerably increased but it is estimated that the following arrangements will cover their requirements till mid 1945. (3) Kyattar and Colombo racecourse to be handed over to Admiralty. Each will accommodate 6 squadrons. They already have Katukurunda and Puttalam which hold 6 and 2 squadrons respectively. Emergency facilities to be provided at Cochin, Vavuniya, Minneriya and Sigiriya for one F.A.A. squadron at each place in addition to our own requirements. China Bay to be retained by Royal Air Force but accommodation to be made available when required for up to 6 F.A.A. squadrons. These arrangements cover total of 30 F.A.A. squadrons. (4) China Bay to be developed to accommodate 4 R.A.F. landplane and 2 flying-boat Squadrons. Latter will be based permanently at China Bay but 4 landplane squadrons when withdrawn would provide accommodation for 6 F.A.A. squadrons which are smaller. If full number of 6 F.A.A. Squadrons have to be accommodated at any time then R.A.F. landplane squadrons would be withdrawn temporarily to West coast or central Ceylon. Station can be commanded temporarily by Naval Officer when F.A.A. squadrons predominate. Decision as to advisability of this will be taken by you on advice of C. in C. Ceylon. At same time we consider that R.A.F. administrative staff should remain throughout in order to ensure continuity and to supervise buildings and maintenance of station and airfield on behalf of 222 Group. (5) Agreed in addition that Class B Repair Yard may be developed at China Bay and that Ratmalana to be retained by you. (6) You should now proceed in co-operation with C. in C. E.F. to hand over Kyattar and Colombo racecourse to Admiralty and to develop facilities for F.A.A. at our airfields on the basis set out above. Work to be undertaken by Admiralty or Air Min. by local arrangements. On assumption that maximum R.A.F. force will comprise 6 fighter, 4 torpedo bomber, 1 G.R. landplane and 4 flying-boat squadrons and that minimum R.A.F. force likely to be permanently based in Ceylon is 3 fighter 2 torpedo bomber, 1 G.R. landplane and 4 flying-boat squadrons you should now also develop facilities on permanent basis for minimum R.A.F. force plus emergency accommodation for further 5 landplane squadrons of maximum force. (7) The basic assumption in the foregoing arrangements is that full F.A.A. requirements for a strategical offensive are unlikely to synchronise with full R.A.F. requirements which are for a strategical defensive. Time of origin O11430B. Ends.

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East Indies.

Aircraft
Squadrons,
India
Ocean
(Contd.)

(2) Admiralty agrees with the foregoing, which though not ideal is, in the circumstances, acceptable. For your general information it is not anticipated that F.A.A. shore requirements beyond those available or projected at Puttalam, Katukurunda, Coimbatore and Cochin, plus the agreed facilities at China Bay will be required until autumn 1944, unless Germany is defeated before that date. Target dates will be proposed when the policy outlined in A.M.2245/19 Dec. 1942 has been finally revised. (3) Request information on following points:
(a) Where is it proposed that fourth B Repair Yard should be sited now that Kyattar has been substituted for Madura. (Your 1019/19 Feb. refers)? Com. N.A.S. 0945/28 Jan. indicates that a site adjacent to a R.A.F. Station near Madras might be better than Kyattar. (b) If no Repair Yard proposed for Kyattar what additional workshops will be required there and what additional aircraft accommodation to provide 100% reserves?
(c) What workshop arrangements are proposed for Colombo Race Course and what facilities are there for storing reserves?
(1st S.L.032254B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. Ceylon, R.A.N.A.S. I.O., F.O. Ceylon, Com. N.A.S.Ceylon.)

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America & West Indies.

B.Y.M.S. This is re-encypherment N.O.B.Trinidad 021911
B.Y.M.S.44,45,46 arrived 1400Q May 2nd.
(Radio Washington 030631Z to F.O.C.W.Af.
S.B.N.O.W.At. Admt. N.S.H.Q.)

Movements. Kingston arrival U.S.Ship Y.A.G. 18 U.S.Ship
Y.P.25.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 030852Q to Admt.)
U.S.A.T. MARIPOSA arrived New York 031130Z.
(Port Director New York 031632 to Cominch C.and R.)
MAURETANIA, arrived New York 033345.
(Port Director New York 031636 to Cominch C. and R.)
New York arrived p.m. 2nd MAURETANIA
(N.S.H.Q. 031924Z to D. of S.T.)
Balboa 3rd May 15 hours U.S.A.T. LAKE OIMOC San Pedro
via Manzanillo for water if necessary 20 May coastal. Onward
routeing Hawaii.
(R.O.Cristobal 031936 to Admt.)
Arrival CHELSEA, SHAWININGAN, SUDBURY, MILLTOWN from O.N.179
(C.Halifax 032058Z to Admt.)
Bermuda arrivals BLACKWOOD, DRURY.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 032233P to Admt.)
Trinidad arrival 3rd B.Y.M.S.43.
(S.B.N.O.Trinidad 031942Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Movements	Ship.	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	F.S. GEORGES } LEYGUES }	10° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
1800 G.M.T.	CHESHIRE	11° N. 27° W.	316°	14
3rd May.	EMPRESS OF } SCOTLAND }	35½° N. 27½° W.	274°	19
	(D.O.D.(F) 031103B to Opanav (R) Comnav.)			

L.S.T.427 My 012333. Suggest your 0015/29 April requires
amendment. L.S.T. 427 only called at Bermuda
for repairs.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 031142P to N.S.H.Q.)

H.D.M.Ls. A.M. 1814/29/8 1942 allocated 20 H.D.M.Ls. to
West Atlantic Stations.
Understand that M.Ls. 1183, 1194 are firm
allocation. Will any other be allocated from
U.S. Coast to Coast, construction. If so request
numbers and forecast of dates they will be ready for service.
(S.B.N.O.W.At. 031147P to B.A.D. (R) Admt.)

/Convoy...

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Convoy S.C.129. Your 021228/4. VIZALMA and DENTEROUS will sail with H.X. 237. LADY MADELEINE SAPPER with S.C. 129.
(F.O.N.F. 031149Z to C. in C.W.A.)

H.J.49. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 031213Z to Admty.)

CALDWELL B.X.49. Sail CALDWELL Boston to Halifax as additional escort B.X.49.
(Cominch 031350Z to C.E.S.F.)

O.N.Convoys routeing. Request Commodore O.N.Convoys be instructed that ships for Boston and Portland Area be broken off with Halifax Section.
(Con Route 031422 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, Halifax, C.E.S.F.)

1st E.G. Your 011821Z/5th. 1st Escort Group sails at 1400Z May 4th through 47° N. 47° W. thence to 55.00 N. 40.00 W. at economical speed.
(F.O.N.F. 031451Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Cominch, E.G.1. Admty. C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.4., C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16.)
As amended F.O.N.F. 031846Z.

S/M estimate May 3rd. U.S. S/M Notice. (Cominch 031452Z, 031453Z, 031517Z, 031518Z, 031519Z.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate (N.S.H.Q. 031506Z.)

QUEEN ELIZABETH. Ref. Comnavcu dispatch 282006.* Earliest safe undocking time of QUEEN ELIZABETH 0700Q/5th E.T.A. Clyde 0100Z/11th. Above is Port Director New York dispatch 011344 action Conroute repeated C.E.S.F.
(Conroute 031513Z to Admty.)

*U.S.N. state that their 282006 contains a repetition of our 281959 re sailing of QUEEN ELIZABETH.

Safe conduct vessels. Following is repetition of A.M. 012008:
My 291831B (N.T. in W.D.) Sailing date should read May 4th.
(Head of M.Br. 031539B to N.O.I.C. St. John N.B.)

/U/Bs...

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U/Bs. D/F bearings on transmissions made on series 2 at 1154, 1223, 1230 and 1305Z. Place U-Boats within 90 miles of 54° 00' N. 45° 45' W. 54° 30' N. 48° 00' W. 54° 30' N. 42° 00' W. 54° 00' N. 46° 00' W. respectively.
(N.S.H.Q. 031541 to C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. (R) Admty. Cominch, S.B.N.O.W.At.)

A.T.44 (ANDES.) A.T.44 ANDES D. of S.T. 30210/7th April. Army intend to embark 13 to complete p.m. of that day for sailing 14th May.
2. My 241502 April. Bank of Canada have 660 bars silacer (?silver intended) for Bank of England which will arrive Halifax p.m. 12 for shipment in this vessel.
(N.S.H.Q. 031614Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D. Connav.)

+ Task Group C. in C.Lant 030423 addressed for action to
21.6 convoy Commander, Task Group 21.6 informs as follows:-
C.U.2. About May 12, upon completion of current availability and when directed by Com.3, escort from New York to Aruba the tankers which will constitute convoy C.U.2. When convoy C.U.2 is ready at Aruba, escort it to U.K., following route prescribed by Cominch C. and R. who will also specify location of "Chop" for diversion purposes.
Return to Aruba escorting convoy U.C.3 in accordance with Admiralty routing when directed by Com. Task Unit 21.2.3.
In accordance with C. in C.Lant mailgram 022000, Task Group 21.6 is reconstituted as follows: Destroyer Division 14 plus SIMPSON and BROOME.
(Connaveu 031627 to Admty.)

Dispositions. Section East.
HJVA MALPEQUE, SARNIA (E) 46.24 52.(?41) 015° 9.
(?38) S Tampa MOJAVE, COMMANCHE escorting SAGAMORE and WANDANK Touring 2 section Y.D.F.E. 47.03 54.38 (?066°) 8.
U.S.S. CHICOPEE, OSPREY 43.32 56.48 033° 15 altering to 016° in 45.00 N. and for S/Ms in 46.53 N.
U.S.S. MOHAWK, TRAVIS, ARVEK, S.C. 705, 688, 689, 50.11 46.51 332° 8.
S.C.129 W.3, 44.51 58.50 083° 7.5.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 031645Z to Admty.)
My 031645Z Section East add ANDES 40.47 57.49 to 42.00 62.00 thence (Halifax?) S.O.A. 19.5.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 031647Z to Admty.)
Section North West Special River Group GANANOQUE vicinity 40.10 63.44 en route Quebec as ice permits.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 031745Z to Admty.)

/Escort...

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America & West Indies - Contd.

Escort Oilers. A.M. 011757 B.R.L.O. will signal in form required by A.M. 191225 para. 3 and Port Director has agreed to be responsible for post sailing advice per para. 5.
2. A.M. 271450 para. 2 has been noted.
3. Co-ordination of all requirements for British controller escort Oilers by Lt. Rainey is confirmed.
(B.A.D. 031719Z to Admty. (R) B.R.L.O New York.)

Aircraft assignments after 1944. Your 232237Z/April and 232249Z/April are under active consideration. It is hoped to send reply in course of next few days.
(Head of Air Branch 031814B to B.A.D.)

H.X. 237. Sailing telegram (12 ships, list). 2. Gate 1800Z May 3rd. 3. Homp 1300Z/4th May. 5. As C.E.S.F's 262230Z April 7 R.S.P. 7. Total 12 sailed. 8. As C.E.S.F's 262230Z April (N.C.S.O. Halifax 031843Z, 031845Z to Admty.)

TAY My P.C. and S. 057° 25' N. 042° 00' W. 209° 4'.
(TAY 031845Z to PINK.)

H.H.X. 237, CITY OF GLASGOW. Suspected foul play. H.H.X. 237. CITY OF GLASGOW missed convoy due to investigation which is in progress of unnatural death of one and hospitalisation of six other D.E.M.S. ratings at St. John N.B. two replacements are hospitalised here with arsenic poisoning and remainder removed for observation.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 032005Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)
See also N.C.S.O. Halifax 102010Z.

U/Bs attacked Weekly Summary. Your 1059B/22 July. April 27 U.S. Navy P.V.1 attacked partially surfaced submarine at 43°35' N. 56.18 W. with 4 depth charges. Submarine blown to surface then settled out of sight. Bow then rose at steep angle machine gunned by plane. Submarine settled stern first. Extensive air bubbles observed. Submarine fired on plane during first attack making one hit right wing with explosive bullet. Other promising attacks week ending 2400Z/2. April 25 aircraft and PATHFINDER 55.05 N. 42.25 W. April 28 DUNCAN 61.37 32.49 W. Same day U.S. Navy plane from U.S.S. BOGUE 46.16 N. 25.53 W. Presume you have details.
(Cominch 032007Z to Admty.)

/Sub...

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- Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z. A. Para. A. Army plane attacks subs course 000 51.32 N. 45.40 W. 1945/2. U.S. Plane attacks sub 50.53 N. 45.40 W. 2155/2. Para. C. Sub attacked 50.55 N. 28.49 W. 2300/2. (Cominch 032012Z to Admty.)
- B.Y.M.S. At 2000Z May 3rd sailed B.Y.M.S. 65,66, 67 and 185 to Londonderry through J. 46.30 N. 47.00 W. K. 49.30 N. 41.00 W. thence by Great Circle. S.O.A. 10 knots. Constant W/T communications in accordance with B.A.D. 2125Z April 15th. (F.O.N.F. 032015Z to Admty.)
- O.N.178. My 022008. O.N.178 add arrival NORVINN (Pan.) (B.R.L.O. New York 032017Z to Admty.)
- ATHELPRINCE, During passage ATHELPRINCE has transferred depth oiling at sea, charges to escort vessels. Depth charges. 2. On arrival request Master and Chief Officer may be interviewed and the following information obtained. How many depth charges were transferred. State of weather and motion on ship at time. Whether gear worked satisfactorily - time taken to prepare for dropping second set of five units. How many men were employed. Comments and recommendations. 3. Oiling at sea. A report is required on the working of the twin rail platform for handling the buoyant rubber hose. The following points should be covered. General ease of working, whether economical of men. Was difficulty found in connecting up hose and jackstay, before veering second flight, comments and recommendations. Did the escort vessels take in the hose on the port or starboard bow. 4. Both the above reports will be used in deciding whether ATHELPRINCE type of flotation rack and of platform and rail are to be copied in other ships (D.T.D. 032036B to B.R.L.O. New York, (R) B.A.D. C. in C.W.A.)
- U.C.1. Escorts, assessment of attacks. Action reports from escorts of convoy U.C.1 have been received direct in Admiralty. Shall we assess the attacks or would you prefer to do so? 2. Can a reply now be made to my 312027A March. (D.A.S.W. 032114B to Cominch, (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)
- B.Y.M.S.43. B.Y.M.S. 43 entered 1630Q May 3. My 021911 (N.T. in W.D.) Radio Washington pass to B.A.D. F.O.C.W.Af. Admiralty, S.B.N.O.W.At. and N.S.H.Q. (N.O.B.Trinidad 032121 to Cominch.)

/TAMARF...

War Diary.3.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

TAMARF (Sw.)

Your 171349 (re sailing postponed at German request.) Censored cable indicates TAMARF left Gothenburg late April 21st for St. John N.B. Request information.
(N.S.H.Q. 032131Z to Admty.)

J.H.51.

Arrived less HAVMOY, DALWARNIC.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 032210Z to Admty.)

+ N.Atlantic
Convoy cycles
Escort Groups

My 301520Z, Admty. 280046B as amended by 301526B April will necessitate 9 Western Local Escort Groups. Recommend S.C.133 be sailed June 1st and thereafter at 11 day intervals which cycle can be maintained by 8 Western Local Escort Groups. Admiralty pass to last addressee.
(N.S.H.Q. 032240Z to Admty. Cominch (R) C. in C. W.A. Cominch C. & R. B.A.D. C. in C.C.N.A. Comnav.)

+ Escort Groups
designation

My 151714 March Admty. 200448 March as from today Canadian Mid Ocean Escort Groups will be designated C.1 to C.5., Western Local Escort Groups W. 1. to W.14.
2. Request confirmation that British Mid Ocean Escort Groups will be designated B.1 to B.7.
(N.S.H.Q. 302301Z to Admty. Cominch (R) C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. N.M.C.S.)

C.U.2
Escort oilers

Your 021429. U.S. Authorities have selected CHERRY VALLEY and TICONDEROGA as escort oilers for C.U.2.
Vessels are being supplied with rubber hose and fairlead at New York and Navy Department have been informed that spares are available in U.K.
(B.A.D. 032307Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. B.R.L.O. New York.)

SPEY
S.C.129.

My 011821. Request you will sail SPEY to reinforce escort of S.C.129.
(C. in C.W.A. 032346Z to F.O.N.F. (R) Connav, C. in C.C.N.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Com. D. Argentia, G.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C. C.T.U. 24.1.16.)

War Diary.3.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 26. Liberty ship PHOEBE A. HEARST torpedoed at 0615M/1st position 20° S. 177° W. later sank. Aircraft searching for survivors in two boats sighted ten men on raft at 0940M/2nd. Latter picked up by Catalina. Liberty ship WILLIAM WILLIAMS hit by torpedo 1500M/2nd position 20.09 S. 178.04 W. down by stern but still afloat at 2205M/2nd. Five Fortresses, three Avengers, searching area 2nd May. Nine Dauntlesses, nine Avengers, with Fighter cover, attacked Munda? (New Georgia) a.m. 30 April with 2000 pound and 500 pound bombs. Fortresses also dropped 75 100 pound bombs Kahili (Bougainville). Unidentified ship entered Faisi from South 0755M/2nd. Estimated disposition Japanese submarines May 3 (numbers.) (C.W.R. Wellington 030054Z to Admty. etc.)

DOMINION My 272228 April, your 020335. Sailing H.T.
MONARCH. DOMINION MONARCH delayed till a.m. 15th May (local date). Now intend make R/V with ADELAIDE at 2200Z/17th May. (N.Z.N.B. 030455Z to C.S.W.P.S.F. (R) Admty. N.O.B. Auckland, Com. West Aust., Com. 3rd Fleet, Com. 7th Fleet, C. in C.E.F. C.T.F. 71.)

Movements. Arrival Port Moresby 2nd ECHUCA, U.S.S. TULSA. Departure Darwin 2nd LATROBE for Thursday Island. (Melbourne?) 2nd BUNBURY for Townsville. Thursday Island 2nd CASTLEMAINE for Darwin. Cairns 2nd SWAN for Milne Bay. Townsville 2nd KAPUNDA for Port Moresby. Palm Island AUSTRALIA, U.S.S. RALPH TALBOT for Brisbane. Sydney 2nd VAN GALEN for Melbourne. Fremantle 1st HEEMSKERCK, TJERK HIDDIS, ISABEL. Pelias 2nd U.S.S. WILLIAM B. PRESTON on escort.

(A.C.N.B. 030817Z to Admty.)

U.S. Transport WILLARD A. HOLBROOK arrived Brisbane 2nd May
U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT arrived Townsville 3rd U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departed Townsville 1st arrived Bowen 2nd R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Port Moresby 2nd due Fall River 3rd. H/T TAROONA departed Townsville 2nd due Fall River 4th. Hospital ship CENTAUR departed Townsville 2nd due Brisbane 5th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 031125Z to Admty.)

Digest serial Forenoon photos reveal nil shipping Kavieng
No. 7468 2nd Harbour.
May. 2?. One submarine observed passing Cape Orford northbound morning and another southbound afternoon.
5. One medium cargo vessel stationary, 1 possible motor torpedo boat sighted Wewak anchorage area morning.
7. One Fortress attacked dock area Finschhafen morning.
10. Ref. Digest No. 467, para. 8, photos reveal 7 merchant vessels whereof 1 each 1500, 1000 and 5 under 300 tons and 1 float plane in Manokwari Harbour.
11. Four B.24 attacked 5 vessels and barges off Toeal morning 2nd causing largest 600 - 1000 tons to run aground.

War Diary.

3.5.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

X Digest No.
?468 2nd May.
(Contd.)

12. 21 bombers escorted by 25 to 30 fighters attacked Darwin Aerodrome causing slight damage to buildings. 32 Spitfires intercepted destroying 3 fighters, plus 5 probably destroyed and 4 damaged and 1 bomber damaged. We lost 14 Spitfires majority through fuel shortage.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 030940.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 031400B, 031401B.)

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.X Patrol
"White"

1. JAMAICA and ECHO sailed from Hvalfiord at 0451B to establish Denmark Straits Patrol.

2. WINCHELSEA was damaged this morning off Altacarry in collision with an unknown ship. Rescue tug GRIPER sailed at 0753, to bring her to Belfast where she arrived at 1121B.

2 U/B's
Sunk.*(U.439, U.659.
Details in A/S
Monthly Report,
June, 1943,
page 24.)*

3. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar reports that shortly before mid-night 3/4 May M.G.B. 657, one of the coastal force convoy proceeding to Gibraltar from the U.K. sighted a U-Boat on the surface, which immediately opened fire and set M.G.B. 657's upper deck petrol tank and pool petrol tins on fire. M.G.B. 657 disengaged, extinguished the fire and rejoined the convoy.

Shortly afterwards COVERLEY, one of the escort, seemed to strike a submerged object.

At 0030 G.M.T. today M.T.B. 670 in 43.32 N. 13.20 W. leading the starboard column of the convoy ran into diesel smoke and fumes, and saw people swimming in the water. Twelve of the latter were picked up, and appear to be from two German U-Boats, one of which is said to have been sunk by a Sunderland aircraft and one by ramming. Subsequent examination of COVERLEY showed that she over-ran some obstruction. At 0415 G.M.T. M.T.B. 670 was illuminated by two star shells fired from approximately 200 Yards ahead.

p.m. 3rd the coastal force convoy had met the landing craft convoy which left the U.K. a day in advance, and had parted from it whilst being shadowed by a F.W. aircraft. Between 0001 and 0030 G.M.T. today gun flashes were seen by the M.T.B. convoy on the horizon in the direction in which the landing craft were lost. The landing craft all arrived at Gibraltar on 8 May and report that they saw no gunfire. They did, however, report being fired at by a U-Boat on the morning of 6 May, whilst closing to salvage what appeared to be a barrage balloon in flames in 40.45 N. 12.23 W. The landing craft suffered no damage.

4. There were W/T indications at 1145 today of a damaged U-Boat in 47.22 N. 04.25 W. An air strike was arranged.

X 5. The aircraft patrols in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay have been maintained with considerable success. The total sightings since 13 April is now 55, of which 35 U-Boats have been attacked.

*COVERLEY's sp. engaged
sunk.*

War Diary.4.5.1945.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands. (Contd.)

6. M.V. DENBIGHSHIRE (Cristobal for Liverpool) reported that she was being attacked by aircraft in 48.04 N. 22.14 W. at 041755, and about the same time she reported sighting a submarine in 48.10 N. 22.08 W.

North Atlantic.

7. A Portuguese trawler today picked up 10 survivors of U.S. JAMES W. DENVER in 21.55 N. 17.00 W. This ship was sunk on 11 April in 28.52 N. 26.30 W.

U/B's
attacked.

X 8. At 1944B a Catalina on A/S patrol sighted a U-Boat which dived in 39.59 N. 13.57 W. and attacked, but depth charges failed to release. At 2109B, apparently the same aircraft sighted from 2 miles a U-Boat surfacing which began to dive. Five depth charges were dropped from 80ft. 37 seconds after the boat disappeared, and straddled 300 - 350 ft. ahead of the swirl, but no results were seen.

South Atlantic.

X 9. The increasing weight of U-Boat attack in West Africa has made immediate reinforcement of the A/S forces in that area essential. At the request of the Admiralty C. in C. U.S. Fleet ordered the immediate release CLARKIA from the Caribbean. (p. 138)

Mediterranean.Coastal
Force
Operations.

10. M.T.B's and M.G.B's from Bone proceeded for a sweep today but were attacked by 8 fighter bombers off Cape Ferrat at 1820/4. One aircraft was shot down, one probably shot down and 2 damaged /...

112

4.5.1945.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Coastal
Force
Operations
(Contd.)

damaged. The coastal craft sustained slight damage and several casualties, and returned to Abarka.

Destroyer
Operations.

X 11. NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD, whilst on a sweep from Malta sank a 7000 ton merchant ship, reported to have been carrying bombs, landmines and M.T., and a small destroyer, stated to be of the CASSIOPEA class off Kelibia at 0059 today. ESKIMO and LOOKOUT carried out a sweep in the Sicilian Channel. A special equipment Wellington co-operated.

12. UNBROKEN reports that she sank a 450 ton schooner at anchor off Selanto Point (38.11 N. 12.46 E) and at 1617/27 she apparently sank a 6000 ton north-west bound merchant ship in 38.13 N. 13.26 E.

M.W.27.

X 13. Convoy M.W.27 consisting of 5 merchant ships and a tanker arrived at Malta from Alexandria this forenoon.

14. 16 out of 56 U.S. Liberators of M.E.Command which were despatched bombed Reggio di Calabria today and 7 Taranto as alternative target. Fighter aircraft damaged several small vessels north of Crete.

East Indies.

15. WAYLAND, auxiliary fleet repair ship at Kilindini, has been ordered to the Mediterranean, via Alexandria, to be passed through to the Western basin after the Sicilian narrows are open. ADAMANT, which completes refit at Colombo on May 16, will replace her at Kilindini.

16. LUCIA, submarine depot ship at Kilindini, is ordered to Gibraltar, routed as for WAYLAND.

X 17. A.H.Q.India report that 18 B.24's of U.S.A.AF. attacked Sarna (18.20 N. 109.30 E) today and that the dock area and oil refinery and coal stores were hit and several large fires caused.

B.25's /...

War Diary.4.5.1945.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.East Indies. (Contd.)

- X B.25's attacked dock installations at Haiphong (20.48 N. 107.00 E) today.

America and West Indies.

A.C.V's.

- X 18. A message today from B.A.D. Washington gives the intended programme for 9 of the British A.C.V's completing in U.S.A. in the next few months. These escort carriers will assist in transporting U.S.A.A.F. aircraft to Africa, and in return it is expected that the U.S. Army will process and ship R.N. aircraft to the U.K. in tankers as necessary.

A message from the Admiralty to B.A.D. today gives particulars of our aims as regards escort carriers up to the end of 1945.

19. SS. PANAM in Convoy N.K.538 is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk today in 34.19 N. 76. 23 W. about 50 miles S.S.E. of Cape Hatteras. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa on 5th May, however, gave the position as 34.01 N. 76.09 W.

20. Connav reports that ONEIDA from Convoy N.G.559 was sunk on 4 May. No details are known.

U/B's
attacked.

21. An R.C.A.F. aircraft A.W. on escort for Convoy O.N.S. 5 attacked a submarine at 1757Z in 56.38 N. 42.32 W. producing planks or timbers and oil. C. in C. C.N.A. reports the U-Boat probably damaged. H.Q.E.A.C. Canada's preliminary assessment is seriously damaged, possibly sunk.

An aircraft A.E. of the R.C.A.F. on escort for Convoy O.N.S.5 attacked a submarine on the surface at 2039Z (or 2059Z) in 55. 36 N. 43.14 W. and C. in C. C.N.A. reports probably damaged the enemy. Two men on the conning tower were hit and fell into the sea. H.Q.E.A.C. Canada's preliminary assessment is seriously damaged, possibly sunk.

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

F.O.C.T. Flag of F.O.C.T. is to be transferred to UNICORN 0800 tomorrow.
(F.O.C.T. 041347B to INDOMITABLE.)

Movements.

S/M
Movements. Sailed HERRING, SHAD escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE in accordance with Comsubron 50's 011215B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 041016.)
THRASHER is to leave Southend as ordered by EGLINTON on 6th and proceed with G.W.176 to Portsmouth.

2. ROEBUCK is to detail one M.B.B/V to act as close escort to vicinity N.E. Spit Buoy when an M.L. to be detailed by N.O.I.C. Ramsgate is to take escort to destination.

(C. in C.Nore 041521B.)

Situation 2000B/4th.

UNIVERSAL, DORNOCH (757).41, 06.51 to Clyde, 9.

HERRING, SHAD, LA CAPRICIEUSE 056° 14' 007° 18' northward through Minches, 14.

(Capt. S.3 041527B to S/MS.)

Following is a repetition of my 041619.

1. UNSPARING reverse course forthwith and proceed diving by day on route "Gold" to R/V in position X 180° Lizard Head 12 miles at 1200B/7th with KINGSTON TOPAZ thence Dartmouth and Portsmouth. UNBENDING now on route "Rose" will R/V at same time
(F.O.S. 041629B.)

1. Cancel paragraphs A. and B. of my 041220.

2. My 041619. Estimate UNBENDING, UNSPARING, MUSKETEER in 046° N. at 0800/5th on route, "Rose" and "Gold" respectively.
(F.O.S. 041639B to S/MS.)

Position of S/MS at 0800B/5 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 041734B.)

EMERALD.

A.M. 1222A/15th March intend to sail EMERALD from Needles at 1000/5 for Scapa.

2. Route. E.T.A. 0700/7.

3. EMERALD will be escorted by GLAISDALE till dark on 5th unless previously relieved by Plymouth destroyer, thence as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 041158B and 041755B to A.C.O.S.)

Landing craft
& M.Ls. for
Gibraltar.
Group E.
Group F.

A.M. 151841/April para. 3.

1. Group E. should be sailed on 21st May.

2. A further Group of M.Ls. to be referred to as Group F. will be ready to leave Milford Haven about 1st June. Request Trawler escort may be arranged.

(D.O.D.H. 041810B to C. in C.W.A.)

/UGANDA...

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.UGANDA,
CHARYBDIS.

UGANDA take CHARYBDIS under his orders and pass Gate at 0600B/5th. Proceed by A.M.Q.Z.S. 409 and 410 through position P. 050° 10' N. 005° 07' W. Q. 050° 05' N. 014° 59' W. and thence to comply with A.M. 031524B and 040001B, UGANDA detaching CHARYBDIS as necessary. (C. in C.Plymouth 041849B.)

SCYLLA.

Scapa departure SCYLLA.
(A.C.O.S. 042238B.)

Operations.

X Denmark
Straits
Patrol.

Your 032307B. Patrol "White" is being established to N.E. of North Cape by JAMAICA and ECHO. JAMAICA has been instructed not to get within 50 miles of submarine patrol Y. (C.S.10 04131B to C. in C.H.F.)
Your 032307. Hvalfjord departures 0451B JAMAICA and ECHO. (A.C.I.C. 040546B to C. in C.H.F.)

S/M Patrols.

Estimate position at 0800B/4th. ^{SIMOON.} ~~SPLENDID~~ on patrol in vicinity 046° 50' N. 005° 31' W. (F.O.S. 041229B and 041639B.)

O.10 sailed from Lerwick 1310B/4th to patrol in vicinity 063° 50' N. 000° 30' W. routed as in Capt. S.9th 021055. Proceeding unescorted and on surface at C.O.'s discretion.

(S.O. S/M Lerwick 041311B.)

Position of submarines at 0800B/5, and movements for following 24 hours.

A. UNBENDING 45° 59' N. 6° 30' W. proceeding Northward advance 96 miles in 24 hours.

B. UNSPARING 46° 01' N. 6° 01' W. proceeding northward at 96 miles per day.

C. SIMOON on patrol vicinity 46° 50' N. 05° 29' W.

D.O.14 leaves patrol vicinity 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W. at 0900B/5 through 063° 10' N. 00° 40' E. to Lerwick, probably on the surface.

E. O.10 62° 20' N. 00° 30' W. to patrol 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W. probably on the surface.

F. TRUCULENT approx. 65° 21' N. 09° 21' W. probably on the surface through 67° 01' N. 12° 59' W. thence to patrol on Meridian of 16° W. between 67° 29' W. and coast of Iceland.

G. USURPER on patrol vicinity 63° 30' N. 02° 01' E.

H. SATYR on patrol between Kolbinsey and Grimsey

J. BARB on patrol vicinity 68° 05' N. 016° 02' W.

K. BLACKFISH on patrol vicinity 67° 30' N. 019° 01' W.

M. HERRING and SHAD escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE vicinity Cape Wrath proceeding West of Orkneys and Shetlands to 270°

Muckle Flugga 5 miles, E.T.A. 0001B/6, thence HERRING through 66° 10' N. 012° 00' W. SHAD through 062° 01' N. 001° 20' W. 66° 29' N. 010° 50' W.

(F.O.S. 041734B to Admt.)

1. Intend M.L. 233 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 513 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.

War Diary.

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

~~S/M~~ Patrols.
(Contd.)

2. Leaving Portland at 2100 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leaving patrol line at dawn/5.
3. Object Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Device". (F.O.I.C. Portland 041245B.)
My 041245B. "Device" cancelled. Boats remaining in harbour at short notice. (F.O.I.C. Portland 041917B.)

Exercises.

A.L.T.
Exercise.

Scapa departure FURIOUS escorted by TUMULT, BRECON, BLANKNEY.
(A.C.O.S. 041957B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
Fleet unit will be exercising with her R/C aircraft in area to North and East 057° 30' N. 012° W.
(C. in C.H.F. 042340B to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation
S.N.111A

My 031842. Cancel last sentence and substitute one Catalina commences A/S escort first light 5th.
(C. in C.Rosyth 042122B to R.A.M.)

Enemy Air Activity.

DENBIGHSHIRE
attacked.

Following read from DENBIGHSHIRE. Am being attacked by A/C 48.04 N. 22.14 W.
(Burnham Radio 041755 to Admty. C. in C.W.A.)

Mining.

+ Mines off
River Don.

A fisherman reports that to-day about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off short N.E. of mouth of River Don, he found in his net a parachute 4 feet wide attached to a new $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wire. He buoyed parachute wire and net which was fast to something heavy. He reports also another fisherman saw something like a parachute in same area. Depth of water 3 to 4 fathoms. Aircraft during recent raid on Aberdeen on 21st April dropped bombs near bridge of Don and it appeared possible then that mouth of Don had been mistaken for mouth of Dee. It appears likely that these parachutes are attached to mines. Approach channel to Aberdeen has been swept 5 times by Skids and will be swept with L.L. sweepers.

(F.O.I.C. Aberdeen 040018B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

F.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 040018. Lieutenant from VERNON is proceeding Aberdeen by air. Request
Lieutenant Commander Chappel may be sent Aberdeen to organize beaching of object.
(D.T.M. 041151B to C. in C.Rosyth.)

/Operation...

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining - Contd.

Operation K.L.1 My O31735B May. Operation is further postponed and will not take place tonight.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 041420B.)

S.N.3B. Following from R.A.M. by aircraft. Operation S.N.3B delayed due to weather. Hope to complete ten hours late. T.O.O. 1205.
(Sullom Voe 041930B to Admty.)

Western Channel Sweep. Both searches referred to in my 031831 completed with negative results. At end of second search ELGIN reported spherical object heavily encrusted with marine growth in sweep possibly old German type X mine. This sank on being cleared in 50° 04' 12" N. 4° 46' 30" W.
(M/S 4 042159B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

U-Boats.

Biscay Area. Three inward bound U-Boats estimated near UNSPARING and UNBENDING.
(D.D.I.C. 040916B to S/Ms.)

N.Atlantic. U-Boats estimated in your vicinity as at 1200Z/4 as follows.
1 within 30 miles of 48° 30' N. 19° 00' W. moving N.W.
1 within 50 miles of 47° 30' N. 18° 30' W. westbound.
1 westbound within 60 miles of 46° 40' N. 19° 40' W.
1 eastbound within 30 miles of 47° 30' N. 20° 40' W.
(D.O.D(H) 041055B to KING GEORGE V.)
By D/F at 1129Z U-Boat probably anywhere within 75 miles of 56° 00' N. 42° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 041439B.)
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 041301Z and Admiralty 041439B. Bearings at 1129Z and 1438Z indicates sender is in the vicinity of O.N.S.5. My P.C. and S. 57.08 N. 43.45 W. 061 degs. 7.
(LULWORTH 041500Z to Admty.).
U-Boats attacked by MOYOLA and LANDGUARD in convoy S.C.128
See Shipping.
By D/F at 1206Z, U-Boat estimated to be possibly anywhere within 75 miles of 60° 30' N. 21° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 041541B).
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 49' N. 21° 54' W.
A/C G. of 84 Sqdn. 041800 to Artunshofdi.)
Am over enemy S/M in 47.10 N. 22.57 W.
(A/C J80P 041835B.)
U-Boat sighted by G/84 in 60° 49' N. 21° 54' W. at 1800B.
Attacked with depth charges.
(R.A.F. Iceland 041835B to 15 Group).
Following from DENBIGHSHIRE. 48.10 N. 22.08 W. S/M sighted
(Burnham Radio No. T.O.O. Recd. 1843/4).

/Heavy...

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.N. Atlantic
(Contd.)

Heavy and continuing W/T traffic since 1419Z indicates that a convoy is being shadowed, but very poor D/F conditions make it impossible to say whether O.N.S.5 or S.C.128 is the convoy shadowed.

(D.D.I.C. 041920B to Escorts.)

ORIBI sighted U-Boat on surface in 55.30 N. 43.20 W.
(E.G.3 041950Z to C. in C.W.A.)

U-Boats
attacked
by A/C.

My 221059 July.

1. At 300955 April a Hampden L8TX aircraft attacked an outward bound U-Boat 130 miles north of Faeroes. Thirty men seen in water after attack, 64.30 N. 07.10 W.

2. At 290020 April a Wellington N9LH aircraft attacked an outward bound U-Boat 120 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. The U-Boat was seen stopped on the surface after the attack. 45.00 N. 09.20 W.

3. At 291043 April a Liberator aircraft attacked an outward bound U-Boat 130 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. Some wreckage was seen after the attack.

4. At 021917 a Sunderland aircraft attacked an outward bound U-Boat 80 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. About 15 men were seen to jump overboard before the U-Boat disappeared stern first.

5. The aircraft patrols in the approaches to the Bay of Biscay have been maintained with considerable success. The total sightings since 13th April is now 55 of which 35 U-Boats have been attacked.

(D.A.S.W. 042043B to Cominch.)

Casualties & Defects.

WINCHELSEA.

WINCHELSEA has been in collision in 105° Altacarry 6 miles.

2. GRIPER is to be sailed with utmost despatch to assist and tow WINCHELSEA to Londonderry.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 040704B to N.O.I.C. Campbeltown.)

MOYOLA.

Essential to dock MOYOLA for repairs to dome.
(LULWORTH 041519Z to C. in C.W.A.)

HARTBRIDGE.

Following from HARTBRIDGE. Proceeding Clyde for repairs out of convoy E.N.23. F.21 O collided us this morning near M.1 buoy.
(Port Patrick Radio 041545 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

SHERWOOD.

A.M. 031750B. Intend sailing SHERWOOD from Lough Foyle at 1500B/5th by standard routes speed 12 knots northabout to the Nore arriving 1500B/8th.

SHERWOOD has only one effective engine and requires tugs for berthing.

(Cdre. D.W.A. 041716B to C. in C.Nore.)

War Diary.

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

R.U. 72.

E.T.A. Tiumpun Head 1200B/4th. CAPE PALLISER
Loch Ewe Portion 3 merchant ships. HUGH WALPOLE
Largs, Glasgow and Liverpool Portion 3 merchant
ships. 1 merchant ship independent Scrabster.
(CAPE PALLISER 040615B.)

+ Stragglers
Reports.

To assist the early analysis of causes of
straggling or returning from Atlantic convoys
and to avoid the delay incurred in awaiting
Commodores reports, N.C.S.Os. should ascertain
from every ship arriving in port after
straggling or returning from convoy the reason for separation.
2. A weekly report is to be signalled to Admiralty under
heading stragglers arrived giving ships' names, convoy and
reasons for separation.
3. Items under reasons should be in short form e.g. heavy
weather, fog or other cause which should be specified.
(D.T.D. 041340B to C. in C.W.A.)

+ O.N.S.182,
Smoke Test
W.A.X.O.3

My 011402Z. Number of C.S.A. fitted merchant
vessels available for O.N.182 now reduced to
four and it is possible that three only will
finally sail. No vessels will be available for
O.N.183.

2. In view of uncertainty of future numbers
available, and as the three certain ships for O.N.182 are 12
knot ships which will facilitate their changing station, it
is intended that W.A.X.O.3 should be carried out on O.N.182.
(C. in C.W.A. 041507B to Admty.)

S.C.128.
U-Boats
attacked.

A. 020156. 51.13 N. 45.00 W. 110° 70 from convoy
B. 1 MOYOLA, 2 LANDGUARD. C. 1 020005Z after
long chase to 2000 range on diving no contact.
2 020415Z different U-Boat. Contact lost after
4 attacks. D. MOYOLA 5 depth-charges.
LANDGUARD 30 depth-charges, 24 Hedgehogs.
(LULWORTH 041519Z to C. in C.W.A.)

E.G.2.
WREN

My 041702B. 1. Request you sail WREN as soon
as fuelling is completed on May 6th to proceed
towards 47° N. 29° W. making good 10 knots
subject to avoiding risk of weather damage.
2. WREN to rejoin Second Escort Group.
(C. in C.W.A. 041707B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

K.M.S.14.

Convoy K.M.S.14. After splitting from O.S.47.
PENCARROW - Gibraltar. MASIRAH - Algiers,
BARON YARBOROUGH - Gibraltar. EMPIRE EVE -
Gibraltar F.O. KING HAAKON VII - Gibraltar.
TOPDALSJORD - Bougie. STANFORTH - Gibraltar. EILDON -
Algiers. PRINCE DE LIEGE - Algiers. TRADER (after splitting)
R/T D/F - Bone. FILLEIGH - Algiers. TYNEMOUTH - Oran.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 041918B to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

D.S.40.

SS. LEINSTER allocated for D.S.40 leaving
Clyde p.m. 11th May.
(D.O.D.H. 042000B.)

* O.N.180.

P.C. and S. at 2000Z/4th 057° 30' N. 044° 15' W.
220° 6. SS. BROCKHOLST LIVINGSTONE (U.S.)
straggler since a.m. 2nd, and one other since
a.m. 4th. Request B.A.M.S. for B (?one)
5th May 055° 37' 047° 00' 6th 052° 32' 047° 00'. EYEBRIGHT
not yet joined. Continued strong gales made fuelling
impossible since (?28th). If no improvement, UNION must
leave convoy 6th and BURNHAM probably 7th.
Weather 91803164.
(C.3. 042315Z to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.4.5.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Raiders and Blockade Runners.

- X Intelligence. Vice Opnav's O32114 addressed to Cinclant etc. and Comnavu for action, informs as follows: Navintel blockade runner summary No.2)
- Suspicious vessel (not DRESDEN photographed April 27 in Bordeaux) painted dull grey, straight bow, flush deck, cruiser stern, 1 stack, mainmast well aft, no armament or flag seen although deck cargo may conceal guns, is possibly a raider or runner, sighted by Amex plane at 2140Z/29 in 36.49 N. 44.30 W. speed 15, course 225. Upon sighting vessel altered course radically.
- Raider H was seen in Batavia Feb. 15th, probably being refitted. Now known REGENSBURG (sunk in Denmark Strait 30th March) was diverted via this route and Norwegian Coast to Stettin. Other runners are to take this route, states prisoners, because of Biscay losses.
- Present location of ALTERUFER unknown, possibly minelayer, supply ship, blockade runner or raider may be in Midocean, or off Capetown, Bahia or Magellan now.
- OSORNO(outbound) could be in vicinity of 40.00 S. 40.00 E at this time.
- TANNENFELS and HIMALAYA believed still at Bordeaux ready to depart.
- In Bordeaux two Italian U-Boats are being converted to carry cargo to Japan.
(Comnavu, O41614Z to Admty)

North Atlantic.2 Ships for
U.G.S. 7A.

My O31025, sailed. N.O.I.C.Gibraltar please pass to ROTHESAY and C.T.F. 64. C. in C. Med. pass to N.O.I.C.Philippeville.
(M.S.F.F. O40829Z, O41321 to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Comnavu, Admty, N.O.I.C. Philippeville).

X U/B Survivors
landed at
Altea
(Spain)

Your 292221. No indication of position in which she was sunk other than it was not far from coast. Am endeavouring to obtain position in which survivors were picked up by fishing boat.
(N.A.Madrid, O41030B to Admty (R) Gibraltar)

Dispositions.

Situation at 1957B/4th. My O41045B.
(1) 15 L.C.I.(L) S.O. L.C.I.(L) 170 32 (?54) 11.40 through 33.40 08.45 thence 039° 10.
(2) U.G.S. 7A, U.G.L.3 (Mediterranean Section) ROTHESAY 34.27 07.(?52) through 35.45, 06.30, thence through Straits of Gibraltar 8½. (3) STORNOWAY patrolling off Tagus to R/V 2 merchant ships 235 Fort Bantigio Light 5 miles at 2200B/4th and 241 coastwise to Cape St. Mary's 8.
(4) C.G. 30, ACUTE, sailing Casablanca 0800B/5th through 34.03 08.01 thence 036° 7. (5) Coastal craft convoy COVERLEY,

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4.5.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions (Contd.) BREAM 39.39 11.59 through 36.40 10.02 thence to Gibraltar 10. (6) X (?G) 6 (?LOTUS) 2 merchant ships towed by 4 tugs 35.50 05.59 to 37 (?01) 09.59 6.

(F.O.Gibraltar, 041045B)

Situation 2002B/4th. U.G.F.8. C.T.F.67 036° 24' 040° 31' through 035° 45' 034° 10' thence 103° 13½ (F.O.Gibraltar, 041053B)

Situation report 1959B/4th for Area Y. DEVONSHIRE 33.20 20.50 through 35.01 19.41 thence 022° 19. (2) ST.NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH 1 Tanker sailed Ponta Delgada p.m. 3rd through 37.35 25.01 thence 102° 9.

(F.O.Gibraltar 041151B)

Axis Shipping, Bilbao. Arrival 4th BALTIC, JEUNE DENISE, PAX CHRISTI, Departure 4th, CAMPAS. (Bilbao, 041125/5 to Admty)

HEBE II. Left 4th 100 G.M.T. HEBE II escorted by ST.NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH.

(N.C.S.O.Ponta Delgada, 041130 to S.O.(I)Gib.

(R) Admty.)

HEBE II escorted by ST.NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH, departed Ponta Delgada 1100A May 4th. (2) E.T.A. Casablanca 2000A/May 8th. (3) Request you sail trawlers to Gibraltar on completion. (F.O.Gib., 042339B to Commorseafron, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty)

Landing and Coastal Craft. Landing craft flight D routed as in A.M.301935/3 and coastal craft as in A.M.172035/2. The error in my 031356/5 is regretted. (C. in C. W.A.041140B to F.O.C.Gib. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, Admty, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C.Milford Haven) W.D.Note: F.O. Gibraltar, 031908B refers.

ALMAACK towed by ARAPAHO. My 021500. Amend S. of A. to 8.2 knots in accordance with visual message to A/C from C.T.F. 68. 1830A/03. Position 33.32 N. 08.50 W. "Chop" 24° W. 1630A/07 May. E.T.A. Bermuda 0400/18 May. (C.M.S.F.F. 041222Z to N.O.B.Bermuda (R) Connav, Cinclant, Admty, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. C.E.S.F. (?N.O.I.C.Casablanca) C.T.F.68)

Convoy X.K.6. Intend to sail Convoy X.K.6 at 1800 May 4 escorted by LOTUS, DIANELLA, HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK. (2) Convoy consists of FORT PASKOYAC towed by EMPIRE LARCH and EMPIRE HARRY, SEMINOLE towed by SCHELDE and HUDSON and CRWT (as received) PAUL LEMERLE.

(4) Routed T 37° 01' N. 09° 59' W. U 42° 01' N. 14° 01' W. V 45° 01' N. 14.01 W. thence as routed by Admty, S. of A. 5½ knots

(5) Codeword "Camel". (6) First two letters W/T callsign HR. (F.O.Gibraltar 041237B to Admty. C. in C. W.A.(R) C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C., F.O.S.)

My 041237 sailed.

(F.O.Gibraltar 041825B)

L.S.T's /...

War Diary.4.5.1945.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic (Contd.)

- L.S.T's for Med. Cargoes. B.A.D. Washington's 010103. No advance information has been received. Information so far obtained from ships on their arrival. (F.O.Gibraltar, 041241 to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty)
- X.K.6. Sailed. FORT PASCOYAC in tow of tugs SCHELDE and HODSON Belfast for Milford Haven. SEMINOLE in tow of EMPIRE HARRY AND EMPIRE LARCH Belfast. Tugs hold S.P.02272 (23) and (24) (F.O.Gibraltar 041455B to Admty (R) C. in C. Med, Connav)
- + U/B Sunk Off Canaries 5/4. Admty. pass to B.N.L.O.Dakar and N.O.I.C.Freetown. (Passing action being taken by W.R.) Your 031255B. I have explained situation to Chief of Naval Staff, in view of which although exact position of U-Boat is known to fishermen and it can be seen from air please treat information as confidential. My reference to source of information was to emphasize accuracy and authenticity. Ministry of Marine does know exact position of U-Boat. (Consul, Las Palmas, 041600 to B.N.A.Madrid, (R) Admty, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)
- Swiss Shipping. My 221259 April to F.O.I.C.Gibraltar only. Swiss chartered Spanish MONTE MULHACEN and Swiss CHASSERAL will both leave Genoa about 6th for Gibraltar. (D.E.W.D. 041619B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med.)
- U/B Coastal Craft Convoy. By D/F on 11068Kc/s at 1540Z U-Boat estimated anywhere within 90 miles of 41° 00' N. 14° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 041829B to EMPIRE ANN, MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, COVERLEY, BREAM, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.)
- A/C Coastal Craft Convoy. You were reported by enemy A/C at 1720/4. (D.D.I.C. 041835B to EMPIRE ANN, MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar)
- Movements, Gibraltar. Departures SERAPH and MINNA to Algiers arrivals AMIRAL MOUCHEZ for Casablanca. (F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, 041905 to Admty etc.)
- U/B sighted by Catalina. Following read: Am over enemy S/M in 40.02 N. 13.58 W. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. (A/C, SIM/J., 041944B)

Enemy /...

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/B sighted
by Catalina.
(Contd.)

Enemy S/M previously reported when first sighted
was on course 180° estimated speed unknown.
(A/C SIM/J 041945B)
Am over enemy S/M in 39.57 N. 13.57 W.
(A/C SIM/J 042110B)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships May 4 departed Casablanca U.S.S. NARRA-
GANSET to join U.G.S. 7A, French COMMANDANT DELAGE
for Gibraltar. Arrived U.S.S. P.C.481474 from
Safi, ACUTE, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL from S.L V.E.128,
T.F. 64 with U.G.S. 7A.
(C.M.S.F.F. 042030Z to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty
etc.)

DEVONSHIRE.

My position at 2000B/4th 031° 30' N. 022° 15' W.
speed of advance 16 knots. N.O.I.C. Gibraltar
041151 refers. Weather report.
(DEVONSHIRE, 042035Z to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
C. in C: Plymouth etc.)

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War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Convoy
D.N. 36.

Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z/4th May. 4. 9 knots.
5A. 028° 31' S. 032° 30' E. B. 026° 038°
thence as in my serial number 800,801.
6. LE TIGRE
(N.C.S.O. Durban 040641Z to Admty. etc.)

Dispositions

Situation 1959/4.
CHESHIRE 014° 52' 030° 50' 315° 12 $\frac{3}{4}$.
GEORGES LEYGUES about 011° 01' 028° 01' to
Dakar 19.

CILICIA on patrol about 008° 30' 027° 30' 14. (see also
041022 different position).

COWSLIP escorting 10.07 17.12 to 09.01 15.59 thence Freetown 11 $\frac{1}{2}$

WASTWATER, DUNCTON escorting 11.31 17.11 to 10.53 17.08
thence 115, 7.

ORFASY with one M.L. 09.11 14.33 to Freetown 6 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(F.O.C.W.A. 041021Z.)

Situation at 1958Z/4th May.

BRIDGEWATER, SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, DUNKERY, BUTSER, PORTSDOWN
with O.S.S. 46, 05.26 10.43 122° 9.

COPINSAY, M.Ls. 281, 266, screening off Marshall Is.

M.Ls. 290, 256, 278 screening off Robertport.

M.L. 271 off Port Bouet. M.L. 274 off Accra.

Q.T. escorting 00.39, 08.30 to 01.00 S. 08.30 E. thence 157° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$.

VIRGINIA, THYME escorting 05.10 00.33 E. to 05.30 N. 02.12 E.
thence Lagos 9.

CILICIA on patrol about 07.59 27.01, 14.

(F.O.C.W.A. 041022Z.)

Dakar
Movements.

Arrived NEWCHANG escorted by M.L. 1072, M.L.
1066.
(Comdr. Dakar 041037Z to F.O.C.W.Af.)

ASTURIANO.

Your 031913B (asking for news). Vessel
reported arriving 24th April in Buenos Aires,
Merco 242155.
(Ass. B.M.S.O. Recife 041153Z to Admty.)

Anglo-
French Code.

Distribution of Anglo-French code to ships and
authorities in French W.Africa complete.
2. French request date to bring books into force.
(B.N.L.O. Dakar 041452Z to F.O.I.C. W.Af. (R)
Admty. C. in C.Med.)

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT
visit to
Dakar,
reactions.

S.O. Escort Group 38 ordered COMMANDANT DETROYAT
into Dakar for fuel en route to Freetown.
2. COMMANDANT DETROYAT informs me Admiral
Collinet was very correct though not cordial.
She was given fuel and provisions.
3. B.N.L.O. Dakar reports "Reaction not un-
favourable and no appreciable difficulties".
Anticipate written report tomorrow.

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT,
visit to
Dakar, re-
action.
(Contd.)

4. Unfortunate aspect is that one stoker
stowaway was found on board after leaving.
Free French Mission here have telegraphed
London suggesting he should not be returned
to Dakar.
5. Am keeping Resident Minister informed.
(F.O.C.W.A. 041551Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

FOXHOUND,
MALOJA,
MOOLTAN.

Pointe Noire arrived and left p.m. May 4th
FOXHOUND escorting MALOJA and MOOLTAN in
accordance with your 011925. E.T.A. position
G. 002° 00' S. 004° 40' E. 2000Z/5th. S.O.A.
15 knots. E.T.A. 1100Z/7th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 041605A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.
C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

PICT.

Arrival 040045Z May. PICT escorting.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 041615Z to R.N.O.Lagos, (R)
Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Arrival 040640Z May. LEWES, BOREAS escorting.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 041625Z to Comar Dakar, Admty.)

NANKING
(Sw.) sunk.

NANKING sunk by U-Boat position not available
on 29 April. Six survivors including master
landed Grand Bassa Liberia from one life boat
2nd May. Three boats reported still missing.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 041705Z to Admty. (R) C. in
C.S.A.)

Movements
Takoradi.

Arrival 4th May CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN,
BUTTERMERE.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 041910Z to Admty. etc.)

DESPATCH.

DESPATCH proceed on 6th May or when ready to
Recife through 023° S. 040° W. Report expected
sailing and E.T.A. Com 4th Fleet before sailing.
2. Com. 4th Fleet is requested to sail DESPATCH
to Freetown after a stay of four days at Recife. DESPATCH
should use high speed when east of 027° W.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 041942Z to DESPATCH. Com. 4th Fleet, (R) B.N.A.
Rio de Janeiro, Admty. Cominch.)

GLOIRE.

Request you sail F.C.GLOIRE as convenient to
patrol in patrol area vacated by F.C.GEORGES
LEYGUES and to remain to prudent limit of
endurance.
(F.O.C.W.A. 042003 to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty.
CILICIA, GEORGES LEYGUES, Com.4th Fleet.)

U/B.

Transit aircraft reports sighting wake of U-Boat
at 1215Z/4, 30 miles S.W. of Marshall. Doubtful.
(F.O.C.W.A. 042211Z to Escorts of O.S.S. 46,
Ships in Area P.2. (R) Admty.)

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units M/V bombed. Position of 2 medium enemy vessels and one destroyer, 130° 37' N. 11° E. 24 miles, course and speed unknown.
(A/C FAR/F 040008B to Air H.Q. Malta.)
My 0008B. Have attacked one medium vessel with bombs and estimate 2 hits.
(A/C FAR/K 040045B to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Convoy T.E.20. Arrived 032000A.
(S.O.I.S., 040332A to Admty., etc.)

Movements Famagusta. Arrived and left 3rd May? Greek destroyer AETOS. Arrived 3rd May and left A.M. 4th May. ABDIEL.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, 040847C to Admty etc.)

Malta M.T.Bs. My 032231, (Sailed M.T.Bs. 95, 82, 313) M.T.B. 95 returned, engine trouble.
(V.A. Malta, 040857B to Admty. etc.)

Movements Alexandria. Arrivals 3rd May - RESOURCE, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, BEVOIR, M.L. 355, MIAOULIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 040913C to Admty., etc.)

Convoy A.B.8. Sailing telegram.
2. 00004th May. 3. E.T.A. Sunk Rock 0500Z 10th May. 4. 12 knots. 5.(Route) 6. CANTON.
(2 ships, VARSOVA, EL MADINA) 15. Y.R.D. 3 Aircraft "Peewit."
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 040928Z to Admty., etc.)

M.T.Bs. Sousse. Arrival M.T.B. 82,315.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 040934A/to Admty.)

UNSPARING F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 031206 (N.T. in W.R.) in view of Docking congestion in Mediterranean request that you will recall UNSPARING to U.K. for docking.
(C. in C.Med, 041125A to F.O.S. (R) S.3 F.O.I.C. Gibraltar)

BENNINGTON. Your 031310. Comar Dakar's 031639 is repeated to you for information (begins) Addressed F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C. Trinidad, B.A.D. from Comar Dakar. Intend sail BENNINGTON unescorted 1100/4 May. French Air Protection until last light 4th.
(2) Speed made good 14½ knots routed from Goree Island through position A 14 North 22 West by Great Circle to B.12 N. 60 West thence Curacao. (3) Wireless call sign K.S.Q.B. Signal letters K.E.Z.G. Holding S.P. 02272 (23) and (24) (Ends.)
(C. in C. Med, 041133A to C.M.S.F., (R) Comnavnaw, C. in C. Lant, Admty., F.O.C.W.Af.)

/Movements...

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4.5.1943.

Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,
Malta.

Arrivals ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, HURWORTH, ROCKWOOD, CROOME, EASTON, ADRIAS, KANARIS. Departures BICESTER, OAKLEY, ZETLAND. (V.A. Malta, 04120B to Admty., etc.)

SOKOL,
UPROAR.

Intend to sail ORP. SOKOL and P.31 (UPROAR) for exercise off Cape Matifou 1500/5th thence Malta routed SOKOL through 038° 58' 003° 20' at 1930/5th 038° 07' 004° 43' at 1200/6th. 038° 14' 011° 18' at 1400/9th. P at 2100/9th. P.31 (UPROAR) through 036° 58' 003° 14' at 1930/5th 038° 06' 003° 56' at 0500/6th. 038° 14' 011° 18' at 0300/10th. P. at 0500/10th. (2) Capt. (S) 10 routeing both Submarines onward from P. (3). All times zone minus 1. (Capt.S.8, 041212A to C.in C.Med., Capt.S.10 (R) Cdre. Algiers, ANTIOPE, 8th S.F.)

P.52 (DZIK)
P.43 (UNISON)

UNISON (P.43) sails at 1400B/4 for exercises and P.43 'UNISON) thence to patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8th routed R.Q.P. keeping to starboard of route, passing position P. at about 1600B/6th. (ii) Albacores are carrying out an A/S sweep within 20 miles from Delimara. Sanctuary in force from 0400B/5th but you are not to be in the surface inside sanctuary until daylight. Minesweepers are informed that you may be late at R/V. (Capt. S.10, 041228B to P.52, Capt.(S) 8th (R) Subs. on patrol, Capt.(S) 1st, C. in C. Medn., C. in C. Levant.)

U/B
Assessment
28/3.

Attacks by Hudson L. of 48 Sqdn. Hudson L. of 233 Sqdn and Hudson V. of 48 Sqdn on 28.3.43 have been assessed as known sunk.
2. Attack by L/48 so damaged U-Boat that L/233 and V/48 were enabled to get in their attacks.
3. Please give our congratulations to those concerned with this success.
(D.A/S.W. Approved 1st Sea Lord, 041317B to Air Ministry (R) C. in C. Med.)

P.47
(DOLFIJN)
TACTICIAN.

(1) My 021148. Onward routeing for P.47 through 038° 42' 011° 30' at 001/5th 038° 32' 003° 58' at 0800/8th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 03' at 0615/9th. (2) Onward routeing for P.314 (TACTICIAN) through 038° 39' 009° 39' at 0800/8 038° 32' 003° 58' at 2030/10 thence R/V with escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 10' at 0615/11. (Capt.S.8, 041408A to P.47, P.314 (TACTICIAN). (R) C. in C.Med. Cdre. Algiers, Capt. (S) 10, 8th S/M F.)

Malta
S/Ms.

Arrivals UNSHAKEN (P.54) departure UNISON (P.43) (V.A. Malta, 041425B to Admty. etc.)

/Movements...

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements,
Aden.

Arrivals 0931Z B.V. PLANET, 1328Z DAUNTLESS,
Departure 0903 CANTON.
(Cdre. Aden, 041503Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)

P.219
(SERAPH)

Onward routing through 135° Cape Palos 5 at 2200/
6 038° 02' 002° 03' at 2300/7, thence R/V escort
Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 00' at 0630/8.
2. All times zone minus 1, all positions North
and East.
(Capt. S.8. 041514A to P.219 (R) C. in C. Med.
F.O.I.C., Gibraltar, S.O. Force 'H' Commob. Oran,
Cdre., Algiers, ANTIOPE, MARSOIN, TRIBUNE.)

Situation
report
No. 88.

During night 1st/2nd May destroyers of Force Q
operated South of Marittimo and those of Force
K carried out sweep in Sicilian Channel.
Weather was unsuitable for M.T.B. operations.
2. During night 2nd/3rd May (A) TARTAR,
BLYSKAWICA, LOYAL BICESTER, OAKLEY and ZETLAND
proceeded from Bone on sweep south of Marittimo. Increased
air activity was noticeable. Force was attacked at dusk when
one bomb was dropped near LOYAL and a further attack about 2331/2
turned back after one aircraft had been shot down by "Hunts".
After completing sweep, "Hunts" proceeded to Malta and
remainder returned to Bone. (See also 061912)
(B) M.T.Bs from Bone in two groups were on sweep between Cani
Rocks and Zembra and to the Northward. M.T.B.311 was mined and
sunk in position 37.26 N. 09.53 E. at 2120/2. One serious and
slight casualties. (C) American M.T.Bs from Bone operated in
Bizerta Roads. (D) M.T.Bs from Sousse carried out sweep of
Cape Bon Peninsula to Sidi Daud. 3. During night 3rd/4th May
NUBIAN, PALADIN and PETARD on sweep from Malta sank one medium
merchant ship and one small destroyer off Kelibia at 0059/4. → ^{See} _{Page} 207
(W.D. Note, See Malta, 041855Z) ESKIMO and LOOKOUT were on sweep
in Sicilian Channel. 4. UNBROKEN reports sank 450 ton schooner
at anchor off Solanto Point 38.11 N. 12.46 E. At 1617/27
attacked 6,000 ton Northwest bound merchant ship in 38.13 N.
13.26 E. One explosion heard one hour later, destroyer escort
seen searching, no sign of target. 5. Address indicating
Group 264 is allocated to Addressees of this message and will be
used for future situation reports.
(C. in C. Med., 041549A, 061912, to Admty.)

Movements,
Oran.

Arrived RHYL, L.C.T. 584, 613, 547, 613, 552, 605,
arrived U.G.L. with L.S.T. 415, 416, 404, 414,
408, 405, U.S.S., L.S.T. 6,357, 576, 375, 373,
U.S.S. PEPPERWOOD, Y.M.S. 226, 62, 69.
(Commob, Oran, 041555A to C. in C. Med. Admty. etc.)

ALBA
JULIA
(Rumanian)

My 031120C. ALBA JULIA expected to sail for
Aegean 15 G.M.T. today May 4th. B.2.
(S.O.I. Istanbul, 041616C to C. in C. Levant,
S.O.I. Levant, (R) S.1. S.10, D.N.I.)

/My...

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ALBA JULIA. (Rumanian) (Contd.) My 031120C. ALBA JULIA expected to sail for Aegean 15 G.M.T. today May 4th. B.2. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 041616C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.I. Levant. (R) S.O.S.10 D.N.I.) My 041616C. ALBA JULIA sailed 1640 G.M.T. expected enter Aegean 0700/0900 G.M.T. May 5th. (S.O.I. Istanbul, 041941C. to C. in C. Levant etc.)

Movements Port Said. 4th May Port Said arrivals SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, SHOREHAM, COCKCHAFER, SCARAB. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 041634C. to Admty. etc.)

Tripoli A/T defence. Your 301314C. Para. 3 of C. in C. Med.'s 011941A (Hush distribution) approved. Arrangements to ship replacements to Levant will to made as early as practicable, probably July. 2. In these circumstances do you still wish consideration to be given to your 111350. (D.L.D. 041702B to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med.)

N.W.A.A.F. Report. To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz, N.A.A.F. H.D.Qs. Adv. 3079. May 3rd. Bad weather seriously interfered with all missions. 3. 14 B.17s of the 2nd Bomb Group dropped 156 500 pound bombs from 17 to 20,000 feet at 1730 hrs. in harbour and sea plane installations in Bizerta. 13 landed at 1931 hrs. 1 crash landed at Ouled Rahmoun. 25 B.17s on the same mission ran into bad weather and landed at various scattered fields. 4. Later a detailed report will be given. (N.W.A.A.F.. 041748A to A.F. Ferry Command, Cairo, and Etousa for action.)

Malta Destroyers. Arrived NUBIAN, PALADIN, PETARD. (V.A. Malta, 041752B to Admty., etc.)

Small Craft, Levant. Your 030012A/12/42. With approval of C. in C. Levant an organisation known as Directorate of Small Craft Levant, has been established in Cairo under M.W.T. Middle East with effect from 1st. May 1943, to centralise chartering and administration of small craft at base ports on Levant station. 2. Capt. F.G. Schurr R.N. has assumed directorship of new organisation. 3. Allocation to and control of all small craft at operational parts will remain a sea transport responsibility. 4. Small craft accounts will be certified for payment by D.S.C.L. and passed to Sea Transport for settlement. (P.S.T.O.M.E., 041804C to D.S.T. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

/M.L.459...

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.M.L.459. Departure.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 041854A to Admty.)

Malta A.I. 543 4 May. C.S.R.
Air (a) Air - Part I. Offensive. In spite of
Report. poor visibility with haze which hampered offensive
Destroyer operations successful attack was made on enemy
Action off shipping 1 special equipment Albacore with bombs
Kelibia. and flares and 3 Albacores with torpedoes on
armed search for enemy shipping Cape Bon area
sighted at 2208 hours in 36° 41' N. 11° 17' E.
2 M/Vs of 5000 and 1000 tons and possibly a small
M/V being engaged by friendly Naval Units. (W.D. Note see C. in
C. Med, 041549A, para 3.) At 2240 hours bomb carrying Albacore
attacked M/V of 1000 tons scoring hits on the bows causing large
fire. 1 torpedo Albacore is missing. To cover shipping strike
Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over Sicilian narrows and
Eastern Sicily no suitable target was found. Day 4th May.
Poor visibility with haze curtailed offensive operations.
Part 2. Enemy air activity day 3rd May. 4 Beaufighters
provided dusk escort for friendly shipping incoming from South.
Night 3/4th May Nil. Day 4th May. 42 Spitfires sorties were
flown as escort and cover for friendly shipping which arrived in
harbour at 0800 hours. 1600 hours 1 plus enemy aircraft
approached Malta but turned back before crossing coast. 4
Spitfires airborne on interception made no sighting owing to
thick haze.
(c) Navy. A convoy of 5 merchant ships and 1 tanker arrived
this forenoon from Alexandria. Last night, 3 of our D/Rs
carrying out a sweep sank a 7000 tons merchant ship carrying
bombs land mines and M.T. and a small D/R of the CASSEOPEA Class
off Kelibia. 5 survivors were picked up by 1 ship. Suffered
no damaged or casualties.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 041855Z to Air Min.)

BICESTER. You were reported by enemy aircraft at 1650A.
(V.A. Malta, 041911 to BICESTER (R) TARTAR, N.L.O.
8th Army, Tripoli.)

SPLENDID, S.8's 271438 April. Propose SPLENDID be paid off
SAHIB, on 2nd May and SAHIB on 3rd May.
Lost. (C. in C. Med. 041945 to Admty.)

Algiers Arrivals F.O.H. in NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE
Movements. FERNDALE, CALPE, TYNEDALE, HAYDON, PUCKERIDGE,
ILEX, VENOMOUS, VELOX, WHEATLAND, WILTON, AURORA,
PENELOPE, ADVENTURE, WISHART, ANTHONY, VELOX,
WHEATLAND, WILTON, AURORA, PENELOPE, ADVENTURE,
WISHART, ANTHONY, M.L. 283273. Departures SINIUS, NEWFOUNDLAND
D.19 in LAFOREY.
(Com. Algiers, 042001 to Admty., C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

/Movements...

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,
Bone.Bone arrivals, SIRIUS, NEWFOUNDLAND, Departures
AURORA, PENELOPE.
(S.O.I.S., 042001A to Admty., etc.)Movements,
Tripoli.Arrived and (?left) 3rd KELVIN, JAVELIN, arrived
and stopped 4th (? POOLE) SEAHAM, T.L.C. 118 Tug
CORO (?O)NATION, Tug HENRIETTA MOLLER, GLOXINIA,
PRIMULA, KLO.
(N.O.I.C. Libya, 042001A to Admty.)

BARFLAKE.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Phillippeville, 042012A to Admty.)Movements,
Oran.L.S.Ts. 415, 641, 404, 414, 408, 405, RHYL,
L.C.Ts. 584, 618, 548, 605, 613, 552, 547, 549, 550,
551, 554, 559, 578, 585, 607. L.C.Fs 3 and 4,
U.S.S. PEPPERWOOD, U.S. Y.M.S. 62 and 69, P.C.
562, U.S. L.S.Ts. 6, 357, 373, 375, 376 arrived.
FOULA, HUNA, WESTRAY, KINTYRE, M.M.S. 46 140, 58, 89, M.L. 577, 566,
L.C.T. 328 and French S/M (?TAURUS) departed.
(?Com. N.O.B. Oran, 042035Z to Cominch, Admty. etc.)VILLE DE
STRASBOURG
suggested
repairs at
Lisbon.Your 031242. Vessel named should not be
sent in to Lisbon in view of possibility of
enemy obtaining her arrest by legal process.
Similar objection applies to all shipping which
is not British owned.
(Hd. of M.I. 042104B to C. in C. Med. (R) N.A.
Lisbon.)ERINPURA,
BRITISH
TRUST
survivors.Following from C. in C. Levant (begins) -
P.S.T.O. Egypt (Port Said)(R) M.W.T. M.E. Forces
from C. in C. Levant. Approx number of survivors
known are ERINPURA 464. BRITISH TRUST, 60
landed at Benghazi 2nd May and Tripoli 3rd May.
T.O.O. 031515C May (ends.)
(P.S.T.O. Egypt (Port Said), 042123C to D.S.T.)Movements
Tobruk.Arrived ZAHRA M.L.356 M.L.359.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 042242C to Admty.)Movements
Benghazi.Sailed SANTA, SAHRA, M.L.351. Arrived ABERDARE,
BAGSHOT. FAREHAM, HARROW, RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON
CYANITE, ZINGARELLA, M.L.358.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 042314C to Admty. (R) C. in
C. Levant.)

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival at 0215Z 4th DEVON CITY.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 040223Z to Admty.).
Arrival 0305Z 4th BARSTOKE.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 040310Z to Admty.).
VITA sails 8th May for Suez. Your 300733 refers.
(P.S.T.O. India 040617Z to C. in C. E.F.).
Left CERES, MARGUERITE.
(F.O. East Africa 041151Z to Admty.).
Colombo arrivals 4th 0300 CHITRAL.
(F.O. Ceylon 041530Z/5 to Admty.).

KINEYUAN Afloat 040218Z proceeding on voyage do not
require assistance. Cancel my previous? message
Master KINGYUAN.
(KINGYUAN via Colombo 040322Z to Admty.).

RUKMAVATI Ship referred to My 030949 returning Calcutta
on account of adverse weather.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 040341Z to Admty.).

Convoy Arrived.
M.B.34. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 040427Z to Admty.).

EMPIRE Sailing telegram Section 2.
WOODLARK Durban approx. 12th via Dar Es Salaam 5th (A) 11
(B) 12½ knots. (Route).
Section 1 passed to Cominch C and R as my 040503Z.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 040508Z to C. in C. W.A. etc.)

CITY OF Sailing telegram.
LONDON. (b) Khoramshar. (C) 1st May (D) Date of arrival
10th. (Numbers).
(D.S.T.O. Persian Gulf 040555Z to S.T.O.
Karachi).

M.B.34 Arrivals 0130Z TAMWORTH with M.B.34. 0340Z.
P.B.38 RATNAGIRI with P.B. 38.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 040626Z to Admty.).

P.A.37 My 040735Z. Sailing telegram Part 2 (14 Ships
P.B.39 list).
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 040740Z to C. in C. E.F.).

JALAVEERA Sailing telegram.
(b) Basra (c) 27th April (d) Aden 15 May via
Masirah.
(k) Requirements Aden.
(D.S.T.O.P.G. 040901Z to S.S.T.O. Suez, (R)
D.S.T.O. Aden, P.S.T.O. Egypt, P.S.T.O. India,
D. of S.T.).

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies. -(contd.).

Movements summary No.60 May 4th.
 (1) RESOLUTION , NIZAM, QUICKMATCH, left Kilindini 3rd due Durban 9th.
 (2) CERES left Kilindini 4th for Bombay due Colombo 12th calling Seychelles 7th.
 (3) MARGUERITE left Kilindini 4th escorting one transport due Dar Es Salaam 5th thence Durban.
 (4) DAUNTLESS left Bahrein 1st due Kilindini 11th calling Aden 6th.
 (5) CANTON (?left) Aden 4th (?escorting) (?convoy) A.B.8 2 ships to Bombay.
 (6) CHITRAL leaves Colombo 5th escorting one transport to Aden due about 12th.
 (7) TULIP left Colombo 1st due Kilindini 10th calling Seychelles 7th.
 (8) ULSTER MONARCH left Kilindini 3rd due Aden 9th.
 (9) Following Y messages cancelled 257 Y of 26th April 261 Y of 28th April.
 (C. in C. E.F. 040945Z to E.F. 271Y Admty. etc.).

Air Report India. Daily Intelligence Summary No. 415 4th May. 30th April. 5 B.24's shipping Rangoon. 15 x 1000 lb and 7 x 2000 lb G.P.I. from 23000 ft. No hits shipping. Several hits dock area. Unsuccessful attempt interception by 3 E/A.
 + 1 May. 8 B.24's shipping Rangoon. 72 x 500 lbs. G.P. from 23500. Several direct hits 200 ft. M/V. Believed sunk. Buildings and warehouses dock area damaged. Intercepted by 5 E/A. 1 B.24 missing.
 (A.H.Q. India 0412/5Z, 041235Z, 041300Z to Air Min.).

WAYLAND ADAMANT LUCIA Decided that the following movements are to take place as early as possible, consistent with suitable escort being provided.
 (2) (a) WAYLAND to Mediterranean, proceeding via Alexandria and being passed through to Western basin after Sicilian narrows are open.
 (b) ADAMANT to Kilindini to relieve H.M.S. WAYLAND.
 (c) LUCIA to Gibraltar routed as for H.M.S. WAYLAND.
 (3) Depending on escort arrangements, WAYLAND should not await ADAMANT's arrival at Kilindini.
 (4) Request you will make the necessary arrangements keeping Admiralty informed.
 (D.O.D.(F) 041245B to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O.Ceylon, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. S.4. F.O.S.).

RESOLUTION C. in -C. E.F. 230825/ April. When taken in hand RESOLUTION and REVENGE are to make good only such defects as are essential for sea-going efficiency to keep them going for a period of a further six months.
 (D.O.D.(F) 041259B to C. in C. E.F. (R) Com. Durban).

/ M.E.I.R.I...

135

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.-(contd.).

M.E.I.R.I.

Amendment No.13 to M.E.I.R.I. Section XII add
new para.D.
(C. in C. E.F. 041350Z).

War Diary.

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

Movements Seattle arrived 1930/2nd March SEARCHER?
(N.S.H.Q., 040036Z to Admty).
St. Johns May 3rd Arrivals MALPEQUE, SARNIA escorting J.H.49 A from Halifax, departures B.Y.M.S.65, 66, 67, 185 to U.K.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 040231Z to Admty).
New York arrived May 2nd FENCER.
(N.S.H.Q., 040401Z to Admty).
Arrival THREE RIVERS, PLACHINE, ESQUIMALT ex J.H.51.
(C. Halifax, 041231Z to Admty).
Arrivals 4th BUSY, GEMMA from Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 041512B to Admty).
San Francisco 1st May. PRESIDENT JOHNSON and JOHN B. FLOYD in convoy for Brisbane and Tutuila respectively. GEORGE S. BOUTWELL Noumea. All U.S.A.T.
(N.S.H.Q., 041651Z to D.N.I. Wellington).
Departure GALT for St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 041907Z to Admty).

New Construction sailing dates.	My 281526Z. Name	Amendments. Number	Sailing date	Destination
	"Chaser"	A.C.V.10	2nd Week June	U.K.
	"Weazel"	B.A.T.14	2nd week May	No change

B.Y.M.S.31, 68. Y.M.S.187, 209. No change Levant via St. Johns Londonderry and Gibraltar. B.Y.M.S.49,50.
Y.M.S.155, 156. No change Levant via above route.
(B.A.M.R., 040119Z to Admty).

SACKVILLE 2200Z/4 sailing SACKVILLE to St. Johns N.F. routed (S) 44° 30' N., 62° 24' W. (O) 46° 21' N. 52° 40' W. (L) 47° 30' N., 52° 18' W. Speed 14 knots E.T.A. 0900Z/6 W/T 105 k/cs.
2. Request you sail ship to join Group C.1. New Convoy Cycle suggest this can be accomplished by SACKVILLE proceeding to U.K. as additional escort H.X. 237. Admty. 250010 April refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 040123Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.in C. W.A. Admty) As amended C. in C. C.N.A. 050026Z.

Dispositions My 031645Z section east add B.Y.M.S.65, 66, 67 and 185 departed St. Johns N.F. 2000Z steering 105° 10 knots alter to 053° in 47.00 W. (C.O.A.C., 040130Z to Admty).
Section North West. Special river group GANANOQUE vicinity of Fame Point Bay Father Point stationing as ice conditions permit.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 041750Z to Admty).

ASPIRANT, ADVANTAGE. Your 302125 (Z), April. Request H.M.R.T. ASPIRANT be sailed to St. Johns N.F. when read. H.M.R.T. ADVANTAGE remaining Bermuda.
(Admty. 040132B to B.A.D., (R) F.O.N.F., C. in C. Bermuda, C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

ANDES Position at 2000Z May 3rd was 112° 24' miles from position K. E.T.A. Pilot, 1745²/₄th. (ANDES, 040155Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.) Amended ANDES 040401Z.

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary 1800 G.M.T. 4th.	F.S. GEORGES LEYGUES	10° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CILICIA	08° N., 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CHESHIRE	15° N. 31° W.	316°	13 ¹ / ₂

(D.O.D. (F), 040827Z to Opnav (R) Comnavu).

Convoy Arrived.
B.T.11 (B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 041028Z to Admty).

SEARCHER This is Cominch 032032 addressed Comnowestseafron, Compaseafron (R) Com. 11, Com, 13 B.N.L.O. Norfolk, Comeastseafron, Comgulfseafron, Comcaribseafron, Comsoeastpacfor, Com.11th Flt. Cinclant, and Admiralty.

Comnorwestseafron sail SEARCHER when ready about 9th May independently to Balboa. Advise time of departure. Speed of advance and route. No operating plans on board. Compaseafron sail onward to Norfolk in Trade convoy or independently if satisfactory to other sea Frontier Commanders concerned and advise time of departure, speed of advance and route. Action addressees furnish protection as practicable. (Comnavu.041146 to Admty).

X Biscay A/S Air Offensive. Following from Chiefs of Staff No. C.O.S. (W) 601. Ref. J.S.M.916. It is quite true that our request was based on the figures provided at the Atlantic Convoy Conference and recorded in Annex A to Appendix A to ACC.3. It is a grievous disappointment to be told that these figures are not accurate. The next step is clearly to obtain the correct figures from the U.S. Chiefs of Staff and we shall be glad if you will obtain these as quickly as possible in order to enable us to reconsider the position. (Air Min. 041200Z to Britman Washington).

H. J. 49 A Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 041215Z to Admty).

Lifeboat distress signal. Apparently lifeboat transmitting S O S approx. 59° 55' N., 43° 35' W. last heard 0809 G.M.T. (Ship at Sea (NUMS 5) 041220Z to Iceland W/T)

H.H.X. 237 Departure ST. ALBANS, BRANTFORD escorting H.H.X. 237.
(C. Halifax, 041229 to Admty).

War Diary.4.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.North Atlantic
convoy
cycles,
Escort
Groups.

If proposal in N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 032240 were accepted it would be necessary to re-arrange sailings of both fast and slow convoys in order to meet the requirements of Mid Ocean Groups put forward in my 271124 March (N.T. in W.R.)

2. I consider that the very serious disadvantages of such re-arrangement far outweigh the saving of one local escort group.
(C. in C. W.A., 041238 to Admty).

SPEY

Your 032346Z defects to SPEY now completed. Am sailing her with E.G.1.
(F.O.N.F., 041248Z to C. in C. W.A. (R)
Connav, C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. ROSEMARY, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.16, Com. (D) Argentina)

S.P.A.B.1

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 041258Z to Admty).

CLARKIA
reinforcement
A/S forces
West Africa.

X The increasing weight of U-boat attack in West Africa has made immediate reinforcement of A/S forces essential.

2. It would be appreciated if CLARKIA could now be released from the Caribbean.

3. If you agree it is requested you will sail her as soon as convenient for Freetown.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 041258B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet,
(R) C. in C. Lant, S.B.N.O.W.At., F.O.C.W.Af., N.S.H.Q.)

Release CLARKIA. Sail as soon as possible to Freetown and direct ship to report to Admiralty for duty. Advise D/F route speed of advance.

(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 042106Z to Cdr. Caribbean S.F., Cdr. Gulf S.F., S.B.N.O.W.A., F.O.C.W.Af. N.S.H.Q., Admty. Com. 4th Fleet).

Convoy G.A.T.
59.

Arrived.
(B.R.L.O. Trinidad, 041314Q to Admty).

P.C. Boats.

Salor 7274.

Further to Salor 7189. 180 ft. P.C. boats. Confirmed outstanding requirement is 135. As these boats are subject to assignment and our information is that only 50 remain unassigned up to 31st March 1944, we feel that to press for early delivery of 135 may result in our being offered the 173 ft. boat instead. This is not acceptable since we consider that to man them would be wasteful relative to their A/S value in areas of British responsibility. We badly need the 180 ft. vessels, however, for we have sacrificed our trawler programme to build Ocean Escort vessels and we hope our outstanding requirement will eventually be met.
(Head of M.A.S. 041329B to B.A.D.)

/Fuelling...

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies -(contd.).

- Fuelling at Your 251912 April para.3.
Sea escorts O.N.S.3 SAN TIRSO 579 tons oil passed to escorts
of O.N.S.3. in six operations. No depth charges carried.
Parted steadying line twice in heavy swell.
Merchant vessel quarter chocks inadequate
notably with wire and manilla spring. When large eye difficult
to pass, also Chafo with all-manila. Request authority design
and fit steadying line fairlead where practicable, particularly
platform and rail ships. Upper surface of such fairlead should
be removeable.
(B.R.L.O. New York 041402Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.).
- Fuelling at Your 191225 April para.2. O.N.178 SAN AMBROSIO.
Sea O.N.178 329 tons oil passed to escorts in six
SAN operations. Average time consumed including
AMEROSIO passing lines 30 tons per hour. No depth charges.
No failures. Report hanger rollers freezing to
pins. Action salt water. Recommend clearance of
pins through rollers being increased to 1/64th inch.
(B.R.L.O. New York 041403Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.).
- Fuelling at Your 191225 April para.3. O.N.178 SAN ADOLPHO
Sea O.N.178 58 tons oil passed to escorts in two operations.
SAN No depth charges. Three failures. Twice fuelling
ADOLPHO trough method three onehalf inch canvas hose
parted. One oiling astern buoyant (emergency set)
escort fouled hose line dragging hoses along
jack stay breaking metallic length to stern discharge.
(B.R.L.O. New York 041404Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.).
- Task Force Cinclant 032357 addressed for action to
66. Comdeslant and for information Admiralty Cominch,
Comdesron 31, Comnowesafseafon, Com.3,
Comnavnaw, Comtaskfor 29, Cinmed and Comnavau,
informs as follows:
Deliver these orders to Captain Martinson U.S.C.G. in INGHAM.
X Task Force 66, Capt. Martinson, U.S.C.G. hereby established;
INGHAM, BIBB, GREER, DOYLE, UPSHUR, BABBITT, THREAT, PORTENT,
PIONEER, ESCALANTE. Escort convoy U.G.S.6A ready New York 13th
May to Casablanca and other North African ports. Cominch
(C and R) will specify location of "Chop" for diversion purposes
follow route prescribed by him. To fuel escorts at sea, use
ESCALANTE.
At point to be specified by Cominch (C and R), turn over to

/ other...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Task Force 66. other escort the vessels bound for Mediterranean ports.
Return to New York in accordance with Admiralty routing, escorting convoy G.U.S.8. when directed by Commander, Moroccan Sea Frontier.
Vessels in Task Force should report to Captain Martinson, at or as they arrive New York, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 31, direct these vessels accordingly.
(Comnaveu 041403 to Admty.).

X Communications C.O.S.(W) 602.
"Secrecy" We have delayed answering your J.S.M.760 pending the conclusion of arrangements for introducing within our own Service Departments definitions contained in C.O.S.(W) 349. It has now been agreed between British Service Departments to bring these definitions into force on 1st July, 1943, for documents issued after that date only.
(2) We would, of course, much prefer that Americans should introduce a "Most Secret" category to conform with our own. Short of that we now suggest that equivalents should be:-
(a) British Most Secret of Secret = American Secret.
(b) British Confidential = American Confidential.
(c) British Restricted = American Restricted.
(3) If you can secure complete agreement to our categories, proposal in your para.1. should be unnecessary. If not, and our alternative suggestion regarding Most Secret and Secret British categories being equivalent of American Secret category, is accepted, then we agree your proposal in your para.1. We agree that secrecy equivalents applied to communications material should be the same as those applied to official documents generally.
(Air Min. 041450Z to Britman, Washington).

J.H.52 Sailing Telegram.
(2) 1500Z/4.
(3) E.T.A. Halifax 1900Z/7.
(4) Seven.
(5) Route. PENOLVER from Wabana Junction in position (D) at 1430Z/4 LIVERPOOL LOYALIST and CHARLES R. HUNTLEY detach in position (H) for St. Lawrence. PENOLVER and SANTIAGO detach in position (K) for Sydney. Louisberg or Sydney ships junction in position (K) at 1900Z/6.
(6) CAPE ARGONA, NIPIGON, STRATFORD.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns. N.F. 041502Z, 041503Z, 041729Z to Admty.).

Submarine estimate 4th May. U.S.Submarine notice. (Cominch 041502Z, 041503, 041536Z, 041337Z, 041538Z).

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate 4th May. (N.S.H.Q. 041507Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. -(contd.).

- Warship Design. Interviews with U.S.N. re exchange of information on Staff requirements for future building. (B.A.D. 041545Z to Admty.). See Lion Copy.

- O.N. Convoys routeing. Pass to N.C.S.O's. Inform Commodore O.N. Convoys that ships for Boston and Portland Area will be detached with Halifax Section. (D.T.D. 041526B to C. in C. W.A. (R) Opnav).

- X.B.49 Boston section arrived 1330Z/4. Cape Cod Canal Section arrived 1530Z/4. (Cdr. 1st U.S.N. Dist. 041545Z to Cominch C and R).

- GALT At 1500Z/4 May sailed GALT to St. Johns through
 (C) 44 degs. 30' N. 62 degs. 24' W.
 (D) 46 degs. 21' 52 degs. 40' W.
 (EG) 47 degs. 30' N. 52 degs. 18' W. speed 14 knots.
 E.T.A. 1000Z/6. My 271951 April refers.
 (C. in C. N.A. 041601Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S:H.Q. C. in C. W.A. Admty.).

- Convoy Arrived.
 G.Z.30. (B.R.L.O. Cristobal 041606R to Admty.).

- + U.S. Aircraft for Africa, use of A.C.V's. A further application has been received this time from the U.S. Navy for assistance in transporting U.S.A.A.F. (?single engined aircraft to Africa). It is understood that U.S. Navy is making an A.C.V. available in May.
 (2) Following is therefore intended programme for British A.C.V's completing in the next few months. TRACKER load U.S.A.A.F. aircraft sail Casablanca in U.G.F.8. FENCER load R.N. Aircraft sail in H.X. 238. CHASER embark and operate 845 Squadron. SEARCHER load U.S.A.A.F. aircraft sail Casablanca in U.G.F.10. RAVAGER embark and operate 845 Squadron. STRIKER load R.N. Aircraft for U.K. PURSUER load U.S.A.A.F. aircraft. TRUMPETER embark and operate 848 Squadron. SLINGER embark and operate 1830 Squadron.
 (3) All tankers building in this country are being fitted with skeleton decks for ferrying aircraft and all older tankers will be retrospectively fitted, and we have made it clear in our reply to U.S. Navy that employment of British A.C.V's for ferrying U.S.A.A.F. aircraft carries with it the obligation of the U.S. Army to process and ship R.N. Aircraft to U.K. in tankers as necessary, if as expected this proves to be practicable..
 (4) Request information whether CHASER and RAVAGER will be required to join a support group or operate with a convoy on passage to U.K. without special escort. These ships will be given a final week's work-up with their aircraft to include deck

/landing...

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U.S.Aircraft landing practice in Chesapeake before sailing for Africa (B.A.D. 041635Z to Admty.).
use of A.C.V's (contd.).

H.F.52 Sailing Telegram. (6 ships list).
(2) Halifax 1800Z/4.
(3) E.T.A. St. John N.B. 0900Z/6.
(4) 7.5 (5) P 44.00 64.13 Q 43.15 65.21 R 43.13 66.04 S 43.45
66.36 T 44.21 66:35.
(6) LACHINE, FORT WILLIAM.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 041745Z, 041749Z to Admty.).

U/B attacked R.C.A.F. aircraft sighted S/M 056 degs. 35' by A/C. N. 022 degs. 40' W. (? 042 degs 40' W intended, see 041920Z) at 1757Z/4th.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 041825Z to G.B.7A).
My 041825 A/C attacked S/M 56 degs. 38' N. 42 degs. 32' W. 4 depth charges. Debris and oil possibly damaged 2nd S/M sighted (?56 degs) 10' N. 42 degs. 55' W. at 1850Z. No attack.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 041920Z to G.B.7A).

F.H.52 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 041842Z to Admty.).

+ C.U. and O.T. Admiralty pass to N.C.X.F. Cancel my 261612 April. Convoys, Sailing intervals of convoys changed as sailing intervals. following to allow for escorted shuttle trip from Caribbean to New York and return. O.T. convoys to 32 days to be decreased by amount turnaround in North Africa can be reduced below 10 days. C.U. convoys to 64 days.
C.U.2. will sail from Curacao May 21st and O.T.323 from Aruba May 15th.
Beginning with T.O.4. and U.C.3 layover in New York will be 12 days. Convoys retain O.T.-T.O. and C.U.- U.C. designations entirely - beginning and ending at New York.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 041909Z to C. in C. Lant, (R) C. Moroccan S.F. Cafac, Comnavnaw, B.A.D. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Cdr. E.S.F. Cdr. Caribbean S.F. Admty. C. in C. Med. Comnavu).

ROBERT GRAY. Your 041400Z (N.T. in W.D.). ROBERT GRAY has not arrived Halifax.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 041936Z to N.S.H.Q. (R) Connav, Admty.).
✓ 042400 intended. Re requesting whether there was any information of arrival of ROBERT GRAY.

Flight No.9. Com. East Sea Front sailing when ready about May 8th flight No.9. consisting of 18 British L.C.I. (L) 136. 257. 259. 278. 281. 282. 284. 286. 289. 292. 294. 303. 304. 308.311. 313. 316. 318.
Norfolk to Bermuda via (Route). N.O.B. Bermuda sailing onward to

/Gibraltar...

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Flight No. Gibraltar via (Route).
9. -(contd.). S.O. in H.M.C.L.I.(L) 257 authorized to alter route to avoid adverse weather conditions making necessary reports to authorities concerned. Action addressees advise time of departure speed of advance.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet 042009Z to C.E.S.F. N.O.B. Bermuda. (R) Com.5. Admty. F.O.I:C. Gib. S.B.N.O. W.At. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet).

+ Warship A.C.V. (Head of M.A.S. 042047B to B.A.D.),
Construction as amended 052320B.
in U.S.A. See Lion Copy.

Sub. attack All times Z.
and sighting Para. A. Navy plane attacks sub. 60 degs. 49'
summary. N. 21 degs. 54' W. 1600/4.
(Cominch 042105Z to Admty.).

U/B attacked S/M sighted by aircraft on surface in 49 degs.
by A/C. 39' N. 44 degs. 09' W. at 2039Z.
(C. in C. N.A. 042110Z to G.B.7A).
My 0421102 S/M attacked with depth charges probably damaged. Engaged S/M with machine gun fire. Position amended to read 055 degs. 36' N. 043 degs. 14' W. S/M broke off action.
(C. in C.C. N.A. 042155Z to G.B.7A).

New Your 302033. ARIES, CLINTON, FRIENDSHIP,
construction EVENLODE, FINDHORN, GOZO and LIGHTFOOT will probably be one month later than dates shewn.
(B.A.T.M. Ottawa, 042132Z to Admty. (R) MALABAR, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. S.B.N.O.W.A. N.O.I.C. Bermuda, C. in C. W.A. C. in C.C.N.A.).

+ C.U.2. C.U.2. My 271945 April sailing date postponed
U.C./C.U. to May 21st in order to give escort lay-over of
convoys ten days at New York.
escorting. (2) Present plan for future U.C.-C.U. convoys is to escort right through to New York with a lay-over of 12 days.
(B.A.D. 042155Z to Admty.).

QUEEN (Route).
ELIZABETH (Port Director New York 042232Z to Connav, (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Lant, C. in C.C.N.A. C.E.S.F. Comm. 3rd U.S. N.D. New York.)
Cancelled by 050616 (q.v.)

PASTEUR Route.
S. of A. 19½ knots. 5166 services personnel aboard. First "Chop" 091600Z diversion control

changed....

SECRET

143-A

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

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

MESSAGE

041545Z/May IN

Date 4.5.43

From B.A.D. Washington

Recd. 2158

Naval Cypher X Plug by Cable

Warship Design

Addressed Admiralty

Interviews have taken place between Rear Admiral Purnell on the Staff of Cominch, Admiral Hepburn, Chairman of the U.S. Naval Board, Members of Bureau of ships and members of my staff accompanied by Captain Oliver-Bellasis regarding the exchange of information on the Staff requirements of ships on the plane of the future Building Committee in the Admiralty.

- (2) U.S.N. welcomes exchanges of views, Admiral Hepburn on behalf of the General Board being most enthusiastic. The General Board has of course only an advisory function in U.S. Naval Organization.
- (3) The conversations so far have been general and a good deal of information has been exchanged but Admiral Hepburn has suggested that we should forward a list of subjects for discussion and I have accordingly sent in a list of the following matters most of which I understand have been discussed by future Building Committee.
- (A) The large Aircraft Carrier, its size and characteristics.
 - (B) The necessity for the large cruiser.
 - (C) The speed of small cruisers.
 - (D) U.S. views on the design of new cruisers.
 - (E) The future destroyers.
- (4) I have sent in this list without waiting for further Admiralty views to avoid the appearance of lack of interest due to delay.
- (5) I consider the channel of communication thus opened will be of considerable value in obtaining U.S. ideas on their future shipbuilding. While it would have been preferred to have discussed these matters on a lower plane there is in fact no lower plane in the U.S.N. as the General Board who are The Advisors on the "Military Characteristics" of ships have no Executive Authority and no staff but call on the various bureaux and Cominch as requisite, Cominch likewise

/ appears

appears to have no technical staff though readiness is interested in promulgation of experience in action.

(6) A full report of the interviews follows by Air Mail.

041545Z

1st Lord
1st S.L. (2)

D.F.S.L.
3rd S.L.

Vice Contr.
5th S.L.

D.C.N.A.E.
V.C.N.S.

A.C.N.S. (H)

A.C.N.S. (F)

A.C.N.S. (A) (2)

A.C.N.S. (W)

A.C.N.S. (UT) (2)

Sec.
Naval Sec.

U.W.R.
N.A. Mails

P.A.S. (S)

D.N.I. (5)

O.D. (5)

O.I.C. (2)

D. of P. (3)

Ops. (3)

W.D.
M. (2)

I.P. (3)

Ad. Blake (4)

D.N.A.O.

D.A.W.T.

D.T.S.D.

D.

D.N.C.

A.S. (4)

D.A.E. (2)

A.M.W.

D.A.C.R. (2)

Air Branch

D.G.D. (2)

Dep. Con. (3)

D. (4)

D.N.C. (2)

S.W.R.

Bath

JD

A.W. 143 B

MOST SECRET

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

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

042047B/May.

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

OUT

To B.A.D. Washington.

Date 4.5.43.

NAVAL CYPHER (X.D. PLUG)

From Admiralty.

*Warship construction in
U.S.A. (A.C.V.'s)*

SALOR 7283.

LORSA 8340. It is confirmed that our outstanding requirement in A.C.V's is 20 up to the end of 1944.

2. Our present aim is to have 52 Escort Carriers by the end of 1944 and to maintain this number in service in 1945.
3. Our requirements subsequent to 1944 will therefore be confined to casualty replacements at a minimum rate of 2 per quarter unless operational experience points to further expansion.
4. We should like the delivery of the 20 A.C.V's to be as follows 1 per month October 1943 to January 1944 inclusive and 2 per month February 1944 to September 1944 inclusive.
5. It is appreciated that ^{some} ~~the first six~~ of those A.C.V's can probably only be provided on the dates proposed by increasing our tentative assignments from the 1943 (SMITER and KAISER) programme at the expense of the U.S. Navy, but it is nevertheless hoped that this proposal may receive favourable consideration in view of delays to date.
6. Our original bid was restricted for manning reasons to 19 because assignments were then being made only up to November 1943, by which time the programme was to have been completed. Now that deliveries are being spread over an extra 5 months we are in a

position/

position to man the additional ships as stated.

042047B.

for Head of M.A.S. (966).

052320B.

Amended

1st Lord.	E.in C.	
1st S.L.(2).	D.of D.	
2nd S.L.	C.F.	
3rd S.L.	D.D.I.C.(2).	
Controller.	D.of S.	
4th S.L.	D.A.W.T.	
5th S.L.	Hd.of Air.	
V.C.N.S.	D.T.D.(2).	
A.C.N.S.(H).	C.F.M.D.	
A.C.N.S.(F).(2).	D.O.D.(C).(2).	
A.C.N.S.(W).	D.S.V.P.(2).	
A.C.N.S.(U.T.).(2).	D.A/S.W.	
A.C.N.S.(A).	D.A/S.M.	
U.W.R.	I.P.(2).	
P.A.S.(PR).	W.D.	
Secretary.	D.of S.T.(2).) Bath.
Nav.Sec.	Dep.Contr.	
D.O.D.(H).(2).	D.of D.	
D.O.D.(F).(2).	Hd.of P.	
D.N.C.	Hd.of M.F.	
D.A.E.	E.in C.	
D.A.C.R.(4).	D.A/S.M.	
D.N.A.O.	D.N.C.	
D.M.S.	C.F.	
Duty Captain.(2).	Hd.of S.W.R.	
N.A.2 S.L.		
Hd.of C.W.		
D.P.S.		
C.C.R.T.		
D.B.D.		
D.of Salvage.		
D.of L.D.(2).		
S.Branch.		
Hd.of M.A.S.(8) & for W.C.O.		
D.W.P.		
Hd.of M.		
Hd.of P.(L).		
D.of P.(2).(PD.086/43).		

AFSM

War Diary.

4. 5. 1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

PASTEUR (contd). changed from Connav to British Admiralty 2nd "Chop" 120700Z diversion control changes from Admiralty to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Communications as in Vice Opnav's 271232. Fighter protection codeword (s) "Sharp Battle" with associated call-signs 126.
(Port Director of New York, 042234Z to Cominch, C. and R, Admty. N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., Cdr. N.W. A.S.F. (R) C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar, Cdt. 3rd U.S.N. District New York, U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda).

O.N.179 Routeing. O.N.179 9 ships for Boston and Portland detaching 2230Z 4th E.T.A. Boston 2100Z/5th E.T.A. Portland 0030Z/6th.
(T.U. 24.18.9. 042314Z to C.E.S.F., C.T.G. 02.1 S.O.P.A. Portland (Maine) (R) Connav, Com. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston).

U/B S/M sighted by ship in position 035° 30' N., 022° 20' W., at 1950Z.
(C. in C. C.C.N.A., 042325Z to G.B. 7 A).

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No. 29. My 030054Z WILLIAM WILLIAMS may remain afloat. Patrol vessel standing by at 0617Z/4. Vella Lavella Solomons 49 aircraft sighted 3rd May course S.E. later 23 F sighted course S.W.
(C.W.R. Wellington 040014Z to C. in C. E.F., A.C.N.B., Admty. D.N.I. G.H.Q. New Delhi).

Movements Arrivals Cairns 3rd, WHYALLA. Townsville 3rd BOWEN. Departures Port Moresby 3rd U.S. Patrol Gunboat TULSA for Thursday Island. Milne Bay 3rd GLENELG for Port Moresby.

(A.C.N.B., 040641Z to Admty).

KURUMBA arrived Fall River 3rd May.

U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Fall River 1st arrived Townsville 3rd.

YUNNAN departed Townsville 3rd for Challenger Bay. U.S. Transport CREMER departed Townsville 3rd due Brisbane 6th.

U.S. transport BONTEKOE departed Bowen 3rd due Brisbane 6th. U.S. transport SWARTENHONDT departed Townsville 3rd due Bowen 5th.

(C.S.W. P.S.F., 041324Z to Admty).

MAUNGANUI Hospital ship MAUNGANUI arrived Fremantle 3rd May and departed 1305Z/3rd due Wellington a.m. 13th, knots 14, days 20, route direct south of Tasmania.
(C.S.W.O.S.F., 040654Z to Admty).

/Digest...

War Diary.

4.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.-(contd.).

Digest serial No.469
May 3rd. Forenoon R/C sighted 1 large Tanker 1 Destroyer
2 degs. 50' S. 150 degs. 30 deg.s E. course
125 degs.
(2) One Fortress strafed 2 possible Coasters
North of Lolobau Island afternoon probably
sinking one.
(4) Morning R/C reported 4 unidentified vessels in Wewak
Harbour and 1 Merchantman 500 tons approaching while Photos
revealed 2 Coasters and 75 Barges in harbour.
(6) Ref. Digest No. 468 May 2nd Para.11. photos reveal vessels
attacked off Toeal morning 2nd comprise 1 Merchantman 200 tons
and five 50 foot motor launches.
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 040758).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported.

Estimated position.
(D.D.I.C. 041338B, 041339B).

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands

VALIANT

1. VALIANT (Eastern Fleet) left Plymouth for Scapa at 1229 today, after completing refit.

Escort duty.

2. UGANDA (see 11 May A. and W.I.) and CHARYBDIS (see 10 May) sailed from Plymouth at 0607B today, on escort duty.

+ U/B attack
on O.N.S.5
12 or 13
ships
torpedoed.

3. Convoy O.N.S.5 (which was attacked and lost one ship on 29th April) was reported to have been attacked again by U-boats at 0130Z today in 55 N., 43 W. (about 260 miles South of Cape Farewell) and 3 ships were sunk. In a further attack at 0515Z in 54.40 N., 43.22 W. another ship was torpedoed. One ship was torpedoed at 1414Z in 53.50 N., 44.00 W. About this time the Admiralty estimated that a very heavy attack on the convoy was to be expected: up to 40 U-boats may attempt to operate.

At 1601Z TAY reported the names of eight torpedoed ships. He stated that NORTH BRITAIN, HARPERLEY, DIRECTOR, WEST MAXIMUS, WENTWORTH and BRISTOL CITY have been sunk and HARBURY and DOLIUS abandoned not considered salvable. However, at 2101 PINK reported that DIRECTOR was in company with her, and on 8th May that she expected to arrive at St. Johns N.F. with DIRECTOR and 3 other ships in company.

The convoy was reported attacked again at 2000Z in 53.20 N., 44.50 W., and 3 ships were torpedoed, of which two had not yet sunk.

Meanwhile, a party of 5 stragglers escorted by PINK was attacked at 1455Z and WEST MADAKET was torpedoed in 54.17 N., 44.11 W. At 2027Z C. in C. W.A. ordered SENNEN to proceed to support PINK.

E.G.3 (supporting O.N.S.5) reported at 2230Z five attacks on a confirmed contact in 53.07 N., 44.40 W., and one U-boat damaged. The 3rd Escort Group will leave the convoy at daylight tomorrow owing to fuel shortage. At 2359Z TAY reported that 7 S/MS had been sighted on the surface near the convoy.

4. Spitfires of Fighter Command carrying out Anti-shipping patrols attacked vessels in the Dieppe and Brest peninsula areas with some success.

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5.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

- 4 5. Now that O.S. and S.L. convoys are starting to run on a 15 day cycle, F.O.C. West Africa proposes that R.S. and S.R. convoys (Freetown to Gibraltar and reverse) should be discontinued.

Mediterranean.

6. C. in C. Mediterranean reports that L.C.T. 613 broke her back on passage from Gibraltar. The bow section was sunk by gunfire and the stern portion towed to Oran.
7. BICESTER, OAKLEY and ZETLAND from Malta carried out a sweep in the Sicilian Channel last night, subsequently returning to Bone; and TARTAR and LOYAL patrolled off Marittimo. M.T.Bs. from Bone operated last night in the Gulf of Tunis, and American T.Bs. in Bizerta Roads.
8. A/C O6NV attacked a destroyer, a medium vessel and an escort vessel in 38.31 N., 12.38 E. steering west, at 1325A today and at 1350A reported the enemy sunk.
9. 345 fighters of N.W.A.A.F. escorted 273 fighter bombers to attack shipping in the Gulf of Tunis today.
- N.A.A.F. Algiers reports that 27 B.17s escorted by 21 P.38.s dropped 312 x 500 lb. bombs on a large motor vessel off Cape San Vito, which exploded and burnt fiercely.
- 6 B.25s escorted by 14 P.38s sank a small motor vessel, damaged another and left a medium motor vessel in flames, in an unescorted convoy of 3 ships west of Marittimo Island.
- 18 B.26s escorted by 11 P.38s dropped 60 x 500 lb bombs on a beached motor vessel east of Cape Zebib and made 3 direct hits.
- 26 B.17s dropped 297 x 500 lb. bombs on Tunis harbour and railway yards. 27 B.17s dropped 294-500 lb. bombs on La Goulette harbour: hits and near misses were seen on a large motor vessel and on several small boats at the north docks, followed by explosion and fires. Bombs burst in the barracks, oil storage and oil landing areas.
- P.40s made a direct hit on a large vessel and sank a small ship in the Gulf of Tunis. Kittyhawks sank a small ship.

Air operations in
Tunis area.

War Diary.

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

10. Auxiliary Fleet Repair Ship WAYLAND, ordered yesterday to the Mediterranean, is partially immobilised with 49 cases of jaundice following inoculation for yellow fever, the navigator, paymaster commander, captain's secretary and 2 engineer officers being among them. She could sail by May 13 by depleting other ships of Eastern Fleet and C. in C. asks for instructions.

America & West Indies.

+ 11. Admiral King has asked Combined Chiefs of Staff to determine the future employment of French naval vessels, especially submarines, so that their repairs and modernization can be dealt with appropriately. B.A.D. suggests that this matter be settled between the U.S. and British Naval Staffs, or alternatively referred to Combined Planners, and asks for Admiralty views.

12. POLYANTHUS was considerably damaged by grounding when leaving St. Johns with H.X. 237 today.

Australia & New Zealand.

13. SS. FINGAL (2137 tons) was torpedoed and sunk at 0335Z today in 30° 35' S., 153° 29' E, about 200 miles S. of Brisbane.

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

GLASGOW. Scapa departure GLASGOW.
(A.C.O.S. 050102B.)

UGANDA,
CHARYBDIS. Sailed UGANDA, CHARYBDIS. My 041849 refers.
(C in C. Plymouth, 050607B)

S/M
Movements. Your 041521B. M.L. 294 detailed. (THRASHER)
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 051030B to C. in C. Nore.)
Intend sailing KINGSTON TOPAZ at 0830/7th to R/V
UNBENDING, UNSPARING in 180° Lizard Head 12
miles thence Dartmouth, onward routeing to
Portsmouth.
(N.O.I.C. Falmouth, 051520B)
Intend to sail O.14, escorted by LOCH MONTEITH for Dundee
1400/6th. Route. E.T.A. 2000B/7th.
(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 051623B.)
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/6 and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.S. 051647B, 052211B.)

INDOMITABLE. Sailed INDOMITABLE, MATCHLESS, ECLIPSE, and
MAHRATTA. Route through position (a) (b) (c)
and (d) in A.M. 031523 and C. in C.H.F. 041031.
S. of A. 20 knots. Returning direct to Clyde at
dusk 6th May. Detaching destroyers to Scapa on reaching Clyde
light vessel. 2. Request INDOMITABLE be kept informed of A/S
air escort in her guard.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 051130B to Admty., SCYLLA, GLASGOW.)

GLOW. Admiralty's 041642B. Intend sailing GLOW 1430
tomorrow to Methil for O/R to Scapa. Ship has
been completely disarmed.
(N.O.I.C. Leith, 051141 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

VALIANT. My 11941B. Sailed VALIANT. E.T.A. Scapa 0620B/
7th escorted to position (A) by PIORUN, ORKAN,
and WENSLEYDALE. (B) S.O.A. 20 knots until 2200/
5th, thence 17 knots to position (A), thence 18
knots to destination.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051229B.)

WREN. Sailed WREN.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 051842B to Cdre. D.W.A.)

HOWE. HOWE proceed for exercise in Scapa practice area
on 6th May and thence to Rosyth passing SWONA at
1600/6th. 2. Route via war channel, speed to
be adjusted to pass May Island at 0300B/7th.
3. F.O.C. D.F. H.F. is requested to detail 3 destroyers to screen
and return Scapa when detached at Eyebroughy Buoy. Ship is to
be ready to sail by noon 20th May.
(C. in C.H.F., 051942B to HOWE)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

Two M.T.Bs. for abroad. Cancel A.M. 051220 not to all addresses. 2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail two M.T.Bs. of the 24th M.T.B. Flotilla so as to arrive at Swansea by 13th May for Shipment abroad. 3. Four ratings can be accommodated in the transport for maintenance duties and HORNET is requested to requisition passages for balance of crews in K.M.F.15. (D.D.O.D.C. 051950B.)

Operations.

S/M Patrols. SURF is to leave Lerwick 7th May to relieve SATYR on patrol line Z, thence SATYR to Lerwick. Restrictions on attacking S/Ms are to be arranged while SATYR and SURF are passing through patrol line X. (F.O.S. 051046B to Capt. S.9.)

Positions of Submarines at 0800B/6 and movements for following 24 hours. (C) SIMOON on patrol vicinity 46° 50' N. 05° 29' W. until approx. 0001/7th when she proceeds South along 06° 01' W. 106 miles in 24 hours. (E) O.10 on patrol in vicinity 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W. (F) TRUCULENT (P.315) probably on surface arriving from Eastward to patrol along longitude 16° W. between 67° 31' N. and Coast of Iceland (C) Paras. (G) (H) (J) and (K) as in my 041734B. (L) HERRING approx. 62° 14' N. 03° 40' W. to 66° 10' N. 12° 01' W. probably diving until dusk when between 64° N. and 65° 20' N. otherwise probably on surface 14 knots. (M) SHAD approx 62° 31' N. 02° 17' W. to 66° 30' N. 010° 50' W. probably diving until dusk when between 64° N. and 65° 20' N. otherwise probably on surface 14 knots. (F.O.S. 051647B)

Cancel my 031405B and 041541B. From 270° Muckle Flugga 5 miles submarines to proceed as follows. HERRING through 062° 01' 001° 50' W. 066° 20' 011° 15' W. 067° 40' 016° 01' W. to patrol line Y. SHAD through 062° 01' 000° 50' W. and 066° 35' 010° 30' W. to Patrol line W. Submarines are not to cross 015° W. before 1800B/8th. Southbound friendly Forces passing at least 50 miles to the West of your track tonight. (Capt. S.9. 051901B)

Coastal Patrols. LA COMBATTANTE and MELBREAK are to join outside breakwater at 2130B today. After joining take up anti E-Boat patrol between 210° Eddystone 20 and 145° Eddystone 15 as arranged by LA COMBATTANTE Codeword "Arena". 2. At 0400/6 leave patrol and return to Plymouth. 3. Coastal forces leave Dartmouth 2130 for following patrols: A. Six craft to southward S.O. in M.T.B.98. B. M.G.Bs. 324 and 330, 063° 12 miles from 180° Start Point 13. C. M.G.Bs. 80 and 75, 072° 10 miles from 115° Berry Head 18. (C. in C. Plymouth 051619B)

/M.T.B...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Patrols. (Contd.) M.T.B. 98, 96, 227, 239 - M.G.B. 111, 115 - sail Dartmouth 2130 to patrol to southward returning daylight. M.G.B. 330, 324 - sail Dartmouth 2130 to patrol 13' S.E. of Start returning daylight. M.G.B. 80, 75 - sail Dartmouth 2130 to patrol between 115 Berry Head 18 and 100 Berry Head 26 returning daylight. (C. in C. Plymouth, 051703B)

M.Ls. 104, 108, 107 and M.T.Bs, 38, 35, 219 from Dover carrying out operation N.L. 83. Route via "V" Buoy each way. E.T.D. 2220, E.T.R. 0445/6. M.Ls. 213, 128, 573, 210 and 101 from Dover carrying out operation N.L.84 route via "V" Buoy each way, E.T.D. 2225, E.T.R. 0510/6. M.G.Bs. 114, 116 and 117 from Ramsgate patrolling on West Dyck Bank route via "V" Buoy, E.T.D. 2300, E.T.R. 0415/6.

(V.A. Dover, 051751B)

1. Intend R.M.L. 500 (S.O.) and M.L. 233 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave harbour at 2130 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/6th.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Code word "Device".

(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051802B)
Sailed LA-COMBATTANTE, MELBREAK to patrol.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 052141B)

Denmark Straits Patrol. ADALVIKS 051500. Bring into force 1 G O number 10 forthwith. Liberator A/C is leaving Reykjavik now for 066° 22' N. 024° 51' W. with instructions to do creeping line ahead search on course 345°.

(A.C.I.C. 051740B to JAMAICA.)
A.C.I.C.'s 051740B. After you are satisfied patrols may be withdrawn.
(C. in C. H.F. 052327B to C.S.10.)

Exercises.

A.L.T. Exercise. FURIOUS. Cancel my 042340. Exercises completed.
(C. in C. H.F. 052348B to H.F.)

Allied Air Activity.

Operation S.N.111A. Your 042301 and my 042122. Weather prevented Catalina arriving position E. by 0700B today. Its E.T.A. now approx. 1000B. Type 251 M. now requested from 1000B until met or 1200B.
(C. in C. Rosyth 050140B to R.A.M.)

Attack on Enemy M/V. Have attacked enemy medium M/V J.T.O.
(A/C 489 Sqdn. Duty J. 051903B to 18 Group.)

/My...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.

Attack on Enemy M/V. (Contd.) My 051903. F.R.R. on Medium Merchant Vessel 3000 tons, one enemy vessel 58° 53' N. 05° 31' E. 180° 8 knots at sea. (A/C 489 Sqdn. Duty J. 052023B to 18 group).

Denmark Straits. C. in C. H.F. 021740 para. No. 2. Transfer co-operation will be provided by one Catalina patrolling line 61.15 N. 13.00 W. to 62.45 N. 14.30 W. from 1300B to 2100B tomorrow. (C. in C. Rosyth, 052351 to LYME REGIS)

Enemy Air Activity.

Seidisfiord. R/C of Seidisfjord was carried out by 2 Junkers 88s at 1820/4th. (A.C.I.C. 051153B)

Mining.

K.L.1. Carry out operation K.L.1 tonight. (2) Eastern Covering Force FERNIE (S.O.) CATTISTOCK, QUORN, COTTESMORE (para. 1, 2 and 3 of my 051135). (3) Western Covering Force BLEASDALE, (S.O.), GLAISDALE. (C. in C. Portsmouth 051110 to M/S 9.)

Q.K.4 D. Weather permitting carry out operation Q.K.4 (D) tonight. Close escort one unit 6th M.G.Bs. (C. in C. Nore, 051300B to BEEHIVE.)

Harwich. Ground mine detonated by LL Trawlers at 1229 in 52° 05.3' N. 01° 48.9' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 051356 and 051823B)

Parachute. My 040018B and Admiralty's 041151B. Parachute has been found to be parachute from lethal device on kite balloon. Nothing was in net except fish. (F.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 051536B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Western Channel search. 60% search at depth of 23 fathoms carried out with negative results in area enclosed by lines joining (A) 49° 59' 24" N. 05° 01' 06" W. (B) 49° 56' 48" N. 04° 57' 30" W. (C) 49° 49' 00" N. 05° 11' 27" W. (D) 49° 51' 36" N. 05° 15' 06" W. 2. Intend starting check in

J. Formation of Q.Z.X. 962 tomorrow. (M/S4 051726B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/Liverpool1...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

Liverpool. At 051012 one Mine exploded by Sweepers in
53° 28' 40" N. 03° 20' 18" W. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 051935B.)

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER. Photographic R/C Wilhelmshaven at 1245B/4 shows
HIPPER has departed.
(D.D.I.C. 050020B)

Havre. Photographic R/C 4th May.
Cherbourg. Le Havre. 2 Elbing destroyers and 1 T/B probably
T. Class present.
Cherbourg. Part cover only. Ships reported
in my 011313B not seen.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 051057B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats. E.V.S. at 1745/4 G/84 sighted conning tower
reported (? 45° 49' N.) 21° 54' W. 265/10 Kts. distant
and 5 miles, and attacked 36 seconds after
attacked disappearance of C/T. Nothing further seen.
in North (R.A.F. Iceland, 050125B to 15 Group)
Atlantic. By D/F U-Boat estimated anywhere within 75 miles
of 60° 30' N. 26° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050316B to A.C.I.C.)
Am over enemy submarine in 63° 38' N. 13° 46' W.
(A/C 269 Sqn. Duty F. 051638B to 18 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C 269 Sqn. 051710 to 18 Group.)

U-Boats A.M. 041829. D/F of transmission at 2215Z/4
reported indicates that L.C. Flight D. may be being
and shadowed.
attacked (D.D.I.C. 050352B to HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, MOLDE,
in Biscay (R) COVERLEY, BREAM)
Area. By D/F at 0107Z U-Boat estimated to be in area,
44° 30' N. 46° 20' N. 4° 40' W. 6° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 050520B to S/Ms.)
On day 3rd May, 8 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. carried
out A/S patrols. A Whitley sighted a U-Boat and attacked (see
B.C.I.R., 3376).
(H.Q.B.C. 051620B)

Casualties and Defects.

PENHALE. R.U. 72 arrived Penhale.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 051052B.)

ONYX. Your 031510B. New pressure equalising pipe
to starboard high-pressure system has fracture
after 20 hours steaming. Propose escorting
EMPIRE HILL to Greenock to await further orders.
(ONYX 051054 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.QUEENS
CROSS.

Tug QUEENS CROSS towing L.C.19 on route to Lyness has broken down and has been towed into Methil. - Anticipated period for repairs 2 to 3 days.
(D.S.T.O. Leith, 051705B to D.S.T. London.)

MARIE
THERESE.

Your 010212B. Almost all bearings will require remetalling and with other necessary repairs it is anticipated that 4 weeks will be required before vessel will be ready for trials.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 051715B to Admty.)

ELSE
RYKENS.

Arrived ELSE RYKENS with engine defects. Intend sailing on completion repairs.
(N.O.I.C. Oban, 051847B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

L.C.G.(L)
Craft.

A.M. 011224B, Milford Haven's 302007 April and Captain M.L.C.'s 041036B. 1. On arrival L.C.G. (L) craft should be taken in hand for further conversion. 2. Specification is briefly
(a) Forward well to be decked to brow door.
(b) Forward protective screen to be extended to upper coaming to form bulkhead. (c) Opening in gun deck to have watertight covers and vents to have coamings 12 inches high. (d) 4 freeing-ports 2 ft. 6 ins. by 9 ins. deep to be arranged in gun-deck protective coaming to ensure drainage of deck and in addition two similar freeing-ports in gun-deck protective coaming forward of forward extended protective screen (2.(b) above). (e) watertight floor to be fitted between duct-keels at station 18 and drain-valves resited to give adequate drainage. (f) Screw-down drain-valves four in number to be provided locally and fitted in duct-keel. 3. Fuller specification has already been sent to P.E.R.O.s concerned. 4. Particular care should be taken to ensure that access manholes to duct-keel are water tight. 5. Capt. M.L.C.'s. 041036B draws attention of C.O.'s of L.C.G.(L) to the importance of forwarding full and correct defect lists and it is likely that this will entail defects previously overlooked being taken in hand. 6. (a) Completion is required by May 28th. (b) Such priority as required may be given. (c) Signal should be made stating what effect this priority will have on work in hand including Escort Vessels and new production (d) Further signals should be made if danger of date being exceeded arises in individual cases.
(D.N.E. C.O. 052206B to F.O.I.C. London, N.I., Liverpool.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

X O.N.S.5. O.N.S. 5 attacked in 55° N. 43° W. 3 ships sunk.
 NORTH BRITISH (TAY 050130Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 (?BRITAIN), Convoy attacked 054° 40', 043° 22'. One ship
 HARPERLEY, torpedoed still floating.
 WEST MAXIMUS, (TAY, 050515Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 WENTWORTH, Heavy traffic on series 2, lines 1 and 2 continues
 BRISTOL CITY, O.N.S.5 is being shadowed and it is possible
 sunk. that convoy O.N.180 and ships in company with
 WEST MADAKET, PINK are also being shadowed.
 HARBURY, (D.D.I.C., 050950B to Escorts O.N.S.5, O.N.180:
 DOLIUS D.D.I.C.(1172) (R) Escorts S.C.128, E.G.1,
 Torpedoed. EYEBRIGHT.)
 TAY'S 050515Z. TAY is to report prospects of
 salvage. If favourable S.O. C.3 is to detach
 escort trawler and rescue tug to take in tow.
 (C. in C.W.A., 050956Z to Escorts O.N.S.5 and
 O.N.180.)

1 ship torpedoed still floating in 054° 40' N. 043° 22' W.
 at 0515Z.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 051144Z to G.B.7 A.)
 Convoy attacked in 53.50N. 44.00 W. One ship torpedoed.
 (TAY 051414Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 At 1220Z/5th attacked 1st Class A/S. Contact in 055° 02' N.
 043° 31' W. Consider attack promising. No evidence of damage
 or destruction although blowing of tunlas heard after several
 attacks. Hunt (corrupt group) 1330Z to my 5 ships.
 2. 40 depth-charges and 24 Hedgehog expended. 31 depth-charges
 42 Hedgehog remaining. Fuel stocks remaining at 1000Z 80 tons
 (34%). 3. Your 042244Z. E T.A. (X.Y) 060700 Z.Z. Expected
 time of arrival (?) (XR) not known. Request this information.
 (PINK, 051420Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 My 050956Z. Escort trawler and tug are not to be detailed.
 (C. in C.W.A. 051720Z to Escorts O.N.180.)
 WEST MADAKET torpedoed. My P.C.S. 054° 17' N. 044° 11'
 W., 240° 8.
 (PINK, 051542Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 My 050515Z and 051414Z. Night attack surfaced 7 U-Boats.
 Day attacks submerged 1 (one) U-Boat. ORIBI sighted 3 U-Boats on
 the surface at 1110Z in 053° 30' N. 043° 40' W. NORTHERN SPRAY
 with 143 survivors on board detached to St. Johns (N.F.) at
 1600Z. The following ships have been sunk NORTH BRITISH,
 HARPERLEY, DIRECTOR, WEST MAXIMUS, WENTWORTH, BRISTOL CITY.
 The following abandoned not considered salvable HARBURY, DOLIUS.
 Survivors from above ships in this order 11, 38, 188, 50, 42,
 29, 44, 66. Convoy still appears to be shadowed. Am trying to
 oil Destroyer from BRITISH LADY, this will necessitate her
 proceeding subsequently St. Johns. My P.C.S. 053° 38' N. 044°
 32' W., 202° 7.5. Weather 90 80 30 42.
 (TAY, 051601Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 O.N.S.5. attacked in 53 20, 44 50. 3 ships torpedoed,
 2 floating, possibility of salvage.
 (TAY 052000Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 Proceed to support PINK with stragglers of O.N.S.5 estimated
 in 053° 10' N. 046° 20' W. at 0800B/6th, steering for (XR) 050° N.
 046° W. Speed 8 knots.
 (C. in C.W.A. 052027Z to SENNEN)

/My...

5.5.1943.

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

- O.N.S.5. My 051420Z. WEST MADAKET torpedoed 1455Z.
 NORTH BRITISH Have picked up complete crew of 61. In company
 (? BRITAIN), DIRECTOR, GUDVOR, DUNSLEY and YEARBY. P.C.S.
 HARPERLEY, at 2000Z, 54° 27' N. 45° 10' W., 270°, 8 altering
 WEST MAXIMUS, at 2359Z to 230° and at 060400Z to 180°.
 WENTWORTH, Counter-attacked firm A/S contact at 1900Z.
 BRISTOL CITY, Consider 2 U-boats now in contact, one heavily
 sunk. attacked A.M. today. Remaining fuel 69 tons
 WEST MADAKET, (30%), depth-charges 22, Hedgehog 42. In view
 HARBURY, of fuel and depth-charge situation suggest
 DOLIUS (1) I proceed to St. Johns, N.F. forthwith with
 Torpedoed. merchant ships or (2) you route me further west
 (Contd.) in case fuel situation becomes precarious.
 (PINK, 052101Z and 061240Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 OFFA attacked. Confirm contact position 53° 07',
 44° 40'. 5 attacks, U-boat damaged. Hunt
 abandoned to rejoin O.N.S. 5. Third Escort Group leaves convoy
 for St. Johns N.F. at daylight 6th owing to fuel shortage.
 Weather 4765 2534.
 (E.G.3., 052230Z to E.G.1.)
 7 S/Ms in close proximity of convoy sighted on the surface.
 My P.C.S. 052° 50' N. 042° 52' W., 202° 7 knots.
 (TAY 052359Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.180. Your 042315Z received too late to broadcast R/V
 for 5th. Following will be broadcast to
 stragglers of O.N.180 begins R/V for 1200Z/6
 53.17 N. 47.02 W. If unable to make this R/V
 proceed to St. Johns keeping as far to westward as ice permits.
 Ends.
 (C. in C.W.A. 050851Z to Escorts O.N.180.)
 N.K. Alter forthwith for (G.B.). 53.32 N. 48.41 W., thence
 (G.U.) 43.40, 47.02. My 050851Z, following amended R/V will
 be broadcast to Straggler for 1200Z/6, 53.26, 48.30.
 (C. in C.W.A. 051536Z to Escorts O.N.180.)
 My 042315. Panic over. Both destroyers fuelled. O.N.
 180's P.C.S. 1800, 035° 08' N. 047° 00' W. steering for (G.B.)
 10 knots. EYEBRIGHT in company. E.T.A. amended R/V 6th 0600Z.
 (C.M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.13, 051740Z to C. in C.W.A.)
 Your 051740. Amended time of R/V has been broadcast to
 stragglers.
 (C. in C.W.A. 052304Z to Escorts O.N.180.)
- PRAGUE, Your 011203B arrived.
 AMSTERDAM. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 050905B to N.O.I.C. Invergordon)
- NEWFOUNDLAND. Sailed.
 (N.C.S.O. Plymouth, 050940B to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth.)
- PAN GULF. Sailed as my 020954.
 (N.C.S.O. Newport, 051142B to N.C.S.O. Milford
 Haven.)
- T.A.41 B. Sailed 051744B.
 (D.S.T.O. Greenock, 051800B.)

5.5.1943.

Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. - Contd.

S.L.128
and
M.K.S.12.

In view of F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 0515/31st shall have insufficient fuel to comply with your 021635. To arrive Clyde with 10% remaining can cover convoy until 0001B/9th.
(DEVONSHIRE, 052005Z to C. in C. Plymouth.)

K.M.S.14.

The following sailed at 2056/5th G.41, G.42, G.43, H.224, H.225, H.226, H.227, H.229, J.117, J.118, K.162, FORT DOUGLAS, GULF PORT, EMPIRE CLIVE, NEA, EGRET, FORT DREW.
(D.S.T.O. Greenock, 052130B.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B By D/F on 5650 k/cs at 0456Z U-boat estimated anywhere within 150 miles of 32° 00' N. 24° 00' W. This was a link unit. (D.D.I.C., 050957B to F.O. Gibraltar).

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/5th. DEVONSHIRE (E) 37.10 18.35 16 knots to cover S.L.128 within 60 miles aggregate line 040° N.
 2. X.K.6 LOTUS 2 merchant ships towed by tugs 36.31 08.24 through 37.01 09.59 thence 328° 5½.
 3. R.S.4 F. BULLDOG 27.28 14.12 through 24.43 17.02 thence 184° 14.
 4. C.F.12 Fleet Unit 37.50 16.42 332° 15.
 5. 2 Swedish relief ships 35.34 11.01 086° 12½.
 6. Coastal craft SS. MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 37.45 10.42 through 36.40 10.02 to Gibraltar 8.
 7. Spanish training ship GALATEA left Ferrol 1st May for Canary Islands.
 8. S.L.128 BLACK SWAN 39.02 14.12 through 39.10 17.30 thence 080° (or 236°) 6½.
 9. Fleet unit 3 destroyers 38.45 14.30 through 36.20 10.01 to Gibraltar 17½.
 10. 1 merchant ship towed by Tug, Task Force 68, 34.55 16.31 through 35.01 17.04 thence 277° 8.2.
 11. ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH 1 tanker 36.44 20.07 102° 9.
 12. 16 L.C.I.(L)s S.O. L.C.I.(L) 109 (e) approx. 31.25 17.07 072° 7½.
 (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051054B as amended 051545B).
 Situation 2004B/5th STORNOWAY 2 merchant ships 36.49 07.46 to Gibraltar 8.
 2. C.G.30, ACUTE, 34.45 07.24 through 35.46 06.30 to Gibraltar 1.
 3. Coastal craft convoy, COVERLEY, BREAM, 36.24 09.38 to Gibraltar 10.
 8. C.G.7? AMIRAL MOUCHEZ 35.50 06.04 through 35.45 06.30 and 34.05, 08.01 to Casablanca 10.
 (Corrupt group) one merchant ship continuing to A(?Luck)I. (F.O. Gibraltar, 051126B).
 Situation 2002B/5th U.G.F. 8 C.T.F. 67, 35.42 33.59 103° 13½.
 (2) L.C.I.(L) 8 (S.O.) L.C.I.(L) 129, 33.10 39.10 through 35.01 33.01 11.
 (F.O. Gibraltar, 051202B).

U.G.S.7 A. U.G.S.7 A. Casablanca Section arrived 4th May. (list). (Commorseafron, 051156 to Cominch Admty. etc).

Axis Shipping Arrival 5th HENK, BANKA, TIM, OLGA, COURDANNES. Bilbao. Departure 4th REGEJA, THRIANTHA, LINETTE, MONTE SERANTES, MARIA CARMEN. Departure 5th JACQUELINE. (Bilbao, 051245 to Admty).

/KING...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

- KING GEORGE V,
U/B. D/F bearings at 1051Z/5 on 11068 k/cs indicate U/B within 90 miles of 40° 01' N., 14° 02' W. (D.D.I.C., 051336B to H.M.S. K.G.5, Escorts of S.L.128, Escorts of C.F.12 (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. W.A. C. in C. H.F.)
A.M.051336B. Incomplete D/F bearings on 11068 k/cs at 1213Z and 1223Z indicate U/B in general area 40° 02' N. 16° 01' W. which may have reported convoy or important unit. (D.D.I.C., 051455B to as former).
U-boat probably reported you again at 1310Z/5, and there may be two or three other U-boats between your present position and 39° 30' N., 13° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C., 051550B to KING GEORGE V, (R) Escorts S.L.128, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. H.F.)
Your were sighted by enemy aircraft at 1535B.
(D.D.I.C., 051635B to K.G.V. (R) C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
- ALBULA Sailed Gibraltar 1315 May 5th for Genoa by approved route Swiss ALBULA 1220 G.T. speed 7½ knots. Swiss colours and Switzerland painted on black hull. Not to be molested this voyage. (F.O. Gibraltar, 051453B to S. and A Area G. etc).
- Convoy G.C.7 G.C.7 sailed SIDI BRAHIM and GOUVENEUR GENERAL LEPINE for Casablanca, TRIONA for Safi. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 051533B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. etc).
- TRIBUNE Capt. (S) 8 011558A. A. After passing through position (C) at 0700B/6th steer 360° until reaching position 180° Cape de Gata 5 miles thence 180° Cape Calaburras 5 miles thence Gibraltar at 1430B/7th.
(2) Force H passing near position (C) at 1330/6th course 260° 15 knots.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 051542B to TRIBUNE (R) Capt. S.8., S.O. Force, H. SERAPH, C. in C. Med).
- Convoy T.O.4. Intend to sail ESSO GETTYSBURG, ESSO HARRISBURG, Request pendant numbers.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 051717B to Cdre. Algiers (R) Comnob Oran, Admty. C.M.S.F.F.)
- U/B Periscope sighted in 035° 50' N., 019° 15' W. at 1323Z.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 051916B to S. and A. area X. etc)
- U.G.S. 7 A. Arrival GULFGEM.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 051958 to C. in C. Med., etc).

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

GLAISDALE Number 39, May 5th. Arrival 1620B/5 GLAISDALE from Almeria.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 052002B to Admty).

X U/B Sunk
off Canaries
5/4.

Las Palmas 041600 and my 221506 April 22nd. No reply Embassy note to M.F.A. requesting internment of crew on grounds submarine sank inside territorial waters. Matter will be pressed. Unless point disputed I see no object in quoting exact location of submarine.
(N.A. Madrid, 052015B to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar, Ponta Delgada, pass to B.N.L.O. Dakar, and F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals COMMANDANT DELAGE from Casablanca. KINGSTON CHRYSOLITE from Escort Duties Almeria. P.C.627 with defects ex U.G.S.7 A. Departures L.S.T.323 M.M.S.88 BARRILLTO join U.G.S.7 A. M.L. 176, 170 A/S sweep and Escort Duties East Albacore French Ships AMIRAL MOUCHEZ COMMANDANT DELAGE with G.C.7 BRIXHAM on Escort Duties to Villa Real.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 052211B to Admty. etc).

Air Report

Op. Sum. no. 185 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours 5th May 1943.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Cat.J/202 on A/S patrol N.W. at 1938B/4th May 39.59 N., 13.57 W. sighted U-boat surfacing which began diving course 180. Attacked but D/Cs failed to release. At 2109B 4 May 39.57 N., 14.00 W. aircraft returning sighted from 2 miles U-boat surfacing which began to dive course 271° then C/T and part of hull visible. Attacked at 2110B from 40° on Port bow releasing 5 D/Cs from 80 feet 37 secs. after disappearance of U-boat. Stick straddled trace (?track) exploding 300/350 feet ahead of swirl. No results seen.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 052330Z).
Daily Opsum 185 4/5 May. Add to Opsum 184, 4 May, Catalina on A/S patrol attacked U-boat 37 seconds after disappearance no results seen.
(H.Q., R.A.F. Gibraltar, 052350 to Air Min) W.D. Note No time or position in former. Catalina was then still airborne.

Convoy
X.K.6.

Convoy X.K.6 split at 1500B. Codeword "Camel" SEMINOLE, CAPT. PAUL LEMERLE escorted by LOTUS and DIANELLA. S. of A. 5½ knots. X.B. codeword "Camel 1" FORT PASKOYAC escorted by HONEYSUCKLE and NARVIK. S. of A. possibly 4 knots. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C., (Passing action being taken by W.R.)
(F.O. Gibraltar, 052348 to LOTUS, DIANELLA, HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK, (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C.)

War Diary.

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

DESPATCH. Your 031308B. When DESPATCH can be ready for service. My 041942Z refers. (F.O.C.W.Af. 050200Z to Admty.)

Troop Movements. Following appears to be the position regarding future troop movements on West Coast. (details) (Amended 070335B.) 2. Would appreciate your comments on above and general views, particularly whether you will be able to carry on with resources at your disposal. Trooping situation elsewhere makes it urgent to do so if at all practicable. (D. of S.T. 050553B to D.S.T.O. W.A.) Reply: D.S.T.O. W.A.102359Z

BRITANNIC, STRATHEDEN. Your 301345. Instructions in A.M. 161140/March referred to unescorted sailings only. STRATHEDEN and BRITANNIC were in escorted convoy. (D.S.T. 050616B. to D.S.T.O.W.A.)

Ships torpedoed in T.S.37. 30 April and 1 May. My 031309. CLAN MACPHERSON in approx. 7° 54' N. 13° 58' W. CITY OF SINGAPORE in approx 7° 55' N. 14° 16' W. MOKAMBO in approx. 7° 40' N. 14° 05' W. when torpedoed according to Masters' statements. From all six sinkings, 10 unaccounted for, 9 presumed killed, 587 saved. (S.O. (I) Freetown 051035Z. to Admty.)

EMPIRE MIGHT. D.S.T.O. W.A's. 031534 May to D. of S.T. refers. Situation EMPIRE MIGHT deteriorated. Phosphorous fumes prevent access and consider essential flood No.4 hold. To preserve stability intend discharging deck and between decks cargo No.1 and 2 holds. Indications some phosphorous bombs disintegrating and oxidation present. All work at highest priority. Army informing Troopers. Estimated delay ship one month. D.S.T.O. W.A. agrees. (F.O.C.W.A.051044Z to Admty. (R) D. of S.T., Cdre.i/c. Freetown.)

CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA. 1. Intend to sail CARNARVON CASTLE at 1000Z/6th to patrol in area bound by:- A. 011° N. 027° W. B. 009° N. 025° W. C. 006° N. 028° W. D. 008° N. 030° W. S. of A. 15½ knots, E.T.A. area 1200Z/8th. 2. Intend CILICIA to leave patrol in above area at 2359Z/7th to return Freetown, S. of A. 14. (F.O.C.W.A. 051102Z. to Admty.)

W.S.29. C. in C. S.A. 01/1143. In order to make definite arrangements for transhipments and embarkations and in view of Troopers decision that Mideast personnel have priority, request early confirmation of destination of ORION and AORANGI. 2. RUYS and ORBITA will be sailed from Durban to Capetown 7th May. Former will join Durban portion of W.S.29 off

/Capetown...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- W.S.29. Capetown. Latter will sail with Capetown section.
C.M.42. 3. W.S.29 is due Capetown Monday 17th May and
(Contd.) should be ready to leave Durban about 23.
(P.S.T.O. Capetown 051135B. to D.S.T. (R) C. in C.
E.F. etc.)
- Convoy Sailed (707)00Z/5th T.S.38 escorted by CORINTHIAN,
T.S.38. S.O. of escort, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN and BUTTERMERE,
E.T.A. Freetown 0900Z/10th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 051205Z. to Admty. etc.)
- Convoy Departure 0820/5th NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE,
W.S.29, WITCH, RAPID, BOREAS, LEWES, F.S. SAVORGNAN DE
Escorts. BRAZZA with W.S.29.
(S.O. (I) Freetown 051210Z to C. in C. S.A.
B.N.L.O. W.Af. (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F. N.O.I.C.
Takoradi.)
- M.Ls. Your 25/1545Z April in view of your 30/1352 April
and increased U-Boat activity in Freetown area do
not consider Q.I.H.G. M.Ls. can be spared at
season when adverse weather conditions make
air-cover uncertain particularly at night and maximum number of
vessels are required for surface escort and A.S. Sweeps. Proposal
in my 030951 May is not affected as this is considered economical
disposal of existing forces. Passage under own power should be
possible but upkeep at Walvis Bay must be provided.
(F.O.C. W.A. 051252Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C.S.)
- R.S.- S.R. Now that O.S.-S.L. convoys are starting to run on
Convoys. a 15 day cycle propose that R.S. - S.R. convoy
sailings should be discontinued. This will make
provision of better surface escorts to other
convoys possible. Latter is becoming more
essential, through summer and autumn, as flying conditions
deteriorate.
(F.O.C.W.A. 051253Z. to Admty. (R) F.O. Gib. C. in C. Med.)
- Convoy My 031731. (1) N.K. From C. proceed through new
W.S.29. position:- (U) 004° 01' N. 014° 29' W.
NEWCASTLE. (Y) 001° 02' N. 011° 59' W. thence (E) omitting
(D). (2) NEWCASTLE detaches (R) (must?) request
escort with HIGHLAND PRINCESS and TROILUS at
dusk 7th May direct to Takoradi E.T.A. 1100/9th.
(3) B.N.L.O. W.A. sail ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE to arrive
in position (E) at 1400Z/11th and proceed thence on course 286°
to R/V and join escort. (4) Shift to area (Q) W/T organization
at 1600Z/12th. (5) Amend position S. and T. on stragglers route
on new S. 002° 15' N. 003° 44' W. en route new 004° 18' N. 001°
24' E. Pass to Commodore.
(F.O.C.W.A. 051310Z. to NEWCASTLE, B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) Escort
W.S.29, C. in C. S.A. Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

/Saldanha...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Saldanha loop defence. MANCHESTER CITY's 221740 March not to C. in C. E.F. Number C/M loop at Saldanha found to be useless due to siting of loop on Rocky Bottom. A.1 test, 95 ohms. A.2, nil. 2. Owing to position of loop in relation to rocks and heavy swell recovery impossible without experienced laying party. Intend to endeavour to fire loop. 3. In view of rapid deterioration in weather conditions, essential that loop should be relayed immediately. Relay of Northern Group to avoid repetition of fault can be attempted if layer and nucleus of laying party available. 4. Request (A) that SPINDRIFT may be retained in view of above and fact that REDSHANK arrived Gibraltar on 26th April. Your 281556 April refers. (B) That MANCHESTER CITY may supply nucleus laying party for this operation as no trained personnel yet available on station. (C. in C. S.A. 051405B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F., MANCHESTER CITY.) Reply: Admty. 091806.

+ Spanish Trawlers Suspicious Conduct.

Your 282043 April and S.O. (I) Gibraltar's para 2. Ship had name of SEVILLE painted on side when sighted by aircraft 20th April. When did RIA DEARES arrive Cadiz? (F.O.C.W.A. 051615Z. to Madrid (R) S.O. (I) Gib. Admty.) Reply: N.A. Madrid 131015B.

Dispositions. CHESHIRE 18.28 34.25 to 20.00 36.00 thence 000° 12 $\frac{3}{4}$. F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES about 13.24 21.01 to Dakar 19. CILICIA on patrol about 08.30 27.30.14 DUNCTON, WASTWATER, escorting 29.59 15.10 to (corrupt group) 7. (F.O.C.W.A. 051445Z.)

Add to my 051645. (051445 intended). One M.L. proceed from Marshall to search (for?) survivors in 004° 52' N. 010° 22' W. (R.A.W.A. 051839Z.)

Situation at 051959 May. NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, BOREAS, F.S. SAVORGNAN-DE-BRAZZA, RAPID, LEWES with W.S.29 06.44 14.30 to 04. (?45) 14.29 thence 140° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$. BRIDGEWATER, SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, DUNKERY, BUTSER, PORTSDOWN with O.S.S.46 03.43 (?08).02 to 03.30 07.40 thence 082° 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. COPINSAY, M.L. 281 escorting about 07.05 13.00 to Freetown 7. M.L. 271 off Port Bouet. M.L.274 off Accra. TURCOMAN escorting 02.30 S. 09.30 E. to Pointe Noire 8 $\frac{1}{2}$. CILICIA on patrol about 07.59 28.01.14. CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, BUTTERMERE with T.S. 38 04.10 02.54 262° 7 $\frac{1}{2}$. FOXHOUND escorting 02.00 S. 04.40 E. 318° 15. CATTERICK escorting 05.18 00.54 to Lagos 13. F.S. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, BELLWORT M.Ls. escorting 08.09 14.06 to 07.46 13.30 thence 180° 14.

(F.O.C.W.A. 051645Z.)

/TRUSTY...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

TRUSTY, Sailed TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES for
 COMMANDANT Lagos 1600Z/May 5th S. of A. 11 knots. Routed.
 D'ESTIENNE A. 034° 00' S. 015° 00' E. B. 030° 00' S. 013° 00'
 D'ORVES. E. C. 020° 00' S. 008° 00' E. D. 001° 00' S. 006°
 00' E. thence Lagos E.T.A. Lagos 0800Z/15th May
 shifting to W/T organization for area P. at 2000Z
 11th May. 2. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES
 instructed to proceed independently to Pointe Noire for fuel if to
 reach Lagos with sufficient safety margin, reporting instructions
 to F.O.C. W.Af. B.N.L.O. W.Af. and C. in C. S.A.
 (C. in C. S.A. 051504B. to Admty. F.O.C. W.Af. N.O.I.C. Lagos,
 B.N.L.O. W.Af.)

GLOIRE. Your 042003 and 271727 April. Intend to sail F.S.
 GLOIRE for patrol 2200Z/5th. (2) Routed from
 Goree Island through position A. 14.38 N. 20.00 W.
 to F. (?E) 11° N. 28° W. E.T.A. E. 0700Z/7th.
 (3) S. of A. 24 knots for 1st 6 hours after leaving Dakar then 19
 to E, speed on patrol 18. (4) GLOIRE leave patrol from E. and
 proceed direct to Dakar.
 (Comar, Dakar 051517Z. to F.O.C. W.A. (R) Admty. CILICIA,
 GEORGES LEYGUES, Com. 4th Fleet.)

Movements, Arrival 5th U.S. Transport MONTEREY. Departure
 Takoradi. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE Lagos 6th.
 (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 051606Z. to Admty. etc.)

W.S.29. Convoy W.S.29 sailed 5th. List, fuel, etc.
 (D.S.T.O.W.A. 051800Z. to P.S.T.Os. Capetown etc.)

Movements, Arrival 5th May THYME, VIRGINIA. Departure KUMAON.
 Lagos. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 051801Z. to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 0700/5th May. 3. Nil.
 W.S.29. 4. Knots 12.7. 5. (Route) to L. 33.47 S. 18.14 E.
 Convoy split at (L) from which position Capetown
 Section proceed through 33.52 S. 18.20 E. to Table
 Bay. Durban Section proceed (L) to M. 034° 00'
 S. 018° 14' E. thence through (Route). 6. NEWCASTLE S.O.
 (N.C.S.O. Freetown 051849, 052330Z to Admty.)

U-Boat. American Aircraft reports sighting what appeared to
 be S/M crash diving in 003° 55' N. 011° 07' W. at
 051322.
 (F.O.W.A. 051947Z. to S. and A. Afloat.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Position at 1700A of one medium enemy vessel one escort vessel and 2 A/C was 38.59 N. 13.49 E. course 190°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C 59P/F, 050718A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Position course and speed of enemy 1 medium vessel, 1 destroyer, 1 escort vessel, 4 A/C, 38.59 N. 13.18 E., course 180° speed 12 knots.
(A/C 59P/Z, 050817A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Have gained contact. P.C. and S. of 1 M/V, 1 destroyer and 1 escort vessel 38.24 N. 13.22 E., 190°, 12 knots.
(A/C 59P/Z, 051134 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Have gained contact. 1 medium vessel, 1 destroyer and 1 escort vessel in 38.31 N. 13.21 E., course 180°, speed 12 knots.
(A/C 59P/Z, 051135A to A.H.Q. Malta.)
Have gained contact, P.C. and S. of 1 medium vessel, 1 destroyer, 1 escort vessel 38.21 N. 13.21 E., 180°, 12 knots.
(A/C 59P/Z, 051155A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
P.C. and S. of enemy:- 1 medium vessel, 1 vessel (type unknown destroyer or larger warship) 38.15 N. 12.25 E., 260°, speed 10 knots.
(A/C 03N/K, No T.O.O./5 to A.H.Q. Malta, Recd. 1539/5.)
P.C. and S. of enemy destroyer 38.33 N. 13.01 E., 090°, 10 knots.
(A/C 06M/V, 051240 to Air H.Q. Malta.)
Position course and speed of enemy:- 1 destroyer, 1 medium vessel, 1 escort vessel - 38.31 N. 12.38 E., 270°, speed 8 knots.
(A/C 06M/V, 051325A to Air H.Q. Malta.)
My 051325 enemy sunk by air attack.
(A/C 06M/V, 051350A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

Movements, Cyprus. Arrived 4th May M.L.350, ABDIEL. Left a.m./5th May ABDIEL.
(N.O.I.C. Famagusta, Cyprus, 050833C to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Beirut. 4th May arrival ABDIEL, Greek Des. AETOS, M.L.385. Departure ABDIEL, M.L.350.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 050850C to Admty.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 4th May WOLBOROUGH, SARKA, Greek Des. SPETSAI. Departure 4th May HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, Greek Destroyer IERAX.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 050915C to Admty., etc.)

32nd M.L. Flotilla. Can reply now be made to paras. 1 and 4 of A.M. 161055 April?
2. Unless you state to the contrary it will be assumed that 32nd M.L. Flotilla referred to in A.M.301352 April will operate as a 7 boat flotilla.

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.32nd M.L.
Flotilla.
(Contd.)

3. Request you will state base from which you propose to operate 32nd M.L. Flotilla. (D.D.O.D.(C), 050952B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gibraltar.)

Axis
Intelligence.

Views of informed Axis nationals in Turkey regarding forthcoming campaigns. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 051132C, 051812C to D.N.I.) See Lion Copy.

SIBYL,
UNISON.

1. P.217 (SIBYL) after passing 038° 27' 010° 01' at 2130A/6th proceed to operate in zone J, north of 039° 20' N. until 2000/8th when she has freedom of action in zone J.

2. P.43 (UNISON) passing P at 1500A/6th proceed zone B and zone E, west of 14° E.

3. 3 destroyers from Bone will be sweeping towards movement tonight returning to Bone on completion. (Capt. (S) 8, 051154A to 8 S.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

Movements,
Malta.

Sailed H.M. Ships ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, PETARD, arrived Polish submarine DZIK. (V.A. Malta, 051205 to Admty., etc.)

ISIS.

Amend C. in C. Med's 041951 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 1 as follows: position A should read 090° Kelibia 7 to be passed at 2000A. (2) My 051146 (N.T. in W.R.) return through 090°

Kelibia 10.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 051207 to ISIS, (R) C. in C. M.F., F.O.I.S., A.I.G.263, F.O. 12th C.S.)

ALBA JULIA.

My 041941C. ALBA JULIA waiting at entrance Straits 1130 G.M.T. May 5th. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 051335C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, S.1, S.10, D.N.I.)

My 051335C. ALBA JULIA entered Aegean 1350 G.M.T. May 5th. Course West, North of Lemnos, escorted by two destroyers and one seaplane. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 051910 to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

+ French Navy
Personnel.

Your 032206. In present stringent manning situation it is desired to make best possible use of these officers and men. Request you will report their general qualifications and what types of ship you consider they are capable of manning.

/Request ...

War Diary.

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

French Navy Personnel. (Contd.) Request also your views as to possible ways of employing surplus after your own requirements and those of Force X have been filled. They could not be used elsewhere than in Africa or Mediterranean until Generals Giraud and de Gaulle have come to an agreement. One possibility is to train and employ them in Mediterranean for future use in Landing Craft as operations develop.
(Deputy 1st S.L., 051331B to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Situation. 1. Situation report for week ending 1st May 1943. Enemy air. Nil.
2. Own air. Approx. 50 Spitfire bomber sorties escorted by Spitfires. Targets factory and power station Marzamemi, Augusta Harbour, Lampedusa, Syracuse. 34 long range, 24 short range Spitfire daylight offensive sweeps. One Caproni 313, two Ju.52s destroyed. Two masted schooner set on fire. Few ground targets strafed. By night 19 Mosquitoe, 12 Beaufighter intruder patrols mainly Sicily. Two Ju.88s destroyed one prob. Ju.88 and one unidentified A/C damaged. Shipping searches by Wellingtons every night. No attacks.
3. Convoy M.W.26 unloaded by 30th April. Total tonnage 13,057 tons.
(Govr. Malta., 051350Z to C. in C. M.E.)

Loss of REGENT. Capt. (S) 1 021444 and Capt. (S) 10 031138. Have no further comment.
(2) Indications that S.Ps (? have been compromised)
(3) Admty. pass to F.O.(S).
(C. in C. Levant, 051401C to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS. Departure 0900Z.
(Cdre. Aden, 051453Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

M.T.Bs. Your 051253B, intend sailing M.T.Bs in accordance with C. in C. Med. Fleet 050918A* para. (C) codeword "Magrac" B C N.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 051457A to V.A. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., ISIS, A.I.G.263, F.O. 12th C.S.)
* N.T. in W.D.

P.R.U. May 5th visual.
1112 Messina partially obscured, no major units visible. 1205 Naples, no major units.
Castellamare not covered.
(V.A. Malta, 051511B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/Force H ...

MOST SECRET

167A

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message, and the text must first be paraphrased ^{ON 11/23/43} before it can be communicated to persons outside British or ^{Message} Government Services. **IN**

MOST SECRET

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

Date 5.5.43.

Circulated at request of 1st S.L.

To Usfor. Troopers. 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) (Passed by F.O.) Britmilat, Ankara (for Marshal Chakmak (Passed by F.O.) Resident Minister, Achimota (Passed by Colonial Office) Defender, Wellington (for Puttick) (Passed by War Office).

U.S. 320
LINREP 43.
INCOMING MESSAGE ETOUSA.
ROUTINE.

Tunisia - Situation Report.

LINREP 43. 5th May, 1943.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS 29th April to 2nd May.

1. EIGHTH ARMY.

On April 29th some ground was lost as result of enemy counter attacks on left of Enfidaville position, but the position was restored during the night. To reinforce the main attack the 7th Armd. Div., 4th Ind. Inf. Div. and 201 Guards Bde. are moving to 1st Army area. 7th Armd. Div. had previously been relieved by 4th Lt. Armd. Bde. with under Command L Force. There was little other activity except on May 2nd, when 169 Inf. Bde. halted a small counter attack in the Coastal Sector. With the French 19th Corps contact has been maintained.

2. ONE ARMY.

(a) 19th Corps. No further progress has been made North of the road Enfidaville - Pont du Fahs. 19th Corps has been reorganised as 3 divisions, Algerian, Moroccan, and Oran, commanded respectively by Generals Conne, Mathenet, and Boisseau. There remains in reserve an armoured force.

(b) 9th Corps. In the area of Sebkret El Kourzia our patrols operated; but in the face of strong anti-tank defences on Djebel Kournine J8117, armoured elements were unable to make progress. 1st (Br.) Armd. Div. with under command 139 Inf. Bde, on May 1st assumed command of the sector held by the 9th Corps. 9th Corps, consisting of 6th Armd. Div. 4th Div, and on arrival 4th Indian Inf. Div. and 7th Armd. Div. reverted to One Army Reserve.

/ c.

c. 5 Corps. Until April 30th heavy fighting continued with enemy tanks supporting counter attacks. Heavy losses suffered on both sides. Several features changed hands, but general line remains the same. A concentration of some 40 enemy tanks was engaged by bombers on May 2nd, and one of hundred motor vehicles by artillery 10 miles S.W. of Tebourba. Results were not observed.

3. TWO (U.S. CORPS.)

In difficult country some 14 miles East of Cap Serrat, 9th Inf. Div. and the Corps Franc d'Afrique, have made excellent progress taking nearly 600 prisoners. Including over 500 by the Corps d'Afrique, in the North. Our troops were within artillery range of Mateur on the 2nd. May. On May 3rd. RCN troops of the 1st U.S. Arm. Div. entered Mateur, followed by other armored elements. Some enemy units were reported to be cut off.

4. ENEMY

Despite stubborn resistance, enemy forced to give ground in whole Northern Sector. In extreme North pace of his withdrawal has increased, and enemy obliged to use Italian remnants to bolster up defence. Intention probably to make stand North and NW Garaet Ashkel in mountains. Enemy counter attacked strongly with infantry and armoured forces north and south River Medjerda and succeeded temporarily in checking our thrust to Tebourba and Tunis, at least temporarily.

b. Sector Medjerda - Pont du Fahs. For the time being enemy has stabilized his positions and holds off our armor from main approaches to open country SW of Tunis with anti-tank guns. Further south, around Pont du Fahs position has stiffened. Town held by enemy and on hills to the East artillery is sited. Enemy located in foothills North main Saouaf Road southeast Pont du Fahs. On Eighth Army Front main situation materially unchanged but local withdrawal on western flank Enfidaville Line. Present lull being used by enemy to regroup defensive positions and refit armoured forces. Especially in vital sector Medjerda - Pont du Fahs covering plain of Tunis tenacious resistance still expected.

5. NAVAL

Sweeps to Maritime have been carried out by destroyers, off which place, with A-Boats, they fought an action. Rammied and out in half 1 E-boat, probably sinking a second by gunfire and damaging a third. Off the Cape Bon Peninsula our MIBs, including American units, (with MCBs), have operated. Our MIBs. sank

a medium/

MOST SECRET

167B

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

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

- 3 -

a medium sized merchantman, also damaging 2 enemy mine sweepers and an R-boat on 1 operation made in daylight. 1 of our M.T.Bs had to be abandoned and sunk by our own forces after being engaged by aircraft and shore batteries.

6. AIR.

Excellent results achieved against enemy shipping by our offensive. Our bombers sank a large destroyer off Cape Bon and direct hits received by a small enemy merchant ship. 1 corvette, 2 destroyers, 1 small merchant vessel, 1 F-Boat, 1 R-boat, 1 E-boat and 1 Siebel Ferry claimed sunk by Kittyhawks. 3 additional merchant ships are believed to have been sunk and left in flames a 3rd. Destroyer. Light, medium, and heavy bombers have been attacking enemy airfields in Tunisia, and have maintained a strong scale of support for our forward units.

7. POLITICAL

The abolition of political internment camps has been announced by Giraud. Negotiations with de Gaulle await meeting 4th May of French National Committee. An invitation to de Gaulle to come to North Africa for personal conference at any time thereafter has been extended by Giraud.

051123A

1st Lord.	Circulation:	Brigadier Jacob.
1st S.L. (2)		Foreign Secretary.
4th S.L.		First Sea Lord.
5th. S.L.		C.6.Tels. W.O.
D.C.N.A.B.		A.M.C.S. (C)
V.C.N.S.		Mr. Strang. F.O.
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)		Mr. Radcliffe. M.O.I.
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. of L.D.	
D.D.I.C. (2)	D.A./S.W. (2)	
D. of P. (2)	C.C.L.S.	
Duty Captain. (2)	D.G.D. (2)	
Head of M.		
D.N.I. (4)		
I.P. (2)		
D.P.D.		
C.N.I.		
W.D.		
Admiral Blake.		
D.D.O.D. (M)		
D.A.W.T.		
D.T.S.D.		

MOST SECRET

167c

WARNING: This is an unparaphrased version of a secret cypher or confidential code message. ~~Most Secret~~ must first be paraphrased in a manner essential to communicate it to persons outside British or Allied Government Services.

MESSAGE
051132C May
051812C

Axis
Intelligence,
Turkey.

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

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date: 5.5.43.

Recd: 2114

Naval Shore Code O.T.P. by Cable Recirculation at the request of N.I.D.

Addressed: D. of N.I. Repeated S.O.(I) Levant latter pass to S.O.(I) Mediterranean and Commander A force Cairo.

Following represents (?the) summarized views of informed Axis Nationals in Turkey regarding forthcoming summer's campaigns:

- A. Generally views are widely different and vague: Axis obviously kept guessing.
- B. Italians most depressed foreseeing early defeat, Turkey allowing Allies use of her territory soon, etc. This view notably expressed by Zingarelli well known Italian journalist previously strong Fascist.
- C. Italian Military Attache reported (A three) repeat (A three) to believe Italy will not be repeat will not be invaded.
- D. All agree Crete impregnable therefore invasion of Greece not an immediate possibility.
- E. Germans (word omitted) with Embassy and recently from Germany, appear convinced war in Europe will last further two or three years. Whole no longer expect victory, majority believe (?in) a draw facilitated by Anglo-American desire to oppose Soviet Union Domination over Europe. Von Flegge typical exponent of this view.

051132C

051812C/May

Date: 6.5.43.

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Recd: 1152

Naval Shore Code (O.T.P.) by Cable

Addressed Admiralty.

My 051132C add paragraph:
(F) The same Germans, contrary to Italians, appear confident that no developments hostile to Axis will take place in Turkey or at any rate for next 3 months.

051812C

Advance Copy D.N.I.

- 1st Lord.
- 1st S.L. (2)
- D.F.S.L.
- V.C.N.S.
- A.C.N.S. (H)
- A.C.N.S. (F) (2)
- A.C.N.S. (W)
- U.W.R.
- D. of P. (2)
- D.O.D. (H) (2)
- D.O.D. (F) (2)
- D.N.I. (4)

- D. of L.D.
- D.A./S.W.
- I.P. (2)
- W.D.
- D.C. (2)
- Hd. of M. (6) & for Col. Jacob
- D.D.I.C. (2)
- D. of P. (Q) (2)
- R.A.V. (4)
- Ad. Blake. (4)
- File 051132

J.R.

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- X Force H. Force H leaves Algiers 1900/5th through 036° 26' 002° 01' W. to Gibraltar 15 knots. (Capt. (S) 8, 051544A to P.219 (SERAPH), TRIBUNE, ANTIIOPE F. Sub.)
- G.U.S. 7. Intend sailing to join (list) 12 ships, ocean cruising order forwarded by air today to Oran, Gibraltar and Casablanca. (Cdre. Algiers, 051604 to N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C. Med., Admty., Connev.)
- SAHIB, My 271438 April. Italian War Communique number
SPLENDID. 1074 of 4th May states that C.O., 5 other officers and 41 men were taken prisoner from a submarine. SAHIB (P.212) had a total of 6 officers and 42 men. SPLENDID (P.228) had 5 officers and 44 men. (S.8, 051620A to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., S.1, F.O.(S), S.10.)
- Movements, 5th May Port Said arrivals: IERAX, R.F.A. RELIANT,
Port Said. R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA. Departures SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, SHOREHAM, COCKCHAFFER, SCARAB, R.F.A. BARDAPUR. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 051718C to Admty., etc.)
- X Trans-North Your 291644B April to P.S.T.O.M.E.
Africa Embarkation at Sousse in Sfax or Gabes, though
Personnel possible, would entail troopships lying some
Route. distance off shore in an exposed anchorage and possibly without adequate A/A protection. (2) Tripoli (L) has every advantage in that (A) ships berth inside the harbour, (B) troops embark direct from shore over pontoons, (C) through Mediterranean convoys will either wait at Tripoli (L) for change over of escorts or pass close to the port, (D) extra escorts will not be required. (3) Ships for Tripoli (L) are restricted to length 480 feet, draught 24 feet. Most suitable ships are the less conspicuous type now employed in Eastern Med. such as RHONA, EGRA, and KAROA, with a minimum speed of 10 knots. (4) It is my intention to attach these ships to the through Mediterranean store ship convoys on the stretch between Tripoli (L) and Egypt. This is the method at present in use. (5) C. in C. Med. is requested to inform D. of S.T. of intended cycle between the two ports so that a reply can be made to para. 3(B). (C. in C. Levant, 051753C to D. of S.T., (R) C. in C. Med., P.S.T.O. Middle East.)

/Western ...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Western
Med. Port
Instructions.Pass to N.C.S.Os. A Western Mediterranean Port Instructions Booklet is in course of publication and will be supplied to N.C.S.Os concerned in due course. Details.
(D.T.D., 051813B to F.Os. I.C.)

Black Sea.

1. Sea. (A) Russian forces reported to have sunk a 2000 ton merchant vessel off Crimean coast on April 27th and merchant vessel on April 30th. Russian (?R) boat claims sinking enemy submarine off Caucasian coast on April 24th.
(B) Enemy now (? send) for supplies by sea through Kerch Straits to Mariupol and other ports on N.W. coast of Sea of Azov.

2. Air operations much increased by both sides. In massed raid on Krasnodar Area on April 28th and April 29th Russians destroyed 116 enemy aircraft for loss of 45. A further enemy aircraft destroyed in Kuban May 1st. Total 580 enemy planes located on Crimea and Taman Peninsula Aerodrome on April 29th.

3. Land. (A) Enemy commenced large scale attack in Novorossisk Area towards? end of April but all attacks were repulsed by Russians who inflicted heavy losses and by May 2nd situation resolved itself into usual artillery duels.
(B) Russians are attacking but there is no material change in situation.
(N.E.O. Black Sea, 051814 to Admty., etc.)

Malta Air
Report.

A.I.555, 5th May 1943, C.S.R.
(A) Air, part 1. Offensive. Night 4th/5th May. Poor visibility with thick haze curtailed all offensive operations. Day 5th May, 4 long range Spitfires on offensive sweep over Sicilian Narrows sighted no enemy aircraft or shipping. Part 2 enemy air activity. Night 4th/5th May. Nil. Day 5th May. 49 Spitfire sorties were made as cover for white tanker in Kalafrana Bay. 1040 hours 6 plus Me.109 approached Malta at great height. 4 Spitfires were airborne on interception but enemy aircraft avoided combat. A.A. engaged and shot down 1 Me.109 confirmed.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 051844Z, 051910Z.)

L.C.T.613
lost.

L.C.T.613 broke her back on passage from Gibraltar. Bow section sunk by gunfire. Stern portion towed to Oran. Further report will be made. No casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 051919A to Admty., (R) C.C.O.)

14th M.S.F.

Your 261709 April just received (Suggesting administration 14th Minesweeper Flotilla be transferred from Commodore (D) to Command M/S Meditn.) Agree as temporary measure.
(C. in C. Levant, 052002C to V.A. Malta.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Departures BARFLAKE, LAPAGERIA, TRANSVAAL.
Philippeville. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 052022A to Admty., etc.)

G.U.S. 7. G.U.S.7 Philippeville section sailed plus 52
FORT CHILCOTIN, with coal for Algiers.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 052041 to S.O.I.S.,
Cdre. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, A.I.G.259.)

Movements, Arrivals M.L.557, 566, French S/M ARETHUSE.
Algiers. Departures NELSON, RODNEY, FORMIDABLE, FARNDALE,
CALPE, TYNEDALE, HAYDON, PUCKERIDGE, ILEX,
VENOMOUS, ?VELOX, WHEATLAND, WILTON, WISHART,
ANTHONY, S/MS SOKOL, UPROAR (P.31).
(Cdre. Algiers, 052056A to Admty., etc.)

Movements, RHYL departed. H.M.H.S. OXFORDSHIRE, U.S.S. SEEN,
Oran. L.S.T. 394, L.C.I.41 and L.C.I.42 arrived.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 052115 to Admty., etc.)

Movements, Arrived SEAHAM, POOLE, Tug HENRIETTA MOLLER,
Malta. CORONATION, L.C.T.118 and HOPPER. Sailed M.T.B.
9562, ADRIAS, KANARIS and ROCKWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 052215 to Admty., etc.)

War Diary.

5.5.1945.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Movements. Arrival Burma M.L.1102 and 1103.
 (N.O.I.C.Madras, 050216Z to Admty)
 Departure CHALLENGER at 0440B/5th May for Palk Straits.
 (N.O.I.C.Trincomalee, 050507Z to Admty)
 Arrival AMRITSAR with I.W.T. craft KAPURTHALA.
 (N.O.I.C.Calcutta, 051020Z to Admty)
 ASTER arrived.
 (F.O. E.Af. 051031Z to Admty)
 Departure D.S.WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN at 1135Z/5 for Colombo.
 (N.O.I.C.Trincomalee, 051227Z to Admty)
 Departure 1250Z/5th BARSTOKE.
 (N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 051250Z to Admty)
 Colombo departures 5th. 0900Z BARRYMORE. 0930Z, SCOUT.
 0932Z CHITRAL 174 C.66, 190, 169, 24, 10, 270, 492. 1118Z
 HINDUSTAN.
 (F.O. Ceylon, 051450Z to C. in C. E.F.)

Troop Movements. Para. 6 of my 011001Z. NEVASA is replaced by CITY OF LONDON and will embark 250 troops in addition to 600 Polish families.
 (P.S.T.O.India, 050354Z to C. in C. E.F.)

B.P.78½ Karachi portion B.P.78½ sailed 0530Z/5th May to R/V. N.C.S.O.Bombay's 050235 refers.
 (N.C.S.O.Karachi, 050543Z to Admty)
 CLIVE escorting B.P.78½ to 062° E. thence returning Karachi.
 (N.O.I.C.Karachi, 050800Z to Admty)

S/M's Ceylon. Report what arrangements can be made to operate S/M.'s from Ceylon if ADAMANT is withdrawn without relief. A.M.041245 refers.
 (C. in C. E.F. 050614Z to F.O. Ceylon (R) Capt. (S) 4, Admty.)

EREBUS: EREBUS sails from Kilindini Thursday 6th May for Aden for onward passage to Mediterranean Station. C. in C. Med. 011818. E.T.A. Aden 13th.
 (C. in C. E.F. 050930Z to C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C.Aden. Admty. F.O.R.S.CA.)

+ A/S Forces Northern Indian Ocean. Agree to F.O. Ceylon 051202 except para. (?4). A boat inside the Persian Gulf would be a real disaster and I must persist in urging that adequate Hormuz patrol should take precedence of Ocean Escort except loaded troopships. If nothing else available would try Bassets but they should carry spare engine room personnel to enable them to keep short watches during summer months.
 (S.N.O. P.G.051003Z to C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. (R) Admty. F.L.O.Delhi, C.O.M.R.I.N., F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C.Aden.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies (Contd.)Convoy
B.M.52.B.M.52 JALADURGA sailed 0930Z/5th May escorted by BALUCHISTAN S. of A. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots E.T.A. Colombo 0100Z/9th May. (Route)
(N.C.S.O. Bombay, 051050Z to Admty)Air
Report
India.No.416 Int. Summary 5th May.
(B) Offensive R/Cs 4th May. 6 Hurricanes attacked shipping Yesagye. (F) U.S.A.A.F. reports 3rd May. 8 B.25's. Sagaing Docks. 48 x 500 lb, 24 huts on slipways and tracks.
(A.H.Q. India 051105Z to A.M. Whitehall etc.)M.M.S's
out of
action.Following is repetition of F.O.E.Af. 141639C Jan. (Begins). Admty (R) C. in C. E.F., C. in C. E.F.041542Z. HATSUSE, TEAL, SUNBURST T.O.O. 141639C Jan (Ends) Your 012323B refers. S.N.O. P.G. has been hastened.
(C. in C. E.F. 051318Z to Admty)
Request all names of M.M.S's in Eastern Fleet out of action over 5 months.WAYLAND
illness of
crew.WAYLAND is partially immobilised by many cases of jaundice (infective hepatitis) following inoculation for yellow fever. 49 cases with 1 (one) death have so far occurred out of 201 inoculated and fresh cases are still occurring. Officers sick on shore who are not expected to return for four weeks include navigating officer, paymaster commander, Captain's secretary and 2 engineer officers. My 041402 to Admty. only refers. (2) By depleting other ships of Eastern Fleet it will be possible to complete key officers and ratings in WAYLAND sufficiently to sail her by 13th May as directed in your 041245. (3) Ship is 50% short of repair stores which cannot be replaced at Kilindini before sailing. (4) Request confirmation that (?it) should be sailed in this condition by 13th May.
(C. in C. E.F. 051327Z to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, WAYLAND)

B.M.52.

Departure 1010Z BALUCHISTAN with B.M. 52.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 051541Z to Admty)Ceylon
Movements.Summary N.A. 49 5th May.
(1) BARRYMORE leaves Colombo 5th for Trincomalee via Batticaloa 6th.
(2) BATHURST left Bandar Abbas 4th escorting P.A. 37.
(3) BENGAL leaves Colombo 5th escorting (JC 11 due Calcutta 11th.
(4) BOMBAY left Bombay 29th April escorting B.P.78
(5) BALUCHISTAN leaves Bombay 5th escorting B.M.52 to Colombo.
(6) CESSNOCK left Bombay 29th April escorting BURNSIDE to 20° N. 62° E. Thence to Aden.
(8) PALMOUTH due to leave Colombo 7th for Kilindini.
(9) GERALDTON with JUMNA due to leave Bombay 8th escorting B.A. 43 to Aden.

(10) /...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Ceylon
Movements.
(Contd.)

- (10) HINDUSTAN leaves Colombo 5th to R/V POONA from Cochin to escort one ship to Colombo. POONA returns Cochin.
- (11) HIRAVATI with KONKAN arrived Bombay 28th April. (12) HOXA due to leave Colombo 6th for Addu Atoll.
- (13) IPSWICH escorting P.A. 35 due Aden 6th.
- (14) INVESTIGATOR arrived Calcutta 29th April.
- (15) LAUNCESTON arrived Aden 30th April.
- (16) MADRAS left Bandar Abbas 4th escorting P.B.39.
- (17) NETRAVATI left Madras 4th for Cochin.
- (18) NORISSA left Aden 29th April for Khor Kwhi.
- (19) OVERDALE WYKE due to leave Colombo 5th towing 2 L.C.M's to Mandapam thence returning to Colombo.
- (20) PUNJAB due to leave Bandar Abbas 9th escorting P.A. 38.
- (21) BOTNAGIRI arrived Bombay 4th.
- (22) SCOUT leaves Colombo 5th as additional escort through focal area to CHITRAL and RAJULA returning Colombo 6th.
- (23) SOEMBA left Bombay 30th April due Aden 7th.
- (24) SONAVATI left Colombo 2nd due Cocos 9th leaves Cocos 10th due Colombo 17th.
- (25) SHILLONG arrived Madras 4th.
- (26) TAMWORTH arrived Bombay 4th.
- (27) TULIP left Colombo 1st for Seychelles thence to Kilindini.
- (28) WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN arrived Trincomalee 2nd due to leave for Colombo 5th escorting two ships.
- (29) VERBENA leaves Colombo 5th for Seychelles thence to Kilindini.
- (30) TEWERA due to leave Madras 5th towing four lighters for Trincomalee.
- (F.O.Ceylon, 051640Z to Admty etc.)

H.D.M.L's.

Request you will state by whom H.D.M.L's 1102 and 1103 are manned, to which Flotilla they have been allocated and from which base it is proposed to operate them. (2) Request you will also state position regarding H.D.M.L.s 1100, 1101 and 1104.

(D.D.O.D.(C), 051753B to F.O.C.R.IN(R)C.O.Burmese Navy, R.I.N.L.O. N.O.I.C. Calcutta.

174

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

H.D.M.Ls. Lorsa 9026.
 allocations. 1. One (?out intended) of a total of 54 H.D.M.Ls building in U.S.A. allocations are as follows.
 A. 1171 - 1178 comprising 118th flotilla to Trinidad 1179 - 1182 and 1360 - 1367 comprising 116th flotilla to Jamaica.
 B. Balance of 34 craft allocated to Australia or New Zealand.
 2. Reference 1A above 118th flotilla 1171 and 1172 at destination. 1173, 1174, 1175 and 1178 en route. 1176 and 1177 leaving for destination next week. 116th flotilla. 1179 - 1182 will be ready to leave for destination this month. 1360 - 1367 expected to be available June.
 (B.A.D. 050031Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 4th arrivals M.L. 056, M.L.059 EG Wabana. Departures - STRATFORD, NIPIGON, CAPE ARGONA escorting J.H.52 to Halifax. PELICAN, SPEY WEAR, SENNEN, JED to O.N.S.5
 SAPPER, LADY MADELEINE to S.C.129, M.L. 052, M.L. 062 to Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 050102Z to Admty.)
 Kingston Jamaica. Arrival U.S.A.T. FLORIDA, U.S.Ship
 TARBELL, U.S.Ship BLAKELY.
 (S.O.(I) Kingston 051004Q to Admty.)
 Arrival U.S.A.T. DRENNAN.
 (Aruba 051121QR to Admty.)
 Departures SACKVILLE for St. Johns N.F. ALBERNI, ?ARRAS RIVIERS (?TROIS RIVIERES intended), FORT HOPE escorting H.J.50. FORT WILLIAM to H.F.52.
 (C.Halifax 051300 to Admty.)
 Arrivals NIAGARA, MATAPEDIA, MONCTON, KENORA, ex B.X. 48, H.M.C.S. MINAS, ex O.N.S.4.
 (C.Halifax 051301Z to Admty.)
 To sail about 051230Z from Argentia U.S.A.T. YARMOUTH for Greenland.
 (N.S.H.Q. 051603Z to Admty.)
 San Francisco arrival 3rd MORMACSEA, (U.S.A.T.) departure 3rd LAUTARO (Chile) for Valparaiso.
 (N.S.H.Q. 052018Z to Admty.)
 Argentia 5th departures 0800Z B.2 Group, 2200Z 3rd Escort Group.
 (Cdr. D.Argentia 052300Z to Admty.)

GANANOQUE. My 041432. Passed. Cap Chat at 0240Z/5th. Estimate sufficient fuel. Now remaining to reach Quebec. Will proceed there unless otherwise ordered.
 (GANANOQUE 050245Z to N.O.I.C. Gaspé, (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.W.A. N.O.I.C. Quebec, N.O.I.C. Sydney, C.B. D. Halifax.)

QUEEN
 ELIZABETH
 (SS.) Cancel both parts of my 042232. This is a re-encypherment of Mydi's 042218* and Mydi's 042232. Departing New York 1315Z May 5 Ambrose Point. ED Seaward end swept channel at 1430Z May 5. Position A at 2030Z May 5. QUEEN ELIZABETH, U.K. E.T.A. the Clyde 0200Z May 11.

/Route...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
(SS.)
(Contd.)

(Route). S.O.A. 26.2, 15074 service personnel aboard "Chop" 1500Z May 7. Communications standard as Admiralty's 151050 March. Fighter protection code word is "Bayrum" with associated call sign 157.
(Port Director New York 050616 to Cominch C. & R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.Lant, C. in C.C.N.A. C.E.S.F. Com. 3.)
* both parts circulated under final T.O.O.042232.

X.B.49,
BLAIRMORE.

Boston arrived 041658 escorting X.B.49 BLAIRMORE. (N.S.H.Q. 050632 to Admty.)
Amended N.S.H.Q. 062223Z to Admty.)

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
5th.

Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
CILICIA	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
CHESHIRE	19° N. 35° W.	316°	13.

altering to 000° in 36° W.
(D.O.D.(F) 050943Z to Opnav (R) Commaveu.)

U.S. S/M
Notice S/M
Estimate 5th
May.

(C. in C.U.S.Fleet 051048Z, 051530, 051531, 051625, 051627 (Z).)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

It is desired to make all possible advance preparations for any outstanding work in S. 171 prior to arrival in U.K. and to be in a position to man up uncompleted work as soon as possible after arrival.
2. Request therefore arrangements be made as follows (details).
(D. of D.Bath 051214B to B.A.D. for B.A.M.R. (R) C.O.Job No. S.171 (QUEEN ELIZABETH.))

X N.Atlantic
Convoy
Cycles,
Escort
Groups.

Your 032240Z. Your point appreciated but would ask you to accept schedule as promulgated owing to planned disposition of Mid Ocean Groups against operational requirements.
2. Changing conditions of shipping may necessitate further adjustment of cycle in due course if O.S./S.L. convoys require another group.
This may present opportunity to adjust Western Local forces.

/3...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

N.Atlantic Convoy Cycles, Escort Groups. (Contd.)

3. It is unfortunately not possible to reconcile all conflicting interests and at the moment we fear some disabilities must be accepted as inevitable.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 051235B to N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C.W.A. Cominch C. & R. B.A.D. C. in C.C.N.A. Comnav.)

X Reports on Stragglers.

My 041340B request reports on stragglers may be furnished in similar form from American, Canadian and Newfoundland ports.
(D.T.D. 051346B to Connav, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.W.A.)

C.U.Convoy date of sailing.

Request information definite date of departure from Curacao of next R.U. (?C.U. intended) convoy.
(N.S.H.Q. 051500Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M estimate.

(N.S.H.Q. 051505Z.)

U/B.

A/S contact attacked in 047° 16' N. 059° 55' W. at 1231Z.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 051540Z to G.B.7A.)

Shipping Casualties.

Following is paraphrase of Connav's 2049/3rd May, Connav serials 1 to 3, which informs as follows:-
British WOLLONGBAR torpedoed April 29 about 200 miles South of Sydney.
American LIVINGSTON ROE afire May 2nd, reported beached and fire extinguished near Pernambuco Harbour.
American PHOEBE A. HEARST torpedoed and sunk April 30, position 20.07 S. 177.33 W.
American WILLIAM WILLIAMS torpedoed and presumed sunk May 2 position 20.09 S. 178.04 W.
(Comnav 051541 to Admty.)

Abandoned Steamer.

Following is recoded version of MANHASSET's 051528 (begins) Abandoned steamer approx. 9000 tons 54.04 N. 44.18 W. torpedoed 1300Z. No apparent settling past two hours. Shall we sink or attempt salvage. (Ends.)
(C.T.F. 24 051935Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. Cominch, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.)

MANHASSET's 051935Z. ADHERENT available. Only suitable escort PORT ARTHUR or ALGOMA now en route to support O.N.180.
(F.O.N.F. 052041Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.C.N.A. Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C.T.F.24.)

/ORILLIA...

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5.5.1943.
WednesdayWar Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

ORILLIA. At 1500/5 sailed ORILLIA to Londonderry through H.44.30 N. 62.15 W. S? 45.40 N. 53.00 W. R. 45.41 16.01 W. thence great circle route to 000° Inishtrahull light ten miles thence destination via Q.Z.S.G. 388 speed 12 knots, E.T.A. 1500Z/13th May.
2. Request ORILLIA join group C.4, N.S.H.Q. 251732. (C. in C.C.N.A. 051610Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. F.O.I.C. Londonderry.)

E.A.C. A.955 5 May Ops. 4 May. Times G.M.T.
Air Report. Enemy sightings 3. Canso A William of 5 B.R. on escort for O.N.S.5 sighted submarine at 1757 in 56°38' N. 42°32' W. attacked while still surfaced with 4 D.Cs submarines course 340° T. A/C attacked from 10° off submarines starboard bow first D/C fell 80 ft. ahead. Second about 40 feet ahead. 3rd and 4th observed to fall on port side less than 12 feet away, 1 just ahead and 1 just aft conning tower. Oil slick spreading 200 - 800 feet and planks or timbers with fresh cracks in them plainly visible. Preliminary assessment seriously damaged possibly sunk. Same A/C sighted second submarine at 1850 in 56° 10' N. 42°55' W. No attack. Canso a easy of 5 B.R. on escort for O.N.S.5 sighted submarine at 2059 in 55° 36' N. 43° 14' W. attacked while fully surfaced with 4 D/Cs. Submarines course 132° T speed 8 kts. A/C attack made from 310° T D/Cs straddled submarine 2nd and 3rd falling on either side not more than 15 feet from Hull, submarine opened fire on A/C with Oerlikon gun and A/C returned fire. 2 men on conning tower hit and seen to fall into the sea. Preliminary assessment seriously damaged possibly sunk.
(H.Q. E.A.C. Canada 051630 to Air Min.)

M/S Trawlers. Request date of sailing to U.K. of M/S trawlers TEXADA, FLINT, GATESHEAD and HERCHEL. All working up can be carried out in U.K. (D.M.S 051705B to N.S.H.Q.)

Dispositions. Section North West, U.S.S. INTENSITY, HASTEY, ALACRITY escorting one motor vessel vicinity Bic Island coast-wise to 048° 45' 064° 02' nine knots thence Mulgrave via Northumberland Strait and Gut of Canso ST. KENAN 046° 20' 059° 54' 270° nine alter for (Sydney (C.B.)?) in 060° 09' W. Ayrshire CAPE MARIATO and PAYNTER patrolling Cabot Strait.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 051755Z to Admty.)
My 051725*add GRANDMERE depart 40.10 73.00 at 0100Z May 6th course 085° alter to 045° in 68.00 W. speed 12 knots. (C. in C.C.N.A. 052100Z to Admty.) * 051755 intended.

/QUEEN...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

QUEEN
ELIZABETH
working up
of Frigates.

Your 271425. Owing to other requirements during this period, it is not practicable to find a British destroyer screen for QUEEN ELIZABETH. Requested you will:-
A. approach Navy Dept. to provide escort to Bermuda.
B. arrange escort of 4 "Captain" class frigates from Bermuda to U.K.
C. if no U.S. escorts are available, arrange as in B. above from U.S.A. to U.K.
2. According to our latest information, frigates should arrive Bermuda as follows:-
A. BLACKWOOD and DRURY in early May.
B. BAZELY late in May, after completing repairs.
C. BENTINCK and BYARD 15th May and early June respectively.
3. Appreciated that this arrangement will necessitate prolonging working-up of the frigates and possibly some adjustment in sailing date of QUEEN ELIZABETH.
4. Request you will confirm dates in para. 2 above, and when your reply is received regarding para 1A above, Admiralty will inform S.B.N.O.W.At. regarding working-up of frigates. (D.O.D.(H) 051824B to B.A.D.) Reply B.A.D. 121547Z.

PANAM
(Pan)
torpedoed.

PANAM in N.K. 538 torpedoed and sunk at 1230Z 4th in 34.01 N. 76.09 W. (N.S.H.Q. 051848Z to Admty.)

A.T.44
(ANDES)

Convoy A.T.44. Request you will sail ANDES from Halifax on 14th May so as to arrive Liverpool on daylight tide and report E.T.A. Bar Light Vessel and estimated position of ship at daylight on day of arrival.
2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange maximum air protection.
3. Fighter protection code word "Damson."
(D.O.D.(H) 051902B to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Connav, B.A.D. A.C.I.C. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.H.F. C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C. Liverpool Air Min. H.Q.F.C. H.Q.C.C.)

O.N.179.

Boston section arrived 051950Z.
(1st U.S.N.D. Boston 051946Z to Cominch C. & R.)

B.X.48.

Arrived between 0011Z and 1903Z May 5th.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 052020Z to Admty.)

St. Johns
development

Your 262203Z paras 2 and 3. N.S.H.Q. concurs in F.O.N.F's 282004 as the most practical arrangement regarding machinery for Bay Bulls A.N. St. Johns.
(N.S.H.Q. 052022B to B.A.D. (R) Admty. C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.N.F. B.M.W.T. Montreal.)
Amended 061512Z.

/Shipping...

5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Shipping Casualties. Connav serials 4 and 5.
PANAM torpedoed sunk May 4 position 34.19 N.
76.23 W. convoy N.K.538.
NANKING torpedoed sunk April 29th off Grand Bassa
(Cominch C. and R. 052111 to Comnavu etc.)

Solops 18. On May 3rd 1 destroyer and 11 merchant ships
were sighted in Buin area.
(B.A.D. 052117Z to Admty. C.O.I.S. E.F. (R)
Concentric Colombo, Chief of Staff, Kilindini,
F.L.O.Delhi.)

QUEEN MARY. Ref. Admty. 011439. Essential we have approx.
E.T.A. account drydock arrangements.
(B.M.W.T. New York 052122Z to D. of S.T.)

KING HAAKON VI Your 051951B April. Request date of arrival
KING HAAKON VI at Halifax.
(N.S.H.Q. 052124Z to Admty.)

Sub. attack & sighting summary. All times Z.
A. PANAM torpedoed sunk 34.11 N. 76.12 W. 041230
Three unidentified torpedoed sunk area 55 N.
43.W on 4th. Unidentified torpedoed 54.40 N.
43.22 W. 050500 and 54.04 N. 44.18 W. 051300.
Sub sighted course 290 62.18 N. 17.55 W. 050500.
R.C.A.F. Plane attacks sub. 56.38 N. 42.32 W. 041757. ORIBI
sights sub. on surface 55.30 N. 42.20 W. 041950. R.C.A.F.
Plane attacks sub. on surface 55.35 N. 43.14 W. 042045.
B. Plane sights sub 76.10 N. 42.55 W. 041850.
C. Radar contact 33.40 N. 76.10 W. 051400. Brazilian Fishermen
sight sub. on surface 02.10 S. 38.15 W. 040500.
D. P.B.M.Plane Radar Contact 33.53 N. 76.45 W. 050925. Sound
contact 34.08 N. 76.15 W. 051215. P.B.M. Radar contact 37.27
N. 73.56 W. 051530. U.S.S. GOFF attacks sound contact 07.58
N. 57.32 W. 042217. Army plane sights sub. course E. 05.25 S.
34.40 W. 041835. Plane sights periscope 31 N. 78.42 W.
031343. Surface craft attacks sub 40.50 N. 67.04 W. 022300.
(Cominch 052132 to Admty.)

H.X. 237, POLYANTHUS H.X. 237 my 041305 (N.T. in W.D.) para. 1.
Delete POLYANTHUS. Considerable damage by
grounding when leaving Harbour.
(F.O.N.F. 052140Z to C.2., W.6., (R) C. in
C.W.A. C. in C.N.W.At. N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in
C.U.S.Fleet.)

/French...

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

X French Naval
Vessels,
repairs &
employment.

Ref. C.C.S. 194 and 194/1.

Admiral King has written as follows to the Joint U.S. Chiefs of Staff for reference to the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

2. "It appears necessary at this time for the Combined Chiefs of Staff to determine the future employment of French Naval Vessels, in so far as practicable, in order that repairs, overhaul and modernization can be appropriately executed, it is urgent that this decision be made with reference to submarines as it is evident that the nature and amount of work on this type will differ materially depending on the nature of proposed employment".

3. "In regard to submarines early decision is required on the following:-

A. What employment will be assigned after repairs - 1, for training anti-submarine forces, 2 for offensive operations.

B. What submarines will be in each category.

C. Where the submarines will be repaired".

4. We propose to suggest that this matter be settled between U.S. and British Naval Staffs or alternatively referred to combined planners.

5. We would be grateful for your detailed views as a matter of urgency on para. 3 above, to be followed by proposals as regards the other classes of French Ships.

(B.A.D. 052209Z to Admty.)

SACKVILLE.

E.T.A. 1900 April 6th (May intended) boiler hours. Weather report.

(SACKVILLE 052328Z to F.O.C.N.F. (R) Capt. D.N.F.)

AKAROA
number of
passengers.

AKAROA will sail in convoy from New York about 15th May to Key West and thereafter independently to Panama, New Zealand and Australia her speed is 13 knots.

2. British rules limit passengers in unescorted ships of this speed to 100, but in view of limited passages available to New Zealand and Australia approval is requested to embark to limit of passenger certificate, which is 200.

X 3. U.S. Authorities have no objection, but will not accept women not connected with the war effort or children under sixteen years in an unescorted ship of less than 14.5 knots in the Pacific.

(B.A.D. 052359Z to Admty.)

Approved (D.O.D.(F) 061310B to B.A.D.)

War Diary.5.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

+ Merchant
Shipping
losses, re
announcing.

Question of making public announcement of merchant shipping losses in this area is under discussion here. G.H.Q. of C. in C. which is responsible for issue of all communiques, propose as normal procedure to announce sinkings approximately 2 weeks after loss, (?which) is stated to be U.S. Navy Department and British Admiralty practice. Would appreciate early Admiralty view on subject.
(A.C.N.B. 050300 to Admty.)

Movements.

Departures Auckland 2035Z/5th U.S.S. RIXY for Noumea E.T.A. 2200Z/7th. U.S.S. TALAMANCA 0334Z/5th for Noumea E.T.A. 2100Z/7th.

Departures Noumea 0100Z/5th MATAI, TUI and U.S.S. JAMESTOWN for Cape Breet. E.T.A. 1900 due U.S. 8th MATAI thence to Lyttelton TUI and JAMESTOWN to Auckland.
(D.N.I. Wellington 050507Z to Admty.)

Arrival 4th May Bowen U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT, Townsville ASSIS YUNNAN 5th Brisbane Hospital ship CENTAUR, Dutch Naval Store Ship MINJAK TANAH. Hired Transport TAROONA arrived Milne Bay 4th departing 5th due Townsville 7th U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER arrived and departed Townsville 4th due Thursday Island 6th V.S.I.S. MERKUR H.T. DUNTROON U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed Brisbane 4th due Townsville 8th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 051316 to Admty.)

Arrivals Brisbane 3rd U.S. Destroyer SELFRIDGE, 4th U.S. Destroyer RALPH TALBOT, AUSTRALIA, DELORANE, LITHGOW, GYMPIE, BUNGAREE, BENDIGO, KALGOURLIE Milne Bay 4th SWAN.

Melbourne 4th D.S. VAN GALEN Exmouth Gulf 4th U.S. Seaplane Tender WILLIAM B. PRESTON, PELIAS, ISABEL Netherlands Light Cruiser HEEMSKERCK TJERK HIDDES.

Departures Milne Bay 3rd GLENELG for Port Moresby 4th SWAN for Townsville Port Moresby 4th ECHUCA for Milne Bay Cairns 3rd WARREGO for Thursday Island Townsville 2nd VENDETTA for Brisbane Sydney (N.S.W.) 3rd U.S. Destroyer PATERSON for Townsville 4th U.S. Destroyer NICHOLAS U.S. Destroyer FLETCHER U.S. Destroyer Tender WHITNEY for Noumea Brisbane 4th DELORANE, FREMANTLE, BUNGAREE, BENDIGO, KALGOURLIE for Sydney.

(A.C.N.B. 051551Z to Admty.)

Digest
Serial No.
470 May 4th.

2. Attacked village and barges Talasea Area firing one barge morning 4th.
3. Third strafed barges off Lolobau Island afternoon, reported 5 medium merchant vessels in area. 6 Liberators attacked late afternoon causing large explosion in town area and scoring direct hits on medium vessel which was left listing and smoking. Aircraft also reported sighting 4 small merchantmen and 1 gunboat in area, while photos reveal 1 medium merchant vessel listing after attack, 2 coasters, 3 luggers, 90 barges. 6. One Hudson attacked Luggers and barges Tajandoe Islands (Kai Group) noon.

7. Ref. Digest No. 468 May 2nd Para. 12, final reports state 3 enemy fighters destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, 8 damaged and 1

/bomber...

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5.5.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Digest Serial bomber destroyed, 1 damaged. 13 Spitfires
No. 470 May 4. lost whereof 7 shot down 3 each result of
(Contd.) engine trouble and petrol shortage and 1
spitfire damaged. 3 Pilots only lost.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 050950Z.)

Convoys,
names of
escorts.

It would be appreciated if names of escorts
with G.P.48 could be given and if these could
be included in future convoy sailing telegram.
(D.T.D. 051401B to A.C.N.B. (R) Connav,
N.C.S.O. Sydney.)

Solops 18.

(B.AD. 052117Z to Admty. etc.)
See America & West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 051416B, 051425B.)

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Patrol
"White"

1. JAMAICA returned to Hvalfjord at 2326 today from the Denmark Straits Patrol.

2. An inconclusive action took place at about 0100 this morning in 49° 00' N. 03° 20' W. (off Sept. Isles) between M.T.Bs. 98, 96, M.G.Bs. 111, 115 and a force of 2 or 3 M-Class minesweepers with 3 trawlers. Some hits by gunfire and one possible hit with a torpedo were observed and M.T.B.96 was slightly damaged by gunfire.

3. A force of probably 5 E-Boats were located stopped off Selsey Bill at 0126 and thence returned to Cherbourg. The enemy were engaged by coast defence batteries at Culver and Littlehampton without result. Albacores of 823 Sqn. drove off the enemy, apparently without inflicting any damage. Owing to operation K.L.1 being carried out the usual patrol of 2 M.Ls. in this area was not available.

O.N.S.5. up
to B U/Bs
possibly
sunk or
damaged.

4. In addition to the 9 merchant ships reported torpedoed yesterday in convoy O.N.S.5, of which 5 were sunk, it is reported today that the British SELVISTAN, 5136 tons, GHARINDA 5306 tons, and the Norwegian BONDE, 1570 tons, were also torpedoed, SELVISTAN being sunk and GHARINDA and BONDE being still afloat and believed salvable. Survivors from all the torpedoed ships have been picked up; the 1st Escort Group (PELICAN and 3 Frigates) joined the convoy this morning, and the Rescue Tug ADHERENT left St. Johns N.F. at 0449Z today to assist. 24 further attacks were made on this convoy by U-Boats during last night; but all these were repulsed and 5 U-Boats are claimed sunk - one having been rammed by ORIBI; one by SUNFLOWER; one depth-charged, which surfaced, and was blown up by LOOSESTRIFE; one destroyed by a single depth-charge by SNOWFLAKE; and the fifth claimed hit by Hedgehog from VIDETTE (reported a kill by F.O.N.F.) PELICAN and SENNEN also attacked U-Boats near the convoy at 0608Z and 0753Z today respectively: PELICAN considers her U-Boat was probably destroyed) and SPEY obtained 2 hits with gunfire on the conning tower of another at 1005Z. PINK and SENNEN have been ordered to remain as long as possible with their portion of the convoy; and at 1240Z PINK reported that she was proceeding with them to St. Johns.

ORIBI will be inoperable for at least two months as the result of damage caused in ramming her U-Boat.

/The...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

O.N.S.5 up
to 18 U/Bs
possibly sunk
or damaged.
(Contd.)

The result of preliminary investigation of attacks on the convoy is given in a message from F.O.N.F. on 9th May. He considers 4 U-Boats were sunk (LOOSESTRIFE's is given as only very probable), 4 very probably, 2 probably, 8 possibly. He strongly suggests that the convoy was routed too far north into ice and bad weather: only on one night after a gale had scattered the convoy and in rough sea did the U-Boats gain the upper hand. He thinks that day attacks will become more and night attacks less frequent, as the result of this battle.

X 5. One high-level A/C attacked Murmansk at 1630C yesterday and there was a dive bombing attack on ships at anchor at 1730C today; no damage or casualties occurred in either attack.

Operation
K.L.1.

6. The 9th M.S.F. carried out operation K.L.1 last night. The covering force opened fire on M.Ls. which were astern of the sweepers, but no damage or casualties were caused and no mines were swept.

X Operation
Q.K.4D

7. The M.G.B. force supporting minelaying operation Q.K.4D engaged in error M.Ls. 100, 105 and 106 in 51.27 N. 02.41 E. in the early hours of this morning. M.L. 105, who returned the fire, was damaged and had two casualties, one fatal, and returned to base. M.Ls. 100 and 106 later abandoned the operation on account of the presence of enemy forces.

Operation
S.N.111A

8. R.A.M. reported at 0334B that this operation had been completed after 26 hours delay caused by bad weather. BERMUDA returned to Scapa this evening and R.A.M. in MENETHEUS with 1st M.L. Squadron returned to Port ZA.

Aircraft
minelaying.

X 9. Bad weather restricted Bomber Command operations last night to minelaying. 101 mines were laid in the Frisian Islands - Elbe area.

185

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

10. KING GEORGE V arrived at Gibraltar at 2015B today, escorted by METEOR, TUSCAN and TROUBRIDGE.

U/B destroyed

11. At 1836Z today in 35.20 N. 20.15 W. U.S.S. MADDOX attacked a U-Boat four times, dropping 24 charges. The U-Boat was blown to the surface on the second attack. exposing about 75 feet of mid section of keel to a height of about 8 ft. and then sank, capsized to an angle of 130° with keel exposed. Additional depth charges were dropped on one hatch at the sinking spot. No further contact was obtained during 4 hours' search and Comdesron 17 believes the U-Boat was destroyed.

South Atlantic.

12. An aircraft reported receiving a message from ST. USK stating that an intercepted W/T message reported Greek SS. ADELFOFOTIS (3676 tons) Buenos Aires for Freetown and U.K. was torpedoed in 03.32 S. 21.33 W. on 1st May.

Mediterranean.

× M.Ls.

13. Owing to the increased number of M.Ls. now allocated to the Mediterranean and in order to economize in flotilla staffs C. in C.Med. intends to organise the M.Ls. in flotillas of 10, each consisting of 2 divisions.

Patrols.

14. Destroyers of Force K patrolled in the Sicilian Channel last night and those of Force Q south of Marittimo. Two groups of coastal craft from Bone patrolled last night N.W. of Plane Island and in the Gulf of Tunis: M.T.Bs. from Sousse also carried out a sweep north of Cape Bon.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean - Contd.

? 15. UNSHAKEN reports that at 0935 28th April she attacked a destroyer in 37.45 N. 11.33 E. One hit was obtained and the destroyer is thought to have been sunk.

X Attacks on
Reggio di
Calabria.

16. R.A.F. heavy bombers last night attacked the harbour at Reggio di Calabria. Another attack in daylight today was made on Reggio di Calabria by U.S.A.A.F. heavy bombers, and direct hits were scored on 2 vessels in the harbour.

N.W.A.A.F.
operations.

17. The strategic Air Force concentrated on attacking shipping today. 19 B.26s. of the N.W.A.A.F. bombed 4 Siebel Ferries and four escort vessels 45 miles S.W. of Marittimo, sinking 3 Siebel Ferries and near missing the remaining vessels. 8 P.38s in the escort sank 3 Siebel Ferries and 4 small boats out of a convoy of 7 Siebel Ferries and 75 small boats.

21 B.17s escorted by 20 P.38s bombed vessels in Marsala harbour today. Hits and near misses were made on 6 Siebel Ferries and on 2 motor vessels, one of which probably sank whilst the other was left burning. Hits and near misses were also made on 2 medium motor vessels in the centre of the docks.

28 B.17s escorted by 23 P.38s bombed Trapani Harbour. Direct hits were seen on the docks, a refuelling unit, the Naval Base, a magazine, railway yards and oil storage. The entire area was left on fire.

6/ Two beached ships at Cape Zebit were bombed and one was well hit and near missed.

36 B.25s escorted by 15 P.38s bombed two motor vessels in Favignana port, but only near misses were seen. The dock installations were hit.

15 B.25s escorted by 35 P.38s bombed 4 Siebel Ferries and 4 escort vessels west of Marittimo and blew up one Siebel Ferry and near missed two others.

12 escorted P.40s bombed a beached vessel east of Cape Fortars and a lighthouse south west of Cape Serrat. A medium sized naval vessel was bombed and set on fire near Cape Zebit.

Destroyer
blown up.

119 fighter bombers and 125 fighters operated against shipping in the Gulf of Tunis. Fighter bombers attacked 2 destroyers heading north east off La Goulette. Three direct hits were made on one, which blew up. A direct hit was made on the other and a fire started; later, however, the vessel was seen proceeding on its course.

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6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

18. EREBUS sailed from Kilindini today for the Mediterranean station via Aden.

X 19. 12 U.S. heavy and 15 medium bombers attacked transport and industrial targets in the Mandalay area today.

? Submarines

20. F.O.Ceylon intends to operate submarines from Colombo. Capt. S.4 hitherto in ADAMANT (ordered to Kilindini) will have his offices in WUCHANG, accommodation ship, and WUCHANG and MERAK will be used as base and accommodation ships. Repairs will be carried out ashore.

America & West Indies.

X H.H.X.
convoys.

21. H.H.X. convoys, consisting of up to 20 ships, are to sail from Halifax, commencing 26th May, at 6 and 5 day intervals, to connect with H.X. convoys at Momp.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

SALADIN C. in C. Rosyth 051905B.
 ABERCROMBIE Request you will sail SALADIN to R/V
 ABERCROMBIE at Eyebroughy buoy position 056 degs.
 15' N. 002 degs. 16' W. at 1430B/10th and provide
 escort to Clyde. SALADIN to Londonderry on completion.
 (C. in C.W.A. 061057B to Cdre. D.W.A.).

MIDDLETON Propose that MIDDLETON shall relieve MILNE in
 MILNE Iceland, both ships sailing a.m. Monday 10th May
 to arrive at their destinations before dark p.m.
 11th May.
 (R.A.D. 061105B to C. in C.H.F.).
 F.O.C.D.F. 061105 approved.
 (C. in C.H.F. 061714B).

S/M My 051623 para.1. Amend time of sailing to
 movements 1800B/6th and E.T.A. to 0600B/8.
 (S.O.S/M Lerwick 061115B to A.C.O.S.).
 Sheerness departure THRASHER to Southend for
 onward passage in C.W.176.
 (C. in C. Nore 061118B).
 Positions of S/M's at 0800B/7 and movements for following 24
 hours.
 (F.O.S. 061534).
 My 051623B as amended by my 061115. Sailed (0.14).
 (C.O.S/M Lerwick 061804B to A.C.O.S.).
 My 051656B. It is desired to use STURGEON for A/S practice
 at Plymouth until she is taken in hand for refit.
 Request she be sailed for Plymouth accordingly as soon as
 available.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 061821B to Capt.S.5.).
 Southend departure with C.W.176 to Portsmouth THRASHER in
 accordance with 041521B from C. in C. Nore.
 (N.C.S.O. Thames 061928B).

HOWE C. in C.H.F. 051942. Sailed at 0904.
 (A.C.O.S. 061152).
 My 051942 para.5. For 20th May read 19th May.
 (C. in C.H.F. 061825B to HOWE).

FURIOUS Clyde arrival FURIOUS.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 061658B).

BERMUDA Scapa arrival BERMUDA.
 (A.C.O.S. 061822)

Operations.

Denmark Your 052327B. Area has been searched by Liberator
 Straits aircraft. One Fishing Trawler sighted near
 Patrol positions reported in A.C.I.C's 1740B. Intend
 to withdraw JAMAICA from patrol "White" at
 (?08) today.
 (C.S.10 060330B to C. in C.H.F.).

/if...

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Denmark Straits Patrol (contd.) If nothing has been sighted by 0800Z today return to Hvalfjord. (C.S.10 060332B to JAMAICA). JAMAICA arrived from Patrol "White". (A.C.I.C. 062326).

Coastal Patrols My 051802B. "Device" returned 0652. (F.O.I.C. Portland 060658B). M.L's 137 and 257 at Bullock Bank. M.L's. 104, 108, 107 and M.T.B's 38, 35, 219 from Dover carrying out operation N.L.83. Route via 'V' buoy each way, E.T.D. 2250, E.T.R. 0515/7. M.L's 213, 573, 128, 210, 101, 102 from Dover carrying out operation N.L.84, route via 'V' buoy each way, E.T.D. 2255 E.T.R.0530/7. M.G.B's 41, 40 and S.3. at No.5. buoy, E.T.D. 2200, E.T.R. 0530/7. M.G.B's 114, 116 and 117 from Ramsgate patrolling on West Dyck Bank. Route via 'V' buoy, E.T.D. 2320 E.T.R. 0435/7. (V.A.Dover 061747B).

S/M Patrols Leave patrol at 1600B/8th through 063 degs.10' 002 degs. 01' E. and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles to Lerwick. (Capt.S.9. 061049B to USURPER).

Your 051046B. Intend (1) SATYR and TRUCULENT to exchange patrols at 0001B/8.

(2) SURF to relieve SATYR on patrol line X. (Capt. S.9. 061233B to F.O.S.).

Proceed 0001B/8 May as follows:-

TRUCULENT to patrol line Z SATYR to patrol line X, keeping South and North respectively intersecting latitude 067 degs. 00'.

(Capt. S.9. 061423B to SATYR, TRUCULENT).

Request you will sail SURF at 2100B/7 routed through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 6 miles and 066 degs. 25' 012 degs. 35' W. thence patrol line X. SURF is not to pass 014 degs. W. until 1700B/10.

(Capt. S.9. 061427B to S.O. S/M Lerwick).

Positions of submarines at 0800B/7th and movements for the following 24 hours All times zone B.

SIMOON 45 degs. 50' N. 05 degs. 58' W. dived by day through 44 degs. N. 06 degs. W thence to Westward.

BLACKFISH, BARB, SATYR on patrol North Iceland (C) as in my 041734.

TRUCULENT on patrol vicinity 67 degs. North 16 degs. West.

(j) HERRING 64 degs. 20' N. 06 degs. 40' W. through 66 degs. 20' N. 11 degs. 15' W. dived by day till 65 degs. 20' N.

(k) SHAL 64 degs. 25' N. 05 degs. 30' W. through 66 degs. 35' N. 10 degs. 30' W. dived by day till 65 degs. 20' N.

(l) O.10 on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 50' North 00 degs. 30' West.

(m) USURPER (P56) leaves patrol vicinity 63 degs. 30' N. 01 degs. 59' E. at 1600/8th through 63 degs. 10' N. 02 degs. 01' E. to Lerwick

(n) SURF sails Lerwick 2100/7th through 66 degs. 25' N. 12 degs. 35' W. dived by day between 64 degs. N. and 65 degs. 20' N.

(F.O.S. 061534B to Admty.).

Leave patrol at 1100B/10 through 067 degs. 10', 011 degs.40' W. and 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick.

(Capt. S.9. 061549B to SATYR).

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M
patrols
(contd.).

All times zone B. My 061427B.
(A) Total line 20.
(B) Lerwick through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 6 miles to 064 degs. 01' 007 degs. 01' W. 2100/7th to 2000/9 064 degs. 01' 007 degs. 01' W. to 066 degs. 40' 013 degs. 10' W. 2000/8th to 0200/12th May. (SURF).
(Capt.S.9. 061551B to H.Q.C.Q).

✕ Engagements
off
Sept.Iles.

At about 0100 this morning in 49 degs. 00' N. 03 degs. 20' W an inconclusive action took place between M.T.B's 98 (S.O.) 96, M.G.B's 111 and 115 against a force of 2 or 3 M-Class minesweepers and three trawlers. M.T.B's fired 4 torpedoes at close range and gunboats engaged both minesweepers and trawlers. Some hits by gunfire observed and possible one hit with torpedo. M.T.B. 96 slightly damaged by gunfire. 2 officers and 1 rating slightly wounded.
M.T.B's 227 and 239, also part of our force, did not make contact. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 061111B).

Exercises.

Exercise
with Force
'V'

Request you will sail H.D.M.L. 1140 to Irvine for participation in exercises with Force 'V' lasting from 13th to 24th May.
(D.D.O.D.C. 061132B to SEAHAWK).
Request you will sail H.D.M.L. 1049 to Irvine for participation in exercises with Force 'V' lasting from 13th to 24th May.
(D.D.O.D(C)061133B to ST. CHRISTOPHER).

Allied Air Activity.

Hvalfjord.

Arrivals Hvalfjord 0014B ARCHER, FAULKNOR, ONSLAUGHT, SABRE. 12 Aircraft flown off and landed safely.
(A.C.I.C. 060103B).

Patrol for
7th May.

Patrol "Hornli" required 7th May morning.
(H.Q.C.C. 062340B to 16 Group).

Enemy Air Activity.

Murmansk
on 5th May.

One high-level raider over ships at anchor 1630C/5th. No damage or casualties.
(S.B.N.O. Murmansk 060804B).

Jan Mayen

From Jan Mayen Aircraft observed far away South of island 0803, course S.W./N.E.
(A.C.I.C. 061701B).

A/C in
Bight.

Unusual fighter aircraft escorting activity has
/taken...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.

Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Air Activity.

A/C in Bight. (contd.). taken place in Bight today, similar to that on 5th March when four destroyers were proceeding from Bight to Channel. As Husum (54 degs. 30' N. 09 degs. 00' E) airfield is involved however movement may be taken place Northward of West Coast of Denmark. (D.D.I.C. 061845B and 070216B).

Mining.

S.N.111A R.A.M. reports operation completed 26 hours late. T.O.O. 1810. (D.C.060334B to C. in C.H.F.). R.A.M. arrived in MENESTHEUS, with AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, SCOTT, ST. MARY'S in Company. (TRELAWNEY 062336B).

Harwich One ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1438 in 51 degs. 57.4' N. 01 degs. 39.6' E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 061517B and 061834B).

Iceland C.M.Field. Reference Admiralty message 271611 April. Site of control position chosen is 245 degs. Brimnes 2.4 miles. This position with signal station adjoining gives good view over mine fields and of entrance into fiord. Work is progressing satisfactorily though tradesman delayed by alternate westerly gales and falls of snow. (A.C.I.C. 061523B to Admty.).

K.L.1. Operation K.L.1 (one) was carried out during night of 5th/6th and sweeps were out during return passage through Q.Z.X.771 owing to fire being opened by covering force on M.L. which were astern of sweepers. Following report that E-boats were operating to the northward covering force had closed on sweeper from southward and obtained an R.D.F. contact on M.L. which was mistaken for that of an enemy. No damage or casualties were inflicted and no mines were swept. (C. in C. Portsmouth 061852B to Admty.).

Enemy Intelligence.

E-Boats My 060013. Probably five E-boats at present stopped 8 miles South Selsey Bill. A/C ordered to attack. (C. in C. Portsmouth 060126B to M/S 9). My 0202. E-boats retired to the southward in position 128 degs. S.C.P. 32 at 0230. (C. in C. Portsmouth 060236B to 377 Aux. M/S Group). My 0236. Leading E-boat position 136 degs. S.C.P. 35 course 189 degs. speed 25. (C. in C. Portsmouth 060243B to 377 Aux. M/S Group). My 0243 appears to be returning towards Cherbourg. (C. in C. Portsmouth 060322B).

/Shipping...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

E-boats Shipping plotted by Portsmouth R.D.F night of
(contd.) 5/6th May.
E.93 Q.3 plus from 25 miles south of St. Catherines
Pt. at 2352, co. North, speed 32 knots. Turned
south 9.5 miles south of Selsey Bill, faded at 0352 21 miles north
of Cap Levi. Probably E-boats.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 061147B).

TRONDHEIMS - Norwegian Shipping casualties. Following vessels
FIORD. have been sunk by hostile efforts.
TUGELA (1) TRONDHEIMSFJORD sunk off Ryvingen on April 27th.
ORTELSBURG (2) TUGELLA sunk Oslo Harbour April 28th. Bow
sunk. above water. Graded B.1.
(N.A. Stockholm 061553 to Admty.).
O.I.C. Comment.
(1) Photographs show that the ship torpedoed by
Coastal Command aircraft in 57 degs. 57' N. 07 degs. 31' E.
(off Ryvingen) on 27th April was probably TRONDHEIMSFJORD (6753
G.R.T.).
(2) Swedish broadcast of 28th April stated Norwegian TUGELLA
(5500 G.T.) and German ORTELSBURG of 3000 G. tons. had blown up
in Oslo Harbour.

U-boats.

U-boats Am over enemy S/M in 59 degs. 40' N. 23 degs. 50' W.
reported and Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
attacked in (A/C F.3.J.U. 061304B).
North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 60 degs. 01' N. 26 degs. 40' W.
(A/C F.3J.O. 061430).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C F.3J.O. 061430B).

D/F bearings on 11068 k/cs at 1308Z indicate U-boats in
contact with one or other of the two convoys addressed.
(D.D.I.C. 061549B to Escorts O.N.S.6 and O.N.181).
Am over enemy S/M in 59 degs. 45' N. 25 degs. 53' W.
(A/C 15 O.L.1. 061655B)
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimate no hits
at 1659B.
(A/C F.N. 86 of 61 Squadron 061725B).
Am over enemy submarine in 59 degs. 45' N. 25 degs. 53' W.
(A/C G. of 61 Squadron 061745B).
Am over enemy submarine in 59 degs. 38' N. 27 degs. 55' W.
(A/C J of 18 Group 061815B to Artunshofdi).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges, estimate no hits.
(A/C J of 18 Group 061829B to Artunshofdi).
Am over enemy S/M in 61.30 N. 34.55 W.
(A/C Z of 120 Squadron 061845B).
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C Z of 120 Squadron 061855B).
Am over enemy S/M in 59 degs. 40' N. 25 degs. 25' W.
(A/C G. of 84 Squadron 061950B to Artunshofdi).
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges and estimate 4 hits
at 061948B.
(A/C G. of 44 Squadron 061950B to Artunshofdi).

/Have...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.U-boats.

U-boats Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
reported and (A/C G. of 84 Squadron to Artunshofdi).
attacked in Am over enemy S/M in 59 degs. 45' N. 26 degs.
North Atlantic. 50' W.
(contd.). (A/C F. 062050B to Artunshofdi).

Have attacked enemy with depth charges and
estimate no hits.

(A/C FASH 062115B to Artunshofdi).

Enemy sub. was sighted by Transat A/C on the surface and
seen to dive in 063 degs. 48' N. 028 degs. 12' W., course
westerly, at 2057B/6th.

(A.C.I.C. 062138B to Ships).

U-boats Am over enemy S/M in 44 degs. 41' N. 11 degs.
reported in 17' W.
Biscay Area. (A/C SYDN 061527B to 19 Group).

Navigational.

Yarmouth Port closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 060656B).
Port now open.
(F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 060757B).

Oiling at Your 032036.
Sea. Consider report should include weather conditions,
length of hose used and approximate times to stream
and recover hose etc. Re twin-rail arrangements
24,000 ft. of pre-fabricated oiling at sea platform
is at present under construction which will require major
modifications to suit twin rail arrangement which is only of very
limited applicability. Also, on agreement at conference 2/4/43 at
which twin-rail scheme was dropped in favour of deck-roller scheme
which is applicable to majority of tankers, arrangements have
already been made for deck-rollers to be pre-fabricated.
Further multiplicity of schemes of fitting out defeats whole object
of pre-fabrication.
(D.N.C. Bath 061741B to D.T.D.).

Casualties and Defects.

BRAEMAR C.A.F.O. 7/43. Intend paying off H.M.D. BRAEMAR
having developed engine defects.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 060901B to Admt.).

UNICORN UNICORN 032219. UNICORN must be at 12 hour's notice
for 4 days for securing starboard plommer-block and
bulkhead glands.
(2) Propose this work should be deferred until
period at Belfast during 14th to 17th May
inclusive with 18th for trials if necessary.
(F.O.C.T. 061128B to C. in C.W.A.).

/ Your....

6.5.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

UNICORN
(contd.).

Your 061128. Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 061537B to F.O.C.T.).

MOURNE

My 011013 and C. in C. Nore's 011800. Owing to a defect which has arisen sailing of MOURNE has been deferred.
(F.O.I.C. London 061620 to C. in C. Nore.).

ULVEN

(A) Swedish submarine ULVEN was located by trawl of fishing boat in 52 metres about 1600 yesterday. After diver had identified submarine her position was fixed by a small minesweeper as being (4?).2. 239 degs. from Stora Polsan and later as 3.0 miles

Polvan Lighthouse.

(B) Today larger vessel with proper navigational instruments has fixed ULVEN's position to be exactly 3.0 miles Polvan Lighthouse and since rocks extend 100 metres to westward it is thus established that wreck of ULVEN lies within Swedish territorial waters.

(C) Examination by diver this afternoon shows ULVEN lies on her keel with 5 degs. list to port. Chief Naval Staff informs me that, as no damage to upper part of hull can be observed, they feel sure that it has been stove in by small mine explosion. Salvage work will commence and, providing fine weather continues, it is hoped to raise wreck within two weeks.

(D) Area between latitudes 57 degs. 44' and 57 degs. 46' and longitudes 11 degs. 25' and 11 degs. 30' has now cleared 50 kilogrammes deep mines, 78 of which were cut during sweeping operations.

Germans are already enquiring how far area to westward has been swept.
(N.A. Stockholm 061807 to Admty.).

BITTERSWEET
NEW ZEALAND
STAR.

BITTERSWEET and NEW ZEALAND STAR in slight collision in convoy O.N.180 a.m. 6th May. Damage largely superficial both ships seaworthy but NEW ZEALAND STAR requests repairs to Shelter-Deck in New York before continuing voyage.
(C.M.O.E.T.U.24-1-13 061855Z to C. in C. N.W.A.).

SPEY

SPEY's main bulkhead joint blown necessitates returning harbour by p.m. 9th May.
(PELICAN 062202Z to C. in C. W.A.).

M.L.247

M.L.247 returned to Ramsgate with defective engine. M.L.259 assumed duty of S.O.M.L's.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 062304B).

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Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.5, SELVISTAN sunk. GHARINDA, BONDE, torpedoed. 5 U-boats claimed sunk.

Your 052101Z and my 051943Z and 052027Z. Report to SENNEN repeated to above addressees your P.C. and S. at 0800B/6 May. (C. in C. W.A., 060022Z to PINK). My 051601Z following ships torpedoed. GHARIDA, SELVISTAN, BONDE. Survivors 92, 40, 12. SELVISTAN sunk, GHARIDA and BONDE both salvable. BONDE torpedoed in stern. GHARIDA torpedoed forward. One or 2 U-boats, submerged attack (corrupt group) Escort except TAY, whose A/S temporarily out of action, hunted with no result. TAY picked up survivors.

(TAY, 060115Z to C. in C. W.A.)
C. in C. W.A., 0022Z/6th. My P.C.S. at 0800B/6th 53.48 46.49 180° 8.
(PINK 060210Z to SENNEN).
Have attacked submarine which dived 100 yards ahead of me in position 10 miles 150° O.N.S.5. First attack by eye, second attack by echo which was followed by series of unexplained explosions. Contact now lost. Am searching.
(PELICAN 060608Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Have attacked U-boat from sighting in 052° 18' N., 046° 12' W.
(SENNEN, 060753Z).
My 060004Z. Alter forthwith to 52.00 N., 48.00 W, thence St. Johns N.F. Keep as far West as ice permits.
(C. in C. W.A., 060907Z to PINK)
My 060753Z. Lost contact. Attack probably unsuccessful. Proceeding to join PINK. My P.C.S. 052° 18' N., 046° 12' W, Cap, 14.
(SENNEN, 060945).
On arrival of SENNEN remain with merchant ships until prudent limit of endurance. Thence St. Johns N.F. Your 052101Z refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 061103Z to PINK).
24 attacks were attempted on the convoy during the night. All repulsed. 5 U-boats sunk. (corrupt group) ORIBI rammed one, SUNFLOWER rammed one, SNOWFLAKE destroyed one by depth charge. VIDETTE claimed hits with Hedgehog (?and) LOOSESTRIFE depth-charged one which surfaced and blew up. ORIBI detached this morning with OFFA. SUNFLOWER has leak in fore peak and is in hand steer remaining with convoy at convoy speed. SNOWFLAKE has one depth-charge remaining, LOOSESTRIFE 13. Survivors TAY has 105, LOOSESTRIFE 71, SUNFLOWER 66. My P.C.S. 051° 33' N., 044° 30' W, 196° 7.
(TAY, 061115Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Following for C.C.R.T. ADHERENT sailed 060449Z assist O.N.S.5.
(F.O.N.F., 061230Z to Admty).
My 052101Z. For HARBURY read GUDVOR. SENNEN not met. Your 061103Z. Am proceeding St. Johns Newfoundland with merchant ships. Consider have sufficient fuel to escort to St. Johns Newfoundland.
(PINK 061240Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Attacked S/M in 53.08 N., 46.39 W. at (?12)55Z.
(?SENNEN 061329Z).
My 061329Z. Lost contact. Possible slight damage inflicted. Proceeding to join PINK. Depth charges remaining 35. Hedgehog projectiles 40.
(SENNEN 061554Z).

/My...

6.5.1943.

Thursday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.S.5,
SELVISTAN
sunk.
GHARINDA,
BONDE,
torpedoed.
5 U-boats
claimed
sunk.
(contd).

My P.C.S. 50.33 N., 45.00 W, 196° 11 knots. ORIBI in company. At 0300Z/6 ORIBI rammed U-boat at right angle abaft conning-tower at 22 knots and sustained following damage: Stem casting broken, bow plating and frames broken and severely buckled. All compartment stem to 17 station below lower deck open to sea, also turbine stations 4 to 9. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 0800Z/9. Weather 0952 2384.

(E.G.3 061600Z).

SPEY sighted submarine astern of O.N.S. at 1005Z and obtained 2 hits on conning tower with gunfire and carried out 2 depth charges attack before losing contact.

(PELICAN 061835Z to C. in C. W.A.)

H.X.237
E.G.5.

Anticipate my P.C.S. at 0800Z/6, 045° 42' 050° 47', 148° 12½ knots. Request addressees will transmit their call signs on 4400 k/cs every 4 hours. ST. ALBANS N.S. commencing 0700Z BITER 0800Z VIZALMA 0900Z. Request BITER's and VIZALMA's P.C.S.

(BROADWAY 060030Z to ST. ALBANS, BITER, VIZALMA).

5th E.G. (to cover H.X.237).

Request F.O.C. Newfoundland will sail PANTHER, PENN at earliest opportunity to overtake 5th Escort Group with H.X.237 making good 12½ knots weather permitting.

On joining BITER, PATHFINDER, PENN, PANTHER are to become 5th Escort Group. OPPORTUNE, OBDURATE are to be detached at best speed to Scapa.

(C. in C. W.A., 061611Z to F.O.N.F., BITER).

S.L.128

At 1021 F.W.200 aircraft were homing U-boats on to a convoy, probably S.L.128.

(D.D.I.C., 061128B to Escorts S.L.128).

(1) My 060013B last para. for 018° W. read 020° W.

(2) Your 052005Z. Remain as cover to S.L.128 for as long as practicable and then proceed Plymouth for fuel. Route through position (W) 049° 11' N., 012° 18' W. (X) 180° Bishops Rock 10 and Q.Z.S. 410 and 409 keeping West of The Lizard during (b). (C. in C. Plymouth, 61523B to DEVONSHIRE).

Cancel C. in C. Plymouth's 061523.

Proceed forthwith: through new positions P.43 N., 20 W.

Q. 51 N., 16 W. R. 55 N., 10 W. thence to Clyde.

(D.O.D. H., 061950B to DEVONSHIRE).

D/F bearings at 1638Z indicate U-boat in general vicinity of convoy.

(D.D.I.C., 061935B to Escorts S.L.128).

O.N.181

D/F bearings at 0850 indicate U-boat in your vicinity.

(D.D.I.C., 061131B to Escorts O.N.181)

Admiralty 061340B and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 061002Z

S/M in contact to northward, forced down by

aircraft. Intend evasive alteration to 225° at dark. Suggest omitting Q.D. in order to shorten voyage. My P.C.S. at 1600Z, 059° 26' N., 026° 10' W.

(C.T.U.24.1.4., 061635Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/Admiralty...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.N.181 Admiralty 061549. No class bearing, all received
(contd). consistent with vicinity of O.N.S.6.
(2) C. in C. W.A., 061008. Fuel.
(A) KEPPEL refuelled satisfactorily.
(B) ESCAPADE, GARLAND hope to refuel tomorrow.
Remaining at 060800 211 and 274 tons respectively.
(C) Corvette probably all right, minimum 140 at 060800 but will
refuel if possible.
(3) T (corrupt group) Y 060115. Request time of day and
direction of any submerged attack.
(4) O.N.181 at 062000Z. 59.31 N., 33.23 W, course 259° speed 9.
46 ships in company, 1 straggler rejoin with ORCHIS.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 061943Z to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.7, Your 051005 and N.C.S.O. Iceland 041704. Expect
R.U.73. that 10 ships will be ready by 9th May, speed 7½
knots.
2. Propose sailing them to join O.N.S.7 escorted
by VOLUNTEER and SYMBOL as additional escort
to I.C.O.M.P. In case VOLUNTEER does not arrive in time could
SABRE be retained for this duty.
3. Reference A.M.(?301609) is (?it) the intention to route
O.N.S.7 closer to Iceland.
4. If this is approved (?9) ships will be (?included in) R.U.73.
5. H.M. Trawler TIREE will sail with R.U.73 to U.K. for refit
and will provide additional escort.
(A.C.I.C., 061158Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Escorts for O.N.S.7. SWALE S.O. PIMPERNEL, LAVENDER,
GODETIA, BUTTERCUP. Also VOLUNTEER if defects are complete.
VOLUNTEER has H.F/D.F.
(Capt. D. Liverpool, 061204B to C. in C. W.A.)
In view of your 061142 cancel my 061158.
2. As only five ships can be ready by p.m./8th intend sailing
R.U.73 at 0900Z/9th by which time all ships for Atlantic
ports should be ready.
3. SABRE and TIREE available as additional escorts TIREE to
refit on arrival in U.K.
(A.C.I.C., 061716B to C. in C. W.A.)
Your 061537. (1) My 061716 is cancelled.
(2) R.U.73 will sail on 8th May with TIREE as additional escort
(3) O.N.S.J.7 consisting of 10 ships escorted by SABRE, SYMBOL,
and WREN will provisionally sail 9th May to ICOMP about 11th.
(A.C.I.C., 062105B to C. in C. W.A.)

O.N.S.6 Request you will sail ARCHER, FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT,
E.G.4. and IMPULSIVE as 4th Escort Group at first oppor-
tunity 7th May to overtake and support O.N.S.
6 making good 12 knots weather permitting.
(C. in C. W.A., 061608Z to A.C.I.C.)
D/F bearings at 1732Z indicate U-boat in vicinity
of convoy.
(D.D.I.C., 062122B to Escorts O.N.S.6).

/TOLTEC...

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- TOLTEC,
WREN. My 041707B and 051005B. WREN is to R/V with TOLTEC speed $14\frac{1}{2}$ knots from Loch Ewe in 000° Butt of Lewis 5 at 1700B/7th and escort direct to Reykjavik.
(2) WREN will subsequently be sailed with O.N.S.J. 7 to Icomp and join B.5 Group temporarily.
(C. in C. W.A., 061711 to WREN).
- P.W. 334 Amend my 061641. P.W. 334 now anchoring Mounts Bay for shelter.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 061827B).
- X.K.6,
X.K.6 B. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 041455/May and 052348/May. Convoy X.K.6.
(A) LOTUS and DIANELLA escorting SS. CAPT. PAUL LEMERLE and SS. SEMINOLE in tow of Tugs EMPIRE LARCH and EMPIRE HARRY onward route from position V.
Through W. 50° N., 10° W. X. 55° N., 10° W. Y 55.37 N., 07.02 W
(B) Destination of CAPT. PAUL LEMERLE Belfast, SEMINOLE Tyne.
(C) C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange onward passage for SEMINOLE. Convoy X.K. 6 B. HONEYSUCKLE and NARVIK escorting FORT PASKOYAC towed by tugs SCHELDE and HADSON onward route from position V. Through R 50° N., 14° W. S. 180° Fastnet 10 miles. Thence by Q.Z.L.18 to Milford Haven.
(D.O.D. H., 061840B to C. in C. W.A.)
- H.X. 236 (1) On crossing 055° N., steer direct to position A. Ships for Loch Ewe to proceed unescorted from 010° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 061903B to Escorts H.X.236)
(C. in C. W.A., 061907B to ROCKINGHAM).
- U.R. convoys. U.R. convoys will continue to sail at 8 day intervals.
(D.T.D. 061920B).
- T.A.41 B
(QUEEN MARY). Estimated position T.A.41 B at 0800B/7 $046^{\circ} 53'$ N., $022^{\circ} 27'$ W, $196^{\circ} 25$ knots.
(C. in C. W.A., 061923B to E.G.2).
Estimated position of 2nd Escort Group at 0600B/7 47.01 N., 22.30 W, $139^{\circ} 15$ knots.
(D.O.D. H., 061939B to T.A.41 B).
Convoy T.A.41 B, E.T.A. position D is 1200Z/7.
Weather 3865 1974.
(SCYLLA, 062345B to Admty. (R) UGANDA, CHARYBDIS)

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

E.G.37 enemy A/C. 2 F.W. (corrupt group). My P.C. & S. at 0800 039° 03' N. 016° 15' W. 300° 7 knots. Weather report. (S.O., E.G.37. 060830Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

Dispositions. Situation 2001B/6th. Landing craft convoy MOLDE, BUFFALO, 36.29 09.13 to port 8. (2) ALBACORE one M/S 33.03 09.25 through 32.51 09.37 and 32.18 19.19 to Safi where M/S enters, 10. ALBACORE returns direct to port, 12. (F.O. Gib. 061021B, 061303B.)

My 061021 and my 061005 add new paras (A) and (B).

(A) Fleet unit 4 destroyers pass Europa Point 0100B/7th through 36.01 07.47 at 0800B/7th and 36.01 07.47 thence 284° 17.

(B) METEOR 2 destroyers expect to arrive 0145B/7th to R/V Fleet unit in 36.01 07.47 at 0800B/7th and relieve escort who return Gibraltar.

(F.O. Gib. 061333B.)

My 061333B. Add new paragraph (C) Coastal craft convoy COVERLEY BREAM (A) 36.01 07.17 to Gibraltar 8.

(F.O. Gib. 061514B.)

RODNEY destroyers. Intend to sail RODNEY for Devonport at 0100B/7th May escorted by METEOR, TUSCAN, TROUBRIDGE, routed through. P. 36.01 07.47 Q. 36.01 10.01 R. 37.01 15.01 S. 38.01 19.01 T. 45.01 19.01 thence as routed by Admiralty. S. of A. 17 knots. Codeword Simony. 2. Admty. pass to H.Q.C.C. (F.O. Gib. 061215B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Med. F.O.H., H.Q.C.C. RODNEY)

Lisbon refits. My 301524. (N.T. in W.D.) Essential crew of ships coming to Lisbon for repair should be kept in ignorance of real destination and that master should have secret instructions to report to me immediately on arrival. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 061247 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)

KAULDI. Telegram 84 May 6th. KAULDI arrived 0230/6th expect complete loading 8th. (Consul, Bilbao 061700 to M.E.W. (R) D.N.I. etc.)

Gibraltar Convoys. F.O.C.W.Af. 011907. (Re convoy S.R.5 cannot be sailed, Ships will sail in S.L.129.) Request whether there will be a convoy opportunity for southbound ships from Gibraltar before 0.S.47. (D.T.D. 061829B. to F.O. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.A.) Reply: No. (F.O. Gib. 071910B.)

Spanish Trawlers, Suspicious Conduct. Your 051415. RIADE ARES ex SEVILLE was in refuge at Seville until 21st March. Ship then proceeded down river to Bonanza leaving there 29th March for Cadiz. She has been in Cadiz ever since March 29th. (S.O. (I) Gibraltar 061834Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. B.N.A. Madrid.)

/KING...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

KING GEORGE V. Arrived KING GEORGE V, METEOR, TUSCAN, TROUBRIDGE
 METEOR, (F.O.I.C. Gib. 062015B. to Admty. C. in C. Med.
 TUSCAN, (R) C. in C. W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C.
 TROUBRIDGE. H.F. H.Q.C.C.)

Movements, Arrival ADMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE, with
 Casablanca. G.C.7. Departures P.C.472, French Chasseur 2,
 with L.S.T.379 for Port Lyautey.
 (Commorseafron 062020 to C. in C. Med.)

Convoy C.G.30 arrived less EXPORT (4 ships).
 C.G.30. (F.O.I.C. Gib. 062055B. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty.
 C. in C. Med. Connav.)
 C.G.30. My 062055B. EXPORT arrived.
 (F.O.I.C. Gib. 062158B. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty.
 C. in C. Med. Connav.)

TRIBUNE. In position 036° 34' N. 002° 42' W. speed 6½ knots
 in present weather. Weather report.
 (TRIBUNE 062303A. to F.O.I.C. Gib.) Reply: F.O.
 Gib. 070952.)

Movements, Arrivals: WISHART, ANTHONY escorting ESSO,
 Gibraltar. GETTYSBURG, from Algiers, STORNOWAY ex escort
 duties Lisbon ACUTE, CADMUS, SPEEDWELL with
 C.G.30. Departures: WISHART to Algiers HAARLEM,
 ARCTIC RANGER on escort duties to Melilla.
 (F.O. Gib. 062305B. to Admty. C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

GEORGES LEYGUES, GLOIRE proposed visit to Pernambuco. Following received from Comar Dakar (begins) "For political and diplomatic reasons and in agreement with British and American authorities, it is desired Dakar cruisers should each pay one visit to Pernambuco" (ends). This refers to GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE. Is there any objection?
(F.O.C.W.Af., 060016Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med)
Reply No (Admty. 112202B).

ADELFOFOTIS torpedoed 1st May. Aircraft reported receiving message from ST. USK stating W/T message intercepted ADELFOFOTIS torpedoed in 003° 32' S., 021° 33' W., on 1st May.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 060034Z to Com. 4th Fleet, (R) N.O.I.C. Ascension, Admty).

Raft Sighted in 07.00 S., 22.00 W.
(Washington 061334Z) See America & West Indies.

BRITANNIC Sailed 19th April.
(S.T.O. Capetown, 060920Z to D. of S.T. (R) P.S. T.O. Capetown, Comsup, Simonstown).

Dakar Movements. Sailed F.C.GLOIRE 2205/5th arrived F.C. GEORGES LEYGUES 0722/6th.
(Comar Dakar, 060926Z to F.O.C.W.Af., Admty. CARNARVON CASTLE, Com. 4th Fleet).

Convoy T.S. 39. T.S. 39. Intend to sail 0600/10th Orange route escorted by BOREAS, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK consisting of CALIFORNIA, ANTENOR, MALOJA, MOOLTAN, MONTEREY, latter onward routeing for Dakar. S. of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. 0600Z/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 061017 to F.O.C.W.A. Admty).

B.Y.M.S. Simonstown arrivals 5th B.Y.M.S. 5, 6, 7, 8.
(C. in C. S.A., 061029B to Admty).

CATTERICK Arrival and departure 6th May.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos, 061100Z to Admty. etc).

CILICIA Leave patrol at 1200Z/8th and return Freetown through 011° 00' N., 017° 29' W.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 061200 to CILICIA (R) CARNARVON CASTLE, GLOIRE, Admty. Com. Dakar, Com. 4th Fleet).

/Dispositions...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

Dispositions. 006. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, TRUSTY 032° 12' 014° 05' to 030° 013° 11.
ROCKROSE, GENISTA with C.D.16 A 034° 15' 022° 40' coastal to Durban 8.
SONDRA 032° 20' 029° to East London 11.
COVENTRY CITY entering Durban.
LE TIGER 026° 50' 036° 10' to Durban 9.
Fleet Unit QUICKMATCH, NIZAM 020° 25' 038° 50' to 021° 01' 038° 30' thence 026° 59' 036° 30' 14.
(C. in C. S.A., 061201B).
Situation at 2000Z/6th. F.C. GLOIRE 12.25 N., 24.42 W., to 11.00 28.00 19.
BULLDOG, ANTELOPE with R.S.4 F 23.20 N., 17.30 W., to 21.44 17.57 thence 180 14 knots.
CILICIA on patrol 08.30 N., 27.30 W. 14.
CARNARVON CASTLE 09.40 N., 15.15 W., to 1100 17.30 course 300 14 knots.
Motor Launch 1077 sails 1900 Freetown escorting to Conakry 7.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 061359Z).

CONSBRO,
PANORAMA.

Request latest information available as to progress of CONSBRO, PANORAMA. Tugs CHARON, AIMWELL will sail from Gibraltar in S.L.129 and can be detached to tow if required.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 061320 to Comar Dakar, Commorseafron
(R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar C. in C. Med., Admty).

Convoy
R.S.4 F.

From 14.55 N., 17.52 W., proceed to 14.26 N., 17.33 W., and thence to Dakar to await onward escort.
2. Comar Dakar is requested to sail ANTELOPE to Gibraltar at best speed as soon as ready.
(F.O.C.W.A.F., 061405Z to BULLDOG, Comar Dakar,
(R) Admty. ANTELOPE, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
C. in C. Med).

Troop
movements.

Proposals for provision of personnel ships for movement of first flight of 81st (W.A.) Division from Nigeria to India are as follows:- (details)
3. Vessels would sail as necessary to join with W.S.31, leaving Freetown about 3/7.
4. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Mediterranean and F.O.C.W.Af., are requested to confirm that above arrangements can be implemented.
(D. of S.T., 061724B to C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.W.A
(R) D.S.T.O.W.A., P.S.T.O. Med., G.O.C. in C. W.A., P.S.T.O.
Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, P.S.T.O. India, C. in C. E.F.)
Reply F.O.C.W.A., 131501Z.

Floating
Dock.

A.M. 031610 (031601 intended).
1. Cleaning in preparation for welding and strengthening dock indicates repairs will be more extensive than anticipated, time for which cannot be calculated at present but estimated minimum six weeks. Confirmation of position is being obtained by sending Nicholson late Master on A.F.D.24 to Bahia to report.

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.Floating
Dock.
(contd).

2. Further signal will be made when Nicholson's report received and will include if necessary disposal of tugs ROODE ZEE and THAMES now standing by at Bahia.
(D. of S.T., 061739B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Com. 4th Fleet, C. in C. Med).

HAI LEE

Troop ship HAI LEE should be ready to leave Lagos about 7/5 for U.K.

2. Desired to use her en route to U.K. for movement of R.A.F. wireless Unit, strength 168 personnel, now awaiting passage to Casablanca at

Freetown.

3. Request confirmation that this can be arranged. If confirmed D.S.T.O.W.Af. should arrange embarkation accordingly.

4. After disembarkation at Casablanca HAI LEE should continue to U.K. as convenient.

(D. of S.T., 061815B to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med).

X Troop
movements,
Freetown -
Gibraltar.

MOOLTAN, MALOJA, CALIFORNIA, ANTENOR and FELIX ROUSSEL arrive Freetown about 14th May. MOOLTAN and MALOJA were sailed from Cape overborne in passengers for independent sailing. Accommodation at Freetown is inadequate to allow disembarkation of surplus numbers 1150 service personnel and survivors and 50 civilians are now at Freetown awaiting passage to U.K. also 65th U.S. Construction Battalion awaiting passage to Casablanca. B.A.D. Washington's 282055 April refers. Propose to embark all possible personnel from Freetown and to sail all five ships in convoy about 14th May escorted by BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK and BOREAS four ships of convoy to proceed direct to Gibraltar and one to call at Casablanca thence to Gibraltar all for inclusion in M.K.F. convoy. If approved request F.O.I.C. Gibraltar may be asked to provide onward escort from vicinity of Casablanca. BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, CATTERICK to proceed to Casablanca to fuel in readiness to reinforce escort of W.S.30 BOREAS ordered by F.O.C. Gibraltar. Consider it most desirable to embark personnel from Freetown as no other opportunity can be seen for some time.
(F.O.C.W.Af., 061916Z to Admty. (R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med) Reply: D.O.D. (F) 081750B.

MOKAMBO

SS. MOKAMBO sunk position 2.2 miles 061° Cape Sierra Leone lightship on beam ends awash H.W.O.S. springs rise 11 feet. Level bottom. Torpedo damage No.5 hold and all abaft. Bulkhead between 4 and 5 holds collapsed. Except in wet season June to October reasonably calm water. Prospects salvage on further examination. Admty. pass to owners.
(F.O.C.W.A., 062229Z to Admty).

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

SOKOL. At 0019A/6th, 4 torpedoes passed astern of me
torpedoes. in 037° 28' 003° 56'. Did not investigate.
(SOKOL, 060045 to ? Capt. (S) 8).

Convoy Arrived.
P.A.35. (N.C.S.O. Aden, 060709Z to Admty)

Movements Arrived 5th ABDIEL left a.m. 6th ABDIEL and
Famagusta. M.L.350.
(N.O.I.C.Famagusta, 060847C to Admty).

Sousse Arrival M.T.B's 95, 62.
Movements. (N.O.I.C.Sousse, 060852A to Admty)
Departure M.T.Boats 95, 75 for Malta.
(N.O.I.C.Sousse, 061925A to Admty)

U.G.S.7A. U.G.S.7A sailing for Algiers L.S.T. 415, 404,
408, 414, 416, 405, for Bougie L.S.T. 303, 364
for Philippeville TORE JARL, for Bone L.S.T.
306, 333, 369, 391, 392, 393, JOHN A DIX,
MAMMY, LINGE.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 060909A to A.I.G.259)
U.G.S.7A following Merchant ships arrived (list)
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 061629A to A.I.G.259)

Alexandria Arrival 5th M.T.B. 60 departures 5th M.L.355,
Movements. BARWICK, ST.MINVER, PROTEA, BEVER, TETCOTT.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 060916C to Admty)

Enemy Following has been read. P.C.and S. of 1
Vessels enemy merchant vessel of 6,000 tons and 2 escort
and A/C. vessels and 7 aeroplanes are 38° 04' N. 12° 14'
E. (by fix at 1100) 130° 10 knots.
(A/C 06 M Z, 061040A)
P.C. and S. of 3 small enemy vessels of 1,000
tons and 2 aeroplanes are 38° 23' N. 13° 04' E. (by fix at
11 o'clock) 270° 6.
(A/C 06 M Z 061101A)

X S.N.O. Pass to Air Authority Western Desert and
Tripoli. Tripolitania. Capt. Colin Wauchope C.B.E.
D.S.C. R.N. late S.N.O. Inshore 5 Q (? Sqdn)
Eastern Med. has been appointed S.N.O.
Tripolitania and will carry out duties of
N.O.I.C.Tripoli as from 0001/9th May. Short Title S.N.O.Trip.
(2) He will be in charge of Naval operations within Levant
station West of longitude 019°E.and South of A line joining
positions 033° 30' N. (064?) East and 035° North 016° East in
accordance with L.W.M.47 and will also, for the time being,
co-ordinate Naval Coastal operations except M.T.B.s in forward
areas as far Cape Bon as directed by C. in C. Mediterranean.
(3) Title F.O.I.S.Eastern Med. is cancelled.
(C. in C. Levant, 061059C to Levant Stn. 504B (R) Admty.
C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C.Malta etc.)

Beirut /...

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War Diary.6.5.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Beirut Movements. 5th arrival ABDIEL. Departure Greek Des. AETOS, ABDIEL. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 061040C to Admty)

PEARLEAF. PEARLEAF for docking arrived 6th. (N.C.S.O.Massawa, 061313Z to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F., S.O.(I) Colombo. S.O.(I) Bombay, S.O.(I) Kilindini, S.O.(I) Aden.)

Aden Movements. Departures 0315Z MARYBOROUGH with GAWLER and LISMORE in company. 0425 LAUNGESTON. Arrivals 0235 CESSNOCK 0340 IPSWICH 1415 SOEMBA. (Com. Aden, 061431Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)

* Diversion of Atlantic Convoys. Under present "Chop" procedure situation may arise due to slow progress of a convoy East of Westomp on account of weather conditions or positions of Westomps, where convoys controlled by different authorities are approaching each other and diversion is necessary. Close co-operation between controlling authorities is essential under these conditions and will be established in each case but suggest underlying principles should be that controlling authority of eastbound convoy should be responsible for diverting that convoy to keep clear. This would permit westbound convoy to make Westomp and carry out junction without interference. It is realized that this procedure would be dependant on the U-Boat situation and its bearing on the diversion and onward routing of the eastbound convoy. (C. in C. C.N.A. 061501Z to C. in C. W.A.)

P.312 (TRESPASSER) information. A local point for eastbound traffic from Marseilles if off Ile Verte. Your best chance of intercepting traffic from Spanish border to Marseilles is on coastal route. Ex French destroyers German manned may be met. (Capt. (S) 8, 061602A to P.312 (TRESPASSER) (R) F.O.I.C.Gibraltar.)

* Operation "Retribution". Your 051240 (given a very limited distribution, originated by D.D.I.C.). Necessary amendments issued in my 061548. My 281107 April para. 5 (X) 037° 47' 010° 30'. (C. in C. Med. 061614A to Admty)

Following is my 061548. Amendment No.2 to Mediterranean (W) 00235/22 dated 13th April 1945. Operation "Retribution". (N.T. in W.D.). (C. in C. Med. 062303A to Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, N.W.A.S.Af. N.W.A.AF. N.W.A.T.Af. 826 Squadron R.A.F. Blida)

Enemy Unit. Following read. P.C.S. at 1352A of 3 U.S. and one aeroplane PRVP 1535 (undecypherable) (Fix at 1400) 190° 8 knots. (A/C.77 N.F. 061615A)

Malta /...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Malta Movements. Arrivals ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR. Departures JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN on operations. (V.A.Malta, 061616B to Admty, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

AMARAPOORA. Hospital ship AMARAPOORA sailed routed through (A) 37.16 N. 07.54 E. (B) 37.28 N. 06.26 E. (C) 37.20 N. 03.45 E. (D) 36.42 N. 00.08 W. S. of A. 11 knots E.T.A. Oran 0930/8th. (F.O.I.S. 061626 to N.O.I.C.Oran(R) Admty. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connv.)

X Force "Bribe" Enemy A/C. Force "Bribe". You were reported by enemy fighter aircraft at 1700A. (N.L.O.211 Group, 061710A to LAFOREY)

Convoy G.U.S.7. G.U.S.7 ships sailed as in my 051604 (12 ships) in accordance with C. in C. Med's 301739 April. (Com. Algiers, 061728A to Com. N.O.B.Oran, Comorseafron, A.I.G.259)

X Clearance and repairs to No.4 Dock. My 052153 April. No 4 dock now capable of taking Fleet Destroyer. More labour has been obtained and clearance and erection of blocks proceeding satisfactorily. (A.S. Malta 061809B to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta.)

SHOREHAM. SHOREHAM is to be administered by Cmdre. (D) and maintained by WOOLWICH with accounts in NILE. (C. in C. Levant, 061810C to Cmdre. (D) R.A. Alexandria, SHOREHAM, B.A.O.NILE, Admty.)

Bougie Movements. Arrivals AISNE, ORPHEUS, EMPIRE BAIRN, MARVA, M.M.S. 171 and 92, L.C.I (L) 104. (N.O.I.C.Bougie, 061900A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C.Philippeville, F.O.C.Training (R) Admty. F.O.I.C.Gib. C. in C. Med. Connv.)

Port Said Movements. 6th Port Said arrivals TETCOTT, PROTEA, F.F.S. LEOPARD. Departures TETCOTT, PROTEA, F.F.S. LEOPARD. (N.O.I.C.Port Said, 061902C/5 to Admty.)

Situation Report No.89. (1) My 041549A para. 2. (A) Two aircraft were shot down by Hunts. Amend last sentence to read - after completing sweep Hunts proceeded to Malta and remainder returned to Bone.

(B) /...

6.5.1945.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Situation Report No. 89. (Contd.) (B) Para. 3. NUBIAN reports merchant ship was of 7000 tons and destroyer CASSIOPEA class. Three German and two Italian prisoners were recovered who stated no other merchant ships or escorts in convoy. (2) One moored mine swept in approaches to Bone on 2nd May and one magnetic mine off Fedala on 5th May. (3) During night 4th/5th May BICESTER, OAKLEY and ZETLAND from Malta carried out sweep in Sicilian Channel subsequently returning to Bone and TARTAR and LOYAL patrolled off Marittimo. (4) M.T.B.s and M.G.B.s from Bone proceeded for sweep on 4th May but were attacked by eight fighter bombers off Cape Serrat at 1820/4. One aircraft was certainly shot down and one probably with two damaged. Coastal craft sustained slight damage and returned to Arbarka. Casualties eight seriously wounded and eleven slightly wounded. Also on 4th/5th May other M.T.B.s from Bone operated in Gulf of Tunis and American M.T.B.s in Bizerta Roads. (5) Following operations were carried out (during the night 5th/6th May). Destroyers of Force K patrolled in Sicilian Channel and those of Force Q south of Marittimo. M.T.B.s from Bone carried out sweep northwest of Plane Island. American M.T.B.s from Bone operated in Gulf of Tunis and M.T.B.s from Sousse north of Cape Bone. (6) UNSHAKEN reports attacking destroyer in 37.45 N. 11.33 east at 0955/28 April. One hit was obtained and destroyer considered sunk as only counter-attack was two charges dropped by one of barges destroyer was escorting.
(C. in C. Med. 061912A to A.I.G.264)

Haifa Movements. 6th May SOUTHERN ISLES, SOUTHERN SEA, G.S. IERAX arrived and departed.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports) 061955C to Admty)

Movements Tripoli. Arrivals FOULA, HUNDA, WESTRAY, KINTYRE.
Motor M/S's 46, 276, 140, 58, 89.
(S.N.O. Trip., 061957A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

M.T.B's operation "Thigh" abandoned. 3 M.T.B.s were sailed this evening in accordance with your 061228 numbers 77, 62, 82 at 1730. 2 Operation "Thigh" numbers 264, 313, 2 to Malta numbers 95, 75, all 4 at 1900. The following MT.B.s have broken down 82, 313, 264. 264 has been ordered proceed to assistance of (corrupt group) Operation "Thigh" must therefore be abandoned.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 062014A to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C. Med. Capt. (D) 14. F.O. 12th C.S. Capt. Coastal Forces Med. A.I.G.263)

Use of Haifa and Tripoli. Your 041702 (refers to 301314 "Hush") and my 111350 April. Consider Haifa must have priority over Tripoli and intend to continue work on Haifa loop and HDA system. Although Tripoli will not be used as a convoy assembly

port /...

War Diary.6.5.1945.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.Use of
Haifa and
Tripoli
(Contd.)

port it is inevitable that the outer anchorage will be used on occasion. Consider therefore it is desirable to instal a loop system there as well. Gear and personnel would have to be sent from U.K.
(C. in C. Levant, 062016C to Admty, C. in C. Med.)

X M.L.
Flotillas,
organisation.

201/22
Your 050952. Reply to Admty. 161055 April was made in my (~~201545~~) (N.T. in W.R.).
(2) Owing to increased number of M/L now allocated to Mediterranean and in order to economize in flotilla staffs it is intended to organise M/L into flotillas of 10, each consisting of 2 divisions. (3) Flotilla organisation is as follows:
M/L Flotilla 3, 121, 126, 134, 135, 168, 459, 462.
M/L Flotilla 9, 170, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176.
M/L Flotilla 22, 258, (? 449), 460, 468, 494, (? 218) 232, 240, 444, 568.
M/L Flotilla 25, 238, 273, 280, 283, 336, 338.
M/L Flotilla 28, 295, 307, 341, 443, 493, 575.
M/L Flotilla 29, 458, 463, 469, 471, 480(? 483)
M/L Flotilla 31, 554, 557, 559, 566, 560, 561, 562, 564, 555, 556.
(4) Third 9th, 25th, 28th, 29th flotillas will be made up to 10 boat flotillas as boats arrive from U.K. (5) Accounts of 22nd, 25th, 28th, 29th, 31st flotillas will be kept in HANNIBAL. (C. in C. Med. 062046A to Admty (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C. Algiers. N.O.I.C. Bone, HORNET, N.O.I.C. Philippeville. N.O.I.C. Oran, Capt. Coastal Force Med.)

Malta
Air
Report.

AI 569 6 May. CSR (A) Air Part 1.
Offensive. Night 5/6th May Poor visibility and haze curtailed all offensive operations. Mosquitoes on intruder patrols over Pantelleria and east and west Sicily found no suitable target. Day 6th May 4 long range Spitfires on offensive sweep southwest of Sicily sighted one E-Boat 15 miles southwest of Marittimo which was damaged by Spitfires cannon attacks and left listing to starboard.
Part 2 Enemy air activity. Day 5th. Further ten sorties were flown by Spitfires to protect white tanker unloading. Day 6th 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta and 19 Spitfire sorties were made to protect unloading of white tanker.
(A.H.Q. Malta 062052Z to Air Min.)

N.A.A.F.
Report.

Strategic (Air Force) concentrated on shipping. Six barges were hit, several fires started and one large explosion at Marsala. Large fires started at Trapani. Three (3) Siebel ferries and four small boats sunk on shipping sweep 80 miles northeast of Tunis. Two direct hits and ship left burning also near misses on three Siebel ferries, 1 M/V near Cap. (D Ebib?)

1 M/V /...

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F.
Report.

1 M/V exploded and disappeared and near misses on another in the Sicilian Straits. Aerial photos of La Goulette bombing indicates high order of destruction of shipping and harbour installations. Hits among Siebel ferries and (JLC or RLC?) and near misses on 1 large and 1 medium M/V at Faviganana.
(Spatz N.A.A.F. H.Q. Adv. 062118A to Arnold to Air Min.)

Libya
Movements.

Arrived KLO,,ADRIAS, KANARIS, ROCKWOOD.
(N.O.I.C.Libya, 062348A to Admty)

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE,
DILWARA.

LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE has been delayed on passage to India, where she was relieving DILWARA now carrying out Combined Training. She can not now arrive till end of May. 2. D.C.O. India is requested to signal priority important the effect of withdrawing DILWARA now. 3. D.N.C.X.F. is requested to signal latest date DILWARA is required to arrive Suez; if possible he is requested to accept her not taking part in rehearsals.

(D. of P., 060113B to D.N.C.X.F., D.C.O. India, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C.E.F., P.S.T.O. India.)

Movements.

Departure TEWERA towing 4 lighters.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 060227Z.)

Arrival TRAVANCORE,
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 060330Z to Admty.)

Arrival ALBATROSS.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 060509Z to Admty.)

Arrival TRONOUY.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 060802Z to Admty.)

Departures Burmese M.L.1102 and M.L.1103.
(N.O.I.C. Madras, 061103Z to Admty.)

Colombo departures 5th. 1700Z VERBENA 174 C. 66, 190, 168, 24, 10, 270, 419. Departures 6th 0100Z BENGAL.

(F.O. Ceylon, 061258Z to Admty.)

(? Departure) CARADOC, ASTER, EREBUS.

(F.O.I.C. E.A., 061131Z to Admty.)

* S/Ms to
operate
from
Colombo.

Intend Submarines to be operated from Colombo. Captain S.4 will have his offices in WUCHANG (my 050928Z not to Admty. and C. in C.E.F.'s 050614Z refer) and WUCHANG and MERAK will be used as base and accommodation ships. Repairs will be carried out ashore. Situation will be similar to that in period May - August 1942 when LUCIA was away from Colombo.
(F.O. Ceylon, 060411Z, to C. in C. E.F. (R) S.4., Admty.)

A/C over
Cocos Island.

R.O. Cocos Is. reports twin engined A/C passed over from North to South at 0330Z/6th May returning to North Westward at 0410Z/6th May. Height 10,000 Ft. No ground opposition.
?F.O. Ceylon, 060602Z to C. in C.E.F.(R) Admty., F.L.O. Delhi, A.C.N.B.)

Movement
Summary.

No. 61 May 6th. (1) EREBUS left Kilindini 6th due Aden 13th.
(2) CARADOC leaves Kilindini p.m. 6th escorting one transport to Diego Suarez due 9th thence Tulear due 13th.
(3) VERBENA left Colombo 5th due Kilindini 14th

/calling...

6.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movement
Summary.
(Contd.)

calling at Seychelles 11th.
 (4) ASTER left Kilindini 6th due Durban 13th.
 (5) Movement summary 60 item (3) MARGUERITE
 due Durban 13th. Item (4) DAUNTLESS left Aden
 5th due Kilindini 10th.
 (C. in C.E.F., 060704Z to E.F., Admty., etc.)

X Kilindini
R.D.F.
Cover.

A.X.617 6th May. Following signals refer C. in
 C. E.F. 291419Z and Admty. 021511B and H.Q. R.A.F.
 M.E. 020934Z. R.D.F. cover Kilindini. H.E.
 R.A.F. M.E. state that organisation for R.D.F.
 cover Kilindini will be gross waste of specialised
 manpower. H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. has to allot
 limited resources according to demand and we support their view.
 South African Army representatives visiting U.K. stated
 yesterday that South African Army Authorities would be prepared
 to man R.D.F. Stations and associated organisation in such
 areas*. Will H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. make direct approach to South
 African Authorities for manning Kilindini area if considered
 appropriate.
 (Air Min, 061000Z to Admty., and H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., (R) C. in C.
 E.F.) Reply H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 071714Z. * Corrected by 081200Z q.v.

U.S.
Dispositions
Pacific.

Following changes in U.S. Pacific dispositions:-
 COPAHEE, at San Francisco. TRENTON, in
 Valparaiso. CONCORD, BARNES, ENTERPRISE,
 WASHINGTON, at Sea. WEST VIRGINIA, En route
 U.S. A.M. 281921/April refers.
 (D.O.D.(F), 061050B to C. in C.E.F.)

ARONDA.

Cancel my 300518Z April. ARONDA will not now
 embark families for Beira. Ship is required to
 proceed Basra. My 011001Z (?C. in C.E.F.)
 para. (7) not to all addressees also refers.
 (P.S.T.O. India, 061108Z, to D. of S.T. (R)
 P.S.T.O. Capetown, F.O.Ceylon, C. in C.E.F.
 D.S.T.O. Kilindini, D.S.T.O. Durban.)

Troop
Movements.

In view of your 050532B will despatch DUNERA
 to Middle East sailing 17th May. ARONDA will
 replace DUNERA for movement of 5th Division.
 (P.S.T.O. India, 061112Z to D. of S.T. (R)
 P.S.T.O.M.E.)

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.U.S. S/M
Notice,
S/M Estimate
6th May.(Cominch, 060000Z, 061515Z, 061516Z, 061615Z,
061616Z, 061617Z.)Abandoned
Steamer.

Following is my 052329. Your 051528 has been referred to F.O. Newfoundland at St. Johns who may be able to provide tug and escort. Conditions permitting remain in vicinity but neither destroyer nor salvage vessel pending further orders. (C.T.F.24, 060147 to MANHASSET.) (See C.T.F.24 051935Z to F.O.N.F.)

Biscay
A/S Air
Offensive.The following points are relevant to the selection of aircraft for the Bay offensive. C.O.S.(W) 601 refers (041200Z).
2. C.M. A.S.V. is not essential for the Bay offensive in day time. Coastal Command can adapt to night work sufficient additional aircraft from the total referred to in para. 9 of C.O.S.(W) 587 to provide the appropriate night component of the proposed combined force in the Bay.
3. Although long range aircraft are very desirable we are now getting valuable results from medium range Wellingtons in the Bay. Any G.R. aircraft with an operational range of about 1200 miles would be of great value to the Bay offensive. (V.C.N.S., 060155B to B.A.D.)

NIPIGON.

E.T.A. position K 061550Z. SANTIAGO straggler at 050630Z LIVERPOOL LOYALIST returned to St. Johns with boiler trouble at 041515Z. Weather report 9037 1033. (NIPIGON, 060330Z to N.O.I.C. Sydney C.B., (R) C. in C. C.N.W.At., C. in C. C.N.F.)

Movements.

May 5th St. Johns N.F. Arrivals POLYANTHUS, CHAMBLY ex Londonderry. Departures BROADWAY, PRIMROSE, DRUMHELLER, LAGAN, MORDEN, CHAMBLY, VIZALMA, DEXTEROUS to H.X.237. ALGOMA, PORT ARTHUR to O.N.180. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 060536Z to Admty.) My 051121 (U.S.A.T. DRENNAN) ship sailed 5th for high seas. (Aruba, 061121QR to Admty.) Departure ORILLIA for U.K. (Londonderry) arrival UNGAVA from cable ground. (C. Halifax, 061339Z to Admty., Com. D. Argentia, F.O.N.F., Com.3, N.S.H.Q., Cdre. Londonderry, Connav, C. in C. W.A., B.A.D., N.M.C.J.S.)

/San ...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.

Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Movements.
(Contd.)

San Francisco May 5th ULUA (U.S.A.T.)
(N.S.H.Q., 061708Z to Admty.)
Departures MONTGOMERY for St. Johns N.F. PICTOU
escorting FOUNDATION ARANMORE for St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 062042Z to Admty.)
Departure KITCHENER for St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax, 062356Z to Admty.)

H.F. 52.

Arrived H.F.52. MOSDALE arrived 12 hours early.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 060901Z to Admty.)

Movements
Summary
1800 G.M.T.
6th.

Ship	Position	Course	Speed
CHESHIRE	23° N. 36° W.	000°	13
CILICIA	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
(D.O.D.(F), 060937Z to Opnav, (R) Comnav.)			

SS. QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

A.T.42, NK recommend re route south of 39° N.
between 50° W. and 35° W.
(D.O.D.(H), 061015Z to Cominch C. & R.)

VICTORIOUS
A/C.

This is VICTORIOUS 052200 addressed Admiralty
pass to V.A.A.H.F. for information, also B.A.M.R.
has for information.

Refer B.A.M.R's 022352/43.*

Experience has shown 16 Tarpons and 36 Martlets
to be best operating complement of aircraft. Intend to carry
this number now.
(Comnav, 061149 to Admty.)

*W.R. Note: U.S.N. state that T.O.O. was received as above
and no trace can be found in the files.

B.Y.M.S.

Trinidad departure May 6th B.Y.M.S. 43, 44, 45,
46.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad, 061202Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.)

TAMARA.

Your 032131. Confirm TAMARA left Gothenburg
midnight April 21st/22nd for St. John N.B. as
indicated in A.M. 171349 April.
(Head of M.I., 061217B to N.S.H.Q.)

X AKAROA,
number of
passengers.

Your 052359. AKAROA.
Approved.
(D.O.D.(F), 061310B to B.A.D.)

/C.U. ...

6.5.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

- C.U. Convoys
date of
sailing. Your 051500 date understood to be 21st May but
this should be confirmed with B.A.D.
(D.T.D., 061313B to N.S.H.Q.)
- Raft. Cominch re-encyphers. C.T.F.44 052359 (not
received in W.R.) to Com. Fourth Fleet, Cominch,
Task Force 41. "Army reports four men on raft
position 07.00 S. 22.00 W. believe equipped with
Radio transmitter on 500 k/cs."
(Radio Washington, 061334Z to Information C. in
C. Lant, F.O.C.W.Af.)
- G.A.T. 60. G.A.T.60 (5 ships, list). All ships for
Trinidad.
(B.S.N.O. Curacao, 061428Z, 061640Z to Admty.,
(R) B.R.L.O. Trinidad.)
- TAY. When relieved by W.4 proceed with your unit to
Argentia.
(C.C.N.F., 061430Z to TAY, (R) Com. (D) Argentia,
C. in C. C.N.A., W.4, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S.
Fleet, Admty.)
Cancel my 061430Z May. When relieved proceed St. Johns
Newfoundland.
(F.O.N.F., 061820Z to TAY, (R) Com. (D) Argentia, etc.)
- ARGONAUT. Philadelphia arrived April 30th ARGONAUT.
Admty. and other interested parties informed.
(N.S.H.Q., 061458Z to C. in C. Med.)
- Convoy
J.H. 52A. (1) Sailing telegram. (2) 1830Z/6. (3) E.T.A.
Halifax 1130Z/8. (4) 12.5. (5) (Route).
(6) MALPEQUE.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F., 061458Z to Admty.)
- N.S.H.Q. S/M
Estimate. (N.S.H.Q., 061513Z.)
- O.N. 179. 35 ships arrived including CONTRACTOR. First
arrival 052233Z. Last arrival 061052Z. All
ships accounted for.
(Port Director New York, 061534 to Cominch C. &
R.)
- U/B. S/M sighted on surface 040° 04' N. 071° 20' W.
at 061420Z.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 061545Z to G.B. 7A.)

/GREEN ...

6.5.1943.

Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

GREEN
ARANMORE,
PICTOU.

Tug GREEN ARANMORE escorted by PICTOU sailed 1500Z/6th for St. Johns routed through 045° N. 060° W. and 046° N. 053° W. speed 10 knots if situation is clarified before arrival. Request you re-route directly to (? afterwards) join O.N.S.5 ships.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 061558Z to C.C.N.F., (R) PICTOU, N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty., A.C.I.C. C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

O.N. 181,
O.N.S. 6,
D/C bearings.

My 061000Z (? 061002 intended N.T. in W.D.) B message at 1308Z/6th probably from same vicinity suggest that O.N. 181 or possibly O.N.S.6 has been sighted.
(N.S.H.Q., 061617Z to Ships escorting O.N.181, O.N.S.6, (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A., C. in C. N.F., N.C.S.O. Quebec, Admty., A.C.I.C., C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

Convoy
J.O. 1.

1. Sailing telegram. (2) 071100Z. (4) 13 knots. (5) (Route). U.S.S. BLAKELEY, TAREBELL guarding 4155 kilocycles. BADGER.
(B.R.O. Kingston, 061643 to Admty.)

L.S.Ts.

S.B.N.O.W.At.'s 031142. My 290015 vessels sailed in U.G.S.8 and were first understood to be calling Bermuda.
(N.S.H.Q., 061709Z to Admty., (R) B.A.D., S.B.N.O.W.At.)

Bomber
offensive.

J.S.M.929. Following is text of telegram No. R.8179 dated 4th May from U.S. Chiefs of Staff to C.G. European Theatre of Operations. (Begins). Plan for combined bomber offensive from U.K. presented to Joint Chiefs of Staff on April 29th has been approved to maximum extent practicable consistent with meeting aircraft production objectives, and with availability of shipping. (Ends).
(J.S.M. Washington, 061727Z to W.C.O. London.)

MAURETANIA,
AQUITANIA.

MAURETANIA and AQUITANIA will be ready to sail New York on 9th May and 13th June (approx.) respectively for Bombay.
2. They will be filled to capacity with U.S. personnel for India except for approx. 1820 and 2500 personnel for onward conveyance to Iraq.
3. Proposed vessels should proceed via Rio de Janeiro and Capetown. Connav is requested to confirm that - (a) he is in agreement with this route and if so (b) necessary arrangements for fuel and water can be made.
4. After disembarkation at Bombay, vessels will return to U.K. (D. of S.T., 061728B to B.A.D., Connav, C. in C. Lant, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F., (R) C.E.S.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O. Capetown, P.S.T.O. India.)

/Dispositions ...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Dispositions. Section South-west.
 GRANDMERE departed Ambrose Light Vessel 2200Z/6th
 114° 12 altering to (?124°) in 73.02 W. and to
 045° in 68.00 W.
 X.B.49, A.W.11 42.46 69.45, 229° 7.5 alter to 180° in 70.18 W.:
 KELVIN escorted by DIGBY effecting cable repairs vicinity
 40.16 66.30.
 U.S.S. (?CEL)LAK, (?NO)GAK(?LOG) Blonde Rock Buoy en route
 Halifax 8.5.
 X.B.50, LACHINE, LADE RIVER departed Sambro Light Vessel 2000Z/
 6th 236° 7.5 alter to 231° in 64.10 W. and to 266° in 65.23 W.
 KITCHENER departs Halifax 2000Z/6th 090° 12 altering to 091°
 in 62.01 W.
 PICTOU escorting FOUNDATION ARANMORE 45.(?42) 61.57, 079°,
 10 (see 062310Z).
 MONTGOMERY 44.48 60.49 (? 076°) 20 altering to 14° in 52.46 W.
 S.H.79 ALBERNI 45.42 60.01 230° 8 alter to 240° in 61.02 W. and
 for Halifax in 63.26 W.
 F.H.52A BRANTFORD depart St. John N.B. 2000Z/6th 202° alter
 to 173° in 43.57 N. and to 093° in 42.59 N.
 AMHERST, CALGARY Halifax Approaches in bound.
 J.H.52 STRATFORD, NIPIGON, CAPE ARGONA 45.31 60.11 231°, 7
 altering to 243° in 66.39 W. and for Halifax in 62.25 W.
 ST. KENAN, CAPE MARIATO, PAYNTER, AYRSHIRE, WESTMOUNT patrolling
 Cabot Strait.
 SS. KYLE Port Aux Basques Approaches in bound.
 U.S.S. LIGHTNING 40.10 57.10 265° 14.5 alter to 270° in 60.00 W.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 061730Z to Admty.)
 My 061730Z. Section South-west add EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND
 42.40 56.50 to 43.30 62.40 thence to Halifax S. of A. 19.5.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 061731Z to Admty.)
 My 061730. Section South-west. Correct PICTOU escorting
 GREEN ARANMORE for 045° 42' N. read 044° 42' N.
 (C. in C. C.N.W.A., 062310Z to Admty.)

Convoy Sailing telegram part 2. (19 ships, list).
 B.X. 49. (Com. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston, 061748Z to Cominch
 C. & R.)

X
 Passengers. My 1647/22 March. para. 4. The following rules
 Numbers. have been established by C. in C. Pacific for
 carrying passengers in U.S. and British ships in
 Pacific Ocean areas.
 (2) Two conditions for carrying passengers
 designated A. and B. are established. Either may be made
 effective by C. in C. Pacific in all or any part of Pacific
 Ocean area at any time. At present, condition B. is effective
 in entire area.
 (3) For condition A. rules set forth for ships in Atlantic (see
 B.A.D's 1647 of 22nd March) shall be applied in their entirety
 to ships in Pacific. Exceptions may be made by C. in C. Pacific
 in special cases for vessels of over 18 knots speed but each
 case will be submitted as a separate request.

/(4) ...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Passengers (4) For condition B. following rules apply
 Numbers. (A) In all cases life saving capacity shall be
 (Contd.) provided for 125% of combined number of passengers
 and crew. (B) Ships in escorted convoys may
 carry passengers up to limit of accommodations
 of ship, except women and children shall not
 exceed half the life-boat capacity of the ship. (C) Maximum
 500 prisoners of war may be carried on unescorted ship of 14.5
 knots and over, none on unescorted ships of lower speed adequate
 guards must be furnished when prisoners of war are carried.
 (D) Women not connected with the war effort and children under
 sixteen years of age shall not travel on any unescorted ship of
 less than 14.5 knots speed. (E) Unescorted ships may carry
 following numbers of service personnel, Government employees,
 employees of a Government contractor, other persons connected with
 the war effort, or male adults not directly connected with the
 War effort:- Class 1. Ten knots or less. Twelve passengers.
 Class 2. Over ten knots and less than 14.5 250 passengers.
 Class 3. 14.5 and over. Capacity of the vessel exceptions.
 In class one, tank landing ships and in class two, all ships,
 may carry service personnel only to capacity of vessel without
 Trans-Pacific escort provided local escort is furnished in
 vicinity ports of departure and arrival and known focal points
 of enemy S/M activity en route. Doubtful cases to be referred
 to C. in C. Pacific for decision. (F) Unescorted ships of 14.5
 knots speed and over, may carry women and children up to half the
 lifeboat capacity of the vessel. (G) Speed as used in these
 rules means rated speed of the vessel through the water.
 (H) Foregoing regulations shall not apply to Naval commissioned
 vessels but will serve as a guide which should be departed from
 only under military necessity. (I) Passengers already embarked
 when this order is received may be despatched. (J) These
 regulations do not apply strictly intra-sea frontier shipping
 which will be controlled at discretion sea frontier commander
 concerned.
 (B.A.D. 061859Z. to Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.C. W.Af. C. in C. S.A.
 C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant. C. in C. W.A.
 N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B. F.O.C.R.I.N. S.B.N.O.W.A.)

Convoy Request arrival signal H.X.234.
 H.X.234. (N.S.H.Q. 061931 to Admty.)

O.N.S.5. No W/T activity your area since 1709Z/6th.
 O.N.180. (N.S.H.Q. 061945Z. to Ships escorting O.N.S.5.
 O.N.180, C. in C. C.N.A., C.C.N.F. (R) Admty.
 C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.B.N.O. W.At.)

BRITISH BRITISH LADY has to proceed St. Johns N.F.
 LADY. Request position in which she should be detached
 and whether escort will be arranged.
 (TAY 061955Z. to F.O.C.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A.
 Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C. C.N.W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.
 F.O.N.F. Com. (D) Argentinia, H.Q.C.C.)

/PANTHER...

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

PANTHER, Your 061611. (N.T. in W.R.) PANTHER and PENN
PENN. expected to arrive St. Johns N.F. a.m. 7th May.
H.M.S. PANTHER requires docking for split in
oil tank below waterline. Time required for
repair cannot be estimated until arrival when
further signal will be made.
(C.C.N.F. 061955Z. to C. in C. W.A. (R) BITER, C. in C. C.N.A.,
Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy My 221804 and your 231147. CALDWELL delayed 1
P.X.49, (one) day.
CALDWELL. (B.A.M.R. Washington 062006Z. to C. in C. C.N.W.A.
C. in C. W.A. CALDWELL, Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At.
Cdr. (D) Argentia, N.S.H.Q. C.C.N.F.)

H.X.238. Sailing telegram part 1.
2. Position B.X. at 2230Z May 7th.
3. 5.8. Routes and R/V as per Admiralty 291222
April and C. in C. C.N.A. 302035 April amended
by C. in C. C.N.A. 011450 May except all times 2½ hours later.
6. Task Unit 24.18.7. LETHBRIDGE. (S.O.) OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE.
Escort Tankers S.N. AMBROSIO, KALDFON, MIRALDA.
(P.D. New York 062020 to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R.C.E.S.F.
C.T.F. 24 C.T.G. 24.6 N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. C. in C. C.N.A.)

Convoy Arrivals New York 6th. ATHOS, AKOROA, BRITISH
O.N.179. CONFIDENCE, BOSTON CITY, CLAN MACINNES, CONTRACTOR
EL MIRLO, EMPIRE MARVEL, EMPIRE COLERIDGE,
ESSEK HOPKINS, ESSO DOVER, EMPIRE CELIA, ERIN,
EMPIRE CAVALIER, EMPIRE GRENADIER, EMPIRE BRUTUS,
GULF OF VENEZUELA, GULFHAWK, GEORGE W. MCKNIGHT, GOLDSHELL,
HOYANGER, JAMES WOODROW, JOHN H. EATON, KATY, KUNASIAN, KAIPAKI,
MOBILGAS, MIJDRECHT, MOLDAFN, NASSA, NOVELIST, NORHEIM,
PRESIDENT DE VOGUE, SOVAC. Total 34 ships.
(B.R.L.O. New York 062058Z. to Admty.)

Proposed Your 061531Z April, it is considered that risk
N.D. involved in all new ships proceeding from
Base at St. Lawrence ports to Halifax without nets can
Montreal. be accepted provided effective A/S escort will
be available. Request early confirmation of
this and also that Halifax will be able to fit
nets to these ships and to train their crews
without involving undue delays.
(Head of M.A.S. 062108B. to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.A.T.M.
M. of W.T. Montreal, Wartime Shipping Montreal for Pennington.)

Reporting B.A.D. is not normally informed either of the
arrival of arrival at their destination on the eastern side
H.M. of Atlantic of H.M. ships which sailed from U.S.
Ships from ports or of arrival of such special enterprises
U.S.A. to as passage of A.F.D.XXIV.
Europe or 2. This causes inconvenience here as, apart
Africa. from the interest as to whether ships built or

/refitted...

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6.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Reporting
arrival
of H.M.
Ships from
U.S.A. to
Europe or
Africa.

refitted in U.S.A. have reached their destinations such ships often carry special stores the safe and timely arrival of which is of immediate concern to the Delegation, and give rise to many enquiries from American authorities.
3. It is requested that for all H.M. ships from U.S.A. including small ones such as L.C.I. (L), B.Y.M.S. etc. the first arrival signal at European or African destination may be repeated to B.A.D.
(B.A.D. 062139Z. to Admty.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav serial. Following ship casualties occurred in convoy O.N.S.5 NORTH BRITAIN, HARPERLY, DIRECTOR, WESTMAXIM (?WEST MAXIMUS intended) HARR (?), WENTWORTH, BRISTOL CITY all torpedoed sunk May 4 estimated position 55° N. 43° W. HARBURY and DOLIUS abandoned May 4 not performing ably about same position. WEST MADAKET torpedoed presumed sunk May 5 about position 54.27N45.10 W. SELVISTAN torpedoed sunk May 5 position 53.20 N. 44.50 W. GHARINDA and BONDE torpedoed salvable May 5 about 53.20 N. 44.50 W. ONEIDA from convoy N.G.359 sunk May 4 details lacking.
(Connav 062148Z. to Comnav.)

North
Atlantic
Convoy
Cycles.

Your 051235. H.H.X. convoys consisting of up to 20 ships sail from Halifax on May 26th and then at six and five day intervals to connect with H.X. convoys at Momp. It would be appreciated if S.C. convoys sailing dates could be adjusted so that they do not repetition not coincide with sailing dates of H.H.X. convoys.
(N.S.H.Q. 062200 to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A.
C. in C. C.N.A. Cominch, C. & R. B.A.D. Comnav)

Sub attack
and
sighting
summary.

All times Z. A. BONDE and GHARINDA torpedoed, SELVISTAN torpedoed sunk 53.20 N. 44.50 W. 051930. DOLIUS torpedoed WENTWORTH, BRISTOL CITY DIRECTOR, torpedoed sunk area 55 N. 43 W. a.m./5th. WEST MADAKET torpedoed area 54.2 even N. 45 W. 051455. P.B.Y. attacked submarine on surface course 27059 45 N. 25.53 W. 061455. R.A.F. plane attacked upon surface course 20459 38 N. 27.55 W. 061629. PINK attacks sound contacts area 54.32 N. 45.05. W. 051900 and 55.02 N. 43.31 W. 051220 ORIBI sighted two S/Ms. on surface 53.30 N. 43.40 W. 051110. Surface craft sighted seven S/Ms. on surface 52.50 N. 42.52 W. 052300. ORIBI and SUNFLOWER rammed two S/Ms LOSSESTRIFE, VIDETTE and SNOWFLAKE attacked three others area 54 N. 44 W. night 5/6th. B. U.S.S.MANHASSET attacked submerged sub course 15554 04 N. 44.05 W. 051836. OFFA attacked sound contact 53.07 N. 44.40 W. on 5th. C. P.B.M. sights periscope course N. 34.30 N. 75.15 W. 060945 P.C. 493 attacks sound contact 03.39 S. 37.38 W. 052120. D. Sound contact attacked 47.16 N. 59.55 W. 051231.
(Cominch 062215Z. to Admty.)

/L.S.T...

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.- Contd.

L.S.T.425.

British L.S.T. 425 arrived Bermuda 6th.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 062235P. to Admty. N.S.H.Q.
?B.A.D. F.O.I.C. Gib.)ROXBOROUGH,
SASKATOON,
DUNVEGAN,
MULGRAVE.Expected time of arrival 1000Z/7th ROXBOROUGH,
SASKATOON, DUNVEGAN, MULGRAVE boiler hours.
ROXBOROUGH, DUNVEGAN defects.
(ROXBOROUGH 062300Z. to F.O.C.N.F. (R) Capt. (D)
St. Johns N.F.)

AQUITANIA.

(1) AQUITANIA U.S. inspection parties have rendered severely critical report of ship's condition on strength of which New York port of embarkation advised intention recommending to Washington against carriage of U.S. personnel this vessel.

(2) We have informed New York port of embarkation believe can remedy essential deficiencies by postponing embarkation 24 hours. (3) New York port of embarkation have agreed provided approval inspection authorities obtained. (4) Final decision will be made to-morrow after programme of work to be done has been agreed with inspection authorities.

(B.M.W.T. New York 062352Z. to D. of S.T. (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.6.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No. 30. WILLIAM WILLIAMS taken in tow 5/5 18° 43' S. on 77° 43' W. proceeding Vatoa Island 4 Hudsons providing A/S cover. 58 Allied aircraft attacked Rekata Bay Isabel Island a.m. 3rd May 2,000 and 4,000 pound bombs caused heavy damage in Bivouac area and gun positions. 2 A.K. visited Vila (Kolombangara) evening 4th departing westerly course early 5th. Considerable barge activity Vella Lavelea. 11 A.K, one D.D. sighted Buin area (Bougainville) 3rd.
(C.W.R. Wellington 060027Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.)

FINGAL (Nor). FINGAL torpedoed and sunk 0335Z/5th 030° 2137 tons 35' S. 153° 29' E. 17 survivors picked up. torpedoed. (A.C.N.B. 060434Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. Navy Office, Wellington.)

Movements. Arrival Auckland 1015Z/5 U.S.S. DELPHINUS departure Vila 2330Z/4, U.S.S. PINKNEY for Auckland E.T.A. 0300Z/8. Departure Aitutaki 1000Z/5, U.S.S. CYGNUS for Auckland E.T.A. 0200Z/12.
(D.N.I. Wellington 060527Z to Admty.)

ABRAHAM H.M.A.S. Netherlands ABRAHAM CRIJNSSEN transferred to Royal Netherlands Navy 5th May. CRIJNSSEN (A.C.N.B. 060537Z to Admty. Abdafloat, C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B. C.O.I.S.)

Digest serial No. 471 May 5 Four vessels including 2 destroyers sighted 75 miles south west Kavieng course 130° forenoon. 5. Freighter FINGAL 2137 tons sunk by enemy submarine 30° 35' S. 153° 30' E. 0330Z.
(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 060632Z.)

G.P.48, G.P.49 escorts. Your 051401 convoy G.P.48 escorts COLAC (S.O.) and BALLARAT, convoy G.P. 49 escorts DELORAINÉ (S.O.), YANDRA, BENDIGO, KALGOURLIE.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 060716Z to Admty.)
Your 051401B. G.P.48 escort COLAC and BALLARAT. Name will in future be included as requested.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 061859Z to Admty.)

Movements. Arrival Port Moresby 5th KAPUNDA, GLENELG. Brisbane 5th VENDETTA, U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY. Milne Bay 5th BROOME. Departure Melbourne 5th VANGALEN on escort Brisbane 5th U.S. Destroyer BAGLEY for Sydney.
(A.C.N.B. 061036Z to Admty.)

U.S. Transport VAN HEUTSZ departed Townsville 5th arrived Cairns 6th May. R.A.F.A. KURUMBA departed Fall River 5th due Townsville 8th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 061102Z to Admty.)

Departure Dunedin U.S.S. McCALLA for Noumea E.T.A. 2200Z/10 May via Cook Strait and direct route.
(D.N.I. Wellington 062159Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

6.5.1943.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 061430B, 061436B.)

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. VALIANT (Eastern Fleet) arrived at Scapa this morning, escorted by BRECON, BLANKNEY and TUMULT.
- 4th & 21st Escort Groups. 2. ARCHER with ONSLAUGHT, FAULKNER and IMPULSIVE left Hvalfjord this morning to join Convoy O.N.S.6. On 8th May E.G.1 was also ordered to proceed to support O.N.S.6.
- Yarmouth Attacked. 3. Enemy aircraft made a low flying attack on Yarmouth this morning. C. in C. Nore is again pressing for a balloon barrage to be installed, in order to avoid the risk of serious disaster to the forces essential to the defence of our own and attack of enemy convoys.
- Murmansk Attacked. 3A. For the third day in succession enemy aircraft attacked Murmansk, a high level attack being carried out on the town and docks at 1500Z today. A near miss on the starboard quarter of EMPIRE BAIRD caused superficial damage and slight casualties.

North Atlantic.

- Convoy S.L.128 attacked. 4. At 0510, JONQUIL, of 37th Escort Group, sighted and attacked a U-Boat in 41.02 N. 18.02 W. A second U-Boat was sighted by this group at 0645Z on the surface in 40.58 N. 18.10 W., and a third at 0740 on the surface in 41.36 N. 17.59 W. D/F bearings indicated the presence of two others. At 1130Z, S.O. 37th Escort Group, reported that the convoy had been attacked in 41.40 N. 18.13 W. (about 420 miles W.S.W. of Cape Finisterre) and Greek SS. LACONIKOS was torpedoed and sunk.
- Force H. 5. Rear Admiral A.W. La T. Bisset hoisted his flag in KING GEORGE V today as R.A. Force H. S.O. Force H continues to wear his flag in NELSON. RODNEY sailed from Gibraltar at 0020 escorted by METEOR, TUSCAN and ANTHONY, for Devonport, to dock in U.K.

7.5.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Air attacks
on U/Bs.

6. Hudson I/233 attacked a surfaced U-Boat at 1845B in 36.00 N. 11.14 W. with depth charges, and with machine gunfire against 3 or 4 men on deck, one of whom was seen to fall. The U-Boat returned the fire but the aircraft was not hit.

Hudson X/233 attacked the same U-Boat shortly afterwards; 4 depth charges straddled the enemy, who appeared to list and an unidentified object was thrown 50 to 100 ft. into the air. Men on deck were machine-gunned. The U-Boat dived slowly or was hidden by the swell, and resurfaced down by the stern and steering in circles, then disappeared, leaving no trace.

South Atlantic.

7. RAPID today picked up from a raft two survivors of SS. LULWORTH HILL reported sunk by a U-Boat about 19th March in position not yet known. (~~See South Atlantic 15th May~~). (p.245)
SS. HOLMBURY, Montevideo for Freetown, was torpedoed by a German U-Boat at 0840 ship's time today in 04.30 N. 10.20 W. (about 250 miles S.E. of Freetown) and was sunk by gunfire after the ship's boats had been lowered.

Mediterranean.

Tunis and
Bizerta
entered.

X 8. Allied forces entered Tunis and Bizerta towns this afternoon. Both ports are still in enemy hands.

Patrols.

9. Three fleet destroyers from Malta carried out a patrol south of Marittimo last night. Three fleet destroyers and 3 Hunts from Bone

/patrolled ...

7.5.1943.

Friday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Patrols.
(Contd.)

patrolled in two areas west of Marittimo. The Hunts sighted one E-Boat and were attacked by aircraft at 0132 today, without suffering any damage.

BLYSKAWICA was slightly damaged by near misses during a determined air attack over Stromboli at dusk whilst patrolling with 2 other fleet destroyers from Bone west of Marittimo.

All available coastal craft from Bone proceeded in 5 groups to establish patrols tonight between Cape Guardia and Cape Bon.

10. 16 Wellingtons from Malta attacked Marsala harbour last night.

13 Wellingtons carried out diversionary attacks for Malta minelaying operations, dropping bombs in the Trapani, Marsala, Marittimo, and Favignana areas.

Tunis harbour was bombed and a yacht was sunk and 2 power tugs left sinking.

309 aircraft of N.W.A.A.F. escorted by 299 fighters bombed shipping in the Gulf of Tunis today, several vessels were attacked and a number of hits and near misses were made.

East Indies.

11. The Dutch electric motor ship BERAKIT, Calcutta for Durban and West Indies, was torpedoed and abandoned at 0601Z in 03.04 N. 75.20 E. (330 miles S.W. of Colombo).

America and West Indies.

12. Convoy H.X.238 from New York, consists of 34 ships. FENCER sailed in this convoy with 55 aircraft for U.K. 12 ships sailed in H.H.X.238 (see 6th May).

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Australia and New Zealand.

13. Incomplete reports today indicate that an action probably took place in the Central Solomons. Eleven unidentified warships were subsequently sighted north of Russell Islands and four warships between Sevo and Florida Islands; coast watchers reported damaged vessels.

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

S.O. Force "J" X The pendant of Cdre. J. Hughes-Hallett will be hauled down at sunset tomorrow when Captain J.D. Luce will assume the duties of S.O. Force "J". (C. in C. Portsmouth 072115.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

Defences of Angle. R.A.F. intend relinquishing responsibility for defence of Air field on 15th May. (R.N.A.S. Angle 071430B to Admty.)

Yarmouth A/A defences. X Planes that raided Yarmouth this morning crossed the coast at Winterton, were reported by Royal Observer Corps to Norwich, and passed over the Railway Station and town at roof top height on a South East course a few seconds after the warning. *(Inaccurate, page 269)*

A.A. Crews stood down at 0705 and enemy arrived at 0715. Total opposition consisted of 9 and 5 rounds fired by two light A.A. guns and 30 rounds by one Oerlikon. One Bofors was unable to depress on to target because of guard rail. No 3 point 7 inch fired.

Referring to my 1593/5102 of 4th April the risk of serious disaster to the forces essential for the defence of own and attack of enemy convoys does not appear to have been reduced. It is requested that the following security measures may be taken at once.

1. An adequate balloon barrage to be installed at Yarmouth and Lowestoft.
2. Heavy guns sited on water front close North and South of the town capable of firing to sea level.
3. The preparation of numbered barrages to cover certain lines of approach and retreat over the low flying land and sea particularly on the line up and down the docks area.
4. An improved system of passing local warning of coast crossings within ten miles to enable the A.A. defences to get into action. Unless immediate action is taken to provide a balloon barrage and improve the A.A. defences there is no reason why the enemy should not make a habit of these low flying attacks.

(C. in C. Nore 072354B to Admty.)

Movements.

HOWE. Arrival HOWE escorted by TYRIAN, SLAZAK and ACTIVE.
(C. in C. Rosyth 070530B to A.C.O.S.)

Ships at sea Principal ships at Scapa 0600/7th. DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, SUFFOLK, BERMUDA, BERWICK, TYNE, ONSLOW, FURY, CLEVELAND and HALCYON.
(A.C.O.S. 070601B.)

VALIANT. Scapa arrivals VALIANT, BRECON, BLANKNEY, TUMULT.
(A.C.O.S. 070712B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

EMERALD. Scapa arrival EMERALD.
(A.C.O.S. 070745B.)

/S/M...

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements - Contd.

S/M Movements. 1. My 031545 and 041535. After passing through position P. submarines are to proceed by following amended routes.
2. BARB through 068° 40' N. 013° 40' W. 062° 01' N. 000° 30' E. thence direct to Lerwick.
3. BLACKFISH through 062° 01' N. 000° 45' W. thence through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick.
4. S.O. (S) Lerwick is requested to arrange escort to meet submarines in 090° Noss Head 5 miles. Submarines are to report their E.T.A. at this position to S.O.(S) Lerwick on crossing 062° N.
(Capt. 3.9 071221B.)
Position of S/Ms at 0800B/8 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 071639B, 072332B, 081128B.)

RODNEY. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071014 and 061215.
Request you will sail a destroyer forthwith to join RODNEY before dark on 9th May.
(D.O.D.H. 071533B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 061215. Request you will signal onward route for RODNEY.
(D.O.D.H. 071538B to C. in C.Plymouth.)
O.R.P. PIORUN is to pass Gate at 1930B today and pass through position A. 180° Bishop Rock 20 B. 049° 11' N. 012° 18' W. and thence R/V with RODNEY before dark on 9th May as relief for ANTHONY.
2. Onward route for RODNEY from T. 045° 01' N. 019° 01' W. pass through U. 049° 15' N. 015° 17' W. V. 180° Bishop Rock 10, and thence by A.M. Q.Z.S. 410 and 409 to Plymouth.
Pass V. at first light if practicable and keep west of 006° W. during dark hours.
(C. in C.Plymouth 071744B.)

M/S 1. M/S Flot. 1st with HOUND and FLY are to sail for
HOUND. FLY. Scapa p.m. 8th May. Route. E.T.A. Hvalfjord
0800Z/8th.
(A.C.I.C. 071616B to M/S 1.)

UNICORN. Admiralty 022209 and my 051124 (and my 061128 refer). Programme.
(F.O.C.T. 071818B.)

SALADIN. C. in C.W.A. 061057. Intend sailing SALADIN at 0600B/9. Speed 15 knots.
(Cdre. W.A. 071833B.)

BARB. My 271644B. April para. 2 for South of lat. 061° N. read on arrival Lerwick.
BLACKFISH. (F.O.(S) 072209B to S/Ms operating N. of 51° N. (R) Admty. C. in C.H.F. A.C.I.C. A.C.O.S. H.Q.C.C. Commaveu.)

7.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

E-Boats on X My 061147B May. Copy of track E.93 Q. is
6th May. forwarded herewith.

It is considered that object of raid was to intercept a possible convoy or attack patrol normally operating south of E.A.5 buoy and not to lay mines in Eastern Approach Channel.

E-Boats were engaged by coast defence batteries at Culver and Littlehampton without result. Attacks by Albacores of 823 Squadron were effective in driving the enemy off, though intercepted R/T conversation did not indicate that any damage had been inflicted.

As operation K.L.1 was being carried out usual patrol of 2 M.Is in this vicinity was not available.

(C. in C.Portsouth 070905B to Admty.)

SIMOON Patrol Vessel 2000 tons 43° 50' N. 08° 50' W. 030°
Spanish M/V. 8 knots, escorted by 2 Ju.88.

(A/C N. of 461 Sqdn. 071140B to 19 Group.)

Act under order C. in C.Plymouth forthwith.

F.S.L. two para. B. refers.

(F.O.S. 071237B to SIMOON.)

Proceed forthwith to establish patrol in 044° 42' N. 004° 20' W. by 0800B/8th.

2. Aircraft report vessel in 043° 50' N. 008° 50' W. at 1140B today.

Estimate may be ship in S.I.S. list H. number 50 bound east speed 8 to 10 knots. Using Spanish colours ship probably escorted by aircraft.

(C. in C.Plymouth 071351B to SIMOON.)

My 061534 para. C. SIMOON proceeding at about 1500/7th to patrol vicinity 44° 42' N. 04° 20' W.

(F.O.S. 071456B to Admty.)

Cancel my 071351B para. 2. Ship was Spanish ANTONIO DE SATRUSTEGUI.

2. F.O.S. is requested to resume control of SIMOON.

(C. in C.Plymouth 072239B to F.O.S.)

Cancel my 071237 and C. in C.Plymouth's 071351. Ship was Spanish.

2. Rejoin route "Gold" forthwith. Estimate you will cross 043° N. at 0800/11.

(F.O.S. 072312B to SIMOON.)

S/M Patrols. Position 2000 tonight. P.239 leaves Lerwick 2100 to N.W.

(A.C.O.S. 071149B to Ships.)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/8th and movements for following 24 hours.

A. BARB on patrol between latitudes 67° 30' and 68° 30' on long. 16° W. leaving patrol so as to pass through position 68° 40' N. 14° 50' W. at 1800/8th, thence through 68° 40' N. 013° 40' W. toward 62° 01' N. 000° 30' E.

B. BLACKFISH on patrol between lat. 68° N. and Kolbinsey 67° 08' N. 18° 38' W. leaving patrol so as to pass through position 68° 40' N. 14° 50' W. at 2300/8th thence towards 62° 01' N. 000° 45' W. Both the above submarines will be proceeding probably on the surface.

/C...

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M patrols (Contd.)

C. SATYR on patrol between lat. 67° 30' and coast of Iceland on long. 16° W.

D. TRUCULENT patrolling between Kolbinsey and Grimsey 66° 32' N. 18° 01' W.

E. SHAD approx. 65° 43' N. 08° 26' W. probably on surface through 66° 35' N. 10° 30' W. to patrol line as in A. not crossing 15° W. before 1800/8th.

F. HERRING approx. position 65° 38' N. 09° 32' W. probably on surface through 66° 20' N. 11° 15' W. and 67° 40' N. 16° 01' W. to patrol line as in B. not crossing 15° W. before 1800/8th.

G. O.10 patrolling vicinity 63° 48' N. 00° 32' W.

H. USURPER vicinity 63° 30' N. 02° 00' E. leaving patrol 1600/8th through 63° 11' N. 02° 03' E. to Lerwick.

J. SURF 61° 42' N. 02° 01' W. through 66° 25' N. 12° 35' W, probably on surface as far as 64° N.
(F.O.S. 071639B.)

SURF sailed from Lerwick 2108B/7th unescorted routed through 090° Muckle Flugga 6 miles and 066° 25' N. 012° 35' W. to patrol line X keeping East 014° W. till 1700B/10th.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 072113B to S/Ms.)

Coastal Patrols.

1. Intend M.L. 233 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 529 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. Details.
5. Codeword "Object."
(F.O.I.C. Portland 071150B.)
HORNET's 061732B. "Device" arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 071404B.)

My 071150B. "Object" cancelled owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 072045B.)

Operation Q.K.4.

M.Ls. fired on by own Forces.

Following is preliminary report of C/F activity night 5th/6th May.

1. Operation Q.K.4D, M.G.B. supporting force obtained R.D.F. contact and sighted two bow waves in approximate position 51° 27' N. 02° 41' E. at 0110B unknown vessels were on a North Easterly course. Order to open fire was given but .5 turret jammed and oerlikon would not bear; contact was lost in conditions of much phosphorescence. After search to regain contact M.Ls were sighted and engaged by M.G.Bs. Regret to report two casualties, one fatal and some damage to M.L.105, who returned to base.

M.L. 100 and 106 carried on with operation but obtained a number of R.D.F. contacts and one sighting of unknown vessels some 12 miles from position of lay. In view of the time and presence of the enemy forces who appeared to be ahead and astern, the operation was abandoned and unit returned taking evasive action. A Board of Enquiry will be held at Felixstowe.

2. M.T.Bs. off the Hook of Holland report H/E and Aural contact with E/R boats at 0017 and 0313.
(C. in C.Nore 071430B to Admty.)

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7.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

X Murmansk bombed on 6th & 7th May. Dive-bombing attack on ships at anchor 1730C/6th. No damage or casualties. High-level attack on town and dock 0500C/7th. Near miss starboard quarter of EMPIRE BARD. (?4) men slightly injured. Slight superficial damage, appear seaworthiness (?not) impaired. 2 small fires in town.
(N.O.I.C. Murmansk 071009B to Admty.)

Mining.

X Sweep in Denmark Straits. C. in C.H.F.'s 021411B. Completed, negative results. E.T.A. 1000B/8th.
(LYME REGIS 070609B to C. in C.H.F.)

Operation Q.K.4 abandoned. See Operations.

X Hvalfjord C.M.Field. Extensive damage has occurred to C.M.(L) Field of Hvalfjord Defences caused by a disabled merchant ship dragging on to it during a westerly gale. M.2 mine loop and all guard loops are out of action. M.4 and M.6 mine-loops damaged but probably serviceable. Endeavours in hand to make temporary repairs with local resources. A layer will be required to make good all defects and intend RINGDOVE should undertake this on completion of Seidisfjord C.M.Field and before she commences at Eyjafjord.
(A.C.I.C. 071637B to Admty.)

Humber. At 0947B/7 one mine detonated by sweepers in 133° 58 A Buoy 1 1/4 miles. Details.
(F.O.Humber 071750.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Units at Altafjord. Soviet visual R/C of Altafjord at 08(?30)B Friday observed one battleship or battle cruiser, two cruisers, one light cruiser, and some destroyers. Photographs were taken.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia 071120B.)

My 071120B. Russian interpretation is: Altafjord SCHARNHORST, SCHEER-Class Pocket Battleship, and 1500-ton Depot Ship with 1 destroyer alongside. 4 destroyers in south part of Kaafjord. 2 Nurnberg-Class Cruisers and 30 - 40 Small Craft in middle of Kaafjord. 1 Lighter Cruiser and 1 M.S. steaming towards Altafjord.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia 071935B to Admty.)

O.I.C.Comment. According to information available the following warships are believed to be in Altafjord area:- TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, LUTZOW, about 8 destroyers, one or two A/A ships and a number of auxiliary craft. The A/A ships may have been mistaken for NURNBERG class cruisers. It would not appear that Langfjord has been covered where it is possible TIRPITZ may be berthed.

7.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats in N. Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 59° 00' N. 26° 25' W. (A/C F3JZ 070022B to Artunshofdi.)
Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. (A/C F3JZ 070035B to Artunshofdi.)
One or two Atlantic bound U-Boats estimated probably within 100 miles of 64° 30' N. 06° 30' W. at 1200Z/7. (D.D.I.C. 070859B to S/Ms.)
By D/F at 0810Z U-Boat estimated in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 071224B to B.Y.M.S. 65,66,67,185.)
On day 6th May 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S patrol. Two sightings were made and 2 attacks developed there from. In the first attack the U-Boat was sighted about 3 miles away and as the Whitley came in to attack cannon fire came from the U-Boat and a member of the crew was seen well forward on deck manning a gun. The Whitley R/G opened fire and depth-charges were dropped from 300 ft. 3 explosions were seen ahead of the submarine which submerged, but it was not possible to observe whether the stern or conning tower was the last to disappear below the surface. In the second attack a U-Boat was sighted and attacked but it is doubtful whether the depth-charges exploded. (H.Q.B.C. 071230B.)
D/F of transmissions at 1659Z and 1719Z indicate at least one U-Boat anywhere within 75 miles of 60° 00' N. 30° 00' W. (D.D.I.C. 072001B to Escorts O.N.S.6, S.C.128, S.C.L. 128.)
See also Shipping.

U-Boats in Biscay Area. Am over enemy submarine in 46° 40' N. 09° 53' W. (A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty H 071033B to 19 Group.)
Am over enemy submarine in 41.20 N. 18.02 W. Periscope only sighted. (A/C TZMS U 071108B to N.H.7.)
Am over enemy submarine in 46° 42' N. 11° 20' W. position R.C.W.D. 42.40. (A/C Duty W.10 071235B to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges. Submarine is still on the surface. (A/C Duty W.10 071250B to 19 Group.)
Submarine has dived. (A/C Duty W.10 071305B to 19 Group.)

Casualties & Defects.

FOREMOST 22. S/Tug FOREMOST 22 with GALATIAN in tow, delayed for 24 hours with engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Inverness 070550B.)

OCEAN VALOUR. (K.M.S.14) OCEAN VALOUR has fire in lower bunker and is proceeding to Belfast. My P.C. and S. are 55.13, 09.05 W. 254° diverging, 6 knots. (SCARBOROUGH 071000B to C. in C.W.A.)

ONYX. ONYX 051054 and Rosyth 031510. Request you will sail GNYX to Belfast for investigation of defects. (D.M.S. 071105B to C. in C.W.A.)

/L.C.G...

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects. - Contd.L.C.G. sunk
off Milford
Haven.

It is possible that the wreck of one L.C.G. has been located in 51° 39' 33" N. 05° 06' 57" W. Request instructions whether confirmation and examination by divers is required. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 071245B to Admty.)

Chart from
ST. MARYS.

Secret chart MO.155 of 18th October, 1942 was blown overboard from ST. MARYS on 5th May in approx. 64° N. 10° W. Chart showed details of S.N.111A and S.N.89 in pencil. When last seen chart was in two pieces and would probably be destroyed in prevailing weather. (R.A.M. 071620B to Admty.)

MOURNE.

J.6208. My 061620. Defect was caused by improper combustion of fuel, resulting in flash back and risk of fire. Written report will be forwarded, ship is now sailing p.m. 9th vide my 071650. (F.O.I.C. London 071700B.)

PORT QUEBEC.

PORT QUEBEC is temporarily out of action owing to damage sustained to mine-rails during bad weather.
2. Repairs are in hand and it is not anticipated that mining programme will be delayed. (R.A.M. 071722B to Admty.)

Shipping & Convoys.+ Enemy reports
by escorts.

In a recent convoy the failure of close escort to give their ZZ positions when making enemy reports seriously reduced the capabilities of the supporting group in attacking the enemy. Attention is drawn to A.C.I. 421 para. 3. (C. in C.W.A. 070116B.)

QUEEN MARY.

D/F bearings at 2127Z indicate U/B was within 100 miles of your estimated 0600Z/7 position, probably eastward-bound. (D.D.I.C. 070140B to T.A.41B.)

QUEEN
ELIZABETH.

Convoy A.T.42 is due Clyde 0100Z/11.
2. Total of approximately 10,900 personnel will disembark 11/5.
3. Approximately 3,000 personnel will embark at Tail of the Bank on p.m. 13/5 and 14/5.
4. Convoy T.A.42 should be ready to sail p.m.14/5 (D.S.T. 070501B.)

/S.L.128...

War Diary.

7.5.1943.

Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- S.L.128. D/F bearings at 0353Z indicate U-Boat has probably reported convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 070628B to DEVONSHIRE, Escorts S.L.128 E.G.2.)
- A.M. 070628. Five further transmissions up to 0719Z confirm that convoy is being shadowed.
(D.D.I.C. 071000B to Escorts S.L.128, DEVONSHIRE, E.G.2.)
S.L.128 attacked in 041° 40' N. 018° 13' W. at 1130Z/7th.
(C. in C.W.A. 071508B to E.G.2.)
Various transmissions throughout the day and continuing all on Series One, last at 2014Z, indicate U-Boats remain in contact with convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 072250B to S.L.128, DEVONSHIRE, E.G.2.)
- C.T.F.66. C. in C.Lant's 061417 informs as follows.
Modify my 032357. Commander Raney in BIBB hereby designated Comtaskforce 66.
(Comnaveu 070642 to Admty.)
- O.S.47 & K.M.S.14. Sailed BARRY escorting OCEAN VOLUNTEER to contact EMPIRE GUINEVERE and thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 051658.
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 070933B.)
Sailed SPIREA escorting OCEAN VOLUNTEER to contact EMPIRE GUINEVERE and thence in accordance with C. in C.W.A. 051658 codeword "Topaz."
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven 070933B.)
- H.X.237. Received from convoy Commodore (?in) W.6. Convoy widely scattered Beachy Head 180° 35 miles from me. Understand TRAIL (?reporting) My P.C. and S. 42.38, 46.04, 145° 14 knots. BITER in sight.
(C.2 071000Z.)
061953Z just received. Convoy position given in my 071000Z. TRAIL escorting. Am not yet in touch.
(C.23 071115Z to C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. (R) Cmdr. D. Argentinia, Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. A.C.I.C.)
My 072100. SAN (?WICK) now escorted by VIZALMA, P.C. and S. at 2100, 042° 32' 044° 01' 125° 9 knots.
(C.2 072210Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.5. Your 0657Z. My P.C. and S. 049° 26' N. 045° 23' W. 007° 12 knots. Fuel percentage and depth-charges remaining PELICAN 75, 114, WEAR 70.9, 99, JED 72, 117.
(PELICAN 071000Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 060608Z. After review of evidence considered sub. probably destroyed.
(PELICAN 071055.)

/Your...

7.5.1943.

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

- O.N.S.5. Your 001943. Submerged attacks on O.N.S.5.
E.G.1. 0735 (29th?) from between columns by single
(Contd.) U-Boat. 1415/5th by one and 2000/5th by one
or 2 U-Boats, direction not stated but presume
from ahead or bows. Surface attack at 0515/5th
by 7 U-Boats.
(C. in C.W.A. 071134B to B.3.)
- My 230804Z/May. Delete HARBURY, BONDE, NORTH BRITAIN, SELVISTAN
MCKEESPORT, WEST MAXIMUS, WEST MADAKET, BRISTOL CITY, DOLIUS,
GHARINDA, HARPELEY, WENTWORTH.
(C. in C.W.A. 071542Z to Admty.)
- C.F.12. Two or three U-Boats bound for Bay of Biscay
estimated in your vicinity today.
(D.D.I.C. 071014B to Escorts C.F.12, GLASGOW,
UGANDA, CHARYBDIS.)
- O.N.S.7. As VOLUNTEER is not now available BANFF is to
sail with O.N.S.7 in addition to WREN.
2. BANFF fitted with H/F D/F. WREN not fitted
with H/F D/F.
(C. in C.W.A. 071108Z.)
- E.G.4. for ARCHER, FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT, and IMPULSIVE
O.N.S.6. sailed at 1130B/7th to comply with C. in C.W.A.
061608.
(A.C.I.C. 071137B to Escorts O.N.S.6.)
- B.4 for Escort for O.N.183, E.G.B.4 in HIGHLANDER (S.O.)
O.N. 183. VIMY, ANEMONE, ASPHODEL, PENNYWORT, CLOVER,
KENOGAMI. HIGHLANDER fitted H/F D/F.
(Cdre. D. W.A. 071203B.)
- K.X.10 and K.X.10/OG90 will sail from Mersey 19th May with
O.G.90. ships for Spain, Portugal, Gibraltar, and
O.S.48 & North Africa only.
K.M.S.15. It is intended that the convoy should number
about sixty ships including all commercial
ships for this area, all the smaller and
slower Sea Transport ships and a balance of
larger Sea Transport ships. Ships of $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots declared speed
may be accepted.
2. O.S. 48/K.M.S.15 will sail from Mersey 20th May with the
remaining ships for the area mentioned in para. 1 ships for
Casablanca and all the normal C.S. ships for West Africa and
beyond, and South America. This convoy is for ships of $8\frac{1}{2}$
knots or over.
(D.T.D. 071345B.)

7.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

P.W.335
W.P.335.

In view of weather P.W. and W.P. 335 convoys are to remain at sea tonight and proceed to destinations.
2. KRAKOWIAK is to continue with W.P.335 as destroyer escort to Needles.
3. ST. KILDA is to escort Plymouth ships into harbour.
(C. in C.Plymouth 071501B to Convoy Escorts.)

x Greek Relief Vessels.

Following were positions of Greek Relief Vessels at 2200 May 6th. Westbound. TAMARA 33° 57' N. 59° 27' W. Eastbound. VIRIL 35° 29' N. 26° 32' E. YARRAWONGA and FORMOSA 35° 57' N. 07° 20' W. BARDALAND and CAMELIA 33° 29' N. 57° 12' W. HALLAREN 34° 37' N. 25° 22' E. MONGABARRA and AKKA 38° 01' N. 65° 00' W. FALSTERBOHUS Northbound 00° 35' N. 41° 47' W.
(N.A.Stockholm 071602 to Admty.)

O.N.182. .
E.G.C.5.

Escort Group C.5, OTTAWA (S.O.) plus FISHGUARD, WETASKIWAN, DIANTHUS, ARVIDA, ROSTHERN sailed for O.N.182. Anticipate NENE will sail p.m. 8th to overtake.
(C.T.G. 24.7 071603Z to C. in C.W.A.)

x Atlantic Convoys Air Cover. Signals "Stipple" & "Tubular".

The following arrangements have been made with C. in C.W.A. and A.O.C. in C.Coastal Command for stating daily the priority of requirements for air cover for convoys.
2. The priorities for the following day will be discussed daily by C. in C.W.A., A.O.C. in C., and Admiralty Tracking Room, they will then be notified by signal from A.O.C., in C. to 15 and 18 Groups and R.A.F.Iceland, repeated Eastern Air Command, 1 Group R.C.A.F. St. Johns, R.A.F. Gibraltar 19 Group, Admiralty, Air Ministry, Naval Commands concerned N.S.H.Q. and Cominch.
3. This signal will be prefixed by the code name "Stipple" which will signify that the priorities are approved by C. in C.W.A. The convoys will be grouped in the following categories, being named also within their own categories in order of priority:- A. Definitely threatened or being attacked. B. Standing into danger. C. May require cover in near future, with indication of probable date.
4. As soon as possible after "Stipple" signal has been made A.O.C. in C.Coastal Command will signal probability areas and any special instructions necessary to co-ordinate action by Coastal Groups and R.A.F.Iceland. This latter signal will be prefixed by the codeword "Tubular" and repeated to Admiralty, Eastern Air Command Halifax, 1 Group R.C.A.F. and R.A.F.Gibraltar. Naval Commands will be informed by associated Air Commands through Combined Area H.Q. C. in C.Rosyth informing C. in C.Home Fleet as necessary.
5. These arrangements will come into force with effect from 10th May on which date the first "Stipple" and "Tubular" signals will be made notifying priorities for 11th May.
(V.C.N.S. 071612B.)

Amended by
010125 B
June
(p. 11, W.D.)

7.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

X.K.6. A.M. 061840B. Para. A. Amend position W. 50° N. 14° W.
(D.O.D.H. 071627B.)

O.S.48. F.O.I.C. Greenock's 061038. On completion of
S.L.130 working up ALYNBANK is to operate temporarily
ALYNBANK. as A/A escort for O.S., S:L. convoys.
Requested you will arrange for her to sail from
Clyde with O.S.48 20th May, transferring to
S.L.130 in about 43° N. 15° W. and returning to
Clyde about 1st June.
(D.O.D.H. 071630B to C. in C.W.A.)

X Escort Oilers. 1. Escort Oilers cannot be conveniently serviced at Londonderry and care should be taken that they are in all respects ready for ocean passage before sailing from their loading port.
2. Ocean convoy instructions for Escort Oilers sailing from Londonderry which have proceeded there from Bristol Channel or East Coast ports will be supplied by N.C.S.O. Belfast.
3. Admiralty will inform N.C.S.O. Belfast of the vessels requiring instructions and the convoys in which they are to sail
(D.T.D. 071645B to Cs. in C.Nore, Rosyth, W.A., A.C.O.S.)

X Neutral Shipping. Routes to be followed across North Atlantic.
(D.T.D. 072033B.) See North Atlantic.

JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. DESEADO. SS. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT with troops for Algiers and SS. DESEADO for River Plate are to sail from Liverpool p.m. 12th May.
2. Both ships have a speed of 15 knots.
3. C. in C.W.A. is requested to provide escort from Liverpool to the Eastern limit of Q.Z.L. 18 where W.A.Escort will be relieved by DELHI, TUSCAN, and a second destroyer detailed by C. in C.Plymouth who is requested to sail the latter ships accordingly.
4. Route RA. 180° Fastnet 10' RB 49.56 N. 14.50 W. RC 41.20 N. 14.25 W. RD 36.40 N. 10.02 W. thence as ordered by C. in C.Med. who is requested to return the Plymouth destroyer at the first opportunity
5. DESEADO is to part company at position RC, or as ordered by Admiralty thence independently through:- K. 33° N. 22° W. L. 23° N. 26° W. M. 14° N. 28° W. N. Equator 27° W. O. 15° S. 32° W. P. 26° S. 40° W. Q. 34° N. 51° W. thence to destination.
(D.O.D.H. 072042B.)

X F.N.14. N.C.S.O.Humber's 070906B. It now appears that Humber joiners for F.N.14 missed the convoy due to an error in decoding a signal.
2. If this is correct it is requested that a report may be forwarded as to why the N.C.S.O.. did not immediately report to Admiralty so that remedial measures could be taken promptly.
(D.T.D. 072044B to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RODNEY My 061215B sailed RODNEY, METEOR, TUSCAN and
destroyers ANTHONY in place of TROUBRIDGE defective.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070020 to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Med.
RODNEY).

X S.L.128 U/boat sighted in 041 degs. 02' N. 018 degs. 02' W.
U/B attacked attacked by JONQUIL at 0510. Weather report.
LACONIKOS (S.O.37th Escort Group 070530Z to F.O.I.C.
sunk. Gibraltar (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty.).
My 070330Z (070530 intended) 2nd U/boat sighted on
the surface in 040 degs. 58' N. 018 degs. 10' W. at
0645Z.

(2) Correct all after "attacked" to read "by JONQUIL observed
to submerge at 0510. Weather report."

W/T activity on series one between 0500 and 0730 indicate
several U.B's in your vicinity of which 2 or 3 have possibly
reported you.

(F.O.C.N.A. 070958 to Escort S.L.128 (R) Admty.).

My 070700 not STARLING. Third U.boat sighted on the surface
at 0740 in 041 degs. 36' N. 017 degs. 59' W. H/F D/F Bearings
(corrupt group) indicate presence of 4th U.boat certain and 5th
probably. Air cover not yet arrived. My P.C. and S. at 0800Z 041
degs. 16' N. 018 degs. 02' W. 350 degs. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ knots.

(S.O. 37th Escort Group 070800Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.(R)
C. in C.W.A. Admty. Capt.(D) Liverpool, STARLING).

Convoy attacked 041 degs. 40' N. 018 degs. 13' W.

(S.O.37th Escort Group 071130Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.).

A.C.1 Article 39 para.5.

(A) 11.30 7th May 041 degs. 40' N. 018 degs. 13' W.

(B) One. (C) Possibly between Columns 2 and 3. (D) Number 53
LACONIKOS 10 survivors. (E) Nil. (F) Nil. (G) BLACK SWAN attacked
very doubtful contact in van of Convoy.

(H) Weather report.

(S.O.37th Escort Group 071305Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty.
C. in C. W.A. Capt.(D) Liverpool, STARLING).

S/M attacked JONQUIL in 041 degs. 12' N. 018 degs. 10' W.
at 1200. S/M heard blowing close after 4th attack, but no visible
evidence of destruction. Contact not regained after 4th attack.

(37th Escort Group S.O. 071425Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R)
Admty. C. in C. W.A. Capt.(D) Liverpool, STARLING).

Gibraltar Arrival trawlers COVERLEY, BREAM M.L. 218, 232, 240,
movements 559, 562, 568, 575.

M.T.B's 654, 655, 667, 670.

M.G.B's. 648, 657, 658, 663.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 070944B to Admty.).

Departures:- ACUTE, STORNOWAY, SPEEDWELL, CADMUS, to
Algiers.

Arrivals:- F.O.H. in NELSON, FORMIDABLE, FARNDALE, PUCKERIDGE, ILEX,
HAYDON, CALPE, TYNEDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX, WILTON, WHEATLAND.
M.L's 170, 176 ex A/S sweep and escort duties East. TRIBUNE from
Algiers.

F.O.C.Gibraltar 072345B to Admty. C. in C. Med.).

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. -(contd.).

TRIBUNE

Your 062303A proceed on the surface at your direction / (discretion intended) at best speed so as to arrive before dark.
(F.O.C.Gibraltar 070952 to TRIBUNE).
/ (as received).

Request you will route TRIBUNE on route Rose to U.K.
(F.O.S. 071044B to F.O.C. Gib. (R) S.O. Subs. Gib.).

RODNEY

Destroyers

My 061215B, TROUBRIDGE defective requires docking.

(2) ANTHONY sailed in lieu.

(3) Estimate ANTHONY should reach 4.7 north before having to reduce economical speed.

(4) Request relief escort be sailed and that ANTHONY be instructed to fuel Ponta Delgada on relief then proceed Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.N.A.071014 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. ANTHONY, C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth. METEOR, RODNEY, A.O.C.C.).

Dispositions

Situation 1959B 7th.

16 L.C.I.(L) S.O. L.C.I.(L) 112 33.13 10.22
through 33.40 08.45 thence 039 degs. 7½.

(2) SANDOWN, ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH one tanker 35.13 11.19
through 35.01 10.01 to Casablanca 9.

(3) NEWFOUNDLAND 38.56 13.26 through 35.30 10.01 to 35.48 06,15
thence Gibraltar 14.

(4) BRIXHAM leaving patrol off Cape Spartel to R/V one merchant
ship off Vila Real at 0800/8th and escort to Gibraltar 9.

(5) ALBACORE 35.27 06.30 to Gibraltar 12.

(6) KINGSTON, CHRYSOLITE off Cape Spartel through 35.56 06.20
thence to R/V one merchant ship off Huelva and another off
Chipiona and escort to Gibraltar.

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071024B).

Situation at 2003B 7th.

Fleet Unit 3 destroyers 36 (?23) 11 (?56) through 37.01 15.01
and 38.01 19.01 thence 359 degs. 17.

(?2) Spanish training ship GALATEA left Ferrol May 1st for
Canary Is.

(3) (?S) L 128 BLACK SWAN (E) 42 (?45) 18.22 through 45.01 19.01
thence 359 degs. 7 (corrupt group).

(4) ST.NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH one tanker 35.13 11.19 through
35.01 10.01 to Casablanca 9 (amended 071320B).

(5) X.K.6. LOTUS, SUNNYSIDE GIRL (?88) 13.11 43 328 degs. 5½.

(6) X.K.(?6) part 2 HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK 37.58 10.43 328 degs.
(?4).

(7) U.G.F.8 C.T.F. 67.34 47.21 18 through 35.25 16.20 thence
086 degs. 13½.

(8) Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND (?38) (?56) 13.26 through (?35),
30.10.01 to 35.48 06.15 thence (?Gibraltar) (14)

(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071056B).

My 071056 para.4. amend to read ST.NECTAN one tanker towing
LADY HOGARTH 035 degs. 20' 012 degs. 43' 110 degs. 6.

(F.O.C.N.A.071320B).

Swiss
shipping.

Swiss CALANDA leaves Genoa 12th May for Gibraltar.

My 041619 Swiss CHASSERAL will not sail until
9th May.

(D.E.W.D.071134B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C.
Med.).

/CABO...

7.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.-(contd.)

CABO Arfar 195. Admiralty's 291648 April.
ESPARTEL Spanish CABO ESPARTEL sent in. Minutely searched nothing found.

(2) Ship called Las Palmas for order Master did not land or have Navicert renewed.

(3) Have always found Master co-operative.

(4) Ship has full cargo for Switzerland and should have been Navicerted here.

(5) In view of para.2. ship detained. Request instructions.

(C.C.S.O. Gibraltar 071203A to Admty. for M.E.W.).

Reply Admty. 081055.

U/B Aircraft attacked U/boat at 0955A 7th in 035 degs.
attacked 29' N. 011 degs. 17' West.
by A/C. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071224B to B.A.M.S.1.B.
C.Z.D.P. (Ship unidentifiable).

Convoy Intend sailing 7th T.O.4. ESSO HARRNBURG from
T.O.4. Gibraltar ESSO GETTYSBURG from Oran CORNELL
(Convoy Comdr.) VERU CRUZ ONLDON Casablanca from
Algiers SEAKAY from Casablanca to R/V in (R)
34.08 North 07.54 West at 1500A May 9th.
Escorts C.T.G.21.5 Cdr. Gragg in ROPER plus BAINBRIDGE DECATUR.
(Route).
SEAKAY accompanied by 2 P.C. sailing Casablanca 1000A May 9th
to join at (R) 1st Ocean position (S) 2400A 9th May.
"Chop" 25.20 West 1600A 12th May Radio Shift 20 degs. West 1800A
11th May.
(Commorseafon 071245 to C.A.F.A.C.(R) N.O.B. Oran, Admty. etc.).

X Coastal Coastal Force convoy reports being shadowed by
Force Convoy Focke Wulf a.m. 3rd May. On departure of aircraft
2 U/boats convoy altered course meeting L.C.T. convoy p.m.
believed sunk Another Focke Wulf then shadowed coastal force.
4/5. Convoy altered course to part from L.C.T's.
(2) Shortly before midnight G.M.T.3rd/4th May
M.G.B.657 sighted U-boat on surface which immediately opened fire
with two bursts of 20 M.M. upper deck petrol tank and pool
petrol in tins caught fire. M.G.B. disengaged, extinguished fire
and rejoined convoy.
(3) COVERLEY steamed down port side of convoy without gaining
contact. Turned up between two port columns and when near the
head seemed to strike submerged object.
(4) At 0030 G.M.T. 4th May M.T.B.670 position 43 degs. 32' N.
13 degs. 20' W. leading starboard column ran into diesel smoke
and fumes and saw people swimming in the water. This column stopped
and rescued 12 German U-boat survivors, then proceeded to rejoin
convoy leaving several alive and dead in the water.
(5) At 0415 G.M.T. 4th May M.T.C. 670 was illuminated by two
star shells fired from approximately 200 yards ahead.
(6) Between 0001 and 0030 G.M.T. 4th May gun flashes were seen
on horizon in direction in which L.C.T's were lost.
(7) 2 Preliminary investigations of prisoners on board appeared
to indicate that they were from two German U-boats one said to
have been sunk by a Sunderland aircraft and one by ramming.
COVERLEY'S hull is being examined.

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Coastal Force Convoy 2 U/boats believed sunk 4/5.-(contd.). (8) 2 prisoners landed Gibraltar today and are being sent to U.K. first opportunity. (9) Actual circumstances still very obscure. Further report follows (see 081824B). (F.O. Gibraltar 071543B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med.).

U/B attacked by A/C. Following has been read. Enemy S/M previously reported was on surface. Have attacked with depth charges, (A/C T.3. M.1. T.O.R. 1702Z to R.A.F. Gibraltar). Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in 36 degs. 00' N. 11 degs. 15' W. (T.O.R.1715Z to R.A.F.Gibraltar).

Enemy S/M previously reported was sighted on surface, Have attacked with depth charges.

(A/C T.3M.X. 071900 to R.A.F.Gibraltar).

Following has been read. Am over enemy S/M in following positions 35 degs. 15' N. 12 degs. 03' W. (Final part of message missed).

(A/C T.3.M.X. 071945 to R.A.F.Gibraltar).

MAURO CROCE attack by S/M 23rd April Spanish protest. Embassy has just received note from Spanish Government protesting against attack of British Submarine on Italian MAURO CROCE April 23rd at 1000 hours and "at little more than one k/m from Spanish Coast". Note will be acknowledged and referred to Foreign Office for instructions. Action in which vessel defended herself was watched by many people ashore. One unconfirmed report states all torpedoes have been recovered on beach. (B.N.A. Madrid 071909B to Admty. for D.N.I. (R) S.O.(I) Gibraltar C. in C. Med.).

Gibraltar convoys. A.M.061829 (Requesting if opportunity of convoy for southbound ships from Gibraltar before O.S.47) No opportunity anticipated. (F.O.I.C. Gibraltar 071910B to Admty. (R) F.O.W.A.).

Convoy X.K.6. Your 071056 position X.K.6. part (?one) 038 degs. 06' N. 011 degs. 00' W. X. Adverse weather (weather report). (LOTUS 072012B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

X Neutral shipping routes. (1) All neutral vessels other than Swedish GOTHENBURG traffic ships proceeding across North Atlantic should be routed through following positions (A) 34 degs. 00' N. 39 degs. 00' W. thence along 34th parallel to (B) 34 degs. 00' N. 61 degs. 00' W. thence to (C) 38 degs. 00' N. 65 degs. 00' W.

/such...

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Neutral
Shipping
routes
(contd.).

- Such vessels from U.K. should proceed by Great Circle from Fastnet to position A.
- (2) Vessels proceeding to America should proceed from position (C) through entrance lane to Philadelphia.
- (3) Vessels bound for St. John N.B. should proceed from position (C) to position 38 degs. 10' N. 66 degs. 35' W. Vessels bound for Halifax should on reaching longitude 63 degs 30' W proceed to 38 degs. 10' N. 63 degs. 30' W. Vessels bound for Sydney (C.B.) and St. Lawrence ports should proceed from 34 degs. 00' N. 59 degs. 00' W. to 38 degs. 10' N. 59 degs. 00' W. Vessels bound for St. Johns, N.F. should proceed from 34 degs. 00' N. 52 degs. 00' W. to 38 degs. 10' N. 52 degs. 00' W. from which points vessels shall proceed by most direct route to their destinations.
- (4) All neutral, including Eire, shipping not under British or U.S. management is permitted to call only at Philadelphia and New Orleans on Gulf and Atlantic seaboard for loading or bunkering and also at Pensacola for loading coal only.
- (5) Approach lanes are:-
- (A) To Philadelphia between 38 degs. N. and 38 degs. 40' N. from 65 degs. W.
- (B) To New Orleans or Pensacola between 28 degs. N. and 29 degs. N. from 65 degs. W.
- (C) To Northern port in West Indies, between 19 degs. N. and 20 degs. N. from 55 degs. W.
- (D) To Caribbean between 15 degs. N. and 16 degs. N. from 50 degs. W.
- (6) P.C. and S. to be reported by W/T to Navy Dept. Washington, when entering lane and at noon daily thereafter and also while in Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea.
- (7) Prior to sailing for U.S. port nominal list of passengers and crew is to be given to American Consul.
- (8) Neutral shipping referred to in para.1. above and not proceeding to U.S. Port is advised to keep at least 50 miles from U.S. coast line.
- (9) While on approach routes to Canadian or Newfoundland ports, neutral ships shall each day radio their 1200 G.M.T. positions to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, via Louisbourg or Camperdown Radio Station, or such Canadian Coastal Radio Station as may be contacted. Neutral vessels outward bound from Canadian ports shall proceed via same routes and shall similarly radio their daily positions while North of 38 degs. 10' N.
- (10) Cancel A.M. 1331 and 2024, both of 24th Nov. 1942. A.M. 2330/25 Nov. 1942, 1552/15th Jan, 1327/8th March, 021749B/May and 301755/April 1943.
- (D.T.D. 072033B to F.O.C. Gibraltar N.A. Lisbon, N.A. Madrid, N.A. Dublin, U.K.S.A. Dublin (R) Connav, C. in C. C.N.A. S.B.N.O.W.A. A.C.O.S. etc.).

HAARLEM

My 071500 (N.T. in W.R.). Ships have entered harbour. ARCTIC RANGER detached at 2040. Weather report. (072330 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

- Convoy D.C.23. 1. Sailing telegram. 2. 0600Z/7th May. 3. 8 knots. 5. Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay L.B. 6. CAPE WARWICK and SONDRRA, STANDERTON. 15. Convoy W/T call signs R.W.D.1. to 9 Q.G.A.148. (N.C.S.O. Durban 070656 to Admty.)
- Convoy N.C.11. 1. Sailing telegram. 2. Northbound OOB. 7th May 3. Blank 4. 8 knots 5. Coastal 6. HERTFORDSHIRE, VIVIANA, SPHENE. (N.C.S.O. Walvis Bay 070801B. to Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.C.S.O. Capetown.)
- Movements. Arrivals Pointe Noire 0730Z/7 RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, ROTHERHAM. (B.N.L.O. W.A. 070855A. to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. NEWCASTLE.)
- Departures 1500Z/5 May 43. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, BELLWORT, M.Ls. 302, 287, 244, 209, on short escort. (S.O. (I) Freetown 071231Z. to Admty.)
- Departures 1030Z/6 May. CARNARVON CASTLE on ocean patrol. (S.O. (I) Freetown 071351Z. to Admty. (R) Com. 4th Fleet.)
- Arrival 7th. M.L.274. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 071443Z. to Admty.)
- Arrival Pointe Noire 1100Z/7th. TURCOMAN (9679) escorting SS. SOUND FISHER. (B.N.L.O. W.Af. 071445A to F.O.C.W.Af.)
- Departure 1030Z/6th May ROHILKHAND, ARRAN, ORFASY
- F.S. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE Motor Minesweeper 107, BARWIND, M.L.1018 with S.T.64. (S.O. (I) Freetown 071451 to N.O.I.C. Takoradi etc.)
- Arrival 7th H.M. Transports MALOJA and MOOLTAN. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 071603Z. to Admty.)
- Arrival 7th CATTERICK, FOXHOUND, SNOWDROP, PETUNIA, DUNKERY. Departure M.L.261 Port Bouet 8th. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 071702Z. to Admty.)
- Convoy O.S.46. O.S.46. Cape ships dispersed at 1200/6th May in 03° 50' N. 05° 06' W. ships proceeding as follows. (details.) All Cape ships proceed from their last lettered position direct to Walvis Bay. (F.O.C.W.A. 071040Z. to C. in C. S.A. Admty.)
- S.L.Convoy. 3 Ref. A.C.I. General Section A.R.J. Sig. Para.3 In view of present arrangements for combining S.L. U.K.S. Convoys is organisation of S.L. into fast and slow sections still necessary. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 071110Z. to Admty.)
- Dispositions. Situation 1959Z/7th May. ROHILKHAND, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE M.M.S. 107 M.L. 1018 with S.T.64 (?06) (?59) 12,16, 120 5.5 ORFASY escorting 06.43

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. 12.14 to Robertsport 6.5 COMMANDANT DETROYAT (Contd.) (F.S.) BELLWORT about 08.08 13.50 to Freetown 12.5 NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, WITCH, RAPID LEWES with W.S. (?705) Equator 08.40 106.12 KUMAON 02.50 S. 09.25 E. to Pointe Noire. French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 03.46 07.58 (? 089°)ll (see amendment 071703) BOREAS escorting Equator 08.40 055° 12.5. (R.A.W.Af. 071121Z.)

My 071121 May. Add BRIDEWATER, WOLVERINE, CORINTHIAN, BUTTERMERE, ARMERIA, PORTSDOWN, BUTSER with T.S.38, 03.50 N. 08.18 303.7½. Amendment. F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 02.50 08.58 187.11. (F.O.C.W.Af. 071703Z.)

Situation 2001Z/7th May. BULLDOG, ANTELOPE with R.S.4.F.17 36.17 56? to 14.55 17.52 thence Dakar 13 F/S. DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting 14.13 17.24 176.14 H.M.S. CARNARVON CASTLE 10.13 20.25 on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14 F/S GLOIRE on patrol about 10.30 30.30.18 CILICIA on patrol about 08.29 27 31.14.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 071132Z.)

ST. ZENO, P.614, 023° 50' 014° 15' to 027° 014° 40' 8. HERTFORDSHIRE, SPHENE, VIVIANA with N.C.11 024° 40' 014° 15' coastal to Capetown 9. TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, F.S. 028° 05' 012° 02' to 020° 04' 11. LADY ROSEMARY, NORTHERN DUKE, INDIAN STAR, CEDARBURG with C.D.17 034° 50' 019° 30' coastal to Durban 8. ROCKROSE, GENISTA with C.D.16A. 033° 35' 027° 35' coastal to Durban 9. QUADRANT, FREESIA with D.C.22 031° 45' 029° 45' coastal to Capetown 15. CAPE WARWICK, STANDERTON, SONDRRA with D.C.23 031° 25' 030° coastal to Capetown 9. LE TIGER 029° 02' 032° 30' to Durban 9. Fleet Units QUICKMATCH, NIZAM (?020° or 029°) 40' 037° to 026° 59' 036° 30' 14. MARGUERITE 015° 05' 041° 05' to Durban 10.

(C. in C. S.A. 071146B.)

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, search for survivors.

My (?03)1731 F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA was detached from escort at 0930/6th in 003° 44' 014° 16' W. owing to insufficient speed and is proceeding by direct route Duala, E.T.A. 11th May.

(F.O.C.W.A. 071125Z. to N.C.S.O. Duala (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, NEWCASTLE, N.O.I.C. Takoradi. F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA, B.N.L.O. W.A.)

Proceed forthwith at best speed to search for survivors reported on rafts in 001° 30' S. 009° 30' W. Survivors have W/T and may be transmitting on 500 kc/s. American aircraft may be somewhere in area.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 071255Z. to SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. (R) NEWCASTLE Admty.)

Your 1255Z. Am proceeding as ordered my present position 003° 12' N. 008° 35' W. Should reach position at 1200/8. Please inform N.C.S.O. Duala.

(F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 071501Z. to F.O. W.Af. (R) NEWCASTLE, Admty.)

/Convoy...

245

7.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

Convoy
W.S.29. My 051310 para. 2. Detach WITCH to take place of F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA in escort of HIGHLAND PRINCESS and TROILUS. (F.O.I.C.W.Af. 071122 to NEWCASTLE (R) Escort W.S.29 N.O.I.C. Mogadiscio, Admty. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

COMMANDANT
DETROYAT,
BELLWORT. In company with BELLWORT E.T.A. 2200Z. acknowledge. (COMMANDANT DETROYAT 071310Z. to N.O.I.C. Freetown (R) Captain D. Freetown.)

WASTWATER. Arrival at 1138Z/6th May. (S.O. (I) Freetown 071452Z. to Comar, Dakar (R) Admty. etc.)

ALCANTARA,
ASTURIAS. My 011647 and your 061739. If ASTURIAS arrives in time propose to use her instead of ALCANTARA. Can date of arrival here of ASTURIAS be given. (F.O.C. W.Af. 071742Z. to Admty.) Reply: Admty. 091148B.

AMARANTHUS
(to U.K. with
S.L.129.) My 031402. For TAMARISK read AMARANTHUS who requires urgent repairs to furnaces. (F.O.C.W.Af. 071750Z. to Admty. (R) Capt. D.F.E.)

NEWCASTLE
W.S.29.
CITY OF
EDINBURGH.
fire. Your 071516Z. (N.T. in W.D.) Position 00.20 S. 10.35 W. Supplies were dropped. Survivors remaining in RAPID. 2. Merchant ship CITY OF EDINBURGH has fire in number 2 hatch containing oil, grease, paper and highly inflammable A/C paint. Have detached her with WITCH, BOREAS, TROILUS and HIGHLAND PRINCESS to Takoradi at 1800 today Friday in 00.14 N. 09.19 W. (NEWCASTLE 071807Z. to F.O.C.W.A.)

BOREAS and WITCH escorting TROILUS, HIGHLAND PRINCESS and CITY OF EDINBURGH E.T.A. Takoradi 1300Z/9th May. Last named ship has fire in number 2 hatch containing inflammable material. Have all available fire fighting appliances ready. (F.O.C.W.A. 072315Z. to N.O.I.C. Takoradi (R) (?Admty.) BOREAS, NEWCASTLE.)

* Shipping
diversion. While fully concurring in policy adopted in April of diverting ships bound South Africa to U.K. into Takoradi for T.S. convoys, Admiralty had no knowledge of this intention other than by diversion signals. 2. To enable M.O.W.T. to plan accurately for allocations of shipping well in advance request such decisions may be notified to Admiralty. (D.T.D. 072014B. to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) C. in C. S.A.) Reply: F.O.C.W.A. 090545.

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Algiers Air Report. To C.G.8th Air Force., C.G.9th Air Force, Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz N.A.A.F. Adv. Hqs. No. 3249.

2. 27 B.17s escorted by 21 P.38s attacked large motor vessel off Cape San Vito. 312, 500 pound bombs were dropped from 15,000 feet. Motor vessel exploded. Smoke and flames seen from 12,000 feet 60 miles away. 2 escort vessels evaded bombing.

3. 6 B.25s escorted by 14 P.38s attacked unescorted convoy of 1 medium and 2 small motor vessels 6 miles west of Marittimo Island. 19, 500 pound 4 second delay bombs were dropped from 100 feet. 1 small motor vessel sunk, another damaged, medium motor vessel left in flames. 1 P.38 is missing.

4. 18 B.26s escorted by 11 P.38s dropped 60, 500 pound bombs from 8,200 feet on beached motor vessel east of Cape Zobib. 3 direct hits were scored.

5. 26 B.17s dropped 297, 500 pound bombs from 24,000 feet on Tunis Harbour and railroad yards. Intense accurate flak damaged 15 aircraft.

6. 27 B.17s dropped 294, 500 pound bombs from 23,500 feet on La Goulette Harbour. Hits and near misses were observed on large motor vessel and on several small boats along north docks, followed by explosion and fires. Bombs burst in the barracks, oil storage and oil landing areas. Fires at La Goulette were visible from 12 miles at 4,000 feet.

10. Fighters and fighter bombers carried out numerous missions. P.40s made a direct hit on 1 large vessel and 1 small ship was sunk in the Gulf of Tunis. Kittyhawks sank 1 small ship, destroyed 1 enemy aircraft and damaged 3 others. (N.A.A.F. Algiers, 070109A to Etousa).

Operation M.J.79. Cancel my 061929B (N.T. in W.D.) Operation M.J. (?9) intended to sail M.E.25 at 1415B/7th routed 5 miles North of "Crush" 1845 direct to "Blaze" 1200 Q.B.C. 677 to R/V with T.X.10 at "Hand" 1430, S. of A. 9 knots. (V.A. Malta, 070217 to A.I.G.69 and 72 etc).

Beirut Movements. 6th May 1943 arrivals G.S. AETOS, ABDIEL M.L.350, departure G.S. AETOS. (S.O.(I) Beirut, 070845C to Admty. C. in C.Levant)

Alexandria movements. Arrivals 6th May. DELPHINIUM, SHOREHAM, ROMEO, BURRA, KELVIN, JAVELIN, COCKCHAFFER, SCARAB, TETCOTT, H.H.M.S. SAKTOURIS. (S.O.(I) Alexandria, 070915C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

CELENO, BOURGAS, BALKAN. Italian CELENO bound Constanza and Bulgarian BOURGAS, bound Bourgas arrived and left Istanbul 6th May. (2) 6th May. Bulgarian BALKAN arrived and left same day for Panderma to load chrome. (S.O.(I) Istanbul, 070958C to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) D.N.I. Capt. (S) 1 Capt. (S) 10).

/My...

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.CELENO,
BOURGAS,
BALKAN.
(contd).

My 070958C. Reports B.3. BALKAN will complete loading chrome Panderna 10th and sail direct to Bourgas; CELENO will sail for Aegean immediately after loading Constanza.

2. N.L.O. Black Sea informed.

(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 071530C to C. in C. Levant, A. S.O. (I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 10, D. of N.I.)

* R.A. Force H
Flag hoisted
in KING
GEORGE V.Flag of R.A.A.W. La T. Bisset hoisted in KING GEORGE V. as R.A. Force H.
(S.O. Force H., 071000B to Admty. C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Levant, Force H).Malta
Movements.Arrivals: JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN from operation. Departures ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR, HURSLEY on operation.
(V.A. Malta, 071002B to Admty. C. in C. Med, C. in C. Levant).Sailed HURWORTH, CROOME and EASTON with CITY OF FLORENCE, GLAUCUS, MACUBA, tanker O'HENRY, SHAH JEHAN E.
(V.A. Malta, 071623B to Admty. C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant).Enemy
destroyer.Following read P.C. and S. of 1 destroyer 38° 53' N., 12° 39' E. 310° 12 knots.
(A/C 52 PJ 071035A to Air H.Q. Malta).

* M.N.B.D.O.

Your 271501/April. Immediate draft of Royal Marines referred to is not for M.N.B.D.O.II and is to proceed to Ceylon for M.N.B.D.O.I. as arranged.

2. The movement of R.M. reinforcements for Field Units overseas is a W.O. commitment and it is not proposed to alter this arrangement. No diversion of such reinforcements can be permitted without prior Admiralty approval.

(Head of M., 071050B to R.A.T.E. (R) C. in C. Levant, O.C. R.M. Detachment 380/1. O.C. Force Overt).

* Minelaying
Levant,

Your 221922 April and 271155 April.

1. M. Mark I mines can not be used in fields over which it is intended to pass our own ships, other than Coastal Forces.

2. Density of proposed fields is considered to be inadequate, both in horizontal and in vertical plane, and it is doubtful whether a 45 foot setting provides a sufficient margin of safety for deep draught ships in heavy weather.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Minelaying, In view of above, and of restrictions on shipping space from U.K., diversion of all mines now held in stock abroad to the service proposed by you is not considered justifiable.
Levant.

4. As an alternative, you may wish to consider the laying of a few fields of high density.
5. Several such fields could be laid at a total expenditure of about 2,000 contact mines, 1,000 being embarked in PROME and 270 in TEVIOT BANK before sailing for Mediterranean, balance being provided from Haifa.
6. In considering this alternative, requested you will note that
(a) PROME is a valuable and specialised vessel, and will in due course be essential to conduct of offensive operations in the East.
(b) It will be necessary to pass a skimming sweep over each field
(D.D.O.D. (M) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 071114B to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. E.F.)

+ Hydrophone reported at Cape Mandilli covered Doro Channel.
Mandilli. (Capt. (S) 1st S/M 071127C to PARTHIAN, G.S. PAPANICOLIS).

P.44 Intend to sail P.44 at 1000B/8th for exercise
(UNITED). thence through R.Q.P. patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8. She will pass through P about 1600B/10. (Capt. (S) 10, 071206B to C. in C. Med., Capt. S.8. (R) O.R.P. SOKOL, submarines on patrol P.31, C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1).
Cancelled by 081053B q.v.

SOKOL, Capt. (S) 8's 041212. Onward passage from P through Q and R thence direct for end of Malta searched channel both to arrive at 120830B to R/V with M/S keep to starboard of route.
(UPROAR). (Capt. S. 10, 071209B to SOKOL P.31 (UPROAR) (R) Capt. (S) 8, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, S/Ms on patrol Capt. (S) 1). Cancelled by 081053B q.v.

P.211 Intend sailing P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) 1830/8th for
(SHAKESPEARE) patrol in Tyrrhenean Sea routed through 038° 08' 004° 13' at 0500/9th 038° 18' 010° 01' at 2230 /11th.
(Capt. (S) 8., 071350A to C. in C. Med., (R) 8th S/M Flotilla, Capt. (S) 10).

P.R.U. 7th May visual. 1015 Messina no major naval units 1115 Taranto partially suspecting 2 battleships seen.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 071406B to C. in C. Med. etc).
7th May visuals. 1600 Taranto partially obscure 2 battleships seen. 1700 Messina no major naval unit.
(V.A. Malta, 071829B to C. in C. Med etc).

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Mediterranean - Contd.

MARSOUIN

MARSOUIN leaves to patrol through 042° 00' 006° 00' at 0500/9 039° 46' 004° 25' at 2200/10 038° 20' 003° 05' at 2200/11 thence R/V with escort for Algiers in 000° Cape Caxine 10 miles at 0615 12th.

2. MARSOUIN may be delayed one or two days. (Capt. (S) 8, 071408A to S.8. (R) C. in C. Med., Cdre. Algiers, MARSOUIN, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

EPAMINONDAS
C. EMBIRICOS,
fire.

A.M. 081216/Oct. 1941. SS. EPAMINONDAS C. EMBIRICOS owners S.G. Embiricos Chartered Anglo-Greek agreement arrived Suez with coal cargo on fire 30th April. Fire extinguished by naval party after beaching ship and flooding throughout. Fire damage not considered serious. Salvage Officer now attending to pump out and refloat. Prospects good. (Supt. of Salvage Alexandria, 071425C to Admty).

U/B

Following read. Am over enemy submarine in position 34° 15' N., 23° 34' E. Am investigating suspicious object - possible periscope. (A/C FFZO 071541Z to 95 Sqdn. Aden Command).

Port Said
movements.

7th Port Said arrival G.S. IERAX, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 071606C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Convoy
G.U.S.7.

G.U.S.7 sailed as in my 031541 less JOHN CARVER, LORRAINE. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 071640Z to Admty. etc). ALEXANDRE ANDRE and FORT CHILCOTIN arrived. (Com. Algiers, 071726A to N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville).

P.219
(SERAPH)

Your escort will be CORIOLANUS. No other movements affect you. (Capt. (S) 8., 071728A to P.219 (SERAPH)).

Convoy
U.G.S.7 A.

Algiers Section arrived less GEORGE LEONARD and W.B. TRAVIS plus SINCLAIR, OPALINE (eight ships). (Com. Algiers, 071728 to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French North Africa, (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav, Admty. (R) Commorseafron).

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Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

L.C.T.613 (broke in two on passage from Gibraltar). X

Further to my 051919. L.C.T.613 broke amidships Structure of other L.C.T.4 being examined. No evidence of major amidship straining discovered to date.

(2) There is however clear evidence of structural weakness at ship's side at fore end of after poop. Additional stiffening fitted vide A.F.O. 621/43 is inadequate. In some craft cracks and buckles extend below water line. Repairs and additional stiffening will be carried out as soon as possible. Details will be forwarded.

(C. in C. Med., 071752A to Admty. (R) C.C.O.)

Convoy T.O.4 T.O.4 CORNELL (Cdre.) SHELDON CLARK, (V.C.) VERA CRUZ (3 ships) sailed in accordance with C. in C. Med., 041137A. (Com. Algiers, 071757A to Admty. etc).

+ Paravanes A.F.O. 265/43. Following is policy to be adopted in Mediterranean.

(A) H.M. Ships (1) Paravanes should not be run when operating in waters where enemy surface forces are likely to be met.

(2) Paravanes should be run, when on passage, from Gibraltar to 007° W. and through Sicilian channels.

(3) Paravanes should be run when leaving harbour only if recent E-boat laying has occurred and sweepers have not thoroughly cleared channels.

(4) S.O. of forces should consider unreeving bow chains for night operations.

(B) Merchant ships.

(1) Merchant ships should continue to run paravanes from Gibraltar to 007° W.

(C. in C. Med., 071810 to Med. Stn. K. 412).

N.W.A.A.F. report. To C.G.8th Air Force, C.G.9th Air Force. From Spaatz, N.A.A.F. Hdqs. Adv. 3301.

1. 19 B.26s on day May 6 dropped 190 x 300 pound bombs from 8,500 feet on 4 Siebel Ferries and 4 escort vessels 45 miles southwest of Marittimo Island. 3 Siebel Ferries were sunk and near misses scored on remaining vessels.

2. 8 P.38s in the escort dropped 5 x 500 pound bombs from 3,000 feet on a convoy of 7 Siebel Ferries and 7 small boats. 3 Siebel Ferries and 4 small boats were sunk.

3. 21 B.17s escorted by 20 P.38s dropped 302 x 300 pound bombs from 24,000 feet on motor vessel in Marsala Harbour. Hits and near misses were scored on 6 Siebel Ferries and on 2 motor vessels, 1 of which probably sank and the other was left burning. Hits and near misses were scored also on 2 medium motor vessels in centre of docks 1 P.38 is missing.

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- N.W.A.A.F. Report. (contd).
4. 28 B.17s escorted by 23 P.38s dropped 247 x 300 pound bombs from 22 to 24,000 feet in Trapani Harbour. Direct hits were observed on docks refuelling unit, Naval Base, Magazine, railroad yards and oil storage. The entire area was left burning. The formation was attacked by 15 enemy aircraft. 1 was destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. 1 P.38 is missing.
5. 31 B.26s escorted by 12 P.38s dropped 144 x 300 pound and 25 x 500 pound bombs on 2 beached ships at Cape Zebib. 3 direct hits and several near misses were scored on 1 of the ships. The formation was attacked by 3 enemy aircraft, 1 of which was destroyed. 1 P.38 is lost and 2 are missing.
6. 36 B.25 escorted by 15 P.38s dropped 278 x 300 pound bombs from 8,500 on two motor vessels in Fansgnanac (presumably Favignana) Port. Near misses were observed. Dock installations were also hit. 1 P.38 is missing.
7. 15 B.25s escorted by 35 P.38s dropped 64 x 500 and 24 x 300 pound bombs from 5,500 feet on 4 Siebel Ferries and 4 escort vessels west of Marittimo Island. 1 Siebel Ferry was blown up and near misses scored on 2 others. 12 of the P.38s strafed an airfield between Methni and Ras el Jebel destroying 1 Ju.87 and 1 Me. 109 on the ground. 1 P.38 was shot down during the attack, and another by flak.
8. 12 P.40s escorted by 12 P.40s (?) dropped 12 x 500 pound bombs on beached vessel east of Cape Fortass and a lighthouse southwest of Cap Serrat. Near misses were scored. 3 Ju.52s on the ground at Protville were bombed, 2 destroyed and 1 damaged. 1 Me. 109 was shot down over Protville.
9. 12 P.40s escorted by 12 PP.40s dropped 12 x 500 pound bombs from the deck on medium sized naval vessel near Cape Zebib and left it burning.
19. PF. Fighter Bombers attacked 2 destroyers heading northeast off La Goulette. 3 direct hits were scored on 1 which blew up. 1 direct hit was scored on the other and a fire started. However, the vessel was later seen proceeding on its course. (N.W.A.A.F., 071822Z to Etousa etc).

Convoy
T.X.10
"Mammoth".

Intend sailing convoy T.X.10 less DESTRO through R/V Hand at 1200A/8th thence combined with convoy "Mammoth" as in C. in C. Levant 042210C (N.T. in W.R.) 4 hours late. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 071832A to C. in C. Levant etc).

Air
Co-operation
with S/Ms.

No air co-operation tonight. (Capt. (S) 10, 071841B to Subs. on Patrol (R) Capt. (S) 8).

FORMIDABLE,
Martlets.

Your 030945. Admiralty records show five reserve Martlet IV in Gibraltar or North Africa on 15th April. Since that date two have been reported as casualties. Admiralty has received no report of disposal of remaining three. Eight more are being shipped at an early date.

2. A small number of Martlet spares were demanded from N.S.O. Perth and these demands have been met in so far as items are available. As no further demands were received from FORMIDABLE

/(vide...

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Mediterranean.

FORMIDABLE (vide instructions to N.C.X.F. and R.A.A. in Martlets. A.M. 0003 of 25th Nov) no more spares were sent, (contd) requirements being unknown.
3. Items mentioned in para. 4 of your Message are being shipped. Request full statement of outstanding requirements may be signalled forthwith. Arrangements to ship will then be made.
4. Separate signal is being made with regard to personnel. (D.N.A.O. 071941B to S.O. Force H. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar FORMIDABLE) Reply: S.O. Force H., 121751B.

Orders to destroyers. ESKIMO O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA and LOOKOUT are to remain in night patrol position until 0500 subsequently withdrawing to westward.
(2) Destroyers from Malta are to proceed to Sousse arriving by 0900A where HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR are to fuel from ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, PETARD last 3 subsequently proceeding to Malta.
(3) Bizerta has been captured. (C. in C. Med., 071954A to Capt. (D) 6, ISIS, ALDENHAM, (R) C.S.12, V.A. Malta, F.O.I.S.)

X Mines Sousse. Mines have been located in the vicinity of Sousse. Ships should adhere strictly to Q.K.B. 79. (C. in C. Med., 072101 to ISIS, G.S. QUEEN OLGA, PETARD, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR (R) V.A. Malta N.O.I.C. Sousse).

Movements, Arrivals. ROTHEsay, HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, Algiers. CARLISLE, POLRUAN, CLACTON, PENTSTEMON, PIROUETTE, M.M.S. 134. L.S.Ts. 323, 414, 416, 404, 415, 408, 405, 411, 428, 456, 303, 364, 426, 306, 333, 369, 391, 392, 393, 368, M.M.S.135. M.M.S.88, WISHART, LAPAGERIA, TRANSVAAL.
Departures. ROTHEsay, HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, CARLISLE, POLRUAN, CLACTON, PENTSTEMON, L.S.Ts. 323, 414, 416, 404, 415, 408, 405, 411, 456, 303, 306, 333, 393, 369, 301, 392, RHYL, FELIXSTOWE, WISHART, ADVENTURE, WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, BROCKLESBY, M.L. 283, U.S.S. ROPER, DECATUR, BAINBRIDGE. (Cdre. Algiers, 072116A to Admty. etc).

X Use of French S/Ms in North Africa. 1. Future of French Submarines in North Africa is under discussion by Combined Chiefs of Staffs.
2. Repairs, overhaul and modernisation depends largely on future employment. Although we would welcome operational use of some, A/S training is also a very urgent requirement particularly on stations abroad such as South and West Africa, Bermuda, West Atlantic Coast and later in the East.
3. Request you signal:- (a) Names of Submarines suitable for operations. (b) Whether you consider French will undertake A/S training commitments mentioned in para. 2.
(c) Names of submarines suitable for A/S training.

/(d)...

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Mediterranean.

Use of
French S/MS
in North
Africa.
(contd).

(d) Condition of all French submarines with particular reference to last refit, battery, spare gear, torpedoes and sound proofing.
(e) Details of French Depot ship facilities. (V.C.N.S. 072127B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O.(S), S.8., B.A.D.) Reply C. in C. Med., 101707, 101749.

TROUBRIDGE

Your 071014. TROUBRIDGE is to be docked No.2 dock before AVONVALE.
(C. in C. Med., 072150A to F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.

P.47

Am in position 038° 25' 005° 45' maximum speed which can be maintained is 7 cannot make R/V due to heavy sea, request shortened route. Am proceeding as ordered awaiting reply.
(P.47 072200A to Capt. (S) 8).

Tobruk
Movements.

Arrived ST. MINIVER, BEVER, BARWICK.
Sailed M.L. 349, 351, 356, 359, SEKSERN, BARWICK.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 072221C to Admty).

Tripoli
Movements.

Arrived GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, SANTA, KAI, SAHRA.
Sailed G.S. ADRIAS, KANARIS, ROCKWOOD.
(N.O.I.C. Libya, 072301A to Admty).

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55th Flotilla. Departure 55th Flotilla "Fairmile" less 475 and 476.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 070123Z. to Admty. F.O.C.R.LN. F.O. Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Madras, N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, C.C.F. S.O. (I) Kilindini, S.O. (I) Bombay.)

Troop Movements. Para. 5 of my 011001Z DUNERA and EASTERN PRINCE have been replaced by EL MADINA and ARONDA.
(P.S.T.O.I. 070307Z. to C. in C. E.F. (R) F.O. Ceylon, D.S.T. Arminia, N.C.S.O. Bombay.)

Movements. Arrival CHALLENGER 1115Z/6th.
(N.O.I.C. Mandapam 070350Z. to N.O.I.C. Trincomalee.)
Arrived a.m. CERES, TULIP. Left P.M.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 071320Z. to C. in C.E.F.)
STORMWRACK, SATSA arrived.
(F.O. E.Af. 071336Z. to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 7th. 0100Z WILLEM VAN DER ZAAN. 0600Z HINDUSTAN. 0700Z BARLANE. Departures 0930Z FALMOUTH.
(F.O. Ceylon 071445Z. to Admty.)

M.T.Bs. Concur with F.O.C.R.I.N. 291050 April
(M.T. in W.D.) recommendations. 2C. The basing of one M.T.B. Flotilla on Trincomalee will also provide opportunity for Eastern fleet units operating at that port to train in anti-M.T.B. tactics. (G) The mobile advance base may be met by allocating in due course a suitable M.T.B. base repair ship.
(C. in C. E.F. 070558Z. to Admty. (R) F.O.C.R.I.N. F.O. Ceylon, F.L.O. Delhi.)

SAROENA, RAMDAS. 02. 8th May SAROENA Calcutta via Colombo 12th May escorted by RAMDAS, knots 8.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 070622Z. to A.I.G.89.)

BERAKIT torpedoed. Dutch vessel BERAKIT torpedoed in 003° 04' N. 075° 20' E. and abandoned ship at 0601Z/7th May.
(C. in C. E.F. 070820Z. to S. & As. E.I. Station (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A.)
Following has been read:-
SSS SSS SSS de GYVE GYVE* torpedoed 3° 4' N. 75° 24' E. abandoning life boat smashed.
(S.D.S.V. Unknown No T.O.O. Recd. 070845 to Admty.)
(Colombo W/T No. T.O.O. Recd. 070920 to Admty.) * SDSV - Unknown
OPHIR is first to proceed to search the vicinity of 003° 04' N. 075° 24' E. for survivors from GYVE thence Q. My 070753 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 071036Z. to Admty. C. in C. E.F. S.O. (I) Colombo, S.O. (I) Bombay, Connnav.)

/Signal...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

BERAKIT
torpedoed
(Contd.)

Signal letters GYVE were referred to by C. in C. E.F. who suggested BERAKIT with which I concur as ship is in vicinity. Your 071150* to Colombo W/T stations only refers. (F.O.I/c. Ceylon 071140Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F.) *Originated by W.R. (Signal reporting the torpedoing of s Ship GYVE refers.)

OPHIR.

Hospital carrier OPHIR has now been at Addu for 3 months where she has carried out useful work with assistance of sick berth staff from second Tented Hospital. (2) She now has her full complement of medical Officers and sisters etc. (6) As her presence at Addu is not absolutely essential I have ordered her return to Colombo to fit disinfectant embark staff and restore. Thereafter she will be available for employment as directed by you.
(?F.O.I.C. Ceylon 070902Z to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, D. of S.T. OPHIR.)

Convoy
J.M.1.

1. Sailing telegram. 2. 0900Z/7th.
3. E.T.A. (corrupt group) 0930Z/17th. "Chop"
15th. (4) 16½ knots. 5. (Route). 6. HAWKINS to
007° S.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 071000Z. to Admty.)

LUCIA,
ADAMANT.

1. Para. 2. (C) of your 041245. Presume it is intended that LUCIA should remain at Kilindini until relieved by ADAMANT. 2. ADAMANT completes refit at Colombo at end of May and cannot reach Kilindini before early in June. 3. Retention of LUCIA until then is most desirable for satisfactory maintenance of destroyers corvettes, and small warships based on Kilindini. (C. in C. E.F. 071242Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med.)

Crane Ship
for India.

Your 48617/28th April. (281245). Crane ship EMPIRE MOUNTAIN allocated. Expected available U.K. July. Agreed M.W.T.
(War Office 071300B. to Armindia.)

Kilindini
R.D.F.
Cover.

Air Ministry's A.X.617 6 May (061000Z.) Personnel to be embarked as previously arranged. We will make arrangements for South Africans to take over operation of equipment as soon as possible. Care and maintenance personnel are to remain until hand-over to S. Africans is completed. Air Ministry pass to Admiralty.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 071714Z. to A.H.Q. East Africa (R) Air Ministry, C. in C. E.F.)

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East Indies - Contd.

WORCESTERSHIRE. WORCESTERSHIRE is required in U.K. as soon as possible a.m. 1725/15th Jan. and C. in C. E.F. 1055/21st Jan. refer. Request programme. (D.O.D. (F) 071805B to C. in C. E.F. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

Seafire
and Martlet
A/C.

Request you will prepare all Seafire and Martlet IV aircraft at Nairobi for flight delivery to Egypt, and report the number expected to be ready to leave by mid June.
(A.C.N.S. (Air) 071928B. to R.A.N.A.S. (I.O) (R) C. in C. E.F. R.N.A.R.Y. Nairobi, C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med. C.O.N.A. Egypt.)

DILWARA,
LLANSTEPHAN
CASTLE.

Following for C.O.S. A.M. 060223B (060113B intended) to D.C.O. (I) states DILWARA must be withdrawn from India before arrival of LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE and asks what will be effect on training. 2. Provided our task still remains that laid down in para. 1 of OZ.1243 of 1 May (Personal from F.M. Wavell to C.G.S.) this withdrawal can be accepted. 3. Please inform Admiralty accordingly as we do not know if message in para. 2 was repeated to them. 4. As message in para. 2 was personal have instructed D.C.O. (I) not to reply and presume Admiralty will now take action with other addressees (Arminia No. T.O.O. Recd. 072240Z to Air Min.)

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Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

American built Escort Carriers Design. Lorsa 9060. My 1841/27/3 and my 1740/43 dated 19th March. Request outstanding information and decision re? alterations as soon as practicable. (2) Ref. A.L.P./TSD 11/43 dated 26th March paras. 8 and 9 we have had no part in design of these vessels and cannot obtain changes before vessels are handed over. Suggested alterations will be put to Navy Dept. for future vessels but presume it is not intended that extensive re-arrangement involved be undertaken at Vancouver. This would take more time than at present contemplated. (3) Ref. your 171657 para.7 and 151916 para.8. Request details of alterations to be undertaken at Vancouver as soon as possible. Particulars of principal materials and fittings which will have to be obtained in Canada specially urgent to avoid delay. This will probably be deciding item. (4) With regard to Salor 7104, we are considering modifications which can be carried out without delaying the ships and will report further. (B.A.D.070031Z to Admty) *Para 3 cancelled (P.A.D. 110047Z to Admty)*

Fuelling at Sea. Your 041402Z request you will send full details of your proposed steadying line fairlead by hand of Master SAN TIRSO for delivery to N.C.S.O.port of discharge. (D.T.D. 070126B to B.R.L.O.New York)

My 032036 para. 3. Include weather conditions, length of hose used, time taken to stream and recover. (D.T.D. 071018B to B.R.L.O.New York, (R) B.A.D. C. in C. W.A.) Reply: 101317.

Your 191225 April. Para. 3 O.N.179 oil transfer EL MIRLO 383 PRESIDENT DE VOGUE nil. Depth charges transferred nil. Four failures. Escort seemed unable to pick up MESSENGER. Small steel buoys being apparently too light for purpose intended in heavy weather. (B.R.L.O.New York, 071243Z to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.)

U.S.S/M. Notice. S/M estimate 7th May. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 070204Z, 070359Z, 071514Z, 071515Z, 071516Z, 071534Z, 071534Z)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. May 6th. Arrivals TIMMINS ex H.X.237. DUNCAN ex O.N.S.5. SACKVILLE GALT ex Halifax. Departures ADHERENT to O.N.S.5. BARSIE, BUCTOUCHE, COWICHAN to O.N.S.5. MALPEQUE escorting J.H.52A to Halifax. ST. CLAIR, CHICOUTIMI, QUESNEL, TRURO to O.N.180. (N.O.I.C.St. Johns N.F. 070644Z to Admty) Arrival NIPIGON, CAPE ARGONA ex J.H.52. (C.Halifax, 072053Z to Admty) San Francisco 5th VIRGINIAN Brisbane. 6th MOUNT VERNON and MIZAR both Sydney N.S.W. (All U.S.A.T.) (N.S.H.Q. 072351Z to Admty)

GLENDOWER /...

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

GLENDOWER, My 061600Z (ORIBI rammed U-Boat). E.T.A.
ORIBI. 0800Z/8th. Request R.D.F. Beacon from 0400.
(S.C.3 GLENDOWER, 070710Z to F.O.C.N.F. (R)
C. in C. W.A., Admty.)

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CHESHIRE	28½°N. 36°W.	000°	13'
1800	F.S.GLOIRE	10°N. 31°W.	Patrol	Blank
G.M.T. 7th.	CILICIA	08° N. 28°W.	Patrol	Blank

(D.O.D.(F) 070923Z to Opanav (R) Comnaveu)

BRITISH Your 061955. Detach BRITISH LADY at west
LADY. O.M.P. Detail one escort of your group to
accompany ship to St. Johns N.F.
(F.O.N.F. 071202Z to TAY (R) C. in C. W.A.
Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. C.N.A. Connav.)

Convoy X.B.49A Boston section arrived 0100Z/7.
X.B.49A. Cape Cod Canal Section arrived 0142Z/7.
(Cmd. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston, 071245Z to Cominch
C. & R.)

PANTHER, My 061955/5th. Anticipate PANTHER will be ready
PENN. for sea A.M. 9th May. PENN boiler cleaning as
hours all over 850 date of completion p.m.
11th May.
(F.O.N.F.071358Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) BITER,
C. in C. C.N.W. Admty. N.S.H.Q. PENN, PANTHER.)

Convoy Ref. B.R.O.061643 BADGER returned to Harbour for
J.O.I. engine repairs. Expected to take 6 hours.
BADGER. (S.O.(I) Jamaica, 071414 to Admty)

Dispositions. Section East O.N.S. 5. W.4 047° 45' 049° 30'
174° 7.5.SPEY vicinity of 048° 10' 046° 00' en
route St.Johns N.F. B7 vicinity of 048° 10'
049° 50' en route St.Johns N.F. PINK, SENNEN
048° 52' 047° 52' en route St. Johns N.F. 8 NORTHERN GEM vicinity
of 047° 50' 048° (?25') en route St.Johns N.F.
O.N.180 W 2 047° 03' 047° 31' 174° 10 C.3 vicinity 047° 37'
048° 30' en route St.Johns N.F. ORILLIA 045° 40' 049° 05' 090°
12 H.M.R.T. ADHERENT 050° 55' 046° 10' 018° 10.5 PORT ARTHUR
vicinity 050° 55' 046° 10' scorching route to join ADHERENT,
KITCHENER 045° 22' 057° 20' 075° 12 PICTOU escorting
FOUNDATION, ARANMORE 045° 30' 056° 30' 079° 10 en route St.Johns
N.F.
H.J.50 047° 08' 052° 26' 015° 7 for St.Johns.
N.F.WASAGA sail St.Johns N.F. p.m. 7th to rendezvous with
convoy B.W.23 in 046° 00' 058° 00'.
EMPIRE GRACE 040° 25' 048° 34' 266° 14.5 altering to 270° in
048° 00' 055° 00' MODOC, MOJAVE Tampa Yarmouth Jan. 050° 15'
048° 20' 320° 11.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 071500Z to Admty)
Amended - see C. in C. C.N.A. 080415Z.

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Dispositions (Contd.) My 071500Z Section East. Amend O.N.180 altering to 241° in 047° 00' N. O.N.S. 5 altering to 234° in 047° 40' N. Add SACKVILLE 047° 32' 050° 40' 091° 12 LINCOLN departed St. Johns N.F. 2130Z/7th for Halifax 15. W 6 vicinity 42.55 46 57 en route St. Johns N.F. 12 U.S.S NOBRARA OSPREY 045° 52' 055° 12' 211° 14 B W 23 STRATFORD departed Sydney (CB) 2359Z/7th 6.5 knots.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 072001Z to Admty)
Amended - See C. in C. C.N.A. 080415Z.

SACKVILLE. At 1500Z May 7th sailed SACKVILLE to Londonderry through (A) 47.30 N. 47.00 W thence by Great Circle route. S. of A. 12 knots.
(F.O.N.F. 071508Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) N.S.H.Q.
C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. Cdre. Londonderry)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q.071525Z)
S/M Estimate.

B.Y.M.S. Sail B.Y.M.S. 31, 68, 186, 187, 209 when ready about 12th New York to Halifax for onward routing to Londonderry via St. Johns N.F. Advise time of departure, route, S. of A. Ships should not operate above 1000 revs per minute. Vessels have radius of (2700) to 1800 miles at 9 knots, using 30 American gallons of fuel per hour. Total tank capacity 5700 gallons. Approval granted to carry 1200 gallons of extra fuel as deck cargo in barrels provided vessels sail on favourable weather report and do not refill barrel after fuel is removed.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 071545Z to C.E.S.F.)

O.N.181, U/B's appreciation. Your 061943 para. 3 not to ships escorting S.C.128. My appreciation. One or 2 U-Boats astern of S.C.128 yesterday may now be near you. (2) On basis that many of O.N.S.5 will head to intercept O.N.S.6 believe you may expect danger from the south within 24 hours. (3) Now considered unlikely that you have been reported.
(N.S.H.Q. 071637Z to Ships Escorting O.N.181 (R) Ships Escorting O.N.S.6, S.C.128, C. in C. W.A., Connav, C. in C. C.N.A., A.C.I.C. Com. (D) W.A. Admty., N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F., Com. (D) Argentia, H.Q.C.C.)

X O.T/T.O. C.U/U.C. Convoys Cycles. C. in C. U.S. Fleet 041909 scheduled employment of time for oil convoys follows: (A) O.T/T.O cycle 64 days interval 32. 12 at New York. 6 days en route New York Aruba Curacao both ways. 2 loading. 13 days both ways D.W.I. Casablanca Gibraltar. 10 days or less in North Africa. O.T.5 sails from Aruba Curacao 15th May.

O.T.6 /...

7.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

O.T/T.O. O.T.6 Aboukir June 20th. (B) C.U/U.C. cycle
C.U/U.C. and sailing intervals 64 days. 12 at New York.
Convoys 6 between New York - Aruba Curacao. 3 loading.
Cycles. 14 both ways D.W.I. - U.K. 6 in U.K. C.U.2
(Contd.) departs New York 12th May. Time in New York
both convoys unused is to decrease. Sailing
dates will be adjusted for days saved along route.
(Cominch C. & R. 071644Z to C. in C. Atlantic
Fleet, C. E.S.F., Com. Carribean S.F., Admty.
C. in C. Med., F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
Comnavnav, Commorseafront, Comnavau.)

S.H.79. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 071712Z to Admty)

Biscay At 17th Meeting of A.U. Committee on 5th May
A/S Air following points arose:
Offensive. (A) Current Bay air offensive has given one
U-Boat sighted for every 80 hours flown base to
base. One tenth of effort wasted investigating
fishing vessel contacts, majority Spanish trawlers
Admiralty to discuss with Foreign Office and others and make
recommendations next week. (B) Number of merchant ships
immobilised for repairs in U.K. is increasing. Admiralty
promised to watch closely and report on any measures that could
improve situation. (C) Some delay in use of rocket projectiles
from aircraft in Mediterranean as tropicalised cordite found
necessary. (D) U-Boat aircraft may be rotor-chutes, a type of
kite with lifting blades. Introduction of any form of aircraft
or kite would increase the difficulties of evasive routing
especially independent ships in fair weather areas.
(V.C.N.S. 071721B to B.A.D.)

SNOWBERRY. Your 041502 to N.S.H.Q. Request SNOWBERRY to
be sailed direct to Halifax.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 051743Z to B.A.M.R. (R) N.S.H.Q.
Admty. S.B.N.O. W.At. Cominch.)

MAURETANIA. Confirm para. (3) Admty. 061728B. Necessary
to route MAURETANIA via Trinidad for fuel.
(Cominch C. & R. 071755Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.
S.A., C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N., P.S.T.O.India,
S.S.T.O. Capetown, N.O.B. Trinidad Comsolant,
C. in C. Lant, C.C.S.F. G.E.S.F. U.S. Port
Director New York, N.O.B. Rio De Janeiro.)

POLYANTHUS. My 052040Z. (1) POLYANTHUS sustained following
damage. (Details) Propose sailing ship to
Halifax about 11th May. Request arrangements
be made to carry out repairs.
(F.O.N.F. 071805Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) C. in C.
W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q. POLYANTHUS.)
Your 071805Z approved.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 072058 to F.O.N.F.; C. in C.
W.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

Diversion /...

War Diary.7.5.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)Diversions
of Convoys.Your 061501Z (N.T. in W.D.). Concur.
(C. in C. W.A. 071920Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R)
N.S.H.Q., Admty. Cominch)A.T.43.
(EMPRESS OF
SCOTLAND)A.T.43 EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Army intend to
embark 16th completing p.m. that day for sailing
17th May. (2) Bank of Canada has 671 bars
silver for Bank of England which will arrive
Halifax p.m. 15th for shipment in this vessel.
My 241502 April not to B.A.D. and Connav refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 071922Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D., Connav,
C. in C. C.N.A.)
As amended - N.S.H.Q. 122218Z.

F.H.53.

Sailing Telegram (3 ships, list).
(2) St. John N.B. 1900Z May 7th. (3) E.T.A.
Halifax 1400Z May 9th. (4) Knots 8.
(5) (Route). (6) FORT WILLIAM.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 071957Z to 071959Z to
Admty)

H.X.238.

Sailing Telegram Part one. 34 ships.
(P.D. New York, 072014)Sub attack
and
sighting
summary.All times Zebra. Planes attack Sub. on surface
course 045 34.23 N. 76 W. 062042. SENNEN
attacks Sub. 53.08 N. 46.39 W. 061255 R.A.F.
plane attacks sub 60.01 N. 26.40 W. 061230.
Aircraft attacks sub on surface 59.40 N. 23.50
W. 061104. R.A.F. plane attacks sub 59 N.
26.25 W. 06102Z. PBV attacks sub course 260
59.40 N. 25.25 W. 061748. R.A.F. plane sights sub. course
09061 30 N. 34.55 W. 061800 PBV attacks sub course 070 59.45 N.
26.50 W. 061850. P.C. Ferry command plane sights sub. 63.48 N.
28.12 W. 061857.
(Cominch, 072023Z to Admty)* Proposed
repairs to
Ships at
St. Lawrence
Ports.M.O.W.T. are anxious that a number of the larger
repair jobs should, if feasible, be transferred
from Halifax, St. John, New Brunswick of St. Johns
Newfoundland to St. Lawrence repair ports.
Number might be three to six per month. Request
you will say if this proposal is acceptable
from point of view of the A/S protection of
ships concerned.
(D.T.D. 072026B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. C.N.A.)MAURETANIA
Route.My 061728. In view of possibility of renewed
U-Boat activities in the Cape area recommend
for consideration that MAURETANIA leaving New
York 10th May be routed Panama South West
Pacific to Bombay. (2) Delay in arrival due
to increased distance and possible reduction in
speed for reasons of endurance are acceptable as far as British
Authorities are concerned.
(D.O.D.(F), 072040B to Connav (R) B.A.D. etc.)

Indian /...

War Diary.7.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- Indian Ocean Dock. Lorsa 9095. A A 211532. Navy Department have agreed to build an 18000 ton dock for the Indian Ocean. Expected that dock will be completed any time between Feb. 1944 and June 1944 depending upon availability of the necessary steel. (B.A.D.072041Z to Admty)
- Stragglers R/V Signalling. My 061735 April request you will take action regarding R/V by B.A.M.S. as formerly carried out by Cominch C. & R. Purport of my 122110 Jan. was similar. (D.T.D.072041B to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F. Cominch C. & R.)
- Convoy U.G.S.8A. Departure delayed until 14th. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 072102Z to C. in C. Lant (R) Admty. etc.)
- X C.U/U.C. Convoys, Number of Ships. Modify my 061429. Increase in size of C.U/U.C. convoys to 16 ships authorized. My 051819 April remains in effect for new limit. (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 072103Z to C. in C. Atlantic Fleet (R) C.E.S.F., Admty. Cdr. Caribbean S.F., C.A.F.A.C.)
- French Naval Vessels, repair and equipment. Your 052209. Suggest that this should not be taken by Combined Chiefs of Staff until a reply is received to A.M. 072127B addressed C. in C. Med. and repeated to you. (V.C.N.S. 072132B to B.A.D.)
- H.X.238. (1) Sailing telegram H.X.238. Part 2. (list etc) Total 34 ships sailed M/F D/F guard ships FORT ACTON. EMPIRE NUGGETT searching. Main receivers searching BRITISH FIDELITY, SAN AMBROSIO, DAPHNELLA, MIRALDA, LEVERN BANK. Task unit 24.18.7. (P.D. New York, 072144 to Admty)
- Bangor Minesweepers. My 1901/2 June 1942 and 2106/30 July 1942 re loan of six Bangor minesweepers for A/S and M/S duties on west coast of Canada. No trace can be found of reply. Request confirmation that arrangements proposed are concurred in by Admiralty. (N.S.H.Q. 072149Z to Admty)
- AQUITANIA. My 062352. (1) Have agreed programme essential work with U.S. inspection authority which we believe can be completed to permit embarkation May 9th for departure 10th. (2) New York Port embarkation have accepted on understanding work will be completed and ship pass inspection. (M.W.T.New York, 072240Z to D.S.T.(R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

MONOWAI.

When ready about May 13th. C.P.S.F. route MONOWAI to Bermuda. C. in C. Lant direct N.O.B. Bermuda sailed onward to U.K. after fueling. Action addressees advise T.O.D. route, S. of A.
(C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 072313Z to C.P.S.F., C. in C. Lant, (R) N.O.B. Bermuda, C.C.S.F., S.B.N.O. W.At., C. in C. W.A., Admty. C.G.S.F., N.Z.N.B., C. in C. Pac. A.)

DRURY.

DRURY reports lubricating oil leakage approx. 200 gallons per day from between number one main engine sump and sump tank. Necessary to lift No.1 engine to make good defect. (2) Owing to other commitments at Bermuda dockyard it is not possible to carry out repairs within a reasonable time. Intend DRURY proceed U.S. Port for repairs on completion of working up. Request Port may be indicated.
(S.B.N.O. W.At. 072356P to B.A.D. (R) Admty, Cdre. i/c Bermuda).

Australia and New Zealand.

Digest
Serial
No.472
May 6th.

R/C Kavieng New Hanover area morning 5th revealed 1 merchant vessel 2500 tons off East Coast Westhanover, also 1000 ton vessel in Isabel Passage course 340°. Damaged AOBA class cruiser not present in previous reported position North of Baudissin Island. (6) Five Liberators attacked Manokwari forenoon 6th, destroying buildings causing fires and explosions and area reported well levelled. Also sighted 1 merchant vessel 2000 tons and 3 or 4 of 1000 tons in area. Later attacked Toeal. (8) Six Beaufighters destroyed nine float-planes at Taberfane Aroe Islands morning 6th. Also A.K. One Lugger with twelve Japanese 1 Beaufighter missing.
(G.H.Q. S.W. P.A. 070626Z)

Movements.

6th May Thursday Island U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER Brisbane U.S. transports CREMER and BONTEKOE TOWNSVILLE U.S. Transport both.
Hired transport KATOOMBA departed Sydney 6th due Brisbane 9th Hospital ship CENTAUR departed Brisbane 6th due Sydney 8th U.S. transport both departed Townsville 6th due Cairns 7th U.S. transport SWARTENHONDT departed Bowen 5th due Brisbane 8th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 071039 to Admty)

Arrivals /...

War Diary.

7.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrivals Thursday Island 5th. WARREGO 6th
(Contd.) (? U.S. Destroyer WAINWRIGHT) Freemantle 5th
HEEMSKERK Newcastle 6th U.S. PATTERSON Sydney
6th. NARRNAMBOOL. BUNDABERG, DELORAIN, BENDIGO,
Freemantle U.S. (D) BAGLEY Darwin 6th. CASTLE-
MAINE Townsville 5th. BUNBURY Milne Bay 6th KANIMBLA Cairns
7th, (?SWAN) Exmouth Gulf 5th. TJERK HIDDERS.
Departures Milne Bay 6th. BROOME for Oro Bay Townsville 6th.
BUNBURY for Port Moresby U.S. (D) MUGFORD for Milne Bay Brisbane
6th VENDETTA on escort duty to 159° East and return Brisbane
U.S. (D) BAGLEY for Sydney Newcastle 6th. U.S. (D) PATTERSON
for Brisbane Sydney 6th. (?SWAN) for Brisbane Thursday Island
6th WARREGO for Merauke.
(A.C.N.B.071117Z to Admty)
Departure Dunedin U.S. MCCALL due Wellington 8th.
(D.N.I. Wellington, 070205Z to Admty)

Fleet Your 151118. Figures given in my 1850/29/12/41
Maintenance were intended as guide upon which to plan long-
facilities. term development of facilities for Fleet mainten-
ance at main and subsidiary Fleet bases. No
alteration is desirable pending agreement of
combined strategy in Pacific area. (2) Figures
given in B.A.D. Memorandum quoted are based on an estimate with
which we concur, of maximum British force for which stocks of
stores are likely to be required at comparatively short notice.
(4th S.L. 072241B to A.C.N.B. (R) C. in C. E.F. B.A.D.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 071353B, 071359B)

265

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

? Weather

1. Shipping and convoys were affected by the weather today. The port of Montrose was closed at 1209B and Peterhead about 12 hours later. Coastal force patrols tonight were cancelled.

X C. in C.H.F.

2. Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser hoisted his flag as C. in C. Home Fleet today.

North Atlantic.

3. SS. CAMERATA (British 4875 tons) MAHSUD (British 7540 tons) and PAT HARRISON (U.S. 7191 tons) were considerably damaged in Gibraltar Bay by what appeared to be external explosions, between 0600 and 0730 today. The two latter ships were anchored well within Spanish territorial waters. Subsequent examination by divers revealed clamp bombs, and human torpedo gear was recovered near the position where PAT HARRISON was beached.

South Atlantic.

4. Salinas Point W/T Station, Para, intercepted at 0450P today S.O.S. from M.V. PANAMA reporting a submarine attack in 09.04 S. 34.36 W. The vessel is reported to have sailed in Convoy T.B.12. It was reported on 17 May that SS. KANBE (British 6244 tons) Takoradi for Freetown and U.K. was torpedoed at 2200Z today. Five Indian survivors were picked up by Spanish SS. RIO FRANCOLI 60 miles south of Monrovia, Liberia, at 1315Z/9.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

X Tunisia
Bombardment
of Kelibia.

5. In connection with the operations in Tunisia last night 3 fleet destroyers from Malta patrolled south of Marittimo and 3 Hunts off Kelibia. Three fleet destroyers from Bone patrolled west of Marittimo (c.f. damage to BLYSKAWICA 7 May) No surface forces were seen by any of these patrols. JERVIS (D.14) NUBIAN and PALADIN bombarded Kelibia at dusk on the way to patrol and reported very little opposition. During daylight today 3 fleet destroyers and 3 Hunts from Bone carried out a patrol near 38° N. 10° E. and 3 fleet destroyers from Malta patrolled off the Gulf of Hammamet. These destroyers, with 3 Hunts from Malta, established four patrol areas tonight off shore. Sweeping of a channel between Galita and Bizerta began at 0500 today. F.O.I.S. entered Bizerta in M.T.B. 637 at 080959 but was forced to retire by enemy fire, and he returned to Bone.

Escorts
for
French
Coastal
Convoys.

6. C. in C. Med. considers we ought to try to make more escort vessels available for the French convoys between Bone and Dakar. The French have been sailing their ships despite most inadequate escort, and have sustained a number of losses recently in consequence.

X Air
Operations.

7. 24 Spitfire bombers, escorted by Spitfire fighters attacked Empedocle Harbour today. N.A.A.F. carried out some attacks on shipping today, but no important results are reported, apart from a direct hit on an 8000 ton ship in Cape Bon area. Docks near Thonara were bombed by 12 escorted P.40's, and hits were seen. Amongst the land targets attacked was Pantellaria aerodrome, by 16 escorted P.58's, where 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. French Squadrons attacked and damaged motor vessels off La Goulette.

East Indies.

8. SS. FORT MUMFORD, which was reported overdue on 13 April, is stated by a survivor to have been torpedoed on the night of 20 March, about 500 miles northwest of Ceylon, whilst on route to Suez.

War Diary.

8.5.1945.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies (Contd.)

9. GAMBIA sailed from Kilindini at 080536Z for the U.K. via the Cape.

Australia and New Zealand.

10. 8 Beaufighters and 9 B.25's, covered by 16 Lightnings sank a merchant vessel off X Ladang today and made two direct hits and 4 very near misses on a small tanker which was probably destroyed.

11. It is reported that During an attack on enemy shipping near Gizo Island (Georgia Group Solomon Is.) M.T.B's attacked some enemy vessels in Ferguson Passage and probably sank one destroyer and damaged three others, two of them badly.

It is also reported that Dauntless and Warhawk aircraft attacked 3 Japanese destroyers near Gizo Island today, and that the results of this attack, and apparently also from mines, was the same as above.

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Change of
C. in C.H.F.

Thanking the Fleet for their most loyal and generous support throughout period of command. (C. in C. H.F. 080850B to H.F.352).

Landing
craft.In view of delay landing craft flights E and F propose in the interval L.C.F.5,6,8,10,11,12 should remain in Portsmouth command for work up under orders of S.O. Force J until approx. 18th May.
(C. in C. Plymouth 081529B to Admty. C.C.O.).Defence of U.K.Hvalfjord
DefencesYour 071637 approved.
(D.T.M. 090019B to A.C.I.C.).X A/A defences
of Yarmouth.My 072354B. Please cancel reference to A.A. crews standing down at 0705 as on further investigation I find this is inaccurate.
(C. in C. Nore 081142B).Movements.

SIMOON

Following is a summary of my 072312 addressed P.225 SIMOON. Proceed on route Gold, forthwith shift wireless watch at 0800 11th May, when it is estimated you will pass 043 degs. North.

- (2) My 071237 and C. in C. Plymouth 071331 are cancelled.
- (3) My 051456/May, para.2. is extended to 1600 May 11th. (F.O.S. 080024B to Admiralty, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, H.Q.C.C.).

ECLIPSE

My P.C.S. 054 degs. 54' North 010 degs. 46' west 065 degs. 9 knots. Intend proceeding Merville for fuel. Weather 28568017.
(ECLIPSE 080209B to C. in C. W.A.).

VALOROUS

Sail at 0700B Monday 10th to Methil for onward routeing to Sheerness F.S.12.
Main armament is on no account to be fired whilst on passage unless directly attacked.
Acknowledge.
(C. in C. Rosyth 080945B to VALOROUS (R) C.D.Rosyth, N.O.I.C. Methil, C. in C. Nore, Cdre. Sheerness, Admiralty).

H.32

My 281741 now exercising until 10th May.
(C. in C. Plymouth 081005B to Admiralty, C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.I.C. Portland, C. in C. Portsmouth F.O.(S), F.O.i/c Falmouth, N.O.i/c Milford Haven, N.O.i/c Dartmouth. Ships maintaining W/T watch on broadcast C.N. and Port Wave in Plymouth Command. Capt.D. Cdr. A/p Plymouth. 10 Group.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements-(contd.).

SCYLLA

Arrived.
(C. in C. Plymouth 081017B).

GRAPH

Your 072134. Owing to repairs to lock gates at Barrow request arrival of GRAPH be arranged for p.m. tide Monday 10th May.
(N.O.i/c Barrow 081127B to Admty.).

MIDDLETON

My 071445B. On account of weather delay sailing till 2000B tonight Saturday.
(C. in C. Rosyth 081130B).

RODNEY

My 071744B para.2. RODNEY can be taken up harbour if she can pass boom at 1045B/11 time of passing position (V) being adjusted as necessary.

(2) If unable to make above times you should pass boom (1) if possible before dark on 11th May; otherwise (2) at 1115B 12th May.

(C. in C. Plymouth 081333B to RODNEY).

By D/F on 1452Z/8 on 11068 kc/s. Position of U-boat was approx. 43 degs. 30' N. 19 degs. W.

(2) Amend route forthwith to pass through new W 45 degs. N 20 degs. W. new X 4830 N 19 30W then to U.

(3) C. in C. Plymouth is requested to adjust R/V with PIORUN accordingly.

(D.O.D. (H) 081929B to RODNEY. (R) F.O.i/c Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth, H.Q.C.C. PIORUN).

UGANDA

On escort duty UGANDA, CHARYBDIS.

CHARYBDIS

(D.O.D. (H) 081424B).

Pass through positions (R) 049 degs. 30' North 012 degs, 14' West S.180 degs. Bishop Rock 10

thence by A.M.Q.Z.S.410 and 409 to Plymouth. Keep west of The Lizard during dark hours. Codeword "Talbot One".

(C. in C. Plymouth 081753B to CHARYBDIS, (R)C. in C.W.A. F.O.S. Ships escorting O.S.47, S.L.128, H.Q.C.C. Admiralty, N.O.i/c Falmouth).

Your 081753 acknowledge. My P.C.A. 46.08 20.10 057 degs. 19. Weather report 4381 1875.

(CHARYBDIS 082300B to C. in C. Plymouth).

INDOMITABLE

Clyde arrival INDOMITABLE.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 081438B).

DEVONSHIRE

E.T.A. 1430B/9. Request gate at 1530B. Acknowledge. My P.C.S. 052 degs. 16' North 014 degs. 10' West 041 degs. 20. Weather reports.
(DEVONSHIRE 081427Z to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

S/M's

Positions of submarines at 0800 9th and Movements

/for...

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

- S/M's for following 24 hours.
(contd.).
- (A) U.S.S. SHAD on patrol between 67 degs. 30' N. and 68 degs. 30' N. on longitude 16 degs. W.
 - (B) U.S.S. HERRING on patrol between 68 degs. North and 67 degs. 08' North 18 degs. 38' West.
 - (C) TRUCULENT (P315) on patrol between 67 degs. 08' North 18 degs. 38' West and 66 degs. 32' North 18 degs. 01' West.
 - (D) SATYR (P214) on patrol between 67 degs. 30' North and Icelandic Coast on longitude 16 degs West.
 - (E) U.S.S. BLACKFISH approx. position 67 degs. North 11 degs. West routed through 62 degs. 01' North 00 degs. 45' West probably on surface except between latitudes 65 degs. 20' and 64 degs. 00' when S/M will be dived as much as practicable.
 - (F) U.S.S. BARB approx. position 66 degs. 23' North 08 degs. 20' West through 62 degs. 02' North 00 degs. 30' East proceeding dived as much as practicable between latitudes as in (E) otherwise probably on the surface.
 - (G) SURF (P239) 64 degs. 05' North 07 degs. 10' West routed through 66 degs. 25' North 12 degs. 35' West to patrol as in para.(D) diving as much as practicable between latitudes as in para. (E) otherwise probably on the surface.
 - (H) O.10 on patrol vicinity 63 degs. 51' North 00 degs. 32' West.
 - (J) USURPER (P56) approx. position 61 degs. 40' North 00 degs. 20' East probably on surface through 090 degs. Muckle Flugga 10 miles for Lerwick.
 - (K) SIMOON (P225) 44 degs. 00' North 07 degs. 11' West dived by day through 44 degs. 01' North 10 degs 02' West thence to southward daily advance 106 miles.
 - (L) H.32 exercising in Lyme Bay during daylight being escorted to and from Dartmouth.
 - (M) GRAPH escorted by SETTER leaves Clyde 1800 9th speed 10 knots E.T.A. Barrow 1100 10th.
 - (F.O.(S) 081639B, 082351B).

X Landing craft flights for Gibraltar.

A.M.222310/April, 012058/May, A.M.051244/May.
The following are amended dates for sailing of L.C.Flghts and Tugs detailed to accompany them.

1. Flight	2.Date	3.Sail from.	4 Tugs.
E	7th June	Falmouth	EMPIRE LARCH EMPIRE HARRY
F	1st June	Plymouth	HUDSON SCHELDE
G	22nd May	Appledore	EMPIRE TITANIA EMPIRE SPITFIRE.
H.	indefinite	Falmouth	ABEILLE IV.

(D.O.D.H. 082103B to C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A.).

Operations.

Coastal force patrols. Patrols not required tonight Saturday. (C. in C. Nore 081027B)
Portsmouth night patrols 8/9 May.
QUORN at immediate notice at Spithead, constant watch on 2450 kc/s and broadcast C.N. (C. in C. Portsmouth 081705B).

/Air...

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

X Air
cover
for convoys.

A.P.776. 7 May. Please see A.M. 071612 addressed to your Associated Naval Command. This system will come into force Monday 10th May. Concurrently form V.L.R. will be brought into force and exchanged between No.1. Group St. Johns, 15 Group and R.A.F. Iceland.
(H.Q.C.C. 080928B to 15,18,19 Groups Iceland, E.A.C. Canada, No.1. Group St. Johns,R.A.F.Gib.).

EMPIRE
FOAM

Launching instructions for C.A.M. ship No.22361 / sailing in S.L.128 on account of Abbotsinch and Renfrew aerodromes unserviceable for C.A.M. ship aircraft.
(Captain D.E.M.S. West Coast of Scotland 081128B to C. in C.W.A.).
/ EMPIRE FOAM.

Cover for
O.N.181

(C) A.C.521 8th May.
Extremely unlikely able to cover O.N.181 9th May, owing to severe icing conditions at surface and heavy snow showers in whole southern area.
(R.A.F.Iceland 081902B to H.Q. Coastal Command, No.1. Group, 15 Group, Admiralty, A.L.O.).

Mining.

M.S.4.
Operations

In view of weather outlook intend to postpone resumption of operations in Q.Z.X.962 until Monday 10th May. Decision now will materially assist care and maintenance work below in all ships.
(M.S.4. 081201B to C. in C. Plymouth, Capt. M/S Plymouth (R) Admty. F.O.i/c Falmouth).

U-Boats.

U/B 's.
sunk

The attacks by Hudson aircraft "L" and "W" of 233 Squadron on 5th April 1943, both on the same U/boat have been assessed as known sunk.
(2) The attack by Liberator aircraft "N" of 120 Squadron on 5th April 1943, has been assessed as probably sunk.
(3) Request you will convey our congratulations to those concerned in these successes.
(D.A./S.W.081446B to Air Min.).

U/boats
reported in
North
Atlantic.

A897 8 May. Following from America C54 number 950 at 1248Z/8th begins.
Submarine on South East Leg Meek's Field Range headed 300 degs. 50 to 75 miles out send. Meek's position 63.59 10 N. 22.37.30 W.S.E. Leg of range bears 171 degs. magnetic.
(T.A.C.Prestwick 081305 to D.O.N.O. Admty. H.Q.C.C.)

/Civil...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.U/boats.

U/boats reported in North Atlantic (contd.). Civil aircraft reports submarine on the surface 049 degs. 07' North 009 degs. 07' West course 270 15 knots at 1430 8th. (C. in C. Plymouth 081515B to PIORUN). U/boat sighted by aircraft in 062 degs. 35' North 022 degs. 05' West at 1400B May 8th. Course 300 degs. on the surface. (A.C.I.C.081640B to Ships North of 60 degs. North between longitudes 10 degs and 30 degs. West, Admiralty, C. in C. .W.A. A.C.O.S. S.O.N.T. C. in C. H.F.). D/F Bearings on 11068 kc/s at 1330Z indicate U/B in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C.081644B to Escorts O.N.S.6. (R) A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, H.Q.C.C. Cominch). D/F bearings at 1544Z/8 on 11068 kc/s indicate U/boat in your immediate vicinity. (D.D.I.C.081816B to Escorts S.L.128 E.G.2, C. in C. Plymouth C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

Navigational.

Montrose Port of Montrose closed due to weather. (C, in C. Rosyth 081209B).

Nore Movements to 1200/9th. All times uncertain owing to weather. (C. in C. Nore 081215B).

ARCHER On arrival in harbour report by signal to Admiralty weather experienced at 1200Z each day 8th to 12th May inclusive coded as in C.A.F.O. 1018/41. This is to obtain check on weather forecast. (A.C.N.S.(H) 081650B to ARCHER).

Casualties and Defects.

SOUTHERN BREEZE. C. in C.W.A's 071631B, Sailed QUADRILLE. SOUTHERN BREEZE did not sail, defective. (F.O.1/c N.I. 080459B / re H.X.236.

L.C.G.(L) Your 052206 para.6. (C) and my 071045 E.R.9722 (WALLFLOWER) and J 6177 (KELANTAN) are the only ships which may be slightly affected. (N.O.I.C. Port of London 081110B to S.O.8th S.F.).

FINGAL PUERTO RICAN JONATHAN STURGES.. On May 6th, FINGAL torpedoed and sunk in position 30.35 South 153 33 East. (W.D.Note. Neither date nor positions agrees with other reports Denton Scott Lowe, Ordinary Seaman, American citizen, not known survivor of PUERTO RICAN. Louis Boileau was a seaman on the JONATHAN STURGES. (Comnaveu 081339Z).

/S.S.BURRINGTON...

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

S.S. BURREINGTON Coaster BURREINGTON COMBE from Campbeltown to COMBE Liverpool struck rock close to Crammag Head at 0137/8 but got off and arrived Loch Ryan under own steam 0820. Making little water No.2. Hold. Will be beached in Wig Bay this Saturday afternoon to inspect damage.
(N.O.I.C. Stranraer 081427B).

S.S. HIGHWEAR S.S. HIGHWEAR anchored 2 miles south 54 A with engine trouble. Probably duration 4 hours. Am instructing KITTIWAKE to stand by. Wind force 7 sea 43.
(HOLDERNESS 081501B to C. in C. Nore).

Shipping and Convoys.

B.1. group My 070936Z. Will be two hours late owing to weather conditions, your 072342B. MANCHESTER EXPORTER did not sail.
(S.O.E.G.B.1. 080106Z to C. in C.W.A. Admty.).

O.S.47/
K.M.S.14 Sail 1130Z/6. Escort Scarborough H/F D/F FLEETWOOD H/F D/F AZALEA, COLTSFOOT, SPIREA, MIGNONETTE, BALSAM, FORT YORK, QUALICUM, WEDGEPORT, PARRSBORO, Additional escort HAZARD and PRODIGAL to Gibraltar. code word of combined convoys "Parole". K.M.S.14 after splitting "Polecat". Other details.
(C. in C.W.A. 080644Z).

S.P.8. S.P.8. cancelled.
(N.O.I.C. Newhaven 080815).

O.N.181 E.G.1 on crossing 055 degs. North proceed to support O.N.181. Estimated position 0800B 9th 056 degs. 50' North 048 degs. 30' West steering for (MF) 053 degs. 00' North 050 degs. 00' West and (ME) 047 degs. 31' North 046 degs. 29' West 9 knots.
S.O. H.M.S. KEPPEL.
(C. in C.W.A. 080906Z to E.G.1. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C. C. in C.C. N.W.A. Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. Com. (D) Argentina, H.Q.C.C. Com.(D) W.A. S.E.O.N.181, S.E. ONS.6 .E.G.4.).

O.N.181 Air Cover see R.A.F. Iceland.
081902B.

? Convoy "Ocean" My 031201B "Ocean" cancelled owing to weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 080945B).

W.P.B.336 W.P.B.336 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(F.O.i/c Cardiff 080928B).

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.-(contd.)

D.S.40 Route.
(C. in C.W.A.081002B).

W.P.M.336 W.P.M.336 postponed 24 hours on account of
weather.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 081009B).

F.S.10(S) Cancel my 080743 / Convoy returned Methil.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 081013)
/ F.S.10(S).

O.N.182 and My 071108 not to NENE.
O.N.S.7. (1) Ag NENE is not ready BANFF is to sail to
overtake O.N.182.
(2) NENE is to sail to overtake O.N.S.7 when
ready.
(3) If however NENE cannot be ready in time for this duty it
may be necessary to divert BANFF to O.N.S.7.
(C. in C. W.A. 081024B to Cdre. (D) W.A.,C.T.G.24.7 (R) Admty.
F.O.C.N.F. OTTAWA, SWALE, BANFF, NENE).
My 1603 7th Z. BANFF sailed to overtake O.N.182.S.of A.
15½ knots weather permitting. Latest Q.J.A.198.
(Cdre. (D) W.A. 081918B, C.T.G.24.7).

WHITE My 071000B/May+ WHITE CLOVER Pan. delayed
CLOVER eighteen hours owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Barry 081055B).
+ Re. Intend sailing S.S.WHITE CLOVER.

O.N.S.7. Sailed: SWALE, BUTTERCUP, , GODETIA, LAVENDER
PIMPERNEL, NORTHERN WAVE, CHRISTIAN HOLM,
F.J. WOLFE, for O.N.S.7.
(Cdre. (D) W.A. 081144B).

S.S.JOHAN Ref. A.M.072042 April. Propose sailing from Bar
VAN L.V. at 1600Z 12th to R/V 52 North 06 West at
OLDENBARNEVELT 0700Z 13th.
and S.S. (N.C.Mersey 081225B).
DESEADO. Admiralty 072042. N.C.S.O. Mersey 081225, BERGAMOT
is to escort convoy to R/V and is to return to
Liverpool on completion.
(C. in C.W.A.081444B).

Your 081225. Concur.
(C. in C.W.A. 081654B to N.C.S.O. Mersey).

BEACONSTREET My 071538B./Obstacle postponed 24 hours owing to
weather.
(N.C.S.O. Plymouth 081257).
/ re sailing BEACONSTREET escort WENSLEYDALE
codeword "Obstacle".

War Diary.

8.5.1943.

Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys (contd.).

- S.L.128 Report fuel situation and possibility of fuelling
E.G.2. from any ship in convoy.
(C. in C.N.A. 081359B to E.G.2.).
Your 081359B / all ships except CYGNET 65%
remaining that is about 10 days at 14 knots. CYGNET 60% remaining.
Fuelling from S.L.128 not practicable.
(STARLING 081505B to C. in C.W.A.-.
/ Addressed E.G.2. requesting report of fuel situation.
- P.W.336 Intend to postpone sailing of P.W.336 for 24 hours.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 081430B).
- PANTHER Cancel my 061611Z.
PENN (C. in C.W.A. 081445Z to F.O.N.F. BITER, (R)
E.G.5. C. in C.C.N.W.At. A.C.I.C. Commodore (D) W.A.,
H.X.237 Connav, Admiralty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 5th E.G.
H.Q.C.C. Commander (D) Argentia, Escorts H.X.237,
3rd E.G.).
- S.C.128 My P.C.S. 058 degs. 50' North 035 degs. 36' West
220. Admiralty's 081630B and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa
081418Z and 081515Z no sign U/boat in contact on
11068 kc/s consider likelihood that these U/boats are in contact
with ARCHER. Weather report 5480 2623 /.
(C.T.U. 14.1.4. 081659Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) E.G.4. Connav, Admty.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. C. in Canadian N.W.At. A.C.I.C.
Cdr. D. Argentia.).
/ 5 Height of low cloud 4 Amount of low cloud 8 Visibility
0 Weather 26 Pressure 2 Direction of wind 3 Force of wind.
Correct my 081659Z to read my P.C.S. 058 degs. 50' North
035 degs. 36' West (X) 270 degs. 7.
(C.T.U. 24.1.4. 081945Z).
Submarine bearings 000 degs. 3 miles, my position 058 degs.
51' North 036 degs. 23' West.
(C.T.U. 24.1.4. 082120Z).
- TOBRUK Your 281434C/April and 071148C/May. Early
departure of TOBRUK is not considered urgent
especially in view ship being Under British
Management.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 081840B to Admiral Fisher).
- O.N.S.7. Sailed STAFNES to overtake O.N.S.7.
(Cdre.(D) W.A. 081916).
- W.N.25 My 081217 cancelled.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 082020B).
- E.G.1. Cancel my 080906. Proceed to support O.N.S.6.
O.N.S.6. Estimated P.C.S. of convoy at 0800B/9 058 degs.
34' North 038 degs. 11' West routed through
(Q.N.) and (Q.J.) 7 knots. My 082012Z refers.
(C. in C.W.A. 082030Z to E.G.I.(R) Connav, A.C.I.C.
Admty. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Canadian, N.W.At. S.E.
Convoy O.N.181, Cdr. D. Argentia, S.E. Convoy O.N.S.6.E.G.4.
/Convoy...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.-(contd.).

Convoy A.M.281959 and B.A.D.071843Z not to all addressees.
A.T.42. Sailed New York 1337Z 5 May.
E.T.A. Clyde 0200Z/11.

Route A. 38.20 North 65.00 West. B. 41.01 North 58.10 West.
C.42.15 North 45.20 West D. 42.30 North 31.45 West E.51.25 North
26.40 West F. 56.20 North 16.30 West G.56.15 North 08.10 West.
(2) Dawn R/V at 100400Z in 54.50 North 19.40 West.
(3) S.of A. 26.2 knots.
(4) Fighter protection codeword "Bayrum" associated call sign 157.
(D.O.D.(H) 082053B).

? K.X.10/O.S.90A K.X.10/O.S.90 A sails as combined convoy May 19th.
(2) Escorts (A) from Clyde. OXLIP, HYDERABAD,
(B) from Londonderry. TEVIOT S.O. CLARE,ERNE,
TEST, TRENT.
(C. in C.W.A. 082233B).

O.S.48/K.M.S. Sails as combined convoy May 20th.
15. (2) A/S escort (A) Liverpool to Freetown,
BLACK SWAN, S.O. FOWEY, LA MALOUINE, MYOSOTIS,
MALLOW, STONECROP.
(B) Liverpool to Gibraltar. CAMPION.
(C) Clyde to Gibraltar. CARNOUSTIE.
(D) Londonderry to Gibraltar. STARWORT, POPPY.
(3) A.A. escort from Clyde. ALYNBANK transferring to S.L.12.
(C. in C.W.A. 082238B).

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- ST. NECTAN, E.T.A. Casablanca 0400Z/9th. LADY HOGARTH
LADY HOGARTH. maximum speed 4 knots (? group, incomplete)
in tow by HEBE. Trouble boiler tube.
(ST. NECTAN 080100Z to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R)
Commorseafron.)
- U-Boat. By D/F on 7770 kc/s at 2136Z U-Boat estimated
to be anywhere within 75 miles of 40° 30' N
19° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 080155B to F.O. Gib.)
- PASTEUR. After disembarkation at Casablanca PASTEUR
should proceed to Halifax.
(D.S.T. 080504B. to Commorseafron (R) C. in C.
Med. etc.)
Request return routeing PASTEUR.
(C.M.S.F.F. 081115Z. to Admty.)
- U.G.F.8. E.B. ALEXANDER broke down with engine failure.
Being escorted to Gibraltar by U.S. Destroyers
FALK and HARRISON. Speed 6. Her position
0600Z 230 miles 261° from point H. Request
instructions be issued her escort. Destroyer escort of U.G.F.8
now down to 6 destroyers. Air coverage just reported.
Position of U.G.F.8 0600Z 15 miles East of straggler. Course
and speed as reported my 072358. Weather report.
(C.T.F.67 080822Z. to Admty. (R) Commaveu, C.M.S.F.F. C. in C.
Med.)
C.T.F.67s. 080822 has been passed to you. Request you
will take necessary action.
(D.O.D. (F) 082208B. to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Commaveu,
Commorseafron, C. in C. Med.)
- CABO Following from M.E.W. Your 071203, CABO ESPARTEL
ESPARTEL. Release ship.
(D.E.W.D. 081055B to C.C.S.O. Gib.)
- X M/V British SS. CAMERATA, MAHSUD, and American
explosions, PAT HARRISON considerably damaged by apparent
Gibraltar. external explosions between 0600 and 0730 today
Saturday, extent of damage indicates heavy
charges used. First 2 ships beached, third
ship being towed into shallow water. 2 latter
were anchored well within Spanish Territorial
waters. Further report follows. (see 091733).
(F.O.I.C. Gib. 081105B. to Admty. C. in C. Med. (R) B.N.A.
Madrid.)

/Sailing...

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

G.U.S.7. Sailing telegram. Part 2.
(Gib. 081109 to P.D. New York (R) Connav etc.)

Dispositions. Situation 1959B/8th. 22 L.C.I. (L) S.O.
L.C.I. (L) 129.32 20.23 49.102 11.706.
2. T.F. 68.1 (one) March. ship in tow 36.04
28.30 274 8.2 knots.
(F.O. Gib. 081125B.)

Situation 082002B. U.G.F.8, C.T.F.67, 35.31 14.38 through
35.50 09.45 thence to Casablanca 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. (Amended by 090124B, q.v.).
(2) X.K.6. LOTUS, DIANELLA. (E) 39.04 11.38 328° 5 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(3) X.K.6 part 2 HONEYSUCKLE, NARVIK 38.14 10.57 328.4.
(4) Fleet unit 3 destroyers 38.54 19.01 359.17 (5) 22 L.C.1. (L)
S.O. L.C.1. (L) 129, 32.20 23.49 102.11. (6) Spanish training
ship GALATEA left Ferrol May 1st for Canary Island.
(F.O. Gibraltar 081149B.)

Add new para. 7 to my 081149. ILEX 4 destroyers 1 corvette
35.50 06.29 through 35.50 09.45 and 35.48 10.26 at 0900B/9th
to R/V U.G.F.8 and escort Mediterranean section to 35.45 06.40
13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

(F.O. Gibraltar 081433B.)

My 081113 and my 081149. Add new para. (8) ADVENTURE sail
2130B/8th through 35.48 06.16 36.32 07.56 36.32 09.05 37.30
11.30 and 39.30 12.30 thence 359° 18.

(F.O. Gib. 081627B.)

Axis Arrival 7th 64,63 Departure 7th 5, Departure
Shipping 8th 22, 3, 17, 2, 27, 9, 7, 8, 18.
Bilbao. (Consul Bilbao, 08115? to Admty., (R) S.O.(I)
Gib.)
64 = BORDSEE; 63 = LIVADIA; 5 = HENK; 22 =
PAX-CHRISTI; 3 = JEUNE DENISE; 17 = OLGA;
2 = COURDANNES; 27 = MARIBEL; 9 = BANKA;
7 = BALTIC; 8 = SPES; 18 = TIM.

RODNEY, C. in C. Plymouth 071744. On O.R.P. PIORUN
ANTHONY. joining, RODNEY is to detach ANTHONY to proceed
if possible direct to Gibraltar.
(2) When 100 miles clear ANTHONY is to report
(A) P.C. and S. of RODNEY. (B) P.C. and S. of
ANTHONY. (C) Whether proceeding to Ponta Delgada or Gib.
(D) If Ponta Delgada E.T.A. and amount oil fuel required.
(E) Weather report. (3) Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.
(F.O. Gib. 081211B. to RODNEY, ANTHONY, (R) Admty. C. in C. Med.
C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. METEOR, H.Q.C.C.)

MONTE My 041619 MONTE MULHACEN now leaves Genoa about
MULHACEN. 10th.
(D.E.W.D. 081244B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C.
Med.)

RODNEY, Your 070020. It is assumed that RODNEY and
destroyers. destroyers sailed from Gibraltar at 0100B/7th
May.
(D.O.D. (H) 081450B. to F.O. Gibraltar.)
Reply: 091714B.

/Movements...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrived HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, Tug EMPIRE ANN, H.N.M.S. MOLDE, L.C.T.345, 346, 353, 357, 382, 383, 391, 396, 397, 417, 308, 320, 343, 313, 317, 318, 322, 325, 339, 341, 354, 361, 446, L.C.F.16, 18.
(F.O.I.C. Gib: 081558B. to Admty.)

T.E.21.

Intend sailing (list).
(F.O. Gib. 081626B. to C. in C. Med.)

X French
Evacuations
via
Portugal.

Colonel Malaise informs me he understands you have agreed in principle to second evacuation of French from Spain via Portugal. Embarkation presumably at Setubal. Party to number 600. Destination Casablanca. He would be grateful for at least 8 days notice for train arrangements (N.A. Madrid 081710 to C. in C. Med. (R) B.N.A. Lisbon, F.O.I.C. Gib. Admty.)

SIMOON.

After crossing 43.01 N. at 0800/11th pass through following positions at time stated:-

(T) 38.50 10.00 2300/13th.

(U) 36.51 09.13 0115/15th.

(V) 36.37 07.24 0830/15th (W) 35.53 06.15 1430/15th.

(X) 35.49 06.06½ 1515/15th, thence Gibraltar by Q.K.A.87.

All times zone minus 2, positions N. and W.

2. S. of A. diving by day 106 miles per 24 hours. After passing position (U) proceed on surface at your discretion at 12 knots weather permitting. 3. Submerged bombing restrictions have been arranged below surface 0115/15th, thereafter total bombing restrictions 10 miles either side your route from 35 miles ahead to 35 miles astern. Report if you are unable to keep within your bombing restrictions. 4. Read H.S. and G.S. routine after 0800/11th.

(F.O. Gib. 081757B. to SIMOON (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. Capt. S. 8, Capt. S. 3, F.O.S. TRIBUNE.)

? L.C.T.343,
encounter
with U/B.

L.C.T.343, straggler from Flight D. landing craft, reports sighting what appeared to be a barrage balloon at 0650/6 in position 40° 45' N. 12° 33' W. At 0710/6 it burst into flames and whilst L.C.T.343 was closing to salvage, a U-boat surfaced at about 1.5 range.

U-boat withdrew at same time opening fire with largest gun. About 50 rounds were fired all falling very close but not hitting landing craft. U-boat finally disappeared over horizon.
(F.O. Gib. 081807 to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Plymouth)

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

X Coastal Force Convoy 2 U-Boats believed sunk 4 May.

My 071543. (re survivors picked up from two U-Boats.) Further investigation has failed to throw any further light on this episode which still remains obscure. L.C.T. Convoy, all of which now arrived, saw no gunfire that night. 2. Questioning of prisoners of war at Gib. tends to confirm that survivors are from two different boats.
(F.O. Gibraltar 081824B. to Admty.)

PASTEUR.

Designate one destroyer to R/V and escort PASTEUR to Casablanca from 34.10 N. 16.20 W. E.T.A. R/V 111600Z. PASTEUR through (T) 34.10 N. 22.25 W. (Q) 34.02 N. 08.01 W. thence Casablanca speed 19.5. Normal air coverage will be provided. Guard 2410 kc/s.
(C.M.S.F.F. 081955Z. to C.T.F.67 (R) PASTEUR.)

Movements, Gibraltar.

Arrivals ARCTIC RANGER ex escort duties East. ADVENTURE from Algiers. ALBACORE from Safi. L.C. (L) 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193 from Port Lyautey. Departures WHEATLAND, WILTON to Bone. VETCH, EGGESFORD, ILEX, CALPE, FUCKERIDGE, HAYDON to join U.G.F.8.
(F.O. Gib. 082005B. to Admty. etc.)

Air Report.

A.I.428. Op. Summ. No. 188 for 24 hrs. ended 1800 hrs. 8th May. (G) Sightings and attacks Hud. 1/233 on A/S sweep W. at 1843/7 35.20 N. 12.00 W. sighted from 2½ miles fully surfaced U-Boat course 225/5 knots and at 1845B/7 attacked the U-Boat course, still surfaced, from dead astern releasing 4 D/Cs. from 50 feet. D/Cs. exploded in line with U-Boats track 50/70 feet to port. During and after attack M.G. used against 3 or 4 men on deck 1 seen to fall. U-Boat returned fire but A/C not hit. Hud. X/233 on A/S sweep W. at 1845B/7 35.20 N. 12.00 W. sighted R.9 (corrupt group) 7 miles wake identified at 4 miles as U-Boat which turned from course 215 to course 035 after attack by 1/233. Attacked from 60° on starboard bow releasing 4 D/Cs. from 50/70 feet while U-Boat was still surfaced. P.D/C.S. straddled U-Boat, 3 to starboard and 1 to port close to C/T. U-Boat appeared to list and an unidentified object was thrown 50/100 feet into air. M.G. used against several men on deck. U-Boat dived slowly, C/T only just visible resurfaced down by stern and steering in circles then disappeared leaving no trace.* B.24 (Port Lyautey) on Convoy Escort (S.L.128 at 1032B/7 in position N.V.M.F. 0010 sighted U-Boats periscope only course 020/8 10 knots no attack. B.24 (Port Lyautey) on Convoy Escort (S.L.128) at (1205B/7) in position 41.20 N. 18.05 W. sighted U-Boats periscope only, course 020° 8 knots, no attack.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 082335B. as amended 092358B.) * Considered probably sunk, see 092358B.

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

U/B
R.S.4 F. D/F bearings of transmission on 7770 k/cs at 2142 k/cs indicate that you may have been reported by a U-boat.
(D.D.I.C., 080057B to Escorts of R.S.4 F. (R) F.O.C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
A.M. 080025B. Add Simonstown 313/C San Juan

096/Q Georgetown 080/C. These bearings make A.M. 080057B doubtful.
(D.D.I.C., 080235B to F.O.C.W.A.)
A.M. 080057B. Inclusive bearings of further transmissions on 7770 k/cs at 2255Z/7 and 0135Z/8 suggest you may be shadowed.
(D.D.I.C., 080440B to Escorts of R.S.4 F (R) F.O.C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

WORCESTERSHIRE From 0431Z/8th May WORCESTERSHIRE to join D.C.22.
2. Requirement on arrival 100 tons diesel fuel oil, 100 tons fresh water.
(N.L.O. East London, 080549Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A. etc).

Your 071805 May to C. in C. S.A. and C. in C. E.F. only.
Intend sailing WORCESTERSHIRE May 11th from Capetown (?for) U.K. S. of A. 13 knots.
2. (Route). to Clyde, or as ordered by Admiralty.
3. C. in C. W.A., is requested to order onward route from position (Q).
(C. in C. S.A., 081430B to Admty. (R) Cominch etc).

U/B Following has been read from ZSM (Mossel Bay)
Submarine sighted 34.52 S., 22.14 E. at 0825 hours
Submarine dived heading west.
(Simonstown W/T T.O.R. 1017/8).

Dispositions. BRIDGEWATER, CYCLAMEN, BUTTERMERE, CORINTHIAN, ARMERIA, PORTSDOWN, WESER (?YESTOR) with T.S.38 05.36 10.55 302 8.
ROHILKHAND, ARRAN, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE M.M.S. (906?)
M.L. 10 (?18) with S.T. 64, 05.36, 10.20, to 05.32 10.13 thence 131 5½.
NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, LEWES with W.S.29, 01.19 S., 04.15 W, 106 12.
BOREAS, WITCH escorting 02.56 04.45 to Takoradi 12.
French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA search vicinity 01.30 S., 09.30 W., 13½.
6 M.Ls. 07.40 N., 14.16 W., to 06.52 12.23 to 06.38 12.32 thence 302 10.
(F.O.C.W.A., 081022Z).
Situation at 1959/8th May. F.C.GLOIRE about 12.45 N., 24.10 to 14.40 20.00 thence Dakar 19 CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.29 14.
CILICIA 09.30 23.10 075° 14.
F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE escorting 09.54 15.05 to join 14.
WASTWATER, DUNCTON 09.38 14.24 295° 7.
ANTHONY off Dakar to North 16.
BULLDOG escorting off Dakar to South 14.
(F.O.C.W.A., 081118Z).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions (contd). Weekly statement S.A. Station 8th May.
 Capetown to Lagos TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES.
 Capetown to Walvis Bay, FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY.
 Walvis Bay to Capetown, SONNY BOY, VIVIANA ,
 HERTFORDSHIRE. Walvis Bay to Simonstown P.614, ST. ZENO.
 Capetown to Durban LADY ROSEMARY, INDIAN STAR, NORTHERN DUKE.
 Durban to Capetown QUADRANT, FREESIA, WORCESTERSHIRE, CAPE
 WARWICK, DRANGEY.
 Durban area ROCKROSE, GENISTA, RESOLUTION (?NIZAM)QUICKMATCH,
 REDOUBT, SONDRA.
 Kilindini to Durban, MARGUERITE.
 Saldanha Bay FERNMOOR (?Kilindini) NORMAN, NORTHERN ISLES,
 NORTHERN DAWN, MEAD, CECILE MAPLESON, MASTERFUL.
 Simonstown S/M P.552 M.Ls. 381,830, 11, 50, FROBISHER, SPINDRIFT,
 WELLARD, BLACKMORE, B.Y.M.S.5, 6, 7, 8.
 East London KIRRIEMOOR. Durban ETHIOPIAN, LADY ELSA, MANCHESTER
 CITY, ST. LOMAN, STELLA POLARIS, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN
 CHIEF, LE TIGER, COVENTRY CITY, NIGELLA, JASMINE, CORSICA
 (A.S.I.S.)M.Ls. 1200, 1197.
 (C. in C. S.A., 081028B).

Convoy Sailing telegram. 2. 1100Z/7th May.
 D.C.22 4. 14 knots to position (W) thence 12 knots.
 5. Coastal passing through position (U) 33.06 S.
 27.59 E. (V) 34.07 S., 25.45 E. (W) 35.03 S.
 20.01 E. Ref. Saldanha Bay LB 61 to 68.
 6. QUADRANT, FREESIA. (5 ships).
 (N.C.S.O. Durban, 071114Z to Admty etc).

Shipping I am concerned at large number of ships proceeding
 from Cape to South Africa from canal zone via Cape Horn
 Horn, which do not take their B.A.M.S. diversions or
 diversions. are so far ahead of their plotted positions as
 to render compliance with diversion hazardous.

(2) Recent examples are: (A) DEER LODGE diverted
 to Saldanha Bay on 5th Feb. and torpedoed off
 Port Elizabeth on 17th Feb.

(B) ROBERT BACON diverted to Walvis Bay on 30th April and
 reported herself in 041° 50' S., 015° E. on 2nd May. Ship
 was 1100 miles ahead of plot.

(C) WILLIAM HARPER diverted to Walvis Bay on 26th April and
 sighted off Port Elizabeth on 6th May.

(D) FREDERICK REMINGTON diverted to Walvis Bay on 29th April
 and reported herself in difficulties on 6th May in 041° 56' S.
 011° 52' E. Ship was in a very dangerous position and was
 ordered direct to Capetown.

(3) Propose (A) that all ships fitted with H/F transmission re-
 port position on crossing 060° west.

(B) That other ships report position on (?414) k/cs to Falkland
 Is. for transmission to (?Admty) and C. in C. S.A. or preferably
 that these ships call at Port Stanley for orders.

(4) N.O.I.C. Falkland Is. reports that visual communications
 would generally be unsatisfactory in view of prevailing weather
 conditions.

(C. in C. S.A., 081153B to Admty. (R) Connav, N.O.I.C. Falklands)
 Reply: Admty. 081808B (See America and West Indies).

/Paravanes...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

X Paravanes,
Freetown.

Admty. 1813A/29th March. Request convoys may be ordered to run paravanes from crossing 200 fathom line when *Freetown (F.O.C.W.A., 081322Z to B.N.L.O. Dakar, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Plymouth N.O.I.C. Bathurst, N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, Comar Dakar, Connav, B.N.L.O. W.A.) *Group missed ? approaching.

CAMBRIA

Cable ship CAMBRIA arrived May 7th. (B.R.L.O. Montevideo, 081400Z to Admty).

U/B

Aircraft report fully surfaced S/M in 005° 30' N., 012° 45' W., at 1445Z/8, course 112° crash dived. (F.O.C.W.A., 081536Z to Escort of T.S.38 and S.T.46, Ships in area P.2, (R) Admty).

U/B

U.S. Authorities report via Ascension sighting submarine crash diving in 06° 30' S., 12° 55' W. at 081153Z. Source unknown report considered improbable. (F.O.C.W.A., 081622Z to Admty).

Movements,
Dakar.

Arrived 1245Z. BULLDOG, ANTELOPE escorting CUBA and NIEUW HOLLAND.
(2) Intend to sail ANTELOPE for Gibraltar 1700Z/8
(3) Intend to sail BULLDOG escorting CUBA for Freetown 0700Z/9th.
(Comar Dakar 081648Z to R.A.W.A. Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar) See also 081746Z.

X S.L. convoys.

Pass to N.C.S.O.s. The former practice of disposing ships in S.L. convoys to facilitate splitting into fast and slow sections should be discontinued.

2. Consideration should be given in future to disposing Bristol Channel ships in starboard columns.

3. To enable Gibraltar section to conform no objection is seen to convoys on sailing from Freetown leaving several port columns vacant for such joiners as are not for Bristol Channel.

4. Above should be brought to notice of Commodores.

5. A.M. 242242 April refers.

(D.T.D., 081659B to F.O.C.W.A., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Med).

KUMAON

Arrival Pointe Noire 1600Z/8th. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 081705A to F.O.C.W.A.)

Movements,
Freetown.

Arrivals 2130/7/5/43. COMMANDANT DETROYAT, BELLWORT. M.Ls. 302, 287, 244, 209 from short escort. (S.O.(I) Freetown 081712Z to Admty).

/BULLDOG...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

BULLDOG,
CUBA,
ARCTURUS,
WASTWATER,
DUNCTON.

Your 081059, not to Admty. Intend sailing BULLDOG escorting CUBA 0700Z/9th for Freetown. (2) Speed made good 14 knots routed from Goree Island through positions E. 11.51 17.12 F. 10.53 17.22 G. 09.27 13.58 H. 08.29 13.30. (3) ARCTURUS escorted by WASTWATER and DUNCTON on passage to Dakar pass through position G. 09.27 N., 13.58 W., at 1600Z/8th thence A. 10.53, 17.08 to Goree Island. Speed made good 7 knots. (Comar Dakar, 081746Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) Admty. BULLDOG).

X Troop
Movements,
Freetown -
Gibraltar.

Your 061916 May approved, provided F.O. Gibraltar can provide onward escort from Casablanca. 2. The ship calling at Casablanca would appear also to be a better opportunity to transport 168 R.A.F. from Freetown than HAI LEE. D. of S.T's 061815 May refers. HAI LEE could then return to U.K. by S.L. convoy. (D.O.D. (F) 081750B to F.O.C.W.A. (R) C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar) Reply: F.O. Gibraltar 101515B.

ANTELOPE

061405 not to Admty. Sailed ANTELOPE for Gib. E.T.A. 1400B/12th routed through positions A. 14.45 17.43 B. 21.45 17.57 C. 24.43 16.42 D.28 (703) 13.34 E. 33.10 09.31 F. 35.45 06.30 thence ? through Q.K.A.87. (Capt. D.2., 081807Z to N.O.I.C. West Africa, (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Comar Dakar).

LULWORTH HILL
(sunk 19/3).

British ship LULWORTH HILL sunk by U-boat approx. 19th March in position not yet known. Two survivors picked up from raft on 7th May by RAPID. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 081859Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

CITY OF
EDINBURGH.

Understand CITY OF EDINBURGH is proceeding to you with fire in number 2 hatch. As this ship has broken away from W.S. convoy and is carrying port service cargo, request you report daily to D. of S.T. repeated to me. (D.S.T.O. West Africa, 082008Z to S.S.T.O Takoradi).

/HIGHLAND,...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. - Contd.

HIGHLAND
CHIEFTAIN.

Your 032313 April. HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN left today for Montevideo having embarked following personnel (list) for U.K. Staff Paymaster and 3 other ranks embarked for passage to Montevideo only. (N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, 082031Z to D.S.T.)

DESPATCH

F.O.C.W.Af. 041942. Intend leaving 082300Z E.T.A. Recife 111200Z. W/T watch as in A.F.O."S" 1/43 with additional Recife broadcast continuously Commander 4th Fleet acknowledge. (DESPATCH, 082057Z to Commander 4th Fleet (R) F.O.C.W.Af., A.N.A. Rio de Janeiro, Admty. Cominch).

CLAN LAMONT,
EMPIRE KAMAL.

Freight ship CLAN LAMONT sailed in convoy W.S.29 for Durban.
2. Freight ship EMPIRE KAMAL for Capetown sailed to overtake convoy.
(D.S.T.O.W.A., 062334 to P.S.T.O. Capetown etc).

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8.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.X
Axis
Message re
Prisoners.

Following received from Radio Security:-
Intercept in P/L on 4353 k/cs at 0026Z from
Station using call sign Z4 (begins):-
Here is C. in C. of Axis Forces in Africa.
To C. in C. 2nd Army Corps and C. in C. 5th Army
Corps.

From C. in C. Axis Forces in Africa at La Goulette at Ooglegap.
Ships with British and American prisoners of war are locked
up in ship. Guard very probably taken prisoners without having
possibility to set free the British and American prisoners of
war - S O S - not bomb this ship otherwise you would kill your
Comrades. You must deliver them to C. in C. Axis Forces.
Please acknowledge.

SERAPH,
information.

My 071728. 2 Fleet M/S and 2 (? motor) M/S
leaving Algiers to eastward at 060(?0)A.
2. 2 destroyers due Algiers from westward at
0530A.
(Capt. (S) 8, 080040A to P.219 (SERAPH).)

JERVIS,
NUBIAN,
PALADIN.

Intend sailing JERVIS (S.O. 14th D.F.), NUBIAN,
PALADIN at 0700A/8th to comply with C. in C.
Med. 0720(?)01 and 072213.
2. Routed (M) 035° 04' 012° 24'. (N) at 1715A
036° 00' 011° 15'. (O) 037° 05' 011° 39'.
S. of A. 20 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 080103B to Capt. (D) 19th D.F.,
(Corrupt group), S.O.I.S., F.O. 12th C.S., ALDENHAM, A.I.G.263,
C. in C. Med., Capt. (D) 6th D.F.)
Sailed JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN on operations.
(V.A.M., 080800 to Admty., etc.)

DOLFIJN.

Your 072200 acknowledged. Proceed through 038°
23' 004° 42' at 0500/8th thence R/V escort
Algiers in 036° 58' 003° 12' at 0700/9th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 080238A to P.47.)

P.A. 36.

Convoy P.A.36 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 080455Z to Admty.)

Movements,
Aden.

Arrival 0415Z CARNATIC.
Departures 0330Z CESSNOCK and IPSWICH in company,
NEBULA and NIMBUS in company. 0430Z SOEMBA.
(Cdre. Aden, 080631Z to C. in C. Levant, etc.)

/KLO ...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

KLO,
GLOXINIA,
PRIMULA. Your 071215C (N.T. in W.R.) KLO damaged by depth charge explosion. Repair and boiler cleaning at Tripoli till about 15th. Remainder serviceable. GLOXINIA, 1250 hours, had intended she should clean about 16th at Malta where hull repairs can be undertaken. PRIMULA, 750 hours.

FALK nil. Group already committed to full programme between Tripoli and Negritos throughout May.
(S.N.O. Tripolitania, 080838 to C. in C. Levant, (R) N.Os. I.C. Malta, Libya, Sfax, GLOXINIA, Cdre. D.)

G.U.S. 7. MARSHALL ELLIOT did not sail owing damaged windlass.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 080910A to A.I.G.259, (R) Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

G.U.S.7 arrivals BENJAMIN BOURNE, EMPIRE HAVEN, HENRY W. LONGFELLOW, GEORGE SHIRAS.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 081320 to Admty., etc.)

Movements,
Alexandria. Departures 7th May DULVERTON, TETCOTT, BEAUFORT, KELVIN, PINDOS, MIAOULES, PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.
Arrival 7th May F.S. LEOPARD.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 080918C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,
Beirut. 7th May arrival Greek Destroyer AETOS, PROTEA.
Departure ABDIEL.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 080935C to Admty.)

Movements,
Sousse. Arrival ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, HURSLEY, PETARD, ALDENHAM, EXMOOR.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 081012A to Admty.)

U/B. Following read. 1 S/M bearing 000° Ras Zebib 2 miles.
(A/C BRH1/3, 081025A.)

Repatriations. Arrival 8th 1030 Humber (sic) GRADISCA, ARGENTINA, and CITTA DI TUNISIA (Italian).
(C.S.A. Smyrna, 081041C to M.W.T.)

SOKOL,
UPROAR. Cancel my 071209. Onward routing from P through following positions 037° 07' 013° 15', 035° 57' 013° 56', 035° 41' 014° 23'. Both S/Ms to arrive 0830B/12th to R/V M/S.s at S. of searched channel.
(2) My 071206 is cancelled.
(Capt. (S) 10, 081053B to O.R.P. SOKOL, P.31 (UPROAR), C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, (R) S/Ms on Patrol, Capt. (S) 1, C. in C. Levant)

/G.U.S.7 ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.S. 7. CHARLES SCHIAFFINO returned due to weather.
(Cdre. Algiers, 081058A to Admty., etc.)
G.U.S. 7 arrivals (4 ships).
(Comnob. Oran, 081320A to Admty., etc.)

Destroyer Amend night patrol area in my 072001 for tonight
Night 8th May as follows:
Patrols. (2) EE - LAFOREY, TARTAR, LOYAL.

FF - BICESTER, OAKLEY, ZETLAND.
GG - JERVIS (?), NUBIAN, PALADIN.
HH - ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR.

(3) Submarines are to be attacked between 036° 40' and 037° 50' between 1800 and 0800.

(4) JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN to bombard Kelibia at dusk on passage to patrol. Shore battery may be controlled by R.D.F. Undue risks are not to be taken but if no enemy reaction navigated bombardment should be carried out at dawn tomorrow 9th May on withdrawal from patrol.

(5) Destroyers in area EE and FF moving to area CC and DD respectively at daylight tomorrow 9th.

(C. in C. Med., 081118A to LAFOREY, ALDENHAM, BICESTER, JERVIS, (R) V.A. Malta, F.O.I.S., F.O. 12th C.S., A.I.G.263.)*
ALDENHAM, HURSLEY and EXMOOR sailed in accordance with

C. in C. Med. 072001 at 1800 today Saturday passing through position X 036° 25' N. 011° 15' E. at 2000A. ALDENHAM has no orders for withdrawal on completion of operations.

(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 081453A to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, Capt. (S) 10, Capt. (D), S.O. 6th D.F.)

See also 082014.

* See also 081251A.

X CONSTANZ,
German W/T
reference
as hospital
ship.

Following in German P/L intercepted at 0141B/8th. (Begins). To hospital ship CONSTANZ from German Staff SUPERMARINA. Position and speed is to be broadcast in German P/L every 4 hours on outward and return voyage. Broadcast at once on arrival "I am at anchor". Begins embarking wounded. At moment of departure broadcast "I have wounded on board, am raising anchor". On either side voyage

broadcast position and speed in German and English. (Ends). CONSTANZ replied at 0600B giving her position 036° 52' N. 011° 15' E. speed 10 knots.

Note: CONSTANZ is not registered as hospital ship.

(C.O.I.S. Alex., 081132C to C. in C. Med., etc.)

My 081132, later repeated Admiralty. Please confirm that CONSTANZ has not yet been registered as a German hospital ship.

(C.O.I.S. Alex., 081739C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

Your 081739. SS. CONSTANZ is not registered as Hospital ship.

(Duty Capt., 082020B to C.O.I.S. Alexandria, (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant.)

/Information ...

8.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Information for S/Ms. Bizerta and Tunis were in our hands yesterday. Own surface forces will be operating in Sicilian Channel tonight and will attack S/Ms between latitudes 036° 40' and 037° 50' from 1800/8th until 0600/9th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 081136A to 8th S/M.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)

6th D.F., A/C attack, BLYSKAWICA damaged. My P.C. and S. 037° 21' N. 009° 10' E., 270°, 12 knots. Determined attack 15 Junkers 88s and 2 torpedo bombers over Stromboli yesterday Friday. O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA sustained slight damage from near miss. One aircraft attacked with torpedo at 2158. No surface craft detected in daylight. E.T.A. Bone 1700A.
(Capt. D.6, 081202 to F.O. 12th C.S., (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, C. in C. Med., Capt. (D) 19th, D.F., BICESTER.)

NELSON, endurance. In order to obtain Optimum underwater protection while operating in Mediterranean under present conditions it is proposed to direct NELSON to reduce her maximum full stowage of fuel to 3250 tons by not filling D.B. tanks to more than 70% and reducing height of oil in wing tanks by 2 feet. This entails reducing endurance by about 18%
Request approval.
(S.O. Force H, 081208B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty.)
Approved. (C. in C. Med., 091428A.)

Convoy M.W.30. Intend sailing convoy X.W.30 (?M.W.30) codeword "Wagon", S. of A. 6½ knots at 1402/10th. LEESANG, HERMES, ELPIS, KAHOOKRAND and KEPONG, BASSET, HOUND to arrive Benghazi a.m./14th. Escort DELPHINIUM, G.S. SAKTOURIA, BURRA, M.L.357, M.L.1126. No escort from group (3) will be available to remain in S.N.O. Cyrenaica's area.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 081233C to C. in C. Med., (R) Cdre. (D) Levant Station, DELPHINIUM, HURWORTH, X.7, Tripolitania, P.S.T.O. Mideast Egypt, S.S.T.O. Alexandria, C.C.F.E.M.)

Orders to Destroyers on Night Patrols. Sink, burn and destroy. Let nothing pass.
(C. in C. Med., 081251A to LAFOREY, BICESTER, ALDENHAM, JERVIS, (R) V.A. Malta, F.O. 12th C.S.)

P.R.U. May 8th visuals. 1120 Taranto: 2 battleships in outer harbour, 1 cruiser in inner harbour, 1 cruiser in dry dock. 1125 Messina: no major naval units.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 081312B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/P.R.U. ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. (Contd.) P.R.U. May 8th visuals. 1735 Taranto: 2 battleships, 2 cruiser. 1815 Messina: no major naval units. (V.A. Malta, 081956B to C. in C. Med., etc.)

Axis Shipping, Barcelona. Departure 7th 2030 CASTILLO MONCADA (Spanish) Huelva. Arrival 8th A.M. C. DE PARK (Spanish) C. DE MAHON (Spanish), MAURO CROCE (Italian) (reported slightly damaged by shellfire after leaving Valencia). Departure 8th DOMINE (Spanish) Las Palmas. (Barcelona, 081328 to Admty.)

U.G.S.7(A). Philippeville section arrived, GULFPRINCE, MARS, TORFINN JARL, RICHARD H. ALVEY, L.S.T.303. (N.O.I.C. Philippeville, 081341A to Admty., etc.) (U.G.?) S.7A arrived less DUXFULL. (? Algiers, 081701A to Admty., etc.)

CASTILLO MONTEALEGRE survivors. Spanish Consul at Tangier has requested permission for Fernando Po mail steamer to call at Dakar to collect Spanish survivors of CASTILLO MONTEALEGRE. No objection here. If you concur requested you will make necessary arrangements with French Authorities and inform American Consul General at Dakar. (C. in C. Med., 081348A to F.O.C.W.Af., (R) Admty.)

M.T.Bs. Sousse. Intend sailing M.T.Bs in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 080920A para. (A). C.1 codeword "Magott", B.C.N. C.3 codeword "Minor", B.D.L. C.2 codeword "Potent", B.C.K. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 081547A to V.A. Malta, (R) A.I.G.362, F.O.(C) 12, C. in C. Med.)

Air Report. From: Spaatz, H.Q.N.A.A.F. Advanced NR.3350. To: Eaker, C.G. 8th Air Force. To: Brereton, C.G. 9th Air Force. For Day May 7th. 1. 13 Wellingtons dropped 2 x 4,000 pound, 56 x 500 pound and 540 x 4 pound incendiary bombs from 6,500 - 11,000 feet in Trapani, Marsala, Marittimo, and Favignana areas. 1 aircraft was lost. These were diversionary attacks for Malta minelaying missions. 2. 17 P.40, carrying bombs were dropped 3 x 500 pound bombs from 4,000 feet on town of Koubos. 3. 11 x 500 pound bombs were dropped from 4,000 feet in Tunis Harbour. Three motor boats and 150 feet yacht were strafed, the yacht was sunk. Two trucks on road north of Tunis destroyed by strafing. Two power tugs, 150 - 200 feet, were strafed and left in sinking condition. (Allied Air Force, 081623A to Etousa.)

/HAI ...

War Diary.

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Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

HAI LEE. Your 061815. Presume HAI LEE will be included in convoy referred to in F.O.C.W.Af. 061916. If this is so the movement can be arranged.
(C. in C. Med., 081629A to D. of S.T., (R) F.O.C.W.Af., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Commorseafron.)

Movements, 8th May Port Said arrivals ABDIEL, SPETSAI, Port Said. COUNDOURTIOTIS, JAN DE WAELE. Departures PANTHER, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, COUNDOURIOTIS, M.L. 1126, SPETSAI.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 081809C to Admty., etc.)

TRIDENT. You may have been sighted this evening off Elba.
(Capt. (S) 8, 081812A to TRIDENT.)

BARFOIL, Gibraltar local defences. It will be necessary in the near future to sail B.D.V. BARFOIL to Algiers for onward passage. Request you will confirm that local defences can be maintained during the summer months by B.D. Trawler.
(C. in C. Med., 081830A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)
Reply: F.O. Gibraltar, 101817B.

Movements, Sailed GLOXINIA, PRIMULA, FALK, L.C.T.139 and 158. Tripoli. (N.O.I.C. Libya, 081920A to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.594, 8th May.
(A) Air, part 1, offensive. Night 7th/8th May, rain and low cloud prevented all offensive operations. Day 8th May. 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweeps, 2 in Marittimo area and 2 between Cape Passero and Messina Straits. 24 Spitfire bombers escorted by 8? fighter Spitfires with another 4 fighter Spitfires as rear cover attacked Empedocle harbour scoring hits on railway and (over?) station buildings causing much smoke. Part 2. Enemy air activity, nil. Day 7th May, 8 further Spitfire sorties were made to escort outgoing southbound shipping.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 081915Z.)

APHIS, shore bombardments. Your 081019A (N.T. in W.D.) and my 051903A. Requirements no longer stand. Army and R.A.F. now consider best employment for APHIS is bombardment of jetty at Kelibia, with beach south of Ras ed Drek and beach at Menzel Heurr as alternative or subsidiary target. N.O.I.C. Sousse states he can berth APHIS at Sousse with present destroyers and M.T.Bs at present based there.
(N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, 081926A to C. in C. Levant, (R) APHIS, C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Sfax, N.O.I.C. Sousse.)

/Scuttling ...

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- × Scuttling Charges. Explosion on board OCEAN VOYAGER (loaded petrol and ammunition) whilst in harbour during air raid on Tripoli (L) 19th March raises question whether fitting of scuttling charges should be on a broader basis than visualised in A.M. 1013/9th December, 1942.
2. Consider all merchant ships which carry dangerous cargoes should be fitted with scuttling charges when in dangerous waters.
(C. in C. Levant, 081930C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., D.E.M.S. Port Said.)
- × 14th D.F. bombardment. Bombardment completed. Very little opposition. Intend to approach for further bombardment from position 090° Kelibia Light 10 miles at 0401A/9th. N.O.I.C. Sousse inform "Minor" and "Potent".
(Capt. (D) 14th F., 081953A to C. in C. Med., (R) ALDENHAM, V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Sousse.)
- × A/S Escorts for French Convoys. Admiral Michelier has again raised question of A/S escorts for French convoys. He made following points:
(A) He is responsible for a traffic which is essential to the welfare of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and French West Africa and extends from Bone to Dakar and will extend further east.
(B) For this purpose he has two corvettes and four trawlers.
(C) All French merchant vessels of reasonable speed have been placed in list A and are thus in the common pool. He has thus to make do with List B ships which are too slow to be accepted even in our slow convoys.
(D) As a result of the above very serious delays ensue in moving French ships and he has perforce to supply his own escorts.
(E) Michelier asks if he can be allowed up to a dozen trawlers or American P.C. boats to cover his requirements of escorts for his slow convoys.
2. I have as before held out no hope but it must be admitted that based on above statements he has certainly received a rough deal and I feel that we should try and find some way out, either by allotting more ships which can maintain convoy speed or by trying to scrape up some more escorts of the type required. It is only right to observe that the French have been sailing their ships despite most inadequate escort and have sustained a number of losses recently in consequence.
(C. in C. Med., 081956A to Admty.)
- OXFORDSHIRE. Sailed Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at 082000A to Bone. (2) Routed through 89, 90, 36 and 91.
(3) E.T.A. Bone 100700A. (C. in C. Med. pass Comnavnaw).
(Comnob. Oran, 082005A to C. in C. Med., etc.)

/PRODIGAL ...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- PRODIGAL. H.M.T. PRODIGAL sailed for Gibraltar and Algiers for duty with A.C.F. as additional escort in Convoy K.M.S.14 on 5th May 1943. (D.D.O.D.(I), D.O.D.(F) concurs, 082009B to C. in C. Med., F.O.C. Gibraltar.)
- Movements, Today arrivals were QUANTOCK, MAN OF WAR, Oran. AMARAPOORA. Departures were QUANTOCK, OXFORDSHIRE. (C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavnaw). (N.O.B. Oran, 082010A to Admty., etc.)
- ISIS, C. in C. Med. 081305A to V.A. Malta only. QUEEN OLGA, Unless C. in C. Med. orders otherwise proceed PETARD. with 28th Division and remain in area within 10 miles of 036° 10' 011° 30' using economical speed.
2. Retain codeword "Rumford".
(V.A. Malta, 082011 to ISIS, (R) Capt. (D) 14th D.F., ALDENHAM, C. in C. Med.)
V.A. Malta's 082011. ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, PETARD proceed Malta and refuel. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. Med., 082119A to ISIS, (R) V.A. Malta, N.O.I.C. Sousse, ALDENHAM.)
- Movements, Arrivals WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, ACUTE, CADMUS, Algiers. SPEEDWEEL, STORNOWAY, CARLISLE, SERAPH (P.219), H.D.M.L.1123.
Departures FANTOME, ESPIEGLE, LAMERTON, WHADDON, LAUDERDALE, M.M.S.88, 63, French submarine ANTIOPE, CHASSEUR III, SHAKESPEARE (P.221).
(Cdre. Algiers, 082013A to Admty., etc.)
- Orders to My 081118. Destroyers. JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN are to shift patrol to area HH during daylight tomorrow 9th May bombarding Kelibia at dawn, discretion of Capt. (D) 14.
2. ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR are to withdraw from patrol at 0400A and return to Malta.
3. V.A. Malta is requested sail ISIS, QUEEN OLGA, PETARD at 0500A to occupy area GG codeword "Liege". (See amendment 082129B)
4. Between 1200A and 1500/9th May LAFOREY, TARTAR and LOYAL are to approach Sidi Daud 037° 00' 010° 54' carrying out bombardment if any activity is observed. Subsequently return area CC.
5. Submarines are to be attacked if encountered in Patrol Areas. (C. in C. Med., 082014 to LAFOREY, ALDENHAM, BICESTER, JERVIS, N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) S.N.O. Trip., F.O. 12th C.S.)
Amend time of sailing in para. 3 of my 082014 to read 0800.
(C. in C. Med., 082129B to V.A. Malta, (R) JERVIS.)

/Situation ...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Situation
Report 90.

- (1) During night 6th/7th May 3 Fleets from Malta carried out patrols south of Marittimo. 3 Fleets and 3 Hunts from Bone patrolled in 2 area West of Marittimo. One Ju.88 was damaged and probably destroyed by LAFOREY. 2 Hunts sighted one E-Boat and were attacked by an aircraft at 0132/7th without damage.
- (2) 2 groups of coastal craft from Bone proceeded on 6th May to patrol North-west of Plane Island and in Gulf of Tunis during night. M.T.Bs from Sousse also carried out sweep North of Cape Bon.
- (3) During night of 7th/8th May, 3 Fleets from Malta carried out patrol south of Marittimo and 3 Hunts operated off Kelibia Roads. 3 Fleets from Bone patrolled west of Marittimo. A determined attack by 15 Ju.88 and 2 torpedo bombers was made on last force at dusk, O.R.P. BLYSKAWICA sustained slight damage from near miss. One other torpedo bombers attacked at 2158/7th. No surface force was seen by any of these forces.
- (4) On 7th May all available coastal forces from Bone proceeded in 5 groups to establish patrol during the night between Cape Guardia and Cape Bon.
- (5) Sweeping of channel between Galita and Bizerta Saturday 0500/8th.
- (6) Paras. 1 and 3. Forces may sail from Bone and Malta in early forenoon in order to take up position so that they can deal with surface craft should they escape our air attack and so as to reach their patrol positions by dusk. S.N.O. Trip. has to proceed to Bizerta and first convoy of 2 L.C.T. and L.C.I. (L) with M/S. E.T.A. Bizerta 1100/9th.
(C. in C. Med., 082043B to Adnty.)
- W.D. Note:- In a repetition of this signal in 092100, (q.v.) paras. 6 and 7 are slightly different.

Situation
Report 28.

- My 022032 para. 1. Approx. number of survivors ERINPURA 464, BRITISH TRUST 60, convoy arrived Tripoli (Libya) and Malta 3rd and 4th May respectively, no further incidents.
2. ABDIEL has completed movement of 1600 troops from Cyprus to Levant, now exercising at Suez.
3. 14th D.F. (less JAVELIN and KELVIN) and three Hunts operating Sicilian Channel from Malta. DULVERTON and four hunts due Malta 9th May.
(C. in C. Levant, 082046C to Adnty.)

Movements,
Bone.

Bone arrivals ATHERSTONE, HOLCOMBE, PENTSTEMON, RHYL, ROTHESAY, CLACTON, FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN, L.S.Ts. 306, 333, 369, 391, 392 and 393.
Departures RHYL, ROTHESAY, CLACTON, FELIXSTOWE, POLRUAN.
(C.S.12, 082117A to C. in C. Med., Adnty., F.O. Gibraltar.)

/Movements ...

War Diary.

8.5.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.Movements,
Tobruk.

Arrived and sailed DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, KELVIN, M.L.198, MIAOULES (Greek ship). Also arrived M.Ls 355, 356 and 359. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 082118C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

PAPANICOLIS.

You were probably sighted at northbound 30 and (at ?) 0910 today 8th. (Capt. (S) 1, 082141C to PAPANICOLIS.)

Ships ex
U.G.F. 8.

Understand that five ships ex U.G.F.8 are required to proceed to U.K. after discharging here. Is it intended that these ships should wait at Gibraltar until M.K.F.15 or will a special escort be provided? No escort can be provided from here. (C. in C. Med., 082144 to Admty.)

Troop Move.
Nigeria to
India.

Your 061724. It is very unlikely that escorts can be provided from the Mediterranean for passage of ships in paragraph 1 (b) and (c) to West Africa. (C. in C. Med., 082146A to D. of S.T., (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

/ Convoys'
E.T.A.

When convoys are likely to arrive early at R/V it is important that S.Os of escort should signal an amended E.T.A. as early as possible in order that sections joining may be sailed in time from ports concerned. (C. in C. Med., 082150A to Med. Station 415 K.)

UNISON,
UNRIVALLED,
UNITED.

(1) P.43 (UNISON) operating in zone C from 0200/10th withdraws to northward Brindisi.
(2) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) leaves zone E at 0200/10th and proceeds south of Ustica and through position P at 0500/11th thence to Malta as ordered by (S) 10.
(3) P.44 (UNITED) after passing P at 1500/10th proceed through position 000° Ustica 15 miles to operate in zone (F).
(4) All times zone minus 1.
(Capt. (S) 8, 082150A to 8 S.F., (R) Capt. (S) 10.)
* Reference to UNITED cancelled.
(S.8, 091144A.)

/M.T.Bs. ...

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs. M.T.Bs. sailing for Sousse 15 miles North of Linosa as follows: (a) 76, 78, 65, 84, 309, 0630B/9th. E.T.A. 1630B/9th, codeword "Wilfred". (b) 261 and 268, 2300B/9th. E.T.A. 0700B/10th, codeword "Trial".

2. All fighter protection low priority, W/T guard 183 k/cs. (V.A. Malta, 082303 to C. in C. Med., S.N.O. Trip., C.S.12, ISIS, ALDENHAM, N.O.I.C. Sousse, Capt. (D) 14.)

Movements,
Benghazi.

Sailed ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW, RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE, M.L.358. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 082344C to Admty., (R) C. in C. Levant.)

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8.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements. Arrival SCOUT at 0325Z/8th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 080230Z to Admty.)
GAMBIA left.
(F.O.E.Af. 080536Z to Admty.)

Departure SCOUT, WUCHANG 1035Z/8th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 081037Z to Admty.)
Departures 0120 RAMDAS escorting one ship. 1015Z
CARTHAGE, JUMNA, GERALDTON with B.A.43.
(S.O.I. Bombay 081112Z to Admty.)
Arrival BARRYMORE 1147Z/8th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 081150Z to Admty.)
Colombo departures 8th 0605Z HOKA.
(F.O.Ceylon 081150Z to Admty.)

FORT MUMFORD "Dhow" from India arrived Mikindani 6th May
(Br.) reported with British Sailor named Horace Bailey who
torpedoed 20th March. states his ship named FORT MUMFORD was
torpedoed on night of 20th March approx. 500
miles N.W. of Ceylon en route for Suez. Bailey
was picked up by "Dhow" from wreckage on 25th.
March states saw no sign of his ship enemy craft
or survivors.
(C. in C.E.F. 080703Z to Admty. S.O.I.Colombo,
S.O.I. Aden.)

Movements No. 62 May 8th.
Summary. 1. GAMBIA left Kilindini 8th due Durban 12th.
2. HAWKINS left Bombay 7th escorting convoy J.M.
1, 2 ships (?), Durban. Routed West of
Seychelles and through Mozambique Channel speed
16½ knots. Convoy due Durban 17th.
3. FALMOUTH left Colombo 7th due Kilindini 16th.
4. Movement Summary No. 61 Item 2 CARADOC due Diego Suarez 10th.
(C. in C.E.F. 080734Z to E.F. 277Y.)

Troop Movements. Following extra moves are being arranged. My
011001Z and 070307Z refer.
1. B.A.44 one personnel ship DUNERA with approx.
700 troops sails 17th.
2. Bombay to Colombo and Adau Atoll one personnel
ship JALAGOPAL sails 22nd.
(P.S.T.O.I. 080811Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.
Ceylon, Cdre. Aden, D.S.T. Arm. India.)

VITA. My 040617Z. VITA sailing delayed. One main
dynamo armature burnt out. This requires for
repairs one week. Will signal sailing date as
asson as possible.
(P.S.T.O.I. 080817Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.O.
Ceylon, Comrin, C. in C.Levant, Admty.)

/B.A.43...

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8.5.1943.

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

B.A.43. Sailing telegram (6 ships, list.) 2. 0930Z/8th.
 3. Expected time crossing 055° E. 1730Z/13th.
 3A. Expected time of arrival Aden 0600/16th.
 4. 9 knots. (Route). 6. CARTHAGE, JUMNA,
 GERALDTON.
 (N.C.S.O. Bombay 081103, 081105Z to Admty.)

X Karachi A.X.806 8th May.
 Air base Reference India's A.335, 30th April. Agree
 for F/B development of Karachi for 2 F/B Squadrons.
 Squadrons. Consider that Masira should be used as advance
 base for up to 9 F/Bs to obtain maximum
 cover approaches to Persian Gulf. Our A.X.
 567/23rd April should be amended accordingly.
 2. You should consider and report on possibilities of Gwadar
 and Bahrein as advanced bases for F/B detachments covering
 Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf respectively. Provision of
 these would give maximum flexibility to F/B Squadrons this
 area and provide emergency diversion bases.
 3. Refers aircraft for 191 Squadron instructed to proceed
 Karachi not Jiwani. Your A.236, 7th May refers.
 (Air Min. 081144Z to A.H.Q.India, H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (R) 222
 Group, A.H.Q. E.Af.)

Kilindini A.X.812 May 8th. My X.617 6th May (061000).
 R.D.F.cover Statement that South African personnel would
 man stations incorrect. Position is that
 South Africans may be willing to provide R.D.F.
 personnel on an exchange basis with Middle East.
 Question of provision of R.D.F. cover Kilindini Area to be
 reconsidered shortly by the Chief of Staff.
 (Air Ministry 081200Z to Admty. H.Q.R.F.M.E. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

India Air A.246/8th May. Daily I.N.T.Summary No. 419
 Report. 8th May. G. U.S.A.A.F. reports 1st May. 7
 B.24s Rangoon 62 X 500 lb. dropped on shipping
 and docks. No hits, shipping. Several hits
 wharves and shore installations.
 (A.H.Q.India 081300Z to Air Min.)

Attacks on A.M. 091845 July 1942. A. E.F.10. A. E.F.11.
 suspected B. 13th March 1943. B. 19th March 1943.
 U/B. C. SOBKRA. C. GAWLER. D.025° 48' N. (?100°)
 49' E. 004° 20' (corrupt group) S. (group
 missed) 45' E. .E. None. E. H. F. Evidence
 strongly indicates that object attacked was
 wreck of Italian S/M LUIGI GALVANI. My 191552 March
 (attack of object with depth charges by SOBKRA and SUTLEJ
 thought to be U-Boat.) refers.
 (C. in C.E.F. 081345 to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon, S.N.O.P.G.)

/DILWARA...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.

DILWARA.

Your 060113 (Z E9/8 0113).
Most desirable that DILWARA should take part in rehearsals. Ship is therefore required to arrive Suez 20th May as P.S.T.O.M.E. has already informed D. of S.T.
(N.C.X.F. 081352C to P.S.T.O.India, (R) D.C.O. India, P.S.T.O.M.E. C. in C.Levant, D. of S.T. Admty. C. in C.Med.)

X Dutch S/Ms
refit programme.

1. Following is provisional refit programme of Royal Neth. Navy submarines.
- | Submarine. | Place of refit. | Date of arrival. |
|------------|-----------------|------------------|
| O.23 | U.K. | 1 Nov. '43. |
| O.24 | U.K. | 1 March '44 |
| O.21 | U.S.A. | 1 March '44. |
- Estimate refit and working up will take 5 months.
2. Estimate following reinforcements to Far East: K.15 early Oct. 1943. K.14 early Nov. 1943. O.19 early Feb. 1944.
(B.D.Z.081440B to C. in C.Netherlands Forces Colombo (R) Admty. F.O.S. C. in C.E.F. S.4., F.O.Ceylon.)

WAYLAND.

Your 051327 para. 4 confirmed.
2. WAYLAND will carry approx. 200 S.R.R.(D) ratings. A.M. 031855 refers.
(D.O.D.(F) 081621B to C. in C.E.F. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.Levant, WAYLAND.)

MAURETANIA.

- MAURETANIA is due to leave New York on 10th May with approx. 7000 U.S. troops for India and Iraq.
2. Desired to avoid a call at the Cape in view of the possibility of renewed U-Boat activities.
3. Transshipment of personnel into, say, three troopships capable of being handled at Bombay during monsoon is necessary. Comnav has been asked whether delay in arrival of personnel in India, if transshipment takes place at Suez, can be accepted.
4. If not, possible alternatives are:-A. Route MAURETANIA via Panama and Southwest Pacific transshipping in Ceylon, presumably Trincomalee, on or about 21st June. B. Route via Rio de Janeiro transshipping at Diego Suarez about 11th June.
5. Request F.O.Ceylon and N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez report whether alternatives A. and B. respectively are practicable from point of view of berthing, the security of vessels concerned, and of transshipment of personnel fuelling and watering. Request C. in C.Eastern Fleet will remark or make alternative proposals.
6. As route must be selected immediately, very early replies are requested.
(D.O.D.(F) 082006B to C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez.)

War Diary.

8.5.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 8th.
 Arrivals PENN, PANTHER, NORTHERN GEM, ex O.N.S.5
 MONTGOMERY ex Halifax, THREE RIVERS, PORT HOPE
 escorting H.J. 50 ex Halifax ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON,
 DUNVEGAN, MULGRAVE ex S.C.129. Departures MONTGOMERY to
 O.N.S.5 SACKVILLE to Londonderry, LINCOLN to Halifax.
 (N.O.I.C. St. Johns, N.F. 08036Z. (as received) to Admty.)
 Arrival MALPEQUE ex J.H.52A.
 (C. Halifax, 081611Z to Admty.)
 Departure 082020, U.S.A.T. GENERAL H.F. RETIERS for
 Paramaribo.
 (B.R.O. Georgetown, 082130Q to Admty.)
 Arrival U.S.C.G. COMANCHE. U.S.S. SAGAMORE, WANDANK,
 RICHARD PECK. From Argentina Departure VILLE DE QUEBEC escorting
 convoy 2 (Special river).
 (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 082142Z to Admty.)
 Arrival CALDWELL, ST. FRANCIS, FREDERICTON, DUNDAS, AMHERST
 CALGARY, ex B.X.49. GRANDMERE from New York.
 (N.O.I.C. Halifax, 082143Z to Admty., etc.)
 San Francisco arrivals May 7th PRESIDENT GRANT, (U.S.A.T.),
 (N.S.H.Q. 082205Z to Admty.)

ORILLIA. Proceeding St. Johns N.F. with engine defects
 my P.C. and S. 045° 41' N. 048° 56' W. 305° 10.
 Weather report.
 (ORILLIA, 080200Z to C. in C. C.N.A. (R) F.O.N.F.
 C. in C., Plymouth, N.S.H.Q. Com. Londonderry.)
 My 0200Z 8th. E.T.A. 0700Z/9 boiler hours. Urgent defects.
 My P.C. and S. 047° 14' N. 050° 43' W. 283° 9.5. Weather report.
 (ORILLIA, 082100Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.At.)

MALPEQUE. Your 072034Z. (N.T. in W.R.) complied with. E.T.A.
 Halifax 1400Z/8. Boiler hours.
 (MALPEQUE, 080405Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

Dispositions. My 071500Z and 072001Z amend O.N.180 W.2 (E) 47.10
 47.32 174° 9 alter to 256° in 44.31 N.
 (C. in C.C.N.A., 080415Z to Admty.)

CALDWELL Boston sailed 1402 G.M.T. ?7 CALDWELL to join escort
 of B.X.49.
 (N.S.H.Q. 080447 to Admty.)

X T.G.21.3 (Hicom from Cinclant. Action U.S.S.CARD info
 construction. Comairlant, Cincomed, Comdeslant, Cmdr. Ranoy,
 Cominch, Comorrocanseafon, Comdesron 13, Admiralty
 Comnavnav). This establishes T.G.21.3 CAPTAIN
 ISSELL CARD, LUDLOW, BRISTOL, WOOLSEY. When ready
 on May 11, CARD, BRISTOL, WOOLSEY, proceed New York where LUDLOW
 will join. Confer therewith Com. Raney U.S.C.G. in BIBB who is
 C.T.F.66, which T.F. escorts convoy U.G.S. 8A. Formulate with
 him plan for T.G.21.3 to provide anti-submarine protection for

/Convoy...

8.5.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

T.G.21.3 construction. (Contd.)
 convoy U.G.S.8A and carry out same in co-operation with C.T.F.66. On arrival African waters T.G. dissolved. Direct LUDLOW, BRISTOL, WOOLSEY report Comnavnav for temporary duty. CARD await orders from me for similar duty with a returning convoy probably G.U.S.8. Comdesron 13 direct destroyers report to CARD.
 (Cominch, 080510Z to Admty.)

T.G.21.4 Convoy O.T.5.
 From Cinclant. C.T.G. 21.4. Info Admty., Comnavnav, Commor S.F., Cominch, C.A.F.A.C. C.C.S.F. Assemble Task Group 21.4 at Aruba prior May 15th. Escort convoy O.T.5 ready that date to Gibraltar and North African ports. Procedure same as on your last trip except that "Chop" for diversion purposes passes to Admiralty between 24 and 30°W. and Destroyers may enter Mediterranean to escort ships in convoy. When directed by Commor S.F. escort convoy T.O. 5 to New York via Aruba.
 (Radio Washington 080755Z to Admty.)

Convoy J.O.1. BADGER.
 My 071404 (071414 intended) BADGER sailed 071902 (S.O.I. Jamaica, 080906Q to Admty.)

KALMIA (Swedish) route.
 Your 301448 April KALMIA is being regarded as on normal Gothenburg traffic until arrival at Aruba. 2. My 150351 Jan. does not apply to Gothenburg traffic ships vide my 291405 April.
 (Hd. of M.I., 080906B to N.S.H.Q.)

Movements Summary	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
1800 G.M.T. 8th.	CNESHIRE	32° N. 36° W.	000°	13
	F.S. GLOIRE	10° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank.
	T.A.41B.	39½° N. 38° W.	246°	25

(D.O.D.(F) 080955Z to Opnav (R) Comnavau)

MANCHESTER, EXPORTER.
 H.X.236. MANCHESTER, EXPORTER reported not with convoy. Please advise if returned.
 (Admty., 081127B to Port Director New York)

H.J.50. Arrived.
 (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 081213Z to Admty.)

/Fuelling...

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies - Contd.

/ Fuelling at Sea, Depth charges. Your 191225 para. 3. O.N.S. 4 oil transfer ATHELPRINCE 400 SCOTTISH HEATHER 400. Depth Charges transferred ATHELPRINCE 20 SCOTTISH HEATHER Nil. Failures one. ATHELPRINCE reports corvette carried away hose line not jack stay. SCOTTISH HEATHER in trial run flotation gear reports radial davits unsatisfactory in SEAWAY. Both ships find bending hose messenger to eye steadying line facilitates fuelling evolution. (B.R.L.O. New York, 081253Z to Admty.)

Your 032036/April para. 2 ATHELPRINCE transferred 20 depth charges 20 carriers. Wind force six on port beam moderate sea Welin Davits most satisfactory. (Details). (B.R.L.O. New York, 081421 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. B.A.D.)

7 Assessment of Attacks on U/Bs. Your 032114B you assess. Your 2027Z/31 March suggest all British and U.S. attacks be assessed by Nationality Attacker. Other nationalities by authority having operational control. If you agree suggest May 15 effective date. (Cominch, 081404 to Admty. (R) Comnavo, B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.) Agreed - D.A./S.W. 102232B to Cominch. Cominch's 081404. U.S. Authorities consulted B.A.D. before making this proposal, as they did not want it to be thought that their proposal was caused by our difference of opinion as to the methods of assessment of attacks by the two countries. 2. They feel that the proposed change will greatly simplify the forwarding of reports of attacks and that although there may be cases where delay will be caused there will be again on balance. Your 032114 is an illustration of a breakdown of an arrangement made out on logical grounds. 3. Under the proposed arrangement reports would be rendered by normal channels. Anomalies could be dealt with as special cases. (B.A.D. 082017Z to Admty.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 081500Z)
 S/M Estimate.

Submarine Estimate 8th May. U/S Submarine Notice. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 081511, 081512, 081556, 081557, 081558).

O.N.182 Smoke Screen Trials. Request you take necessary action on C. in C. W.A. 011359. (Re sailing of O.N. 182 and smoke screening trials during passage.) 2. Anticipate Western local O.N.182 ST. FRANCIS (S) FENNEL, NANAIMO, LACHINE. (C. in C.C.N.A., 081519Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. Admty., C. in C.W.A.)

/North...

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War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

North Atlantic, Convoy Cycles. N.S.H.Q. 062200. 1. To sail S.C. Convoys one day later would be unsatisfactory from point of view of support groups. 2. To sail S.C. Convoys one day earlier would suit support groups but would make Newfoundland lay over insufficient unless and until O.N.S. convoys were sailed one day earlier. 3. Propose therefore that O.N.S. 8 sails May 17th S.C.133 June 5th. Then eleven day intervals. (C. in C.W.A. 081533B to Admty.)

Convoy J.H.52A. Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 081554Z to Admty.)

Proposed N.D. Base at Montreal. Admty. 062108 (Re risk involved by all new ships proceeding from St. Lawrence to Halifax without nets being accepted.) Consider in view of conditions in St. Lawrence most desirable that valuable N.P.F. ships built and loaded in Montreal district should if possible be fitted with A.N.D. before proceeding down river. (N.S.H.Q. 081550Z to B.A.D.(R) Admty., B.A.T.M.M. of W/T. Montreal, C. in C., C.N.A.)

A/S Sweeps. Section North West. PAYNTER, AYRSHIRE, CAPE MARIATO, ST. KENAN carry out A/S sweeps in Cabot Strait. S.S. KYLE, WESTMOUNT Sydney (C.B.) Approaches in bound. (C. in C.C.N.A. 081605Z to Admty.)

SENNEN and certain M/V from Convoy O.N.S.5. E.T.A. St. Johns N.F. 1100Z. In company SENNEN merchant ships from O.N.S.5 DUNSLEY, GUDVOR, DIRECTOR, YEARBY, (?complete) crew of 61 of WEST MADAKET 50 survivors on board. (PINK 081610Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C. C.N.W.At. DUNCAN, Com. (D) Argentinia. Cdre. Londonderry.)

J.H.52. Arrived less PENOLVER, SANTIAGO, LIVERPOOL, LOYALIST CHARLES R. HUNTLEY. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 071612Z to Admty.)

OFFA, PANTHER, PENN, E.G.3. S.C.130. Request OFFA and PANTHER may carry out quickly boiler clean. It is further requested OFFA, PANTHER and PENN may be sailed as 3rd Escort Group to overtake S.C.130. (C. in C.W.A., 081749Z to F.O.N.F.) Request you will sail SENNEN as additional Escort for B.7 Group with S.C.130. (C. in C.C.N. W.A? 081750Z to F.O.C.N.F., C. in C. W.A.)

/Shipping...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies - Contd.

Shipping from Cape Horn diversions. Reference C. in C.S.A. 081153 para. 3 recommend acceptance of sub. para. A. 2. Ref. sub. para. B. as majority of diversions are likely to be required after passing Falkland Islands little advantage would result from calling there for orders. Recommend ships not fitted H.F. transmission be routed close to Falkland Islands and should transmit their positions on 500 k/c using lowest power practicable. Veto could be broadcast at any time should presence of enemy vessels be suspected. (A.C.N.S. (U.T.)081808B to Comnav, C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Falkland Islands, B.A.D.)

Convoy U.G.L.4. Following is N.O.B. Bermuda's 081931 received for transmission to Cominch etc:-
Convoy U.G.L.4 composed of U.S.S. L.S.T.'s 312, 2, 5, 7, 16, 308, 311, 331, 345, 346, 370, 371, 380, 382, 400, H.M.S. L.S.Ts. 62, 429, 425, 427.
U.S.S. V.M.Ss. 16, 18, 21, 36, 37, 43, 55, 63, 64, 207, 208, 227.
U.S.S. RAPIDA, CONASAUGA, GUYANDOT, ACHELOUC, ARROSTOOCK, NAUSET escorted by U.S.S. CHAMPLIN, ORDRONAU, P.Cs. 591, 551, 557, 558, 621, 542, S.Cs. 497, 503, 506, 508, 522, 530, 535, 651, 655, 666, 690, 694, 695, Departing base M. for North African Ports and Gibraltar about 1800Z/9. (Route) S. of A. 8 E.T.A. Chop 24° W. 1400Z/20 E.T.A. Point (P) 0700Z/24. U.G.L.4 will be joined by 13 L.S.Ts. escorted by LAUB MACKENSIE with C.T.F.62. One in LAUB as Group Commander detached from U.G.S.8 and retracing original route from Lat. 30.50 Long. 45.31 at 1459Z/7 on course 268 6.5. L.S.T. Numbers follow:-
U.S.S. 3, 4; 61, 157, 158, 313, 344. H.M.S. 410, 417, 420, 422, 423, 430 R/V to be designated by Comnav. E.T.A. U.G.L.4. Lat. 30.20 Long. 50.25 1200Z/11. C.T.F.63 detail LAUB, MACKENSIE to rejoin U.G.S.8 as practicable. C.T.F.63 in CHAMPLIN Originator. (S.B.N.O.W.A., 081851P to N.S.H.Q., V.A. Gibraltar, F.O.C. West Africa, Admty., C. in C. Med.)

MAURETANIA. Considering Sub. situation South West Pacific lack of and shortage of oil at bunkering ports long distances and reduction of speed involved in your 072045 (Repetition of A.M. 072040B) not necessary will route MAURETANIA va Trinidad Rio and Cape Ardrossan. (Cominch, C. and R., 081906Z to Admty. (R) Port Director New York, C. E.S.F., C. in C.S.A., S.S.T.O. Capetown, S.O. 10th Sub., S.P.T.O. Bombay, F.O.C.R.I.N., A.C.N.B., N.Z.N.B.)

Convoy B.50. B.50 Boston (?Section) arrived 081550Z. Cape Cod Canal (?Section) arrived 081900Z, all safe. (Cdr. 1st U.S. N.D. Boston, 081915Z to Cominch, C. and R.)

FENCER. My 291833 para. 3. FENCER sailed in H.X.238 with following aircraft for U.K.10 Martlet five, 10 Hellcat, 4 Tarpon, 30 Seamew, 1 reliant. 2. These figures amend my 171441. (B.A.D. 081931Z to Admty.)

/MAURETANIA...

War Diary.8.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies. - Contd.

MAURETANIA. Further to A.M. 072040 monsoon precludes berthing of MAURETANIA at Bombay. 2. Request information whether you can accept delay in arrival of U.S. personnel in India and Iraq if ship is routed to Suez for transshipment of troops into smaller vessels. Ship is in any case required at Suez to embark personnel for return voyage. 3. C. in C.E.F. is examining possible alternatives of transshipments at Trincomalee or Diego Suarez, but both have great disadvantages and Suez is much preferred. 4. A similar problem will arise over voyage of AQUITANIA. (D.O.D.(F) 082001B to Connav, (R) B.A.D., C. in C.E.F., P.S.T.O.I)

DRURY. Your 072356. DRURY should be sailed for New York on completion of working up. She will be taken in hand there for voyage repairs. (B.A.M.R. Washington, 082008Z to S.B.N.O. W.At., (R) Admty., Cdre. I/C Bermuda.)

Aircraft Requirements. Your 232237/April, 232249/April and 031509/May. 2. The policy governing our future aircraft requirements has been reviewed and changes have been decided upon. There have also been recent modifications in U.K. production arrangements. For these reasons it is considered essential that Admiralty representatives should visit Washington and be associated with forthcoming negotiations. Following will, therefore, be travelling with Courtney and his party arriving late in May:- Rear Admiral R.H. Portal - A.C.N.S.(A). Capt. (A) B.L.Huskisson - D.C.N.A.E. Mr. S. Graham Smith - Head of Air Branch. Mr. R.E. Beard - Statistical Officer. 3. To assist you in your preliminary review, following are our estimated requirements of U.S. aircraft for 1943 from current orders, according to most recent forecasts, including your 142115/April:- (a) In 1943, three hundred and sixty (360) T.B.Rs., one hundred and four (104) single seater fighters, preferably Hellcats, plus any additional Hellcats, up to 400 which can be made available, to provide for re-arming. (b) During the period 1944 to 1946, twelve hundred (1200) T.B.Rs. and two thousand, one hundred (2,100) single seater fighters, all of latest types available at the time. 4. Reference para. 3 of your 232249/April, the above are positive repeat positive requirements and do not represent merely an insurance against possible future shortages. It would seem that they would be approximately met by the continued allocation to us of existing capacity for two years after the current orders complete towards end 1944. 5. Paragraph 2 of your 031509/May is confirmed. 6. Figures in para. 3 above exclude requirements for Helicopters, transports and other non-combat aircraft on which Admiralty representatives will have full information. 7. Request you will keep in touch with Rafdel. (Hd. of Air Branch, approved by 1st Lord, 082026 to B.A.D.)

/Sub....

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. Plane sights sub on surface course 300 62.35 N. 22.05 W. 081200. B.25 attacks sub 09.56 S. 34.49 W. 081540. Para. B. MOTOCARLINE sights sub 08.41 S. 34.36 W. 080740 also reports two torpedo misses 080845. Plane sights sub 09.25 S. 34.30 W. 081330.

Para. D. Eastern Airline plane sights sub diving course 240 20.24 N. 70.21 W. 081543. Sound contact area 17.15 N. 69.30 W. 080130. A.T.C. plane sights wake course W. 10.50 N. 60.49 W. 071645.
(Cominch 082024Z to Admty.)

Convoy B.X.49 Arrived between 1800Z and 2015Z May 8th.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 082030Z to Admty.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial 8. BERAKIT torpedoed abandoned May 7th position 03.40 N. 75.20 E. WILLIAM WILLIAMS serial 3 afloat en route Suva in tow.
(Cominch C. and R. 082049Z to Comnav.)

KING HAAKON VI. Your 052124. Engine defects. Completion date uncertain. Further signal will be made.
(D.A.S.W. 082054B to N.S.H.Q.)

AQUITANIA. Your 062352Z. AQUITANIA should not be sailed if after postponement of embarkation by 24 hours Washington refuses to permit embarkation of U.S. personnel.
2. Should these circumstances arise you should report immediately how long it is estimated will be required to remedy essential deficiencies to enable ship to sail embarked to full capacity so that future service of vessel can be decided.
(D. of S.T. 082122B to B.M.W.T. New York (R) B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

NORANDA. E.T.A. 090300Z. Port engine out of order.
(NORANDA 082130Z to N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. (R) Capt. D. St. Johns N.F.)

FORT WILLIAM F.H.53. Escorting F.H.53. E.T.A. 091130Z Boiler hours (incorrupt group).
(FORT WILLIAM 082150Z to C. in C.C.N.W.A. (R) D.Halifax, NIPIGON.)

116th H.D.M.L. Flotilla. Your 031147. Our 050031 (Lorsa 9026.)
1. Request advice whether original allocation for 116th H.D.M.L. Flotilla to Jamaica still stands.
2. If so, since it not believed any facilities exist at Jamaica for A/S course, do you wish Flotilla to do A/S course at Key West en route to destination.

War Diary.

8.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

116th
H.D.M.L.
Flotilla
(Contd.)

3. Flotilla will probably be delayed due lack
C.Os. and First Lieutenant.
(B.A.D. 082151Z to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) Admty.)

Convoy
G.U.S.6A.

Arrived New York 2000Z/8th. 30 ships arrived
including MATHEW MAURY, WILLIAM MCKINLEY, W.C.
ENDICOTT, W.M.STEWART, NATHANIEL MACON which
were unexpected.
(P.D. New York 082248 to Conroute, (R) C.E.S.F.
Admty. N.S.H.Q.)

War Diary.

8.5.1943.

Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Movements.

Departure Noumea 1800Z/6th U.S.S. TAGANAK for Lyttelton E.T.A. 1800Z/13. Departure Auckland 1833Z/7th U.S.S. BRIDGE for Noumea E.T.A. 0600Z/11th. Arrival Wellington 2144Z/7th

U.S.S. MCCALL. Arrival Auckland 0143Z/8th. U.S.S. PINCKNEY. (D.N.I. Wellington 080235Z. to Admty.)

Arrival Sydney 7th BALLARAT, COLAC, Moresby, 6th BUNGAREE KALGOURLIE. Melbourne 6th VAN GALEN Brisbane 7th VENDETTA.

Departure Sydney 7th MILDURA, TOWNSVILLE. (A.C.N.B. 080616Z. to Admty.)

Arrivals 7th Cairns U.S. Transport BOTH. Townsville Hired Transports DUNTROON, TAROONA. 8th Sydney N.S.W. Hospital Ship CENTAUR. R.F.A. BISHOPDALE arrived and departed Townsville 7th for Cid Harbour. U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departed Thursday Is. 7th due Merauke. 8th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 081316Z. to Admty.)

Digest serial No.473. May 7th.

2,000 ton Merchantman sighted in Kavieng Harbour morning 6th. (3) Photos Wewak forenoon reveal 1 submarine chaser, 2 coasters 49 barges in Wewak Harbour, several barges at But and 1,000 ton Merchantman, 1 coaster to Eastward of Wewak course 90°. Sightings covered in addition two small merchant vessels in Muschu Strait course 135°. (8) Ref. Digest number 472 para. 6, photos show 1,000 ton merchant vessel, and 5 others under 300 tons each at

Manokwari.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 080615Z.)

G.P.50, Escorted.

Following is repetition of my 0801437 (begins):- Sydney section convoy G.P.50 sailed 8th. comprising 13 ships GIANG, ANNE T. BEDFORD, WANAKA, TIJUCA and 7 U.S. ships L.S.Ts. Nos. 453-459 inclusive for Brisbane. ADMIRAL CHASE for Townsville and Port Moresby. AYHUI for

Townsville and Arolbay? Escorts COLAC (S.O) MORESBY, BALLARAT, BENDIGO.

(N.C.S.O. Sydney 081806Z. to Admty. (R) Connav.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 081350B, 081403B.)

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Weather.

1. The gale is still blowing, and convoys and shipping have been disorganised. The port of Peterhead was reopened at 091752 and Montrose at 092335B. F.O.I.C. Northern Ireland reports N.A.B. MISS BETTY foundered and N.A.B. FIVE BROTHERS went ashore and became a total loss, both in the recent gale. SS. JUTLAND capsized at 1945 off St. Ann's Head and drifted ashore: she is a total loss, but all the crew were rescued.

2. DEVONSHIRE arrived at the Clyde this afternoon from West Africa.

/ S.C. 128
U/B damaged.

3. S.O. 40th Escort Group reports that a (U.S. Navy Catalina) aircraft covering Convoy S.C.128 attacked a submarine at 1905Z in 59.39 N. 18.56 W. (240 miles south of Iceland (C)) and disabled it. (Cominch assesses it "believed damaged"). The U-Boat proceeded westward at 11 knots on the surface. MOYOLA, HASTINGS and LANDGUARD were detached from the escort to capture it but did not locate it, and air search was asked for at dawn tomorrow. At 092346B A/C C/S LV81 reported that he had attacked a S/M at 2056B and that S/M was now in 59.37 N. 19.14 W. steering westward. At 092359B A/C I of 84 Squadron reported that he had attacked a S/M which was unable to submerge and had departed at 2330B. No position was given. Cominch on 18th May did not mention two aircraft in connection with this U-Boat, but stated that the plane remained for 2½ hours exchanging gunfire and attempting to home corvettes on to the U-Boat. The submarine was still on the surface zig-zagging at 15 knots when the aircraft left, and the corvettes had not arrived.

S.L. 128.

4. JONQUIL was detached at 1400Z to rescue two men in an aircraft dinghy. At 092150B STARLING reported that SS. HALIZONES's rudder had been carried away and ship was permanently out of control in 46.29 N. 09.41 W. (about 400 miles S.W. of Cape Clear): KITE is standing by her and tugs were sent. SS. MANDALAY has straggled with boiler trouble.

/H.X.237 ...

9.5.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

H.X. 237.

5. U-Boats are in touch with H.X.237 which at 1145Z was in 40.49 N. 37.01 W. The 5th Escort Group joined the convoy about 1655Z and S.O. C.2 Group is retaining MORDEN in the absence of POLYANTHUS who was damaged by grounding when the convoy sailed from St. Johns N.F. on 5th May.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. CORNEVILLE (Norw. 4544 tons), Capetown for Takoradi, was torpedoed at 0500 today about 30 miles 110° from Takoradi. All the crew landed safely.

Mediterranean.

Intentions
for S/Ms.

7. The intentions of C. in C. Mediterranean for submarine patrols are to stop enemy supplies to Sardinia, Corsica and Sicily and to cause as much dispersion of enemy A/S measures as possible. Operational S/Ms of 8th Flotilla (at Algiers) and attached French S/Ms are to be disposed to stop supplies to Corsica and Sardinia. Submarines of 10th Flotilla (at Malta) are to be disposed to stop supplies to Sicily.

To effect dispersion of enemy A/S measures and to take advantage of the many targets in the Eastern Mediterranean 3 T-class S/Ms from the 8th Flotilla are being transferred to the 1st Flotilla (at Beirut).

Patrols off
Tunisia.

8. At daylight today the destroyers were redispersed close to the Gulf of Tunis and fleet destroyers from Malta relieved the Hunts. The destroyers withdrew to seaward at dusk. Relief destroyers sailed from Bone and Malta, to maintain the patrols.

/LAFOREY ...

9.5.1943.

Sunday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

Patrols off
Tunisia.
(Contd.)

LAFOREY, TARTAR and LOYAL on patrol sank two small merchant vessels 25 miles north of Cape Bon at 090202. They were unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft this afternoon in 38.02 N. 10.27 E. At 1241 LAFOREY successfully engaged a battery at Cape Zafran and at 1700 she bombarded Sidi Daud (S.W. of Cape Bon).

At 1727 LAFOREY sustained one hit in the engine room from a Bofors battery at Sidi Daud, but she remained on patrol.

Available coastal craft from Bone and Sousse established inshore patrols last night between Bizerta and Kelibia. Much activity was seen on all beaches around Bizerta, but none of the enemy trying to leave. No surface craft were seen. At 10034A Capt. D.19 (LAFOREY) reported practically no shipping left on the coast between Zebib and west of Cape Bone: a few boats, but no large scale attempt to escape.

M.T.B. 61
destroyed.

M.T.B.61 went ashore off Fort Kelibia whilst preparing to attack 3 motor barges and was destroyed by fire. It is thought that her C.Bs will be recovered by the enemy.

X Bombardment
of Kelibia.

JERVIS (D.14), NUBIAN and PALADIN bombarded Kelibia again at dawn today, on withdrawal from patrol. D.14 reports increased opposition, but our ships sustained no damage.

BICESTER
damaged
by Allied
aircraft.

BICESTER was dive-bombed twice and machine-gunned three times by our own Spitfires off Zembra I. (Gulf of Tunig) about 0830 today and was damaged aft by a near miss which burst underneath the ship. Captain D.19 ordered her to Tunis for temporary repairs, escorted by LAFOREY, but that port, like the port of Bizerta is still in the hands of the enemy, and BICESTER proceeded to Sousse, where she arrived with OAKLEY at 092315A. BICESTER is flooded to the waterline. Captain D.19 asks for better fighter discipline and reports that mining has also been very ragged. ZETLAND sank a barge full of men, oil and ammunition in 37.28 N. 11.21 E. (30 miles north-east of Cape Bon) at 0108A today.

X Air
Operations.

9. 16 Wellingtons from Malta on armed search in the Sicilian Narrows last night found no enemy shipping and attacked the alternative target Marsala docks and railway station.

Malta Spitfire bombers created diversions for contemporaneous raids on Messina by Middle East aircraft and on Palermo by N.W.A.A.F.

/Air ...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations.
(Contd.)
Air Attack
on Palermo.

204 bombers of N.A.A.F., escorted by 154 P.38s attacked Palermo today. Oil fires were seen in the city and fires were started in the dock areas. Railway yards were set on fire, a ship at the dock exploded and a gas holder was hit and exploded. Spitfires and P.40s gunned and bombed barges near Hammamet. A schooner full of troops which was attacked north-east of Bizerta was seen to break up. 44 heavy bombers made a successful attack on Messina harbour. Hits were made on the ferry slips, where two ferries were berthed.

East Indies.

10. RESOLUTION arrived at Durban today from the East Indies, escorted by NIZAM, QUICKMATCH and REDOUBT, to carry out a 4 weeks' refit.

11. F.O. Ceylon intends to commence Bombay - Persian Gulf - Aden triangle convoys with B.P.80 leaving Bombay on 17th May escorted by H.M.I.S. MADRAS and H.M.S. TAMWORTH, subsequent sailings being at 8 day intervals.

12. Hurricanes attacked river craft in the Mayn^u River today and sank sampans and an oil barge. Beaufighters damaged a river steamer and an oil barge south of Prome.

America and West Indies.

DANEMAN
lost.

13. A/S Trawler DANEMAN with convoy O.N.181 is believed to have struck submerged ice on the night 7th/8th May and was taken in tow in a sinking condition by GROWLER for St. Johns N.F., with RENONCULE escorting. 15 hours later the

/tow ...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

DANEMAN
lost.
(Contd.)

tow parted and DANEMAN was abandoned and left on fire and sinking at 091000 in 58.03 N. 44.54 W. GROWLER and RENONCULE rescued 45 ~~of the crew~~, but it is reported that some of the crew were lost.

X Landing
craft &c.
convoy.

14. A convoy of landing craft, submarine chasers and other small craft, numbering in all, with escorts, 58 vessels sailed from Bermuda today for North African ports and Gibraltar.

15. Four survivors from SS. MELBOURNE STAR landed at Bermuda today. The ship which was carrying explosives and sank in 2 minutes was torpedoed on 2nd April in about 28° N. 57° W.

Australia and New Zealand.

16. 5 Liberators bombed Manokwari town and waterfront this morning.

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.FORT DE
DOUAUMONT.

Admiralty 111411B April. U.S. Naval Authorities in London report that six Merchant Navy and seven Naval ratings left FORT DE DOUAUMONT at Middlesbrough on May 1st after visit of Free French Officer.

2. Request you will report full facts immediately and in particular identity of Free French Officer and whether he was allowed on board ship.

3. Were any representations made to you by Master, or did he appear satisfied that men would return to ship after enrolling in Free French Movement.

(Head of M.I., 091840B to N.O.I.C. Tees).

Defence of United Kingdom.Yarmouth
A/A Defences.Air Ministry letter S.2741/III/S.6., dated 29th April, 1943, paragraph 3. Request consideration may be given to C. in C. Nore's 072354B.
(Head of M.II 090124B to Air Ministry).Movements.Destroyer
dispositions.

Owing to the U-boat situation it has been impossible to adhere to plans and it is regretted that the requirements in para. C. of your 021731 can only partially be fulfilled.

2. The situation regarding fleet destroyers as far as can now be foreseen is as follows:-

(A) ORIBI at Newfoundland and in-operable for at least two months as the result of her successful ramming of a U-boat.

(B) INGLEFIELD now in dock Clyde but should undock in time to arrive at Scapa with clean boiler May 15th.

(C) OPPORTUNE and OBDURATE should arrive U.K. p.m./16th or possibly 17th overdue for boiler cleaning. PATHFINDER also arrives p.m./16th requires dock for rudder defect.

(D) OFFA, PANTHER, PENN now in Newfoundland should arrive U.K. about May 28th. OFFA will have used about 260 boiler hours.

(E) FAULKNER, ONSLAUGHT, IMPULSIVE now screening ARCHER on westbound (corrupt group) convoy should arrive U.K. about May 30th overdue for boiler cleaning.

3. The dates of these last 6 ships cannot be expedited unless they return across the Atlantic without any convoy duties and neglecting ARCHER which I am most loth to do if it can possibly be avoided.

4. With reference to your para. D it is intended eventually to re-group the 3 "P" class with an escort carrier as support group.

(C. in C. W.A., 090102B to C. in C. H.F.)

RODNEY

My 071744B and A.M. 081929B.

(1) If weather permits R/V with RODNEY at 2000B/9 in estimated position 045° 45' N., 019° 55' W. Onward route for RODNEY from this position is given in A.M. 081929B.

(2) If unable to make R/V before dark on 9th R/V as early as possible after daylight 10th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 090203B to PIORUN)

/Your...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

RODNEY (contd). Your 091532B. Probably not S.L.128.
 (STARLING 091510Z to Admty. (R) RODNEY).
 D/F bearings at 1307Z indicate U-boat has
 probably reported S.L.128 or possibly RODNEY.
 (D.D.I.C., 091532B to Escorts S.L.128, RODNEY,
 PIORUN).
 From X steer for new Y 50.35 N., 16.05 W., then to V,
 omitting U.
 (D.O.D. H., 091805B to RODNEY).
 Following is a repetition of my 091805B.
 (D.O.D. H., 092301B to PIORUN).

DEVONSHIRE A.M. 201250 is being passed to you for
 information. DEVONSHIRE should be sailed to
 arrive Tyne a.m./13th.
 (D.O.D. H., 091208B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
 DEVONSHIRE arrived Clyde.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 091704B).

MILNE C. in C. H.F., 061714. Sail for Hvalfiord Boom
 at 0730Z tomorrow, thence via Swept Channel and
 West of mine barrier P arriving Scapa 2000B/11th.
 (C.S. 10, 091220B to Capt. D.3).

GLASGOW My P.C.S. 55.18 N., 10.05 W., 043° 16.5 knots.
 E.T.A. 0740B/10th.
 (GLASGOW, 091259B to A.C.O.S.)

FENCER On arrival in U.K. C. in C. W.A. is requested to
 sail FENCER to Liverpool where she will be taken
 in hand.
 (D.O.D. H., 091412B to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M My 281741B April and 081005B. H.32 now exercis-
 Movements. ing until 12th May.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 091629B).
 Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/10 and movements for
 following 24 hours.
 (F.O.S., 091711B, 091747B, 092217B).
 Sailed GRAPH and PAUL RYKENS in accordance with Capt. (S) 3
 081003B as amended by 091355B.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 091838B).

SCYLLA, SCYLLA alter course forthwith to pass through
 CHARYBDIS. (C) 050° 06' N., 008° 30' W, thence (B) 049° 08'
 N., 012° 10' W.
 CHARYBDIS alter course forthwith to pass through
 (T) 050° 26' N., 008° 30' W, thence North of
 Scilly Isles.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 092127B)

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

S/M
Patrols. Request you will recall O.10 to arrive Lerwick
14th May.
(F.O.S., 091004B to Capt. S.9).
Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/10th and movements
for following 24 hours.

SHAD, HERRING, TRUCULENT, SATYR as in my 081639. Add to para.
(D) SATYR leaves patrol 1100/10, probably on the surface through
67° 10' N., 11° 40' W, thence to 090° Muckle Flugga 10 miles.
SURF approx. 65° 26' N., 10° 08' W. probably on surface through
66° 25' N., 12° 35' W. to patrol between 67° 30' N., and
Icelandic Coast on longitude 16° W. S/M ordered not to cross 14°
W. before 1700/10.

SIMOON 44° 01' N., 09° 22' W., dived by day through 44° 00' N.
10° 02' W., thence to Southward crossing 43° N., in longitude
10° W. at 0800/11th.
(F.O.S., 091711B).

Coastal
Patrols. KRAKOWIAK at immediate notice at Yarmouth.
Constant watch on broadcast C.N. and 2450 k/cs.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 091232B).

X Operation
VP - SA. (1) Patrol SA. (2) M.T.B.626 (carry out VP - SA)
(3) 12 (S) B 10th May or 1st suitable day
thereafter. (4) One (5) No (6) No (7) 110°
Out Skerries 110 miles.
(A.C.O.S., 091346 to C. in C. Rosyth, N.O.I.C.
Lerwick).

Exercises.

A.L.T.
Exercise. Leave Harbour 10th as requisite to R/V with
ABERCROMBIE, SALADIN at 1430 at Eyebroughy Buoy.
(2) Take under your orders and proceed by searched
channels and standard route to Clyde.
(3) Detach SALADIN to Londonderry on arrival.
(4) Carry out A.L.T. and fighter direction
exercise as arranged.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091201B to ABERCROMBIE).

Exercise in
Denmark My 061714.
Straits. (2) MIDDLETON is to sail from Scapa a.m./10th
MIDDLETON. May and proceed East of Faeroes and North of
Iceland routed through position (A) 62.10 N.,
05.15 W. (B) 67.35 N., 11.18 W.
(C) After passing position (B) MIDDLETON
representing LUTZOW is to attempt to break
through Denmark Straits to the westwards.
(3) C.S.10 is requested to establish patrol "White" to intercept
LUTZOW and to arrange air co-operation with A.C.I.C. and A.O.C.
Iceland subject to concurrence of H.Q.C.C.
(4) On crossing longitude 28° W. MIDDLETON is to report the
fact and proceed to Hvalfiord. The exercise will cease then or
earlier if ordered by C.S.10. Further orders.
(C. in C. H.F., 091349B) (F.O.S. 091752B to S/Ms).

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

K.L.1 Intend to repeat operation K.L. 1 on night 10/11 May or as soon afterwards as weather permits (C. in C. Portsmouth, 091158B).

U-boats.

U-boats in North Atlantic. Am over enemy submarine in 61° 33' N., 17° 43' W. (A/C 269 Sqdn. Duty N., 090807B) Following have been read from BRML2. Sub. sighted, have dropped 4 charges. She is still on surface. (T.O.R., 1903Z/9).

Sub. is helpless.

(T.O.R. 1904Z/9).

We are ten miles astern of convoy (S.C.128).

(T.O.R., 1904Z/9)

We have lost contact with convoy. Am still circling sub. (T.O.R.1945Z/9) Sub is under way on surface c.260. (T.O.R.2234/9)

Aircraft attacked S/M at 1905Z in 59.39 N., 18.56 W. and disabled it. MOYOLA, HASTINGS, and LANDGUARD detached to capture it as MOYOLA has no A/S. S/M now proceeding 260° 11 knots, but not yet located by escorts. Aircraft had to return but another aircraft is in vicinity.

My P.C.S. 59.33 N., 18.16 W., 110° 7 knots. Weather 6371 9314.

(E.G.40 092200Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Detach one escort forthwith to sink U-boat badly damaged 10 miles astern of S.C.128. Aircraft circling U-boat.

(C. in C. W.A., 092330B to LULWORTH)

Last known position of damaged S/M 59.36 N., 20.02 W. at 2145Z. Request air search at dawn 100 miles radius. Have recalled LANDGUARD.

(E.G.40 100023Z to A.C.I.C.)

Am over enemy S/M in 49° 18' N., 08° 29' W.

(A/C 206 Sqdn. 091941B to 15 Group).

Aircraft report U-boat in 049° 18' N., 008° 29' W. at 1941/9th.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 092011B to CHARYBDIS, SCYLLA)

My 092011. Revised position 048° 56' N., 008° 12' W., course 240°

(C. in C. Plymouth, 092237B).

Am over enemy S/M in 59.37 N., 19.14 W. Attack made 2056B.

(A/C LV81 092346B to Artunshofdi)

Have attacked enemy with depth-charges. S/M unable to submerge. Departed 2330B.

(A/C I of 84 Sqdn. 092359B to Artunshofdi).

U-boat in Biscay Area. Fifteen or more U-boats estimated between lat. 43° 01' and 48° 30' and long. 14° 02' and 19° 59'. (D.D.I.C., 090940B to Escorts S.L.128, E.G.2, CHARYBDIS, RODNEY, PIORUN).

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS.

Navigational.

- Peterhead Port of Peterhead closed on account of weather.
(C. in C. Rosyth 090002)
Peterhead re-opened.
(C. in C. Rosyth, 091752).
- Loch Ewe Request that escort vessels may be warned that passage through the Sound between Isle of Ewe and the mainland Loch Ewe is prohibited owing to the large number of small craft anchored there.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 091639).
- Montrose Cancel my 081209B, May.
(C. in C. Rosyth 092335B)

Casualties & Defects.

- L.C.Ts. My 081453. Owing to minor defects sailing of L.C.Ts. 702 and 587 has been postponed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 091221B)
- PRODUCT Cancel my 091151B. PRODUCT considered unseaworthy due to overloading.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 091254B to N.O.I.C. Swansea).
- BRITISH PURPOSE. BRITISH PURPOSE returning Clyde with engine trouble rejoining convoy with rescue tug.
(S.T. ELSTAN 091330B to OTTAWA)
- PAN GULF SS. PAN GULF grounded in Lough Foyle close S.W. of Magilligan Point during gale last night. Harbour tugs failed to refloat her at H.W. today. No damage reported. Request rescue tugs may be sent to refloat her if possible on high water tonight.
(Cdre. D.W.A., 091445 to C. in C. W.A.)
Request you will sail GRIPER to comply with Cdre. D. W.A.'s 091445B.
(C. in C. W.A., 091506B to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
Proceed in lieu of GRIPER.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 091634B to EMINENT)
Return to Campbeltown. PAN GULF has been refloated.
(Cdre. D. W.A., 092156B to EMINENT).
- S.L.128. Detach one corvette preferably JONQUIL to rescue aircraft dinghy containing 2 living persons in
A/C Dinghy. 045° 35' N., 010° 40' W. at 1255B/9.
MANDALAY, (C. in C. W.A., 091456B to BLACK SWAN)
HALIZONES. JONQUIL detached at 1400Z/9 in accordance with your 091456B. E.T.A. 0900Z/10.
Merchant ship MANDALAY has straggled from S.L. 128 with boiler trouble.
My P.C.S. 2000Z/9, 045° 48' 014° 48' 094° 14'.
(JONQUIL 092001Z to C. in C. W.A.)

/SS. ...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

S.L.128
A/C Dinghy.
MANDALAY.
HALIZONES.
(contd).

SS. HALIZONES rudder carried away and permanently out of control in 046° 29' N., (?) 009° 41' W. KITE standing by. Weather 6672 0556. (STARLING, 092150B to C. in C. W.A.) STARLING's 092150B. KITE is to continue to stand by HALIZONES. A tug will be sent. (C. in C. W.A., 100240B to KITE).

KOOTENAY

My 061633B. Further defect developed. Feed heater cover joint feeding Nos. 2 and 3 boilers leaking badly. Consider ship not fit to carry out sea exercises. Intend sailing her to Londonderry as soon as machinery ready, probably a.m. 10th.
(WESTERN ISLES, 091650B to Cdre. D. W.A.)

MISS BETTY,
FIVE BROTHERS.

Regret to report loss by foundering of N.A.B. MISS BETTY with loss of four lives. Also loss by stranding of N.A.B. FIVE BROTHERS. Both craft lost in recent gale. Propose retaining OCEAN WAVE and ROBERTA to replace.
(F.O.I.C. N.I., 091815B to Admty).

JUTLAND

Sailed rescue tug PROSPEROUS at 1900B May 9th to assist SS. JUTLAND in difficulties in heavy weather 140° St. Ann's Head 3½ miles. Vessel capsized at 1945 and drifted ashore west Freshwater Bay. PROSPEROUS returned at 2020 having rescued all crew.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 092347B).

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9.5.1943.

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

O.S.47 and K.M.S.14. Detach 1 escort to contact EMPIRE GUINEVERE and join convoy at R/V to be arranged by you. 2. EMPIRE GUINEVERE has been ordered to steer for $050^{\circ} 30' N. 013^{\circ} 30' W.$ and to endeavour to reach this position by 0700Z/9th. Then to steer 220° . If not met by 1500Z/9th to return to Clyde. 3. Ship has reported her 2000 G.M.T. position as $072^{\circ} 112$ miles from given position speed owing to weather 6 knots course 252° . 4. SPIREA's 080800 refers. (C. in C. W.A. 090040 to Escorts O.S.47.)
 Pass the Gate at 1230B today. Proceed by A.M. Q.Z.S.409 and 410, thence through positions. (A) 180° Bishop Rock 20. (B) $049^{\circ} 08' N. 012^{\circ} 10' W.$ and thence cover O.S.47 against surface attack keeping within 60 miles of convoy until it passes $042^{\circ} N.$ when you are to return to Plymouth.
 (2) Your S.O.A. is to be not less than 18 knots.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 091011B. to SCYLLA.)
 Sailed SCYLLA in accordance with my 091011B.
 (C. in C. Plymouth 091422B.)

P.W.335. My 081451B. P.W.335 sailing postponed owing to weather.
 (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 090801B.)

P.S.9. P.S. and S.P.9 are cancelled.
 S.P.9. (C. in C. Portsmouth 090804B.)

D.S.40. Intend sailing LEINSTER passing Clyde boom 2200B/11th to R/V SARDONYX and SHIKARI in 270° . Oversay 6 miles at 0600B/12th, thence in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 081002B.
 (N.O.I.C. Greenock 090948B.)

North Russia. Fuel situation. Murmansk. Navy requires 8,000 tons fuel oil brought immediately from Archangel to Kola Inlet.
 (2) Only Tankers available are MARATHON and BEACONHILL which are both clear. (3) Please instruct me which tanker to use.
 (Dalgleish 091059B. to Admty.)
 Fuel stocks Kola Inlet. Furnace (?1000). Diesel 500, Admiralty coal 400.
 (S.B.N.O. North Russia 091453B. to Admty.)

H.X.237. E.G.5. U-Boat dived 5 miles 270° my position $040^{\circ} 49' 037^{\circ} 01'$.
 (C.2. 091145Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
 My 091145Z. Lost contact. Diverted convoy to starboard. My P.C.S. 1215Z. $040^{\circ} 52' 036^{\circ} 58' 124^{\circ} 10$ knots, altering in $040^{\circ} 34' 036^{\circ} 20'$ to 071° . Pass to DEXTEROUS.
 (C.2. 091255Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
 U-Boats B.7 D/F at 1353Z. and at 1411Z within 90 miles of $41.30 N. 37.30 W.$ C.2s. 091145. This transmission does not appear to be a sighting report.
 (N.S.H.Q. 091558Z. to Escort H.X.237, S.C.129.)

/Some ...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.237. Some H/F D/F activity indicated convoy still shadowed. 5th E.G. join convoy and close screen. E.G.5. Possibly 2 U-Boats in contact. (Contd.) (C.2. 091655Z. to C. in C. W.A.) My 091558. Transmission on series 8 of 48 groups "Enigma" at 1559Z and of 38 groups "Enigma" at 1608Z repeated at 1623Z and 1629Z indicate one or more U-Boats possibly in contact with H.X.237. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 091742Z to Escorts H.X.237.) Inconclusive D/F bearings at 1352Z indicate U-boat sighted by you may have transmitted on Series 8. No fix obtainable. (D.D.I.C. 091903B. to Escorts H.X.237.) F.O.N.F. 011746Z. In view of immediate U-Boat threat and in absence of POLYANTHUS propose to retain MORDEN with H.X.237 to U.K. (C.2. 092010Z. to C. in C. W.A.) My 091903. D/F Bearings at 1411Z indicate U-Boat in your area also using Service 1. (D.D.I.C. 092011B. to Escorts H.X.237.) D/F Bearings at 1600Z and 1623Z indicate probably a second U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 092144B to Escorts H.X.237.)

S.C.128. My 090040Z. Am proceeding independently to Hvalfiord for fuel. E.T.A. 091600Z. (STARWORT 091215Z. to A.C.I.C.) Detach Loch Ewe portion on crossing 59° N. to proceed via N. Minches escorted by STARWORT and POPPY. Escort to Londonderry from off Loch Ewe. Estimate Loch Ewe portion will be in the vicinity of O.N.S.7 at 2000B/10th. (C. in C. W.A. 091453B. to Escorts S.C.128.) D/F Bearings at 1325Z indicate U-Boat in vicinity of convoy. (D.D.I.C. 091915B. to Escorts S.C.128.)

O.N.S.6. My P.C.S. 058° 22' N. 041° 00' W. 210° 7½ knots. E.G.4. 4th Escort Group in Company. E.G.1. (C.T.U. 24.1.4. 091403Z. to C. in C. W.A.) Your 091819B. FAULKNER and IMPULSIVE topped up. Weather now unsuitable ONSLAUGHT who has 64% remaining. Will endeavour to fill her up tomorrow Monday. My P.C.S. 57.55, 41.23, 210° 8 knots. (E.G.4. 091757Z. to C. in C. W.A.) Cancel my 091114Z. SENNEN to return to Harbour. (C. in C. W.A. 092110Z. to F.O.C.N.F.) 1st Escort Group proceed forthwith at best speed to St. Johns, Newfoundland. (C. in C. W.A. 092312Z. to E.G.1.)

/K.M.F.15...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys - Contd.K.M.F.15
and
W.S.30.

1. Convoy K.M.F.15 will leave U.K. 19th May in company with W.S.30, parting company as directed. 2. Ships will sail from the following ports:-

From Mersey:- SS. ORMONDE, DUCHESS OF YORK, SAMARIA, FRANCONIA, destination Algiers. STAFFORDSHIRE, STIRLING CASTLE destination Oran.

From Clyde:-SS. BOISSEVAIN, INDRAPOERA, ARAWA, destination Algiers. LETITIA, H.M.S. UNICORN destination Gibraltar.

3. Speed of slowest ships, LETITIA and ARAWA 14 knots.

4. UNICORN will carry one squadron of Seafires and one Squadron of Seafires and one Squadron of Swordfish who will be operational on passage. 8. Escort will be provided by 42nd E.G. consisting of WESTON, WELLINGTON, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, LOWESTOFT, EXE, NESS. S.O. of Group in WESTON. 9. In addition to above, SUFFOLK and 4 destroyers with W.S.30 will provide escort until "Gisp". (D.O.D.H. 091530B.)

Convoy W.S.30 will leave U.K. on 19th May in company with K.M.F.15 parting company as directed to proceed to Freetown and South Africa. 2. Composition as follows:-

From Avonmouth SS. MATAROA. From Clyde U.S.S. ARGENTINA, H.F. ALEXANDER, SIBONEY, SLOTERDIJK, H.M.S. CORFU.

3. Slowest ship, MATAROA, 14 knots. 7. Ocean Escort from Clyde SUFFOLK. 8. A/S escorts (a) BOADICEA, joining F.O.C. West Africa (b) ACTIVE, joining F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (c) CLEVELAND, joining C. in C. Med. SLAZAK, joining C. in C. Med. (d) 42nd Escort Group. S.O. of A/S escort to "Gisp" in WESTON. 9. From "Gisp" 42nd E.G. will proceed with K.M.F.15. Destroyers in 8 (a) (b) and (c) will provide escort to vicinity of Casablanca, BOADICEA being detached as necessary to fuel and rejoin. 10. ACTIVE, CLEVELAND and SLAZAK will proceed to Gibraltar on relief by BULLDOG, FOXHOUND, and CATTERICK. F.O.C. West Africa's 061916 refers.

(D.O.D.H. 091638B and 161901B.)

JOHAN VAN
OLDENBARNE-
VELDT,
DELHI.

Cancel A.M. 011821. DELHI will escort SS. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDT as required by A.M. 072042.

(D.O.D.H. 091630B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)

O.N.182.

Report most northerly route you consider navigable due to ice for O.N.182.

(C. in C. W.A. 091635Z. to Escorts O.N.181.)

Gas-freeing
of
Tankers.

The U.S. Naval authorities are satisfied that it is unnecessary for purposes of safety that tankers should be gas-freed for the ballast voyages. Their practice is now to close down tank lids after completion of discharge and sail the ships without further precautions.

2. Admiralty and M.W.T. have agreed that U.S. flag tankers

/and...

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Sunday.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Gas-freeing
of Tankers.
(Contd.)

(and also Panamanian flag tankers while operating under U.S. Control) shall be free to carry out this practice both in U.K. Ports and in British controlled convoys. 3. The practice whereby British controlled tankers gas-free after the discharge of certain cargoes remains unaltered.

(D.T.D. 091739B. to A.I.G.12.)

O.N.S.7.

Sailed NENE to overtake O.N.S.7.

(Cdre. D. W.A. 092210B. to C. in C. W.A.)

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

G.U.S.7. G.U.S.7 Oran joiners in 036° 10' N. 004° 30' W.
QUANTOCK. course 260° speed 5 knots.
(QUANTOCK 090115A to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) CIRCE.)
E.T.A. 1350B.
(QUANTOCK 091225A to F.O.I.C. Gib.)
My 020957, sailed (list).
(F.O. Gib. 092003B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)
G.U.S.7 arrival Gibraltar Section (nine ships).
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 092038B. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.etc.)

U.G.F.8, Situation report for Area X.B. of Med. Station.
C.T.F.67, My 081149 Para. 1. Amend to read 035° 15' 017°
attacks 40' through 035° 25' 016° 20' thence 085° 13'.
on U-Boats. (F.O. Gibraltar 090124B. to Med. Station.
C. in C. Plymouth.)
HOBBY made attack on excellent sound contact at
0142Z/9 position 40 miles 086° from point (H).
Results not known. At 2055/8 CARMICK made attack on doubtful
sound contact position 17 miles bearing 261° from point (H).
U.G.F.8 position 0800Z 108 miles from point (H) S. of A. 13,
course 086°. Weather report.
(C.T.F.67 091115Z. to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. C.M.S.F.F.)

MAURO Italian MAURO GROCE arrived North Island 8th May.
GROCE. (S.O. (I) Gib. 090225B. to S.O. (I) Med. S.O.(I)
Malta, 8th Sub. Flot.)

Movements, HEBE 2, ST. NECTAN and LADY HOGARTH arrived
Casablanca. 9th May.
(Commorseafon 090650 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R)
C. in C. Med. etc.)

Convoy T.O.4. SEAKAY sail. My 1245/7th. C. in C.
T.O.4. Atlantic Fleet pass to Army Navy Petrol Board.
(C.M.S.F.F. 090957 to Com. America Force, Aruba,
Curacao. (R) C. in C. Med. Cominch, etc.)

Dispositions. Situation at 2001B/9. T.F.68 one M/S in tow
36.19 32.32 through 36.20 34.03 thence 267° 8.2.
(2) U.G.S.8, T. (?E) 32.53, 36.42 072° 8.
Swedish Relief Ship. (3) CAMELLIA and BARDALAND
34.01 42.51 through 34.01 39.01 thence 086° 10.
(F.O. Gib. 091034B.)

BRIXHAM. My 241827B April. 99 arrived in BRIXHAM.
(Gib. 091231B. to Admty. etc.)

X.K.6.B. Inconclusive D/F bearings on 12950 kc/s at
U-Boat. 1106Z suggest possibility that U-Boat may have
reported convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 091430B. to Escorts X.K.6B. (R)
F.O.I.C. Gib. etc.)

/Movements...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.Movements,
Corunna.

Trawler ANGELITA and SALMON arrived Corunna May 6th and 7th respectively. Both left May 9th (Guyatt, Corunna 091610 to Admty.(R) Gib.)

RODNEY
destroyers.

Your 081430. RODNEY passed Europa Point at 0100B/7th May. Escorting destroyers METEOR, ANTHONY, TUSCAN sailed from Gibraltar 0100B/7th May. 2. Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C. (F.O. Gib. 091714B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C. C. in C. Med. RODNEY, O.R.P. PIORUN.)

X M/V
Explosions,
Gibraltar.

My 081105. PAT HARRISON beached. Position when explosion occurred was 266° 2.9 miles from East Head. Five cables inshore this position headpiece and oxygen bottles Dsea gear as worn by human torpedo crew was picked up later same forenoon. Gear was efficient but rusty giving impression of not having received much attention for some time. (2) Position of MAHSUD at time explosion was 122° 19½ cables from Fare Head (Commercial Mole) and CAMERATA 093° 12 cables from Rinconcillo Point. (3) Diving party have recovered. (A) From PAT HARRISON, (B) From CAMERATA (details). (4) Under water examination of MAHSUD not yet completed. (5) C.B.4093 (14) Section 3. Suggest third pair were never accounted for although believed to have perished later, possible this pair may have undertaken the attack. (F.O. Gib. 091733B. to Admty. etc.)

REDSHANK.

Ref. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 260109B. April.
2. REDSHANK is urgently required by C. in C.E.F.
3. Request information when REDSHANK may be expected to proceed on passage. (D.T.M. 091804B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)CONSBRO,
PANORAMA.

Arrived. Will sail for Gibraltar May 10th. (C.M.S.F.F. 092027 to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.C.W.Af. Comnavnaw.)

Movements,
Casablanca.

Warships May 9th. Arrivals ST. NECTAN, LADY HOGARTH, HEBE II, from Ponta Delgada. S.C.529 from Safi. Departures S.C.529 for Agadir. (Commorseafron 092114. to C. in C. Med.)

BRIXHAM,
ALBACORE,
BUDE, CIRCE,
HUSSAR.

Intend sailing. (A) BRIXHAM, ALBACORE. (B) BUDE, CIRCE, HUSSAR, all for Algiers routed through 70, 39, 100, 56. (A) 12½ knots. (B) 10 knots. (2) (A) sailing 1800B/9th May. (B) sailing 2359B/9th May. (F.O. Gib. 092232B. to C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran, S.O. M/S 12, S.O. M/S 13.)

/Movements...

War Diary.

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals: BRIXHAM ex Escort duties Villareal
WISHART ex T.O.4. HAARLEM ex Escort duties
Melilla, BUDE, CIRCE, HUSSAR, B.Y.M.S. 34.93
ex G.U.S.7. Departures: U.S.L.C.I. (L) 188,
189, 190, 191, 192, 193 to Beni Saf. M.T.B. 670,
667, 654, M.G.B. 648, 663, 657, to Algiers. M.L. 218, 232, 240,
568, 575 to Algiers M.L. 218, 232, 240, 568, 575 to Algiers.
M.L. 559, 562, to Mers El Kebir. ALBACORE, BRIXHAM, BUDE, CIRCE
HUSSAR, to Algiers. HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, BREAM to join G.U.S.7.
(F.O. Gib. 092310 to Admty. etc.)

Air
Report.

Op. Summ. No. 189 for 24 hours ended 1800 hours
9th May. (G) Sightings and attacks - ref.
Opsum 188 (082335). Amend position of attacks
BB. 1/233 and X/233 to W.G.W.D. 2000 (35.20 N.
12.00 W.) Further investigation and photographic
evidence indicate strong probability that U-Boat
was sunk.
(A.H.Q. Gib. 092358B.) Former amended.

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

CATTERICK. Departure 8th CATTERICK.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 090030Z. to Admty.)

WAGOGO,
WAMERU. Companhia Colonial De Navegacao have received instructions to be ready to take over German ships WAGOGO, WAMERU, in about a week and to reserve accommodation for 61 German Seamen on MOUZINHO due about May 24th. Loanda informed.
(Vice Consul Lobito No. T.O.O. to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.W.A. Admty. Recd. 0157/9.) O.I.Cs. Comment. German WAGOGO 3118 G.T. and WAMERU 4076 G.T. have been refuging at Lobito since 1939 and have now been transferred to Portuguese.

RESOLUTION,
destroyers. Arrived RESOLUTION, NIZAM, QUICKMATCH, REDOUBT.
(Com.i/c. Durban 090443Z. to Admty. etc.)

Shipping
Diversions,
Takoradi. Your 072014. Diversion to Takoradi is not a fixed policy but is reviewed daily on latest U-Boat disposition. It may well have to cease if and when U-Boats appear off Takoradi which appears a possible future movement. Until situation changes present diversion will continue.
(F.O.C.W.A. 090545 to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A.)
Sailed 0730Z BULLDOG escorting CUBA, my 081746 refers.
(Comar, Dakar, 090927Z to F.O.C. W.Af. Admty.)

Convoys
D.N.37.
C.D.16. Sailed D.N.37 1100Z/9th. May, escorted by NORTHERN CHIEF to R/V C.D.16 A outer and Durban Swept Channels at 1230Z/9th May. (list).
TINHOW leaves convoy at position (P) routed in accordance with my Serial Numbers 808 to 813.
N.C.S.O. Capetown's 051226 refers.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 091122Z. to Admty. etc.)
My 091122Z. DEMODOCUS recalled Durban.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 091507Z. to Admty. etc.)

ASTURIAS. Your 071742Z. Concur. She will sail with W.S.30.
(D.O.D. (F) 091148B. to F.O.C.W.A.)

SAVORGNAN
DE BRAZZA. My 071125. (F.S. SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA proceeding by direct route Duala E.T.A. 11th May.) Amend E.T.A. to p.m. 12th May.
(F.O.C.W.A. 091245Z. to S.O. Duala.)

Dispositions. CORINTHIAN, BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN,
BUTTERMERE, PORTDOWN, BUTSER with T.S.38, 07.16
N. 13.34 W. 302,8 6 M.Ls. about 07.03 N. 13.12
W. 302,8. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 N. 27.29 W.15 $\frac{1}{2}$.
ROHILKHAND, ARRAN, PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, M.M.S.107, M.L.1018 with
S.T.64, 04.20 08.36 to 04.02 07.48 thence 074° 5 $\frac{1}{2}$. NEWCASTLE,
MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, LEWES with W.S.29, 02.42 S. 00.28
E.106° 12. French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA about 00.03 N.04.25
W. to Duala. BURDOCK, CROCUS, escorting 02.04 N. 18.58 W. to
Freetown 9. CATTERICK escorting 03.08 N. 00.15 W. to Takoradi
13 $\frac{3}{4}$. M.L. 277 off Accra.
(F.O.C.W.A. 091309Z.)

/Situation....

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. Situation at 1959/9th. ANTELOPE about 021° 20' N. (Contd.) 017° 55' W. 359° 16. BULLDOG about 009° 55' N. 015° 39' W. to Freetown 14. GLASGOW, DUNCTON, 010° 38' N. 016° 54' W. 353° 7. CILICIA 010° 56' N. 017° 42' W. to 010° 59' N. 017° (?47) W. thence Freetown 14. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 008° (?30') N. 027° 29' W. 14. (R.A.W.A. 091428Z.)

U-Boat. One U-Boat was attacked in 09° 56' S. 34° 49' W. at 1540Z/8 and is likely to patrol within 300 miles of coast from Bahia to Natal. (D.D.I.C. 091326B. to F.O.W.A. (R) C. in C. S.A.)

S.O.S. Report. At 0450P/8th May, Brazilian Shore W/T Salinas Point Para intercepted S.O.S. from Motocar Line Panama reporting S/M attack position 009° 04' S. 034° 36' W. Informed vessel sailed in T.B.12. (B.N.S.O. Rio Janeiro 091434Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. S.A. etc.)

DEMPO, Your 0338/31 May 1941. DEMPO sailed from FELIX Capetown for U.K. 4 May. No defects. Normal ROUSSEL. voyage repairs. Time required for turn round approx. 10 days. No cargo loaded at Capetown. FELIX ROUSSEL sailed from Capetown for U.K. via Freetown 2 May. Defects. General overhaul and storm damage repairs. Master states owners fully aware of repairs required. 1042 tons general cargo loaded for U.K. (P.S.T.O. Capetown 091449B. to D.S.T.)

Movements, Arrival 9th May BOREAS, WITCH M.L.271. Takoradi. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 091701Z. to Admty. etc.)

Saldanha Your 051405B. (Request ships may be retained. Loop MANCHESTER CITY supply laying party for operation Defence. as no trained personnel available.) (2) Para 4 (A) and (B) approved. (3) Report when trained personnel will be available on station. Your 133/07 of 4th Feb. 1943 refers. (D.T.M. 091806B. to C. in C. S.A.)

GLOIRE. Arrived 1600Z. (Comar, Dakar, 091947Z. to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

CHARON, Your 071133 (N.T. in W.R.) and C. in C. Med's. AIMWELL. 081047. (N.T. in W.R.) Regret tugs not ready to sail until 11 May. CHARON E.T.A. Gibraltar 21, AIMWELL E.T.A. 24. (F.O.C.W.A. 091959Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

War Diary.

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

CORNEVILLE
torpedoed.

CORNEVILLE torpedoed about 30 miles 110° from Takoradi at 0500/9. All crew landed. (F.O.C.W.A. 092025Z. to Admty.) CORNEVILLE, Norwegian, 4544 tons, independently routed from Capetown to Takoradi (D.O.R.1360).

CORNEVILLE (Norwegian) torpedoed sunk about 110° 30 miles from Takoradi at 0501 May 9th all crew reported landed. Confirmation and details follow.

(N.C.S.O. Takoradi 092357Z. to Admiralty (Casualties) (R) N.C.S.O. Capetown.)

KUMAON,
KATHIAWAR,
etc.

Departure from Pointe Noire 1600Z/9th H.M.I.S. KUMAON and KATHIAWAR escorting tug EMPIRE CHUB, EMPIRE DENNIS towing H.M.S. KELT, EMPIRE ACE and EMPIRE OBERON. Expected time of arrival Barrow dawn 19th. Shifting to area Q W/T organization at 0600Z/12th. Routed through position 018° 00'

S. 011° 20' E.

(B.N.L.O.W.A. 092105, to F.O.C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C.S.A. N.L.O. Walvis Bay.)

BULLDOG.

E.T.A. Freetown 101900Z. Position at 092000, 011° 50' N. 017° 12' W. Weather report. (BULLDOG 092230Z. to F.O.W.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Freetown.)

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ALDENHAM C. in C. Med. 082014. Return through 036° 07' 011° 43' 036° 07' 013° 00' S. of A. 20 knots or better. M.T.B.s on passage to Sousse may be met.
(V.A. Malta, 090001 to ALDENHAM (R) ISIS, F.O.I.S. A.I.G.263. C. in C. Med.)

ISIS. C. in C. Med's 082014 para. 3 Sail at 0800A and proceed through 036° 07' 013° 00' at 1215A, 036° 10' 011° 15' at 1600A, thence to area GG.
(V.A. Malta, 090022 to ISIS, ALDENHAM, C. in C. Med., S.N.O. Trip, Capt. (D) 14, Capt. (D) 19, BICESTER.)

E.T.A. boom 0500B/9th.
(ISIS, 090027B to V.A. Malta (R) K.H.M.)
231° 10° 7 B.
(V.A. Malta 090348B to ISIS)
209° 1.5 B.
(V.A. Malta, 090401B to ISIS)
200° 9° 2 B.
(V.A. Malta 090411B to ISIS)
191° 9° 6 B.
(V.A. Malta 090417B to ISIS)
186° 9° 4.B.
(V.A. Malta, 090421B to ISIS)

Bombardment. Evening bombardment satisfactory. Further one before daylight.
(Med., Local Call Sign 31 X N. 090107A to Med. Local Call Sign BDL.)

Bombardment completed. Increased opposition. No damage sustained.
(Capt. (D) 14, 090457A to C. in C. Med. (R) N.O.I.C. Malta)

UNRUFFLED. E.T.A. 0830B/11th.
(P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 090154Z to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Subs. on Patrol)

13th MS. Flot. My 082324A (N.T. in W/R). Continue sweep to eastern end of area L unless opposition from shore makes this impossible.
(C.S.12, 090708A to M/S.F. 13 (R) C. in C. Med M/S.F.12)

On completion today's sweep anchor with 20th Trawler Group off Cape Serrat where M.S.12 and H.D.M.L. will join you by 0300A/10th. Report progress and any opposition met from ashore. If shore opposition prohibits sweeping of war channel you will be required to sweep A, North of Canirock, tomorrow. M.S.12 will have full instructions.
(C.S.12, 091013A to M.S.13, (R) C. in C. Med., M.S.12)

Enemy Units. Fighter aircraft report one merchant ship and one M/B off Cape Bon.
(BICESTER, 090725A to JERVIS (R) S.N.O. Tripolitan-ia, N.O.I.C. Sousse)

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9.5.1943.
Sunday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.(Contd.)

MARSOUIN. Your 082043. 10 miles north of Cape Caxine at 0615A/12th. Well done.
(Capt. (S) 8, 090806A to MARSOUIN)

Italian Hospital Ship. Italian hospital ship in (?position) 037° 01' N. 010° 50' E. proceeding towards Tunis.
(BICESTER, 090808A to C. in C. Med. (R) JERVIS, S.O.I.S.)

STORNOWAY, ACUTE, CADMUS. Sailed STORNOWAY, ACUTE, CADMUS, in company for Bone at 0800. (ii) Routed 92,96.
(iii) S. of A. 12½ knots E.T.A. 100400.
(iv) Codeword "Cadwallader".
(Cdre. Algiers, 090811A to F.O.I.S.)

Convoy "Mammoth" Following has been read.
Two Beaufighters have been despatched to assistance of convoy "Mammoth" 43 at 1000.
(Malta via Nore W/T, 090815)

BICESTER bombed by friendly A/C. Have been dive bombed twice and machine gunned three times by friendly fighter off Zembra Is. Have been damaged aft by near miss, further signal follows.
(BICESTER, 090840 to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.12, D.19)
My 0840. Bomb burst underneath ship. I am flooded to waterline level between 134 and 108 bulkheads. Propelling machinery appears unharmed. Am proceeding to Bone with OAKLEY and ZETLAND in case towing becomes necessary. Bombing was done by (Spit?) fires.
(BICESTER, 090910A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.12, S.O.19th D.F., N.O.I.C.Bone)
To keep maximum number of Destroyers operating have ordered BICESTER proceed to Tunis escorted by LAFOREY where temporary repairs can be made. Request better fighter discipline. Mining has also been very ragged. My P.C. and S. 037° 34' N. 010° 52' E. 215° 17 knots.
(Capt. (D) 19, 091004A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.12, BICESTER)
Your 091004A. Ports of Tunis and Bizerta still in enemy hands. Nearest British Port Sousse.
(F.O.C.S.12, 091124A to Capt. (D) 19, (R) C. in C. Med. BICESTER)
Your 091004. Keep clear of Tunis. Detail one "Hunt" to escort BICESTER to Sousse. Divide remaining destroyers between areas C.C. and D.D.
(C. in C. Med, 091138 to LAFOREY (R) BICESTER, A.I.G.266, A.I.G. 263)
Your signals received when rounding Cape Carthage. Only opposition from Cape Zafran Battery which was outranged and successfully engaged. Am retiring will send BICESTER to Sousse escorted by ZETLAND.
(Capt. (D) 19, 091246A to C. in C. Med. F.O.12th, C.S. BICESTER)

Your /...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

BICESTER
bombed by
friendly
A/C.
(Contd.)

Your 091117 (N.T. in W.D.) Bombing restriction arranged to cover you. Bombardment of Sidi Daud ends at 1500.
(C. in C. Med. 091433 to Capt. (D) 19)
Arrival BICESTER, OAKLEY.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 092315A to Admty (R) C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Med., N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O. 37th Escort Group)

Enemy
M/V

Following read by Malta W/T: One merchant vessel 040° Ras Zebib, 20 miles, course 045° (Algiers W/T 090901)

H.S.L.
2520.

Leave Benghazi at 1303C/9th through Beef, Chest, Shin, Lip, Mind, Heel and Q.B.C.675 to Tripoli. E.T.A. 0756C/10th. Constant watch 4660 K/Cs. (S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 090913C to High Speed Launch 2520, (R) HURWORTH, C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, A.H.Q. Med., S.10 etc.)

JAVELIN,
SPETSAL.

Departure 8th May JAVELIN, Greek Destroyer SPETSAL.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 090914C to Admty)

AETOS.

8th May, departure AETOS.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 090915C to Admty)

P.R.U.

May 8th photographs. 1020 Taranto One "D" Class cruiser in dry dock. One "B" class cruiser inner harbour. 2 CAVOURS outer harbour. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 090921B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. 9th May visuals. 1545 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers. (V.A. Malta, 091822B to C. in C. Med. etc.)

CONSTANZA.

Hospital Ship CONSTANZA if encountered is to be sent into Malta.
(C. in C. Med. 090928A to Destroyers on patrol, V.A. Malta, C.S.12)

In view of A.M.082020 have ordered CONSTANZA to be sent to Malta if encountered.
(C. in C. Med. 091736A to Admty)

HURWORTH
M.L.356.
M.L.359.

Cancel my 081104C (N.T. in W.R.) N.O.I.C. Tobruk sailing M.L.356, M.L.359 to arrive Derna a.m. 10th for fuel and onward routeing to reach "Chop" 1930C/10th thereafter to act under your orders, detaching in time to reach Tobruk before dark 11th.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica, 090951C to HURWORTH (R) C. in C. Levant, R.A. Alexandria, S.O. M/S 2, N.O.I.C. Tobruk, JAVELIN.)

Your /...

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War Diary.9.5.1945.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

HURWORTH,
M.L.356,
M.L.359.
(Contd.)

Your 091554C (N.T. in W.R.). M/L's should continue hunt until further orders. Cancel my 090951C.
(S.N.O. Cyrenaica. 091858C to N.O.I.C. Tobruk, (R) C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Alexandria, S.O. M.F. (?2) HURWORTH, JAVELIN)

Convoy
T.E.21.

My 081030 (N.T. in W.R. but see 102315). Delete ODYSSEUS. Add ZACAPA and LINNET. Both for Algiers.
(Com.N.O.B.Oran, 091024A to Admty etc.)

S/M
Movements.

Allied submarines will be passing through 038° 00' N. 011° 30' E. thence through 037° 07' N. 013° 15' E. thence to Malta for next three nights. (2) One submarine leaving Malta at 1400/9th to operate within 10 miles of Pantellaria from 10th to 12th May returning to Malta a.m. on 16th May. (V.A. Malta, 091029B to A.I.G. 266 (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

M.T.B.
61 lost.

Regret to report loss of M.T.B. 61 by stranding 200 yards South West of Fort Kelibia M.T.B. destroyed by fire. C.B's reported thrown overboard in weighted bag in 10 foot of water. Orders for "Retribution" safe. Consider C.B's will probably be recovered by enemy and must be considered compromised. Full list will be signalled when known. Casualties Lieut. Bligh admitted number one Mobile Sousse injuries to leg not serious. Missing Frank Adshead Stoker 1st Class C/KX 79280 probably prisoner of war. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 091046A to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med., Admty, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Tripoli, Capt. C.F. Med. N.L.O. 8th Army, Combrax Chatham, M.T.B.Base, Bone.)

Barge
Sunk by
ZETLAND.

ZETLAND sank one barge full of men, oil and ammunition in 037° 28' N. 011° 21' east at 0108A today.
(BICESTER, 091050A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O. 12th Cr. Sq. S.O.I.S. Capt. (D) 19th)

19th D.F.
Situation.

Situation 1115/9th. LAFOREY and BICESTER approaching Tunis. ZETLAND, OAKLEY area C.C. TARTAR, LOYAL hunting Merchant ships reported 040° ZEBIB 20. Intend bombard later. Very little boating activity.
(Capt. (D) 19, 091117A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.12.)

Enemy
M/V's.

Following read: 2 Merchant Vessels in 37.07 N. 10.45 E. course 360°
(Aircraft BRH 11, 091140A)

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. (Contd.)

- B.17 A/C. in Sea. Following received on 11200 k/cs from Malta W/T: Following read from Aircraft 19 J.I. S.O.S. Position 38.15 N. 12.28 E. B.17 F number down in water bearing from 19 J.I.- 318 first. (Nore W/T, No. T.O.O. to Whitehall W/T, Recd. 1454/9)
- M.K.S.13. F.O.I.S. is requested to sail convoy M.K.S.13 at 1800A May 14th. Speed of convoy 8 knots, of advance 7 knots. (2) Route through 91,36, 99,51,100,89,17,69,56,73,16 to Gibraltar lettered A to L omitting I. (3) Section joins and detaches with local escort, Philippeville in 037° 14' N. 006° 58' E. at 0100 May 15th, Bougie in 99 at 1300 May 15th, Algiers in 036° 53' N. 003° 07' E. at 0300 May 16th. (4) Convoy enters Oran E.T.A. 0800 May 17th sailing again at 1600 May 17th. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0300 May 19th. All times A. (5) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail convoy as necessary to meet S.L.129. (6) First 2 letters of W/T call sign GX. Incon 345. (7) Fighter priority 3 by day, 2 by night. Codeword "Cockatoo". (8) Escort EGGESFORD, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, TANGO, GAVOTTE, KING SOL. (C. in C. Med. 091140A to A.I.G.260) Para. 8 amended, see 131101A
- Greek Relief. FORMOSA and YARRAWONGA relief ships left 1530/7th Piraeus by Standard route. Not to be molested. (Capt. (S) 1, 091141C to PARTHIAN, G.S.PAPANICOLIS)
- UNITED. Cancel reference to P.44 (UNITED) in my 082150. (S.8, 091144A to 8th S/M F. (R) S.10)
- Dispositions, Submarines, Area G.C. (1) TRIDENT in Gulf of Lions. (2) SHAKESPEARE 038° 14' 004° 58' 087° 9 knots. (3) SAFARI West of Sardinia and Corsica. (4) O.R.P.SOKOL 038° 00' 011° 30' through 037° 07' 013° 15' to Malta 8 knots. (5) P.31 038° 13' 010° 20' through 038° 14' 011° 18' and 038° 00' 011° 30' at 0500A/10th thence 123° 7 knots. (6) UNRIVALLED Northwest of Lipari moving Southwest 7 knots. (7) UNISON South Ustica moving East. (8) SIBYL East Sardinia. (9) S/M movements summary in area G.C. at 2002A/9. All S/M diving by day 2½. surface speed as indicated. (Capt. S. 8, 091159A to S. and A. in Area G. & C. (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Dispositions, Area G.C. Situation forecast area G.C. to 011° 13', 2000A/9th S/M's excepted. (1) 3 destroyers in area EE and 2 in area FF. (2) 3 M.T.B's 037° 24' N. 009° 50' E. to Sector A 3 and 2 in same position to report number A 4. (3) RHYL 4 Fleet M/S and 3 trawlers 037° 20' 009° 20' to anchor off Cape Serrat. (4) E.T.20 and 5 escorts 037° 04' 007° 45' through 91,36,162,92 to Algiers. (F.O.12 C.S. 091204A to A.I.G. (?261))

Dispositions /...

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War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

Dispositions Destroyers on patrol in areas CC and DD withdraw
Destroyers. to area EE and FF at dusk tonight. Leave patrols
at 0400/10th May and proceed to Malta. Route
through $036^{\circ} 10' 011^{\circ} 30' 036^{\circ} 07' 013^{\circ} 00'$.
(2) C.S.12 is requested to sail ESKIMO, LOOKOUT,
LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE, WILTON to pass North of Q.K.34 and to
arrive, Fleets in area ID, Hunts in area CC by 0700/10th. Codewords Fleet
"Links", Hunts "Rumford". (3) V.A. Malta is requested to
sail 5 Hunt at 0500/10 May for patrol 3 in area HH codeword
"Hemingway" 2 in area GG, codeword "Gladstone". (4) Fleet
destroyers in area GG, HH, proceed to Malta when relieved by
Hunts in para 3, route as in para.1. (5) Submarines are to
be attacked within radius of 45 miles of Cape Bon light.
(C. in C. Med. 091233 to V.A. Malta, 12th C.S., A.I.G.266,
UMPIRE, S.N.O.Trip. A.I.G. 263.)
Request you will re-inforce "Gladstone" in para. 3 of my
091233 with 1 Hunt from ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR.
(C. in C. Med. 091713 to N.O.I.C.Malta, (R) F.O.12th C.S.
A.I.G.263, A.I.G. 266.)
C. in C. Med's 091233 and 091713. Sail at 0500A/10th
through $036^{\circ} 07' 013^{\circ} 00'$ about 1000A, $036^{\circ} 15' 011^{\circ} 20'$
about 1400A. S. of A. 20 knots. (2) Thence DULVERTON, S.O.,
MIAOULES and TETCOTT to patrol in area HH, BEAUFORT, PINDOS,
EXMOOR in area GG.
(N.O.I.C.Malta, 092001B to DULVERTON, MIAOULES, TETCOTT,
BEAUFORT, PINDOS, EXMOOR, (R) A.I.G.266, A.I.G.263,
F.O.I.S. F.O.(C.S.)12, C. in C. Med.)

SICKLE. Intend sailing P.224 (SICKLE) 1830/10th for
patrol north of $042^{\circ} 00'$ between $005^{\circ} 50'$ and
 $007^{\circ} 40'$ routed through $040^{\circ} 01' 004^{\circ} 29'$ at
0300/12th $042^{\circ} 01' 005^{\circ} 55'$ at 0800/13th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 091234A to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C
Gibraltar, 8th S.F., MARSOUIN, Cdre. Algiers)

* H.D.M.L. My 241902 (re formal transfer of one H.D.M.L. to
for French Navy Algiers for training purposes) and
French. my 021546 and my 091136 March. Request reply
may now be given to enable arrangements with
French for transfer of H.D.M.L. Flotilla to
proceed.
(C. in C. Med. 091253A to Admty (R) C.C.F.)

M.T.B's C. in C. Med's 090909 (No trace in W.R.) para.(A)
Sousse. not to A.I.G.266, comply. Inform A.I.G. 266
and 263 in future of all M.T.B's movements from
Sousse.
(N.O.I.C.Malta, 091258B to N.O.I.C.Sousse(R)
C. in C. Med., S.O.I.S., F.O.12th, C.S., A.I.G.
266)

Situation (1) My 082043 para. 7. F.O.I.S. entered
report Bizerta in M.T.B.637 at 0959/8 but was forced to
91. withdraw by enemy fire and has returned to Bone.
Reports several wrecks in Avant port, but not
so as to block entrance to Goulet Dulac. Sailing
of G.C.T. convoy has been postponed.
(2) /...

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

/ Situation report 91. (Contd.) (2) Three Fleets and three Hunts from Bone carried out patrol in vicinity of 38° N. 10° E, and three Fleets from Malta off Gulf of Hammamet during daylight 8th May. These destroyers with three Malta Hunts established four patrol areas during night 8th/9th May offshore from North of Cakruj N (sic?Cape Bon intended) to East of Kelibia. (4) LAFOREY, TARTAR and LOYAL on patrol in para 2 were attacked by aircraft in 38.02 N. 10.27 E. at 17508 no damage sustained. Force sank two small M/Vs in position 25 miles North of Cape Bon at 0202/9. (5) JERVIS, NUBIAN and PALADIN bombarded Kelibia whilst proceeding to patrol area at 1948/8 with very little opposition. Further bombardment was carried out at 0450/9. Increased opposition was encountered but no damage sustained by our forces. Available coastal craft from Bone and Sousse established inshore patrols during night 8/9 May between Bizerta and Kelibia. Much activity was seen on all beaches around Bizerta but no one trying to leave. No surface craft were seen. (6) Sweeping of Galita to Bizerta Channel continues. (C. in C. Med. 091331A to A.I.G.264)

SPEEDWELL Intend sail SPEEDWELL at 0030A May 10th to Bone. (2) Route 90, 96. (3) Speed 12½ knots. E.T.A. 1930 about May 10th. (4) Codeword "Ridgeway". (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 091341A to N.O.I.C. Bone, (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

EASTON, KANARIS. At 2359/9 detach EASTON, KANARIS to Malta through "Hope" "Crush" "Hug". S. of A. 20 knots. Codeword "Sandstorm". Fighter defence priority normal. (2) EASTON, KANARIS are to act under orders of N.O.I.C. Malta on arrival at Malta. (C. in C. Levant, 091401C to Capt.(D) 22nd D.F. (R) KELVIN, A.I.G.71, A.I.G.72, A.I.G.69, A.I.G.70, C. in C. Med. Cdre.(D)).

Bizerta-Tunis docks. Request report on condition of docks, repair facilities and labour in Bizerta-Tunis area as soon as possible. (D.O.D.(F), Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 091421B to C. in C. Med.)

TARTAR, landing Craft. One landing craft bearing 324° position 37.51 N. 11.05 E course 050° speed 7 knots. (TARTAR via Alex. W/T 091428)

NELSON endurance. Approved your 081208. (C. in C. Med. 091428A to S.O. Force 'H' (R) Admty)

M.T.B's. Intend sailing M.T.B. in accordance with C. in C. Med. 090909 (N.T. in W.R.) para. A Sector B 4 codeword "Wigwam" BAO, C.3 codeword "Magog" B C N, C I codeword "Minor". B D L, C 2 Codeword "Potent" B C K (N.O.I.C. Sousse 091432A to N.O.I.C. Malta (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

P.R.U. /...

War Diary.

9.5.1945.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd)

- P.R.U. 9th May visuals. 1155 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers, 1245 Messina no major naval unit. (V.A. Malta 091436B to C. in C. Med. etc.)
- SAFARI. After 0001/10th act in accordance with my 061522 to P.211 (SAFARI) only and leave patrol through 039° 00' 007° 40' at 0330/12th, 038° 24' 004° 10' at 2100/13th, thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 03' at 0615/14th. (Capt. (S) 8, 091442A to P.211 (SAFARI) (R) C. in C. Med. 8th S/M.F. LN 738 (MARSOUIN?) Cdre. Algiers)
- BICESTER, Enemy Boats. There are a number of small boats with soldiers between Cape Bon and Kelibia Point about 15 miles to sea. (BICESTER, 091520A to N.O.I.C.Sousse, (R) C. in C. Med.)
- ULSTER MONARCH. Arrival 0329Z. Departure 1404Z. (Cdre. Aden, 091533Z to C. in C. Levant etc.)
- * A.N.D. Repairs. As more ships are now fitted with A.N.D. Nets Repair facilities will be required in North Africa. Request information if action has been taken on my 101201 March. (C. in C. Med. 091538A to Admty (R) Com. Algiers)
- M.T.B's Sousse. Arrival M.T.B's 65, 76, 78, 309. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 091615A to Admty)
- Convoy E.T.20. Intend sailing the following (list) (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 091702A to Admty. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav.) E.T.20 my 060946A sailed less THOMAS STONE plus L.S.T.'s 306, 333, 369, 391, 392, 393, all for Oran. SHUNA now for Algiers. (S.N.O. Tripoli, 091831A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, N.O.I.C. Oran, (R) Admty, F.O.I.C. Gib. C. in C. Med, Connav)
- Convoy U.G.S.10, G.U.S.8A. Owing to serious congestion in ports convoys U.G.S.10 cannot be accepted in North African Theatre on scheduled date unless all surplus empty American shipping is cleared from Casablanca and the other ports in convoy G.U.S.8A. Request your confirmation that it is intended to run convoy G.U.S.8 A. (C. in C. Med. 091731A to Cominch)

Surrender /...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)Surrender,
Zebib.

It is reported that enemy force west of Zebib have surrendered.
(S.O. 12th C.S. 091756A to S.O.M/S Flot.12)

13th
Flotilla
Minesweeping.

Following areas cleared today. From southern limit area L to lines joining the following positions 37.25.1 North 09.38.4 East, 37.23.3 N. 09.51.6 E. 4 mines cut and sunk by gunfire and 1 detonated within a radius of 5 cables from position 37.24.8 North 09.44.6 E. Your

090708A. Considered it advisable to continue area already begun as 3 laps had then been completed. Mines were German 'R' Type and 2 sweeps were parted on explosive cutter. No opposition from shore up to Cape Guardia. (S.O.13th M/S Flotilla, 091855A to S.O. 12th C.S.(R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S., S.O.M/S Flotilla 12)

Movements,
Haifa.

Arrivals 9th May SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA Greek Destroyer PANTHER. Departures 9th May Greek Destroyer AETOS and Greek Destroyer PANTHER, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA. (N.O.I.C.Palestinian Ports (Haifa), 091840C to Admty. etc.)

LAFOREY
Damaged,
Shore
Battery.

LAFOREY sustained one hit in engine room just about waterline from Sidi Daud battery at 1727, maximum speed at present 16 knots. Intend to proceed to Malta by route in your 091232. ZETLAND in company. My P.C. and S. 037° 12' N. 010° 45' E. 045° 16 knots. (Capt. (D) 19, 091850A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S. 12, V.A. Malta)

My 091850A. Cancellast para. situation improved, am remaining with ZETLAND in EE. TARTAR, LOYAL in FF. (Capt. (D) 19, 092001A to C. in C. Med. (R) C.S.12, V.A.Malta)

Your 092001. Well done. You are doing great work. Congratulate your Engine Room Staff. Signal position of Sidi Daud Battery and estimated calibre and range of guns. (C. in C. Med. 092129A to Capt. (D) 19)

Malta
Air
Report.

A.I.501 May 9th C.S.R. Part 1. Offensive. Day 8 May. 2 armed R/C were made by total of 8 Beaufighters south west of Sicily Night 8/9th May. 16 Wellingtons on armed search in Sicilian Narrows found no enemy shipping and attacked alternative target Marsala docks and railway station. 138 250 lb.GP and 12 4 lb. incendiary bombs were dropped scoring direct hits on railway south of the station and on base of the inner jetty and numerous hits in target area. 5 Mosquitoes on intruder patrols over Western Sicily to cover Wellington strike found no enemy air activity. Day 9 May 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweeps 2 in Marittimo and 2 in Cape Passero-Messina areas. 12 Spitfire

bombers /...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta bombers escorted by 4 fighter Spitfires attacked
Air railway targets at Licata scoring direct hit
Report on railway bridge and many hits on railway
(Contd.) tracks and installations. Malta Spitfire
bombers diverted attention of enemy fighters
from contemporaneous raids on Messina by
Middle East aircraft and on Palermo by N.W.A.A.F.

Part 2. Enemy aircraft activity. Day 9th May. 0630 hours
12 plus enemy fighters approached Malta at great height and
were intercepted by 10 Spitfires but enemy avoided combat
and returned.
(A.H.Q. Malta 091923Z)

UNRIVALLED. Capt. (S) 8's 082150. Onward routeing from
P as in my 081053 to arrive Malta 0830B/13th.
(Capt. (S) 10, 091929B to P.45 (UNRIVALLED)
(R) Capt. S. 8, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant,
S/M on patrol)

Enemy German prisoner picked up from small boat states
Intelligence, very little organized defence Peninsula and no
Cape Bon. ships or arrangements made for evacuation.
(Capt. (D) 14, 091935A to C. in C. Med. (R)
N.O.I.C.Malta.)

Movements Bone arrivals FANTOME, WHEATLAND, PUMERTON,
Bone. (?LAMERTON), WILTON, LAUDERDALE, WHADDON,
ESPIEGLE, GOTH, ANCHORITE, BENNETT, M.M. 85,92,
171, 763, 88.
Departures ATHERSTONE, PENTSTEMON, WHADDON,
WHEATLAND O.R.P. BLYSKAWIKA, FANTOME, HOLCOMBE, ESPIEGLE.
(F.O.12 C.S.092013A to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Situation Following is repetition of my 082043A (Quoted,
Report Paras. 1 - 5 as in former)
No.90. (6) Paras. 1 and 3. Forces are sailing from
Bone and Malta in the early forenoon in order
to take up position so that they can deal with
surface craft should they escape our air attack
and so as to reach their patrol positions by dusk. (7) F.O.I.S.
has proceeded to Bizerta and first convoy of 2 L.C.T. and
L.C.I.(L) with minesweepers expected time of arrival Bizerta
1100/9.
(C. in C. Med. 092100 to A.I.G.264)

SENTINEL. C. in C. Med. pass to Comnavaw.
Arrived today U.S. SENTINEL. There were no
dedo ppres. (As received)
(Com. N.O.B.Oran, 092108, to Admty etc.)

Movements. Arrived and sailed GLOXINIA, PRIMULA FALK.
Sfax. Arrived L.C.T. 139 and 158.
(N.O.I.C.Sfax, 092124A to Admty)

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Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean (Contd.)

VIRGILIO. Following received. VIRGILIO, Italian Hospital Ship with 900 wounded aboard is at the anchor in Corbus (Tunis Bay) awaiting daylight May 10th to leave.
(Nore W/T. 092145B to Whitehall W/T)

X S/M
Patrols,
Policy. (1) Cancel my 151718 March, not to Admiralty, F.O.S. (2) My intentions for submarine patrols are to stop enemy supplies to Sardinia, Corsica, and Sicily and to cause as much dispersion of enemy A/S measures as possible. (3) Operational submarines of 8th Flotilla and attacked French submarines are to be disposed to stop supplies to Corsica and Sardinia. Submarines working up to be disposed to West Coast of Sardinia and Gulf of Lions. (4) Submarines of 10th Flotilla are to be disposed to stop supplies to Sicily, two on north coast of Sicily the remainder between Cotrone and Catania. (5) To effect dispersion of enemy A/S measures and to take advantage of the many targets in Eastern Mediterranean, three T class submarines from 8th Flotilla are to be transferred to 1st Flotilla now. It may be necessary to recall them to West Mediterranean in a few weeks to intensify the interruption of enemy supplies as in para. (1).
(C. in C. Med. 092206A to S.8, S.10 (R) Admty, C. in C. Levant, F.O.S., V.A.M., S.1)

Movements,
Malta. Arrived and sailed ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA. Arrived DULVERTON, BEAUFORT, TETCOTT, PINDOS, MIAOULES, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, EXMOOR. Sailed M.T.B's 76, 78, 65, 309, 261, 268 and 84 to Sousse. UNITED for patrol.
(V.A. Malta, 092229 to Admty, C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant)

Enemy
Units. Position of 6 small craft ? (Schooners?) 37.45 N. 11.55 E. course 180° speed 10 knots (corrupt group)
(A/C CXR/A, 092235B to Air H.Q. Malta)
Have lost touch with enemy previously reported.
(A/C. CXRA. 092305B to Air H.Q. Malta)

Algiers
Air
Report. 332935. CRB/ege M-3425. Ref. No. JM0244.
To: CG 8th Air Force. To: CG 9th Air Force.
To: Arnold. From: Spaatz, N.A.A.F. ADV H.Q.
Ref. M.3425. (1) 12 P.40's carrying bombs, escorted by 12 P.40's dropped 4-500 pound bombs on 2 large motor vessels heading northeast at K.5182 from the deck scoring near misses on day May 8th.
(2) A small motor launch at K.0799. 6 B.26's escorted by 24 P.38's bombed a small motor vessel from the deck. Vessel believed sunk. 4 of the P.38's carrying bombs, dropped 4 x 5 pound bombs from 3,000 feet on a trawler 5 miles southwest of Marittimo Island. Near misses were scored. (5) 12 P.40's escorted by 13 P.40's dropped bombs on docks near Thonara from 2,000 ft. Direct hits and near misses were observed.
(8) Hurribombers and Spit-bombers missions attacked enemy

troops / ...

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9.5.1945.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean

Algiers troops, emplacements, motor trucks and landing
Air grounds over Cap Bon Peninsula and Protville area
Report with good results. A direct hit was made on
(Contd.) bridge of 8,000 ton ship, 4 Seibel ferries, 1
barge and a motor launch were also shot up.
(10) French squadrons attacked and damaged motor
vessels off La Goulette. Coastal carried out usual patrols
which were seriously hampered by low overcast.
(Algiers, No.T.O.O./9th May to Etousa, Recd. 0100/10)

321 A/5

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 No T.O. 0/9th May IN

From: Algiers.

Date 9.5.43.

Addressed: USFOR, TROOPERS, Mideast, Britman Washington
Arminia Delhi, P.A.I.C. Landforces Melbourne
Dechiefs Pretoria, Dechiefs Capetown, Force Nairobi.
Passed by: (H.M. Ambassador Madrid. (Pass to U.S. Ambassador
Foreign (Madrid.)
Office. (Britmilat Ankara. (For Marshal Chakmak).

Passed by (Resident Minister Achimota,
Colonial Office.

Passed by (Defender Wellington. (For Puttick)
War Office

TUNISIA - SITUATION REPORT.

ETOUSA.

U.S. 325. LINREP 44 dated 9th May 1943.

Summary of Operations 3rd to 5th May.

Eighth Army

1. On May 3rd, the 4th Lt. Bde sector was shelled. Under command Eighth Army, same day 1 FF Inf. Div. concentrated area 10 miles SE of Djebibina. Eighth Army's Main H.Q. moved to Hergla area. Near Saouaf that night patrols of 4th. Lt. Armd. Bde. suffered some loss in minefields. At Djebibina the 2nd N.Z. Div. concentrated. There was some increase of enemy artillery fire in the coastal sector the following day. 5th N.Z. Inf. Bde. held positions 4 miles SSW of Saouaf on the left, preparatory to an attack in Saouaf area.

First Army

2. (A) 19th Corps.

Moroccan and Algerian Divs. attacked across road Enfidaville - Pont Du Fahs at first light 4th May. Increased resistance was encountered after repulsing an enemy counter attack in area 5 miles SW of Dj. Zaghouan. We had advanced 2 miles in area 9 miles SE of Pont Du Fahs by 2400 hours. In co-operation with 2nd NZ Div. on right attack due to continue.

(B) 1st. Br. Armd. Div.

16th. Recce Regt. passed under command of 1st Br. Armd. Div. on 3rd May. Our patrols north and northwest of Sebket El Kourzia took some prisoners on following day. Operating near Sebket Siodjaber, armoured units encountered 5 enemy tanks and compelled them to withdraw on 5th May.

(C).....

(C) 9th Corps:

On 3rd May with 7th Armd. Div. and 201st Guards Bde in area NE of Le Kef and 4th Indian Div. Le Krib, concentration continued. Preparatory to launching full scale attack east of Medjez, 6th Corps moved forward on 5th May.

(D) 5th Corps:

Slight gains were made northeast of Heidous on 3rd May. 24th Guards Bde, repulsed tank attack in same area, destroying 12 enemy tanks including 2 Mark 6's the following day. When 2 later attacks made mainly by Infantry were repulsed, 2 more tanks were destroyed. With concentrated artillery and air support, the 1st. Inf. Div. attacked in this area on 5th May. Capture of all objectives with motor transport north of Dj. Bou Aoukaz successfully attacked by air and artillery, is claimed by 3rd. Inf. Bde.

Second U.S. Corps.

3. Elements of 1st U.S. Armd. Div. entered Mateur on 3rd May, while important road junction 6 miles N.W. and 12 miles N.N.W. of the town was secured by the 9th Inf. Div. Positions 8 miles south of Mateur were taken by 1st U.S. Inf. Div.; on Corps right boundary, 1st Bn. 133rd. Inf. Regt. relieved 6th Armd. Inf. Regt. Despite dive bombing and artillery attacks, the 1st. U.S. Armd. Div. held Mateur the following day, and 3 miles east and northeast of the town Inf. pushed patrols. 1st U.S. Inf. Div. and 34th Div. regrouped on 4th and 5th May for an attack on Chouigui, 4 miles N.W. of Tebourba, which was due to be launched on 6th May at dawn.

ENEMY

4. Enemy compelled to withdraw his forces rapidly eastwards and was unable to stabilize situation, following on fall of Mateur on 3rd May. To hold mountains north of Garaat Achkel half hearted attempts were made, but on 5th May this resistance broke. Enemy pushed back across Oued Tine line, which he is not likely to hold for long, further south. Eventually may fall back to line Medjerda river.

On 4th May enemy counter attacked with 17 tanks, but were badly mismanaged and 12 tanks were knocked out and blown up by our sappers, south of river Medjerda. In this sector enemy was forced back on defensive and, with field and anti-tank guns, is engaged in reinforcing south of river. In this area part of armour is concentrated.

Reinforcement.....

MOST ⁻³⁻ SECRET

~~Reinforcement with anti tank guns~~ is taking place north east of Sebket El Kourzia, where remaining armour is now. That main Allied thrusts will come in Medjerda Valley and in sector south of river is anticipated by the enemy.

At Pont Du Fahs and on Enfidaville line, a quiet situation remains. To protect Pont Du Fahs and Sebket extensive minefields are being laid and in both areas enemy holds excellent Infantry and Artillery positions.

NAVAL.

5. Our destroyers have operated in the Sicilian narrows during each night. Our ships were attacked by enemy aircraft 2 of which were shot down, on the second operation, night 2/3rd May. During night 2/3rd May, 2 groups of MTB's were active in the Gulf of Tunis. One of our vessels struck a mine and sank while proceeding for this sweep. While setting out for a sweep the following night. MTB's and MGB's from Bone were attacked by fighter bombers off Cap Serrat. Our craft had to put back to Tabarka as slight damage was sustained. Destroyed 1 enemy aircraft with 2 damaged and 1 claimed probable. In Gulf of Tunis other MTB's operated same night and in Bizerta roads American MTB's. On 28th April, one of our submarines reports sinking of enemy destroyer off Sicily.

AIR.

6. In Tunisia and Bizerta our heavy bombers have attacked enemy landing fields and installations; all heavily raided were Tunis and La Goulette. Hits and near misses were observed on a large merchant ship and several smaller vessels at La Goulette docks. Heavy and medium bombers on shipping sweeps claim a large escorted merchantman attacked and sunk off Cap San Vito, and 1 small vessel sunk in the Sicilian narrows with 1 further small damaged, also 1 medium vessel. An extremely heavy scale of attack over the battle area has been maintained by aircraft of the Tactical Air Force, in addition to shipping sweeps. Concentrations of tanks and motor vehicles and enemy positions have been attacked successfully.

POLITICAL.

7. In North Africa, de Gaulle's drastic speech from London on May 4th has been received with grave concern. The possibilities of an meeting in North Africa are postponed and negotiations have suffered a serious setback.

No T.O.O./9.

Recd. in W.R. A.M./10/5.

Distribution over

Circulation:

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Foreign Secretary
First Sea Lord.
C.6.Tels. War Office.
A.M.C.S.(C)
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Mr. Radcliffe, Ministry of Information.

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1st S.L.(2)
D.F.S.L.
4th S.L.
5th S.L.
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D.T.M.
D.G.D.
D.T.S.D.

JR
MG

War Diary.

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

55th Flotilla Arrival 55th Flotilla Fairmiles less 475 and 476.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 090031Z to Admty. etc.).
55th Flotilla (?for) (?Calcutta) and Trincomalee delayed Vizagapatam for fuel approx. sailing date A.M.13th May.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam 090501Z to Admty. etc.).

P.A.38 Sailing telegram (6 ships, list).
(2) 0300Z 9th.
(4) 9½ knots.
(5) A.A. 024 degs. 26' (??058 degs.) 14'.
B.B. 022 degs. 54' 060 degs. 30' thence Gan destroyer escort PUNJAB. DERBYSHIRE may join off Masirah.
(N.C.S.O. Hormuz 090335Z, 090340Z to A.I.G.357).

MAURETANIA Consider MAURETANIA could be berthed at either Colombo or Trincomalee. The only reason for her not being able to berth Colombo would be weather too bad for pilot to board but this only occurs very rarely and first burst of monsoon should be over by 21st June. From point of view of security there is now nothing to choose between Colombo and Trincomalee. Advantage of Colombo with regard to watering, fuelling and transshipment of personnel etc. are so outstanding that Colombo is recommended. Your 082005B (?082006B intended) refers.

(F.O.Ceylon 090340Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.).

If Connav agrees to delay due to transshipment at Suez consider that undoubtedly preferable to alternative proposition in Admty's. 082006.

(2) Of 2 alternatives consider Trincomalee the better as weather conditions at Diego Suarez will be such as to render transshipment in anchorage a very difficult operation and underwater defences at Trincomalee are more efficient.

(3) Consider transshipment could also take place at Colombo subject to F.O.Ceylon's remarks.

(C. in C.E.F. 090653Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez).

C. in C. E.F.'s 090653+ has been repeated to Connav.

(D.O.D.(F) 091348B to C. in C.E.F. (R) Connav, F.O.Ceylon, N.O.I.C. Diego Suarez).

+ Former given M/S distribution.

Convoy (1) DEVONSHIRE.
B.A.43 (2) ISLAMI
(3) ALETTA sailed your 8th via Aden with following. (Details). E.T.A. Aden 160600Z.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 090409Z to D.S.T.O. Suez (R)
P.S.T.O. M.E., P.S.T.O. India, D.S.T.O. Aden, G.H.Q.M.E. M.W.T.).

Movements Arrival TEWERA 0430Z/9th.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 090431Z to Admty.).
Departure AMRITSAR.
(N.O.I.C. Calcutta 090914Z to Admty. etc.).

/Colombo...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.-(contd.)

Movements. Colombo arrivals 9th May. 0230Z BALUCHISTAN,
(Contd.) 0230Z BARSTOKE.
(F.O.Ceylon 091425Z to Admty.).

Convoy Arrived 0230Z.
B.M.52 (N.C.S.O. Colombo 090551Z to Admty.).

X Convoy programme (1) Intend to commence Bombay Persian Gulf Aden triangle convoys as detailed in para.2 of my 031202 with B.P.80 leaving Bombay 17th May escorted by MADRAS and TAMWORTH.

(2) Subsequent B.P. convoy programme.

Convoy	Sailing date.	Escort.
B.P.81	25th May	BALUCHISTAN RAJPUTANA.
B.P.82	2nd June	BOMBAY KONKAN.
B.P.83	10th June	H.M.A.S. BATHURST BENGAL.
B.P.84	18th June	KHYBER CARNATIC.
B.P.85	26th June	H.M.I.S. MADRAS H.M.S. TAMWORTH.

This will leave as spare escorts PUNJAB, and LAUNCESTON both due for refit and ORISSA.

(3) Original P.A. A.P. and P.B. convoys in this cycle will sail as follows then at 8 days interval P.A.42 25th May, A.P. 24 3rd June, P.B.44 12th June.

(4) S.N.O. Persian Gulf and N.O.I.C. Aden are requested to arrange programme of ships now in their area detailed for B.P. convoys so that ships may arrive at least 7 days before sailing date to enable boiler cleaning before leaving Bombay.

(F.O.Ceylon 090708Z to S.N.O.P.G. N.O.I.C. Aden, C.R.I.N. (R) C. in C. E.F. F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty.).

Dispositions Eastern Fleet disposition signal No.55 (A) and (C) no change. (D) GAMBIA to Durban HAWKINS, KENYA and CAPETOWN escorting in Indian Ocean. CARADOC escorting in Madagascar waters. Others no change. (E) Available units exercising off Kilindini. (C. in C.E.F. 090709) As amended - C. in C.E.F.100736Z).

Japanese Following for M.E.W. during April the following
Cargoes ships, word MARU omitted, were booked to take 61800 tons of rice from Indo China, TEIA CHILE, HAKUSIKA, GINYO, KASIMA, SHIMPO, RIKIWA and HSINKING last three ships no record. From Thailand 28500 tons rice in MURORAN, TOSEI, KOKI and one other. Above all from I.W.I.S. (C.O.I.S.E.F. 090807Z to Admty. D.N.I.).

/India....

War Diary.

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.--(contd.)

X
India
Air
Report.

A.250 9th May. Number 420 Int. Summary 9 May.
B. Offensive R/C 8th May. 4 Hurricanes sank or
badly damaged approx. 25 Sampans in Anchaung
4 Hurricanes severely damaged single steamer off
Kantha 20 degs 06' N. 93 degs. 22' E. and
destroyed 2 Sampans at Minbya.
(A.H.Q.India 091038Z).

EMPIRE
TROOPER

?Leaving 29th EMPIRE TROOPER
(N.C.S.O. Basra 0791203Z to A.I.G.88).

9.5.1943.

Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

FENCER. New York departed 7th in H.X.238 FENCER.
(N.S.H.Q. 090102Z to Admty.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. 8th arrival BURNHAM, SKEENA, EYEBRIGHT, LA MALBAIE, MAYFLOWER, BITTERSWEET, NORTHERN SUN, SAMSONIA ex O.N.180. OFFA, ORIBI, SPEY, SUNFLOWER, TAY, SNOWFLAKE, NORTHERN SPRAY ex O.N.3.5. PICTOU ex Halifax escorting FOUNDATION, ARANMORE, KITCHENER ex Halifax TROIS RIVIERES ex Wabana. ST. ALBANS, TRAIL, NORANDA ex H.X. 237 ORILLIA ex Halifax. Departure TROIS RIVIERES escorting minesweeper to Wabana.

(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 090350Z to Admty.)

Arrivals LINCOLN from St. Johns N.F. RENARD from Digby? Departure CHAWNEY to Sydney for docking.
(C.Halifax 091258Z to Admty.)

American Built escort carriers, design. Your 070031. Decisions on alterations for "Ruler" Class including those referred to in my 171657/April will be forwarded in the course of a few days.
(Dep. Controller 090352B to B.A.D.)

MANCHESTER EXPORTER, H.X.236. Your 081127B. Port Director, New York, reports that MANCHESTER EXPORTER did not return to New York, and is still with the convoy. He believes that the Commodore mistook the MANCHESTER EXPORTER for the MOSES CLEVELAND which latter has returned to New York from the same convoy.
(Comnav 090636 to Admty.)

Movements	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed
Summary 1800	CHESHIRE	38° N. 36° W.	000°	12 $\frac{3}{4}$
G.M.T.9th.	F.S. GLOIRE	10° N. 31° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CARNARVON)	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	CASTLE			
	(D.O.D.(F) 090949Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			

SANTA MARGARITA "S" report Intercept from Barbados W/T (begins) SSSS from KBNO KHHT (SANTA MARGARITA) periscope sighted 018° 10' N. 068° 10' W. at 1040 G.M.T.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 091022Q to Admty.)

SENNEN Cancel my 081750. Request you will sail SENNEN at the earliest opportunity on 10th to join Escort Group 1st supporting O.N.S.6.
(C. in C.W.A. 091114Z to F.O.N.F.)

Convoy H.S.83. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O.Sydney 091348Z to Admty.)

War Diary.

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

F.H.53. Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 091420Z to Admty.)

ORILLIA C. in C.N.W.A. 051610 ORILLIA delayed by defects. E.T.A. Londonderry 18th.
(F.O.N.F. 091445Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in C.C.N.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. Cdre. Londonderry.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 091514Z.)
S/M estimate.

S.C.130. Due to extreme pressure on dockyard facilities cannot sail B.7 group in time for S.C.130. Request S.C.130 be delayed sailing 24 hours.
(F.O.N.F. 091516 to Admty. C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. C. in C.W.A. OFFA, DUNCAN.)
F.O.N.F.'s 091516. S.C.130 sailings delayed 24 hours.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 091804Z to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C.E.S.F.)
S.C.130. Your 091516. Concur.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 092359B to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. C.E.S.F. C. in C.W.A. OFFA, DUNCAN.)

S/M estimate (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 091527, 091528, 091554, 9th May. 091555, 091556.)
U.S. S/M
Notice.

N.Atlantic N.S.H.Q. 062200. Concur.
Convoy cycles 2. Propose S.C. sailings be made one day
S.C.Sailings. earlier than at present arranged and in order to keep the lay over time of escort groups the same to sail O.N.S. convoys a day earlier.
3. As O.N.S.7 has already sailed propose H.X. 241 sail a day late in order that H.H.X. 241 and S.C.132 do not sail on the same day.
4. Revised sailing dates would be, H.X. 241 May 25th then H.X. convoys as already arranged, O.N.S.8 May 17th S.C.133 June 5th then O.N.S. and S.C. at eleven day intervals.
(D.T.D. 091534B to N.S.H.Q. Cominch C. and R. (R) C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D. Comnavu.)
Concur Cominch C. and R. 101842Z to Admty.
Concur N.S.H.Q. 112103Z to Admty.)

O.N.181 RENONCULE reported DANEMAN abandoned and left
DANEMAN on fire and sinking at 091000. 29 crew
abandoned. including Captain in GROWLER. 16 including 2 serious in RENONCULE.
2. RENONCULE and GROWLER at 091000Z 58° 03' N. 44° 54' W. course 211° 13 knots.
3. O.N.181 at 091000Z 56° 13' N. 48° 55' W. course 193° 7 knots.
4. Weather report.
(M.O.E.T.U. 24.1.17 091700Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) M.O.Escort T.U.S. 94.1.4, etc.)

/H.X.237...

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War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

H.X.237. N.S.H.Q. 091558Z, 091742Z, see Home Commands.

Missing ship. Your 141312/3/43. (N.T. in W.D.) Ship not arrived.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 091407Q to Admty.)
W.R.Note:- Presumably 141231/3 intended. re 4 ships loading at San Pedrodo Macoris for Georgetown, Havana and New York.

AQUITANIA. Action Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. Cinclant, C. in C.C.N.A. Comeastseafon, Com. 3, Alusnob Halifax pass to C. in C.C.N.A.
Departing New York 1645Z May 10th Ambrose AQUITANIA (A.T.42A) E.T.A. Greenock Boom 0900Z/18th. F. 39.50 N. 70.01 W. position G. omitted. H. 39.25 61.05 J. 40.20 49.10 K. 41.01 36.02 L. 45.20 25.40 M. 53.53 19.55 dawn R/V at 0400Z/17th in 54° 20' N. 18° 03' W. N. 56.30 08.30 thence proceed accordance instructions C. in C.W.A. S.O.A. 19 knots. Q.J.C. 136, Q.Z.H. 355, Q.Z.S. 411, Q.Z.Y. 388. "Chop" 1200Z/13th. Communication Standard as Admiralty 151050 March. Fighter protection codeword is "Active" with associated call sign 103. (P.D. New York 091820 to Admty.)

UGANDA.. My P.C. and S. at 1700Z/9th 037° 40' N. 050° 14' W. 336° 15 knots. Expect to arrive Argentia 1200Z/11th. (UGANDA 091844Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. Comtask 24, B.A.D.)

G.U.S.6A. Arrived New York 2000/8. (Conroute 092040Z to Admty.) Following ships arrived New York 8th (list).* (B.R.L.O. New York 092050Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.) *Total 30 ships.

ORIBI. 1. ORIBI sustained following damage (details).
2. Intend sailing ship approx. 12th to Halifax. Request arrangements be made for repairs port in Canada or U.S.A. (F.O.N.F. 092055Z to C. in C.C.N.A (R) N.S.H.Q. E.G.3., C. in C.W.A. Admty. ORIBI.)

Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z. Para. B. Surface craft attack sub. 59 N. 36.15 W. 082039. Army plane sights surface sub. course East 06.15 S. 30.40 W. 071913.
Para. C. Sub. sighted on surface 07.34 S. 33.20 W. 091035. B.18 has made contact 34.29 N. 73.34 W. 081807. Para. D. Periscope sighted 18.10 N. 68.10 W. 091040. P.B.Y. sights sub 31.25 N. 77.10 W. 091554. Radar contact 34.34 N. 76.36 W. 090112. (Cominch 092108 to Admty.)

/Attacks...

9.5.1943.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

X
Attacks on
O.N.S.5
28th April
to 1st May &
4th to 6th May

Preliminary investigation of attacks on O.N.S.5 show following points. Battle divided into two periods divided by three days gale. First period 28th April to May 1st with pack of about 8 U-Boats. Second period May 4th to 6th about 25 U-Boats.

In first period, 8 unsuccessful night attacks repulsed but one day attack successful. Scare tactics based on appreciation of H/F D/F bearings were successful. In second period, two successful day attacks and three successful night attacks delivered and over 30 night attacks repulsed. U-Boats were attacking by 18 pairs and three's. Possibly one day attack delivered by pair. No new tactics in night attacks. By day U-Boats approached from ahead of centre of convoy and fired from between the columns. U-Boats were using 2 different H/F frequencies simultaneously during night of 4th May.

Possibly 2 different packs attacked. A.C.I. diagrams and orders used throughout. Experience shows that at night 6 ships is minimum number on 271 close screen unless weather permits one side of screen to be left unprotected and that now 271 fitted ships of support group should be stationed at least 8 miles clear of convoy. Co-operation between escort and support group excellent. Little Air Cover available due to weather which also prevented fuelling of escorts. Tanker BRITISH LADY did not carry enough fuel. Rescue Trawlers proved their use.

It is strongly suggested that convoy was routed too far north into ice and bad weather. Only on one night after gale had scattered convoy and in rough sea did U-Boats gain upper hand. It is thought likely that day attacks will become more, and night attacks less frequent as result of this battle.

Following claims are considered reasonable without close investigation certainties SUNFLOWER, ORIBI, VIDETTE, SNOWFLAKE. Very probably LOOSESTRIFE, VIDETTE, OFFA, aircraft of R.C.A.F. Probable DUNCAN, PELICAN. Possible DUNCAN OFFA, aircraft of R.C.A.F., VIDETTE, TAY, PINK, SENNEN, SPEY. Numerous other attacks were delivered. SNOWFLAKE's kill was by one depth charge. VIDETTE, "Hedgehog" a kill.

(F.O.N.F., 092225Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

H.H.X.238
Escorts.

Departure MILLTOWN, SHAWINIGAN, SUDBURY, CHELSEA escorting H.H.X.238.
(C. Halifax, 092315Z to Admty., N.S.H.Q., Cominch C. & R., B.A.D., C. in C. W.A., F.O.N.F., Cdr. D. Argentia.)

FENNEL.

E.T.A. 0900Z/10th. Boiler hours. (Corrupt group).
(FENNEL, 092357Z to C. in C.C.N.A.)

/ R/T ...

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

R/T. Convoy R/T wave within the eastern sea frontier for Transatlantic convoy and large troop transports has reverted to 2410 k/cs. (B.A.D. 092359Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. F.O.I.C. Greenock, C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 31. WILLIAM WILLIAMS arrived Suva 1041 M 8th. Buin area Bougainville 11 A.K. 6/5. Incomplete reports 7/5 indicate probable action central Solomons. 11 unidentified warships sighted North of Russell Islands and 4 warships between Savo and Florida Islands. Coastwatchers report damaged vessels. Possible SS. sighted 20 miles east of Ongtong Java Island 6/5. Allied bombings of Kolombangara and Munfa New Georgia Islands 6/5. (C.W.R. Wellington 090006Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

- ✓ Digest serial 2. 7 ship convoy including 1 light cruiser 2 No. 474 May 8. destroyers 2 large, 2 medium merchantmen sighted morning 10 miles south of Cape Matanalem (New Hanover) course 130°. Another large vessel following convoy 15 miles behind. Probably same convoy reported to consist of 6 ships including light cruiser, 2 destroyers, 3 medium, 2 large merchant vessels located 6 hours later 50 miles further southeast and shadowed until after dark. Course still 100° to 125°. Seventh ship still same distance behind displaying illuminated red cross.
3. Morning R/C also saw 1 destroyer, 1 medium cargo ship 10 miles northwest Ysabet Passage course 130°.
4. Another forenoon R/C Fortress sighted 3 armed camouflaged power boats near northwestern extremity Gazelle Peninsula course south also 100 to coastal lugger on beach nearby. In addition saw 25 barges or launches in small groups all beached at five different points along shores of open bay and Kimje Bay also 200 fuel drums in previously reported location west coast Willaumez Peninsula. At Roole Island launch loaded with 15 men and supplies caused to run on reef off Higgins Point. Aircraft strafed all barges and boats seen.
5. Afternoon search. Fortress unsuccessfully bombed small supply vessel loaded with crates beached ten miles southwest of Ubili. Also bombed Ubili and strafed fuel drums Willaumez Peninsula. Afternoon four camouflaged barges sighted 8 miles southwest Cape Gloucester.

War Diary.9.5.1943.
Sunday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Digest serial 8. Morning R/C reported 1 large cargo vessel of No. 474 May 8. 1500 tons and 2 smaller ships with fighter cover (Contd.) 50 miles northwest Madang course 160°.

9. Mid afternoon 8 Beaufighters 9 B.25s covered by 16 Lightnings attacked 2 ships. Later (?off) Ladang. Photos show ships as 1 small tanker type and a 1000 ton merchant ship, believed small vessels as reported previous day heading eastwards from Wewak refer digest 473 para. 3. Beaufighters first strafed and set afire merchantman which was crowded with troops also burned Zero seen on strip, 3 more Zeros seen on strip and 2 intercepted preventing further strafing. B.25s dropped 500 pound five second delay bombs from masthead height sinking larger vessel with 3 direct hits and probably destroying tanker type vessel with 2 direct hits and 4 very near misses. Minimum 8 Zeros intercepted B.25s which damaged 1. Lightnings encountered 6 Zeros whereof 1 destroyed, another damaged. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 090926Z.)

Movements.

Arrivals Brisbane 8th LITHGOW, KATOOMBA, GEELONG, U.S.Dest. RALPH TALBOT. U.S.Dest. PATTERSON. Townsville 7th U.S.Dest. GILMER 8th U.S.Dest. HENLEY departure Sydney (N.S.W.) 8th U.S.Dest. Branch Capt. D.7 S.O. 42nd Corvette Group. MORESBY, BALLARAT, BENDIGO Cape Wrath 8th LARNE (corrupt group) YANDRA. Darwin 7th INVERELL Brisbane 7th AUSTRALIA, ARUNTA, WARWUNGA, GOULBURN, SEAMEW Cid Harbour 8th U.S.Dest. HENLEY Exmouth Gulf 8th U.S.Seaplane tender HERON Fremantle 8th ADELAIDE Milne Bay 8th ECHUCA. (A.C.N.B. 091001 to Admty.)

Arrival 8th May Townsville U.S.Transport VAN DER LIJN. V.S.IS MERKUR, R.A.F.A. KURUMBA, Brisbane U.S.Transport SWARTENHONDT H.T. KATOOMBA, 9th Melbourne U.S.Transport LURLINE. U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed Townsville 8th due Fall River 11th H.T. DUNTROON departed Townsville 9th due Port Moresby 11th. (C.S.W.P.S.F. 091216Z.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 091319B, 091341B.)

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10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

1. The gale continues, causing some dislocation of convoys.

X S/M
Patrol
North of
Iceland (C)

2. C. in C. Home Fleet proposes that the submarines on patrol north of Iceland (C) be transferred to other duties, as the likelihood of a breakout by German main units is not sufficient to warrant the employment of a permanent patrol (See 15 May)
BARB, on this patrol, was probably sighted on 22 April.

3. WARSPITE (Eastern Fleet) arrived at the Clyde today from Durban, escorted by QUALITY. QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, and QUILLIAM.
INDOMITABLE returned to the Clyde today (see 5 May)

GLASGOW returned to Scapa (see 5 May) at 100822B.

CHARYBDIS returned to Plymouth today (see 5 May)

H.X.23/7.

4. At 1627Z CHAMBLY and OBDURATE chased a U-Boat on the surface in 42.04 N. 30.59 W and aircraft from BITER attacked. The U-Boat opened fire and dived, and the aircraft dropped 4 depth charges, the result was not seen.

X 5. Bomber Command aircraft laid 62 mines in the Gironde River and off La Pallice last night.

South Atlantic.

X A.M.C's

6. The Admiralty propose that as the A.M.C's now forming part of the South Atlantic Command will probably continue to be employed principally on anti-raider and blockade runner patrols in the Atlantic Narrows, they should be re-allocated to West Africa Command. This applies to ASTURIAS, CORFU, CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA and to ALCANTARA until her return to U.K.

7. RESOLUTION (Eastern Fleet) was taken in hand at Durban today for a 4 weeks' refit.

10.5.1945.
Monday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

X 8. The Italian hospital ship VIRGILIO was intercepted in 37.15 N. 10.52 E. and was escorted into Tunis Bay by LAUDERDALE for examination, as the weather was unsuitable for boarding. Only crew and 850 enemy wounded were found on board.

X AQUILEA was boarded by DULVERTON, found correct, and was permitted to proceed to Naples. She later reported being bombed.

X Another Italian hospital ship reported being bombed in Kelibia Bay this evening.

Light
and
Coastal
Force
Operations
off
Tunisia.

9. A number of prisoners have been taken by the destroyers on patrol off Tunisia. At present 16 destroyers are based on Malta and patrols are maintained day and night in the Sicilian Channel and Cape Bon area.

Today, destroyer patrols were closed in on the Cape Bon peninsula: 21 destroyers were at sea between Bone and Malta on these operations. Coastal craft continued to maintain inshore patrols during the night near Bizerta and from Sidi Daud to Kelibia.

During the night M.T.B's sank a small craft off Cape Bon and took 36 prisoners, and they also attacked with torpedoes and gunfire a number of small boats in Kelibia anchorage, though results were not seen.

LAMERTON and LAUDERDALE today sank three small fishing vessels engaged in evacuating troops and took some prisoners, including the C.O.S. to the 5th Armoured Division. LAMERTON reported this evening that our own fighter aircraft were plentiful, but no enemy planes were seen. No large evacuation was taking place. Huge fires were seen on Cape Bon peninsula.

At 1208A C. in C. Med. reported that the channel to Bizerta had been swept as far as Cape Blanc.

Four German type (R) mines were cut and one detonated near 37.25 N. 09.45 E.

M.T.B.264 was mined at 1820 today in the approaches to Sousse, and became a total loss.

10. The British tanker DELPHINULA, loaded with benzine is ashore near the Great Pass, Alexandria. Her position is serious and her cargo is being discharged. Salvage was undertaken later.

11. Wellingtons and Beauforts from Malta, on search for shipping last night between Empedocle and Trapani, found no suitable targets and attacked Marsala harbour.

Air
Attack
on
Pantellaria.

X Wellingtons of N.A.A.F. bombed Palermo. 215 escorted Allied medium and light bombers attacked Pantellaria airfield and harbour, and hit a number of landing craft and E-Boats. Catania was also attacked; an ammunition ship was blown up, a tanker set on fire, and much damage caused to the harbour.

10.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

R.A.N.A.S. N. Commodore first class H.C. Bovell C.B.E., D.S.O., has taken up his appointment as second in command Naval Air Stations and Commodore Northern Air Stations, vice Rear Admiral C.V. Robinson C.B. Short title of R.A.N.A.S. (N) will be continued until further orders.
(R.A.N.A.S.N. 100800B to Admty.)

Destroyer Your 090102. Arrangements in para. 2 are dispositions. acceptable.
2. Para. 4. As further demands have now been made on Home Fleet it is regretted that PANTHER, PENN, and PATHFINDER will also have to be withdrawn on arrival in U.K.
(C. in C.H.F. 101459A to C. in C.W.A.)

FORT DE DOUAUMONT. Your 091840B. Facts as stated by U.S. Naval Authorities were reported to them, Admiralty Trade Division, American Consul Newcastle, Police Security and Immigration Authorities on 3rd May by telephone.

No. application was made by the Master as the men only left the day the vessel sailed and no information as to presence in port of a Free French Officer was known until after incident occurred. He made no attempt go on board and was not seen by Master. Name of this Officer is thought to be Felix Gonville and Port Security Officer states it is now rumoured that he went straight to Liverpool.

(N.O.I.C. Hartlepool, 101530B to Admty.)

V.A.2. (1) The flag of V.A.2 has been struck.
Com.2. (2) Commodore Kinahan has hoisted his broad pendant in ANSON as Commodore Second Battle Squadron. (3) The Administrative duties of Vice Admiral Second in Command (H.G.O.2) will be carried out by Commodore Second Battle Squadron.
(C. in C.H.F. 101612B to H.F.)

ULVEN. My 061807. (A) Swedish S/M ULVEN has now been examined in greater detail by divers.
(B) Bottom of hull is stove in, presumably by mine explosion, from torpedo tubes to abaft foremost bulkhead. This bulkhead is destroyed and vessel therefore must be filled as far as foremost bulkhead engine room. Deck is sprung before conning tower which was the cause of telephone buoy being released at the time of explosion. (C) Divers are now trying to secure air pipes to deck fittings after which wires from Camels will be secured to lifting plates.

/(D)...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy - Contd.ULVEN.
(Contd.)

(D) Chief of Naval Staff informs me that salvage will be accomplished by raising S/M in 10 metre stages and that this operation will take many weeks.
(N.A. Stockholm, 101633 to Admty.)

DERWENTDALE.

My 191832 April. DERWENTDALE is to transfer to the orders of R.A.(V) at 0001/12th May.
(D. of P. 101834B to C.C.O.)

Landing
Craft.

C. in C. Plymouth 081529. No objection subject to C. in C. Portsmouth's concurrence.
(C.C.O. 101921B to Admty.)

* Denmark
Straits
S/M
Patrol.

I do not now consider that the likelihood of a breakout by German main units is sufficient to warrant the employment of a permanent Submarine patrol North of Iceland (C). Suggest these submarines be transferred to other duties.
(C. in C.H.F. 101934B to F.O.S.)

Movements.S/M
movements.

E.T.A. 090° Noss Head 5 miles 1700B/10th.
(BARB, 100705B to S.O. S/M Lerwick)
Intend sail UNSPARING escorted by LORD WAKEFIELD from Needles at 0500/12 by Portsmouth route Y.N. to 180° Lizard Head 3 miles, thence to position (X) 180° Lizard Head 12, E.T.A. 2200/12, speed 9½ knots.
(2) From position (X) P.55 UNSPARING proceed independently.
(Capt. S.5. 101050B.)

UNSPARING leaves position (X) 180° Lizard Head 12 at 2200/12, proceeds diving by day through position (L) 049° N. 006° W. and Gold route to position. (O) 043° N. 010° W., thence as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. E.T.A. position (O) 0600/19th May. (2) S.O.A. 85 miles per day.
(Capt. S.5. 101155B.)

Intend to sail BARB, BLACKFISH, and USURPER escorted by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE 1000B/11th for Holy Loch by usual route.
E.T.A. 1400B/13.

(S.O. S/M. Lerwick, 101201B)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/11 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 101706B, 110831B, 110836B.)

WARSPITE.

Arrived Clyde S/S STRATHEDEN escorted by WARSPITE QUALITY, QUEENBOROUGH, QUAIL, QUILLIAM.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 100706 to F.O.I.C. W. Africa.)

/GLASGOW...

10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. - Contd.

GLASGOW. Scapa Arrival GLASGOW.
(A.C.O.S. 100822B.)

ADVENTURE. Onward route through. XX 5001 1235.
YY 180° Fastnet 10 miles, thence by Q.Z.L.18 to
Milford Haven.
(D.O.D.H. 101042B to ADVENTURE.)

DEVONSHIRE. Admty. 091208B. Intend sailing DEVONSHIRE
passing Clyde boom 0500B/12th to arrive Tyne
1100B/13th. S.O.A. 22 knots, passing
Duncansby Head 2300B/12th and May Island
0700B/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock, 101156)
Your 101156B. Request DEVONSHIRE may be adjusted to
arrive Tyne pier-head 1300 to suit tides.
(N.O.I.C. Tyne, 101941B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DELHI. Intend sailing DELHI, ORKAN and TUSCAN at 1500B/
12th to R/V in 052° N. 006° W. at 0900B/13th.
Admiralty 072042B and N.C.S.O. Mersey, 081225
May.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101555B to C. in C. Med.)

CHARYBDIS. Arrived CHARYBDIS.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 101807B)

FURIOUS. Arrived FURIOUS.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast, 102150B)

Operations.

S/M Positions of Submarines at 0800B/11th and
Patrols. movements for following 24 hours.
(A) HERRING on patrol between 68° N and 67° 08' N.
on longitude 18° 38' W. (B) SHAD on patrol
between 67° 30' N. and 68° 30' N. on longitude
16° W. (C) TRUCULENT on patrol between 67° 08' N. 18° 38' W.
and 66° 32' N. 18° 01' W. (D) SURF on patrol between 67° 30'
N. and Icelandic Coast on longitude 16° W. (E) SATYRE approx.
66° N. 09° W. to 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles proceeding
probably on surface except between latitude 65° 20' and 64° 00'
when submarine will be submerged as much as practicable.
(F) O.10 vicinity 63° 49' N. 00° 31' W.
(F.O.S. 101706B.)

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10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Exercises.

V.L.R. My 081514B. V.L.R. trial postponed till weather
Trial. moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 100952B to C.C.O.)
My 101300B and my 100952B. Weather still
unfavourable, but if at all practicable V.L.R.
trial will take place at 1330 tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 102228B to C.C.O.)

INDOMITABLE, Sailed INDOMITABLE, FURIOUS, and UNICORN for
FURIOUS, exercises in Irish Sea. Details of movements
UNICORN. not yet reported.
E.G.42. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 101008B to C. in C.W.A.)
Admiralty 091530 para.10 (B). Conduct of flying
operation should be in accordance with
provisions of A.C.I. 145 with following
exceptions. (a) para. 19, types of patrol flown are to be
arranged by UNICORN. (b) Para 39, UNICORN should select a
suitable frequency for her Swordfish and act as link between
them and surface escorts on 2410 kc/s.
(C. in C.W.A. 101858B to E.G.42.)

Exercise Hvalfiord departure at 0932B, MILNE.
in Denmark (A.C.I.C. 101009B).
Straits. C. in C. H.F. 091349B. Intend to proceed at 09
(?00) to-morrow with JAMAICA in company to patrol
there. Gunnery practices will be carried out
when clear of swept channel. I shall probably
ask air patrol "Polar" to be instituted from noon Tuesday until
dark and patrol "Fox". from first light 12th.
(C.S.10 101315B to A.C.I.C.)

Exercise. V.A.2. in ANSON is to sail from Hvalfjord for
ANSON, Scapa P.M. 15th escorted by INTREPID, ECHO,
DUKE OF MIDDLETON. (2) H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange
YORK, for search and attack on H.M.S. ANSON to be
MALAYA. exercised by available A/C of Coastal Command and
inform me of frequencies being used. Attacks
should be completed before H.M.S. ANSON crosses
008° W. (3) Intend to sail in DUKE OF YORK with
MALAYA to engage ANSON after she passes Cape Wrath. ANSON is
to be prepared to carry out throw-off shooting at MALAYA when
ordered. (4) R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail 5 destroyers
to screen DUKE OF YORK and MALAYA.
(C. in C.H.F. 101515B.)

Exercise. Cancel A.M. 081908 May not to all addressees.
Force "V". 2. C. in C.W.A. is requested to select and sail
one M.L. of the division of the 18th Flotilla at
Stornoway to Irvine for participation in exercises
with Force V. lasting from 13th to 24th May.
3. On completion of exercises the M.L. selected is to be sailed
for Portland in accordance with para. 2 of A.M. 071904 May.
Delay in boat arriving at Portland is accepted.
(D.D.O.D.C. 101753B to C. in C.W.A.)

War Diary.

10.5.1943.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity.

Convoy H.X.237. D.X.237 escort four escorting from Dawn till dusk Ald. (E) Fit 2359/11th May - till 2359 12th May. (F) Nil. (15 Group 101502 to Iceland No. 1 Group.)

Iceland. Following from A.O.C. Iceland begins. After consultation with Commanding General Iceland following recommendations are made on R.A.F. use of Meeks Field. (H.Q.C.C. 101715B to Air Ministry.)

Mining.

S.N.123. Intend to carry out operation S.N.123 as follows:-
(A) Experimental minefields off Gallan Head.
(D) AGAMEMNON, CASTLETON, ST. MARY'S and SCOTT.
(E) C. in C.W.A. is requested to arrange A/S air escort when outside the North Minch. (F) Within the area defined by QZY 391. (G) 0600B/15th May. (J) Direct. (K) 12½ knots. (L) 1630B 15th. (N) Direct. (O) & (P) Port ZA 0600B/16th May.

(R.A.M. 101202B to Admty.)

Intend to sail SCOTT from Port Z.A at 0600B/12th to arrive Stornoway at 1200B and proceed thence as necessary for S.N.123. On completion she will call at Port Z.A. and then carry out survey at Loch N.A. Lathaich until required for S.N.111B. (R.A.M. 101204B to Admty.)

X Operation "Tincture". Request you will carry out operation "Tincture" forthwith. (D.M.S. 101941B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

Enemy Intelligence.

? Altenfiord. Soviet visual R/C Altmacmi Fjord (?Altenfiord) at 1259C today observed two ships presumed to be TIRPITZ, SCHARNHORST, one SCHEER class pocket battleship, two Hipper class cruisers, three destroyers, two depot ships of 18 thousand to 20 thousand tons, and some small craft. (S.B.N.O. North Russia, 101345B to Admty.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported and attacked in North Atlantic. 2330B departed. S/M in 59° 34' N. 20° 07' W. still surfaced, course 260°, speed 11. (A/C. I of 84 Sqn. 100027B to Artunshofdi.) On day 7th May. 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S patrol. 1 A/C sighted U-boat travelling fast at conning-tower level. As the A/C dived to attack, the U-Boat altered course 30° to starboard causing the A/C to attack from

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported and attacked in North Atlantic. (Contd.)

45° on starboard bow. The sea was very rough and the light too difficult for satisfactory observations and the A/C was recalled before baiting operations could be carried out. On day 9th May, 5 Whitleys of 10 O.T.U. completed A/S patrol. Two attacks were carried out. In the first attack, the bomb-aimer sighted the target with the naked eye about 5 miles away. On approaching in a shallow dive, the U-Boat was seen fully surfaced. U-Boat appeared to dive on full rudder to starboard 15 seconds before depth-charges struck the water. Observations of results were difficult owing to cloud shadows on water. A few minutes after this attack, the same A/C sighted the wake of a surfaced U-boat 4 miles dead ahead. The A/C immediately went into attack. Two members of the crew stated that the U-boat dived, the conning-tower disappearing, entirely except for the periscope standard or D.F. loops. But the Captain of the A/C is of opinion that the long swell merely gave the impression of submersion, as almost immediately the U-boat reappeared and opened fire on the A/C with light guns of estimated 37 MM. Calibre. The A/C returned the fire on four members of the crew seen on the conning tower. After more exchange of fire, the U-Boat submerged. (H.Q.B.C. 101515B.)

Navigational.

Ice on 5th May. Your 271644 April. Southern edge of heavy ice in 070° 48' N. 016° 04' W. on May 5th. S.O. S/M Lerwick, 101941B to F.O.S.)

Technical.

X Oiling at sea. In order that advantage may be taken, in very calm weather, of oiler escorts by trough-method, Escort Carriers are each to be supplied with 2 in. No Flange Adaptors for their deck oiling points, suitable for connecting to 5" hose. It is again emphasised that this is essentially a calm weather operation and is not to be regarded as an alternative to oiling astern method. (C. in C.W.A., 101206B to BITER, BATTLER, ACTIVITY, ATTACKER.)

Casualties and Defects.

BACHAQUERO. Your 091332B. BACHAQUERO at own request has been joined up with S.L.128 south. She is experiencing serious boiler-tube trouble. (E.G. 37 101115Z to C. in C.W.A.)

LACONIKOS. S.L.128. A.M. 061740. Delete LACONIKOS. (D.T.D., 101211B to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/PRINCESS...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- PRINCESS IRIS. Sailed Rescue Tugs PROSPEROUS and ABEILLE IV at 0845/10th to assist PRINCESS IRIS in 205° St. Annes Head 5 miles with defective steering. PRINCESS IRIS under own power and tugs entered Milford Haven 1230/10th.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 101239B. to Admty.)
- ATTENTIF. ATTENTIF is remaining with F.N.16 as she is unable to turn in present weather.
(VANITY 101352B. to C. in C. Nore.)
VANITY's 101352B. If weather permits, ATTENTIF should be turned round to join F.S.12 when met. If this is not possible tug is to be ordered to Tyne until weather moderates.
(C. in C. Nore 101748B. to WOOLSTON.)
- BLAIRMORE. Delayed due to engine defects. Expect to have repairs completed by 1830Z.
(BLAIRMORE 101457Z. to HAMILTON.)
- HALIZONES. GOATHLAND take MARAUDER under his orders and pass Gate at 0700B/11th. Proceed through positions (A) 180° Bishop Rock 20 and (B) 49° 10' N. 12° 05' W. and thence to assist steamship HALIZONES disabled rudderless at 2150B/9 in 46° 29' N. 16° 41' W. Sloop KITE is standing by steamship. 2. When met MARAUDER tow ship towards position (B). 5. SEA GIANT escorted by LORD STANHOPE will sail from Falmouth when weather permits.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101755B. to GOATHLAND, MARAUDER.)
My 101755B. KITE reports position at 1359B/10 47° 03' N. 17° 12' W. Speed 8 knots approx. Course 325° which is most easterly course possible for HALIZONES.
(C. in C. Plymouth 101841B. to GOATHLAND, MARAUDER.)
Intend sailing Rescue Tug SEA GIANT at time requisite May 11th to R/V LORD STANHOPE at D1 buoy from thence proceeding through positions. A. 180° Bishop Rock 20 miles. B. 49° 10' N. 12° 05' W. thence as requisite to R/V and assist HALIZONES.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 102045B. to C. in C. Plymouth.)
- MOURNE. Sheerness. Arrival at 1750B. MOURNE.
(C. in C. Nore 101808B. to F.O.I.C. London.)
- BROCKHOLST, LIVINGSTON. Admiralty's 041340. Weekly return of Stragglers arrived. BROCKHOLST, LIVINGSTON (U.S.) O.N.180. Heavy weather. Deck plating split.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 101843B. to Admty.)
- CAMPUS. O.N.S.5. CAMPUS arrived. Lost convoy. Slight ice damage.
(N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 101934Z. to Admty.)

/Shipping...

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10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

S.C.128. Your 091655B. and your 092330. Intend to detach
S.C.L.128. BIDEFORD and POPPY with Loch Ewe portion 16
ships leaving LULWORTH and NORTHERN GIFT with
remaining 14 ships which LANDGUARD should also
join by dark. HASTINGS and MOYOLA continuing
sweep in vicinity pending location by aircraft.
(E.G.40 100400Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. 0800Z, 059° 52' 023° 26' 117° 15. Spoke
aircraft 0700Z. No signs S/M.
(MOYOLA 101036B. to Connav.)
E.G.2, negative KITE, return Liverpool at best speed via
A. Mess "QZ" L.18.
(C. in C. W.A. 101053B. to E.G.2.)
At 1100Z/10. My P.C.S. are 059° 36' N. 019° 55' W. 180°
12 knots, sweep from 060° 15' N. 019° 55' W. MOYOLA P.C.S.
059° 35' N. 022° 10' W. 115° 15 knots Northward and Westward.
from 059° 54' N. 023° 25' W. No aircraft contacted since
0700Z which was by MOYOLA only. Am endeavouring to communicate
with any aircraft.
(HASTINGS 101101Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. 0800Z, 059° 52' 023° 26' 117° 15. Spoke
aircraft 0700Z. No sign Submarine.
(LULWORTH 10136B. (Sic) to Connav.)
My P.C.S. 1330Z 058° 57' 021° 48' 113° 15. Am proceeding
to Liverpool. E.T.A. 1200Z/12th.
(MOYOLA 101339Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
My P.C.S. 058° 00' N. 019° 55' W. 107° 12 knots to
Londonderry. No aircraft contacted today.
(HASTINGS 102201B. to C. in C. W.A.)

P.S.10. P.S.10 and S.P.10. Cancelled owing to weather.
S.P.10. (C. in C. Portsmouth 100728B.)

North Russia. My 091453B. Transfer of oil is urgently
required by Russian Authorities not later May
20th when present stocks in Kola Inlet should
be exhausted. In anticipation early approval
necessary escort is waiting at Archangel being withheld from
other commitments meanwhile.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia 100905B. to Admty.)
S.B.N.O. Archangel's 250946B/April. Request information
when further movements are anticipated.
(D.T.D. 101902B. to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)
Arrivals Dvina Bar: JASON, BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA.
SS. EMPIRE GALLIARD, EMPIRE KINSMAN,
EMPIRE PORTIA, EMPIRE BARD, EMPIRE ELGAR (?ESTE) R PIETER,
DE HOOGH (?TOBRUK) ARTIGAS, MOBILE CITY, EMPIRE FORTUNE.
Admiralty pass to M.W.T.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 101905B.)

P.W.336. Cancel my 091519B and 081430B. P.W.336 has
P.W.337. not sailed due to weather. Intend to cancel
P.W.336 and sail P.W. 337 11th. May if weather
permits.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 100922B. to C. in C.
Plymouth.)

/My...

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10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- P.W.336
P.W.337
(Contd.)
My 100922B. Intend to postpone P.W.337 to 12th May in view of weather.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 101606B.)
P.W.336. My 091137B. Cancelled.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 101423B. to C. in C. Plymouth)
- W.P.337. W.P.337 postponed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 100937B.)
- O.N.182. D/F bearings at 0133Z and 0235Z indicate U/B or U/Bs. in general vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C. 100948B. to Escorts O.N.182.)
- O.N.S.7. A.C.I.Cs. 091406B. Anticipate being 19 hours late at I.C.O.M.P. Propose new I.C.O.M.P. 059° 44' N. 024° 47' W. at 130600Z.
(C.T.U.24.1.19. 101025Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
- Examination at Preston. As from 0001B/1st June. Examination at Preston of vessels bound from U.K. ports and not calling at intermediate ports in Eire is waived, subject to their arrival at Preston having been notified in advance through the Naval Authority at the port of departure, and to recognition by the examination battery at Lytham.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 101049B.)
- W.P.M.337. Postponed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 101107B.)
- C.W.177. C.W.177 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(C. in C. Nore 101155B.)
- F.S.11. F.S.11 negative sailings from Humber owing to weather.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 101247B.)
- H.X.237. D/F of transmission from your vicinity at 1003Z was on Series One.
(D.D.I.C. 101322B. to Escorts H.X.237.)
WENDELL PHILLIPS and JOSEPH WARREN both put back to St.Johns N.F.
(D.T.D. 101540B. to C. in C. W.A.)
One U/B on surface 160° 8 miles. My position 42.04 N. 31.00 W. DEXTEROUS joined Convoy.
(C.2. 101643Z. to C. in C.W.A.)
My 101643Z. U/B has dived.
(C.2. 101704Z. to C. in C. W.A.)
By D/F at 1429Z, U/B estimated anywhere within 75 miles of 42° 00' N. 32° 00' W.
(D.D.I.C. 101731B. to Escorts H.X.237, CHESHIRE.)

/HAFSTEIN...

10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- HAFSTEIN. Your 041922B. HAFSTEIN not arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thurso 101405 to N.C.S.O. Iceland.)
- K.M.F.15 and W.S.30. Admiralty 091530B. and 091638B.
(1) A/S escort sailing from Clyde WESTON, S.O. WELLINGTON, LOWESTOFT, EXE, BOADICEA, ACTIVE, CLEVELAND, TOTLAND, GORLESTON, SLAZAK, NESS.
(2) If GORLESTON is not ready in time to proceed Clyde Comdre. (D) W.A. is requested to sail her to join convoy at Oversay R/V.
(C. in C. W.A. 101453B.)
- O.N.183. O.N.183. Convoy delayed. Add two hours to time of Altacarry and Oversay R/Vs.
(C. in C. W.A. 101458B. to A.I.G.251 AQUAMARINE).
- F.N.14. A.M. 072044B. The decoding error should not of itself have caused ships to miss convoy. It is regretted that the original error was accentuated by a display of misplaced initiative by junior, without reference to higher authority. My investigation proves the administrative machinery to be satisfactory but information exchanged in this case was too meagre. Action is being taken to clarify instructions in these matters.
(F.O. Humber 101750B. to Admty.)
- T.A.42. QUEEN ELIZABETH will be ready to sail from Clyde p.m. 14th May. 2. F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail ship independently for New York by route which will be signalled by Admiralty. 3. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange air protection.
(D.O.D.H. 101911B. to C. in C. W.A.)
- A.T.42A. A.M. 012057/May. Depart New York 101645Z/May. E.T.A. Clyde 180900Z/May. Route.
2. Dawn R/V at 170400Z/May in 5420 N. 1803 W.
3. S.O.A. 19 knots.
(D.O.D.H. 101922B.)

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10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

ANTHONY. Your 081211B para. 2. (Report P.C. and S. and future movements).
(A) 045° 36' N. 019° 56' W. 006°, 17 at 2000B.
(B) 045° 02' N. of 019° 01' W. at 0100B/10 137 11½.

(C) Gibraltar.

(E) Following (? weather report).

(ANTHONY, 100100B to F.O. Gibraltar.)

Note by War Registry: Above passed by Gibraltar to Cs. in C. Med., Plymouth, Western Approaches and H.Q.C.C.

Speed of at least 15 knots through the water is to be maintained. Your 100100 refers. Proceed Ponta Delgada if necessary for fuel reporting E.T.A. Ponta Delgada and oil fuel required.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 101155B to ANTHONY, (R) Admty., C. in C. Med.)

ADVENTURE. Admiralty's 100107. Following is a repetition of my 081559B. (Begins). Addressed Admty., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. W.A., F.O.S., C. in C. Med., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, ADVENTURE; from F.O. Gibraltar. Intend to sail ADVENTURE for U.K. at 2130B/8th. May routed through (A) 35.48, 06.16. (B) 36.32, 07.56. (C) 36.32, 09.05. (D) 37.30, 11.30. (E) 39.30, 12.30. (F) 43.01, 12.30, thence as ordered by Admty. S. of A. 18 knots, codeword "Gremlin". (Ends).
(F.O. Gibraltar, 100819B to Admty., (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med., C. in C. W.A., F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C., ADVENTURE.)

Dispositions. Situation to 101957B.
S/M SIMOON crosses 43.01 10.01 at 0800/11th thence 180° to 42.35, 10.01 at 2000/11th diving by day 8½/2.

2. G.U.S.7, C.T.F.64, 34.30, 07.53 through 34.12 08.09 thence 249°, 9.

3. U.G.F.8 ILEX 35.50, 06.01 to pass Europa Point eastbound at 2230B/10th.

4. 22 L.C.I.(L), S.O. L.C.I.(L) 129, 31.38, 14.02 through 33.05 10.40 thence 052°, 11.

5. C.G.31 ST. NECTAN 34.54 07.11 through 35.(? 18 or 47) 06.21 to Gibraltar, 8.

6. BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK 35.04 07.11 to Gibraltar, 15.

7. 5 Trawlers 34.59 07.17 to Gibraltar, 12.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 101029B.)

My 101029B.

Add new para. (8). U.S.S. KALK, U.S. Destroyer HARRISON, one merchant ship 36.01 07.45 to Gibraltar, 10.

(F.O. Gibraltar, 101749B.)

Situation at 101959.

(2) T.O.4, C.T.G. 21.5, 31.05 13.51 through 31.01 14.01 and 29.58 18.01 thence 253°, 13½.

(4) X.K.6, LOTUS 42.55 14.01, 359°, 5½.

/(5) ...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Dispositions. (5) X.K.6, part 2. HONEYSUCKLE 40.57 13.06
(Contd.) through 42.01 14.01 thence 359°, 4.
(7) Spanish Training Ship GALATEA left Ferrol
May 1st for Canary Islands, E.T.A. 14th.
(9) ANTELOPE 27.03 14.31 thro' 28.03 13.34 then 035°, 17.
(10) ANTHONY (E) 42.21 15.39 137°, 11½.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 101119B as amended 101751B.)

Convoy My 081109. Casa. section sailed 0800Z May 10th.
G.U.S. 7. (Deletions from Mediterranean section).
(Commorseafron, 101110 to P.D. New York, (R)
Connav, etc.)

Swiss Swiss ALBULA and MALOJA leave Genoa 12th and
Shipping. 14th and Swiss chartered Spanish ALBAREDA 12th
all for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D., 101136B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
C. in C. Med.)

T.E. 21. As G.U.S.7, was 29 hours late intend sailing
T.E.21 0700A May 12th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 101225B to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os.
I.C. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C.
Casablanca), Admty., Connav, S.O. Force H., Capt.
(S) 8.)

Troop Admty. 081750. It would be preferable if escorts
Movements, could continue to Gibraltar. They will be sailed
Freetown - again as requisite to reinforce W.S. convoy.
Gibraltar. (F.O. Gibraltar, 101515B to F.O.C.W.A., (R) Admty.
C. in C. Med.)
Reply: F.O.W.A., 111416Z.

JAMES W. Portuguese trawler picked up 10 survivors of
DENVER American ship JAMES W. DENVER (sunk in position
(sunk 11th 028° 52' N. 026° 30' W. at 1700 April 11th) in
April). 021° 55' N. 017° 00' W. on 4th May.
(N.A. Lisbon, 101551B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
(R) Admty.)

G.U.S. 7. Ocean Escort met and G.U.S.7 handed over at 1500B.
QUANTOCK parted company at 1400 for Casablanca
with case of Peritonitis from SS. PEARL HARBOUR.
Trawlers returning to Gibraltar. No local escort
for Casablanca ship, am therefore escorting her myself, trawlers
having no chart. E.T.A. 1830B.
(BROCKLESBY, 101648B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C.
Casablanca.)

/My ...

War Diary.

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

G.U.S. 7.
(Contd.) My 101648, not to QUANTOCK. Merchant ship FORT BOURBON now entering Casablanca. Am returning Gibraltar. E.T.A. 0701 tomorrow Tuesday. (BROCKLESBY, 102005B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca, QUANTOCK.)

COVERLEY,
(encounter
with
presumed
U/B 4th
May.) Survey by diver of COVERLEY's hull shows that ship has overrun some object. Marks on bottom reach from Bridge to Stem? but no damage.
2. Colour of paint adhering either black or dark blue.
3. My 071543 and 081823 refer.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 101721 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med., C. in C. Plymouth.)

X Gibraltar
local
defences. 1. It is not considered that local defences can be maintained efficiently by B.D. Trawler as suggested in your 081830.
2. B.D. Trawler is not sufficiently powerful to handle the Boom Moorings in the Bay and she is required to ? operate the baffles inside the harbour.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 101817B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

Movements,
Casablanca. Warships May 10th. Arrivals - U.S.S. TEXAS, U.S.S. GILLESPIE, CARMICK, THATCHER, HOBBY of Task Force 67, TRACKER, U.S.S. MERRIMACK, QUANTOCK. Departures - P.C.475, ST.NECTON, P.C.472, U.S.S. McCORMICK, OVERTON, SAUNDAO, LIVERMORE, MACLEISH, EBERLE, KEARNEY, ERICSSON of Task Force 64. KEWEAH, HOUSATONIC. U.S.S. THATCHER to escort PASTEUR.
(Commorseafron, 102049Z to C. in C. Med., (R) Comnavnaw, Cominch, Admty., F.O.I.C. Gib.)

GUEST,
BROWNSON. All times G.M.T.
U.S.S. GUEST, BROWNSON, departed Europa Point 2000 arriving (? position Zebra 0800. Speed of advance 17 knots, direct route 71, 66, 52, 21, 56, 72, 70, 01.
(U.S.S. GUEST, 102145Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Morrocan S.F.F.)

Movements,
Gibraltar. Departures: CIRCE, HUSSAR, BUDE to Algiers. L.C.F.16, 18; L.C.T.446, 317, 308, 341, 339, 361, 397, 383, 354, 353, 382, 357, 391, 313, 346, 345, 325, 318, 343 for Algiers. 396 and 320 in tow JAUNTY for Oran, escorted by KING SOL. L.C.I.(L) 112, 118, 120, 121, 125, 126, 134, 271, 270, 300, 107, 268, 266, 252, 264, 183 to Algiers. L.C.I.(L) 268, 120 to disembark troops at Mers-el-Kebir thence rejoin main convoy. P.C.627, B.Y.M.S. 34, 13 to Oran. WISHART to join U.G.F.8. M.L.232 to Mers-el-Kebir.
Arrivals: EGGESFORD ex U.G.F.8.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 102257 to Admty., etc.)

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

T.S.38. Your 071942Z (N.T. in W.R.) On arrival swept channels CORINTHIAN will proceed ahead and pass to port war signal station all fuel and water requirements for convoy T.S.38. Request N.C.S.O. boat be sent outside to meet CORINTHIAN for letter stating other important convoy requirements. SS. PHEMIUS has urgent heart disease case for hospital. My 071404 (N.T. in W.R.) by aircraft. KANBE straggled on 7th May. (BRIDGEWATER 100017Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

DAUNTLESS. Arrived.
(F.O.C.W.Af. 100130Z to Admty.)

Weekly state Dakar area, BULLDOG, ANTELOPE.
West African Freetown area, CORINTHIAN, BRIDGEWATER, ARMERIA,
Station 8th CYCLAMEN, BUTTERMERE, WASTWATER, ROHILKHAND,
May. Freetown, ALCANTARA, MILFORD, BELLWORT, WOODRUFF,
AMARANTHUS, COMMANDANT DETROYAT, TAMARISK,
LEITH, WHIMBRELL, COREOPSIS, AUBRETIA, VIOLET,
ANCHUSA, COWSLIP.
Takoradi Area, NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WITCH, WOLVERINE, RAPID,
BOREAS, LEWES, Takoradi, CATTERICK, FOXHOUND, SNOWDROP,
PETUNIA.
Lagos, THYME, VIRGINIA.
Pointe Noire, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS, ROTHERHAM, KUMAON,
KATHIAWAR, Ocean Patrol, CARNARVON CASTLE, CILICIA.
(F.O.C.W.A. 100826Z to Admty. etc.)

CAMBRIA. Sailed 10th 12, CAMBRIA Brit. cable vessel
repair work due Rio approx. 17th.
(R.O.Monte 100957 to Admty.)
Cable ship CAMBRIA sailed May 10th to carry
out cable repairs in 031° 27' 15" S. 050° 18' 48" W. thence
to Rio de Janeiro.
(B.R.L.O. Montevideo 101550Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Buenos Aires)

Dispositions. Situation report 1959Z 10th May.
WASTWATER, DUNTON escorting 13.28 17.20 256 7.
French sloop DUMONT D'URVILLE, BIRDLIP escorting
08.55 13.48 to 09.18 14.08 thence 295 9.5.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 15.5.
(F.O.C.W.A. 101003Z.)

Situation at 2001Z/10th.
ROHILKHAND, ARRAN. PRESIDENT HOUDUCE, Motor Minesweeper 107 with
S.T.64, 04.20 06.50 to 04.45 05.22 thence 087° 5½.
NEWCASTLE, MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, LEWES with W.S.29, 04.09 S.
05.09 E. to 05.30 S. 10.00 E. thence 172° 12.
French Sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA about 01.28 01.09 E. 076° 13½.
CROCUS, BURDOCK escorting 04.42 16.38 to 08.00 14.30 thence
Freetown 9.
MILFORD, WOODRUFF, FANDANGO, YESTOR, TAMARISK with S.T.65,
07.34 14.00 to 07.00 12.30 thence 121° 9.
KUMAON, KATHIAWAR off Pointe Noire to South 5½.
4 M.Ls. about 07.46 14.04 coastwise to south east 12.
(F.O.C.W.A. 101352Z.)

/Movements...

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South Atlantic - Contd.

Movements
Simonstown.

Arrivals 10th May Simonstown QUADRANT, CAPETOWN,
WORCESTERSHIRE, FREESIA.
(C. in C.S.A. 101146B to Admty. etc.)

* Union Port
Defences.

My 071136 Jan. Following is my 4th progress
report on defences at Union Ports.
(C. in C.S.A. 101233B to Admty. (R) C. in C.E.F.)

ALLIGATOR.

My 092105. (N.T. in W.R.) Sailed 1100 of 10th
tug ALLIGATOR to rejoin escorted group.
Freetown pass to H.M.I.S. KUDEMION (?KUMAON).
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 101405A to F.O.W.A. (R) Admty.
etc.)

ASTURIAS,
CORFU,
CARNARVON
CASTLE,
CILICIA,
ALCANTARA.

As it is probable that they will continue to be
principally employed on anti-raider and blockade
runner patrols in Atlantic Narrows, it is con-
sidered preferable that A.M.C's now forming
part of South Atlantic Command be re-allocated
to West Africa Command.

2. This applies to ASTURIAS, CORFU, CARNARVON
CASTLE, CILICIA and to ALCANTARA until her
return to U.K.

3. C. in C.S.A. should feel free to arrange with F.O.C.W.Af.
for the loan of A.M.C. if a particular need arises.

4. Request your remarks.

(D.O.D.(F) 101534B to C. in C.S.A. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

Reply: No objection. (C. in C.S.A. 121212B.)

DUNKERY.

Have made R/V. E.T.A. 0900Z/11.
(DUNKERY 101700Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

QUERCY,
LA GRANDIERE.

Intend sailing QUERCY 0630Z/12th for Cayenne
speed making good 13 knots routed through
position A. 12 N. 22 W. B. 12 N. 35 W.
C. 07 N. 50 W. to Cayenne E.T.A. Ile de Salut
1000Z/19th.

2. QUERCY will be escorted by LA GRANDIERE to position 12.00 N.
24.30 W. where LA GRANDIERE parts company and returns to
Dakar by reverse route at 13 knots.

3. French air protection throughout daylight 12th.

4 to 10. W/T and S.Ps.

10. Liaison Officer in QUERCY.

(Comar, Dakar 101844Z to F.O.C.W.A. Admty. etc.)

CHARON,
AIMWELL,
M.M.S. 105,
etc.

My 101541 (N.T. in W.D.). When detached from
S.L. 129 CHARON will proceed independently
to Gibraltar by following route: J.Q. 23.45 N.
17.46 W., J.R. 30.01 11.28, J.S. 34.59 07.38.
S.O.A. 11 knots, E.T.A. 20th May. When on
Med.Station CHARON has been ordered to keep watch
in accordance with A.F.O's 1/43 section M.D.

Table 3 (1) lines 3 and 4.

2. AIMWELL and M.M.S 105 (?when) detached from S.L. 129 will

/proceed...

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South Atlantic

CHARON,
AIMWELL
M.M.S.105,
etc.
(Contd.)

proceed to Bathurst E.T.A. a.m. 14th May (?.)
M.M.S.105 will require fuel.
3. N.O.I.C. Bathurst sail as quickly as possible
AIMWELL escorting M.M.S.102, 103, 105 and 106
for Gibraltar by route given in para. 1
reporting time of sailing and E.T.A. Gibraltar.
4. W.T. watch.
(F.O.C.W.A. 101845Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst,
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Com. Dakar, C. in C.
Med. Admty. Commorseafron, M.M.S.105.)

FERNMOOR

Your 070921B May. FERNMOOR most urgently
required for service in Mediterranean. She is
to be sailed at earliest possible date for
Algiers.

2. Request programme. 3. A further signal will be made
regarding proposed modifications to C. baffle.
(D.B.D. 101941B to C. in C.S.A. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.C.W.A.)

WORCESTERSHIRE My 081430 May (Route for WORCESTERSHIRE sailing
from Capetown for U.K.) Amend route as follows
K. 025° 00' S. 012° 30' E. L. 021° 00' S. 010
00' E. M. 008° 45' S. 014° 30' W. N.Equator
032° 00' W. thence as in my 081430.
(C. in C.S.A. 102005B to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.
etc.)

BURDOCK,
CROCUS,
B.Y.M.S.
L.S.Ts.

P.C. and S. 003° 11' N. 017° 59' W. 050° 8 knots.
My E.T.A. Freetown 130700Z. CROCUS, 3 L.S.Ts.
and 4 B.Y.M.S. in company.
B.Y.M.S. numbers 17, 25, 10 arriving later as
number 17 has hot (?bearings) and is unable to
maintain convoy speed. Special uncyphered
weather report.
(BURDOCK 102112Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Com. 4th
Fleet, Capt. D.Freetown.)

NEWCASTLE
W.S.29.

Your 101339Z, (part of 101352/5 - situation at
2001/10.) My P.C. and S. at 2000Z/10th May
04.03 S. 04.37 E. 103° 12½ knots. Request
relief destroyers adjust speed to R/V in
daylight.
(NEWCASTLE 102136Z to F.O.C.W.A. (R) ROTHERHAM.)

DESPATCH.

My 082057Z. Amended E.T.A. Recife 111620Z.
Present P.C. and S. 013° (corrupt group) S.
034° 29' W. 359° 19. Acknowledge.
(DESPATCH 102359Z to Commander 4th Fleet, (R)
F.O.C.W.Af. Admty. C. in C.U.S.Fleet.)

/Troop...

10.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Troop
Movements
W.Coast
Africa.

Ref. your 050553 May para. E. not to Lagos or Takoradi. Takoradi informed that STIRLING CASTLE too large to enter. STAFFORDSHIRE and HIGHLAND BRIGADIER will be used as ferries from Lagos to Freetown, overberthing by 84 each. (S.S.T.O. Freetown 102358Z to D. of S.T. (R) S.T.O. Lagos, G.O.C.W.Af. F.O.C.W.Af. S.S.T.O. Takoradi.)

Troop
Movements.

B.A.D. Washington's 282055 April to Admiralty. Your 050553. Following are my general views.
A. ELIZABETHVILLE will be first used Lagos to Dakar for French move 140 Europeans and 800 Africans. (10 groups missing.) Cancelled.
B. CAP PADARAN will not be used for further movements will proceed U.K. as soon as possible.
C. Ref. A.M. 081750 HAI LEE will not now be used for R.A.F. unit. Vessel will await passage to U.K. on arrival here. R.A.F. unit and U.S.A. constructional unit anticipate will embark in MOOLTAN for Casablanca.
D. CUBA half embarks here thence Takoradi for balance. Lagos personnel will be ferried by NEW NORTHLAND to Takoradi. NIEUW HOLLAND embarks fully here.
E. See my 102358 May.
F.G.H. Noted.
2. Anticipate will be able to cope with programme with present facilities. 3. Agreed.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 102359Z to D. of S.T. F.O.C.W.Af. G.O.C.W.Af.)

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

OAKLEY

Intend sailing OAKLEY, for Malta passing through 036 degs. 12' North 013 degs. 00' East at 0530A/10th. Request M.T.B's be informed. (N.O.I.C.Sousse 100015A to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.12th C.S. OAKLEY, A.I.G.263, A.I.G.266).

Departure OAKLEY 0530 for Malta.

(N.O.I.C.Sousse 100745A to Admty.).

E.T.A. Gate 1600B. Requirements. Have 5 wounded prisoners. (OAKLEY 101245 to V.A.Malta (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.(C) 12, etc.)

Cape Bon Area situation.

Practically no shipping left on coast between Zebib and West of Cape Bon. A few boats but no large attempt to escape. Safe route to Tunis from 037 degs. 10' 24" North 010 degs. 38' 30" East, 215 degs. for 17.8 miles then 200 degs. to 111 degs. Cape Carthage light 2 miles. Only batteries to fire Zafran, range 10 miles, inaccurately. A/A batteries 037 degs. 00' 24" North 010 degs. 54' 42" East fired accurately at 6 miles (corrupt group) held until LAFOREY ceased fire at gun positions seen engaging aircraft, and troop quarters. Ship escaped further damage by zigzagging and smoke. Guns were 30 m.m. Bofors. (Capt.(D) 19 100034A to C. in C.Med. (R) C.S.12.).

D.22
ROCKWOOD

ROCKWOOD remaining in company with me. Have ordered him to take no action in accordance with your 092311. (N.T. in W.R.). (Capt.(D) 22, 100216B to N.O.I.C.Malta, (R) C. in C.Med. KANARIS, ROCKWOOD.).

UNRUFFLED

E.T.A. 0830B/11th. (P.46 (UNRUFFLED) 100254B to Capt.(S) 10, (R) S/M's on Patrol).

Convoy "Bribe" enemy A/C.

One enemy A/C shadowing "Bribe" position 37.16 N. 11.19 E. course 164 degs. speed 16 knots. (Capt.(D) 19, 100422A to Malta W/T).

E.T.20

Following is a repetition of N.O.I.C. Philippeville 092255A (begins): Addressed F.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Bougie, Cdre. Algiers (R) A.I.G.259 from N.O.I.C. Philippeville. E.T.20, Philippeville section sailed. (Ends). (C. in C. Med. 100502A to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, Connav).

E.T.20. Intend to sail for Oran (3 ships) for Gibraltar (11 ships).

(Cdre. Algiers 101144A to Com.N.O.B. Oran, F.O.I.C.Gib. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connav).

/PAPANICOLIS....

10.5.1943.
Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. -(contd.).

PAPANICOLIS Your 100100 (N.T. in W.R.). After passing through 035 degs. 03' North 026 degs. 53' East proceed to 031 degs. 48' 032 degs. 34' to arrive (corrupt group) searched channel 0600/13th May. Proceed on surface during daylight 12th.

(Capt.(S)8. 100507C to G.S. PAPANICOLIS (R) N.O.i/c Tripoli, PARTHIAN, A.I.G.76, R.A.(D) M.F. C.C.D.E.Med.).

X AQUILEIA. Following has been read: Italian Hospital ships AQUILEIA. My position was at 0300 G.M.T. 37.10 North 11.48 East. Course 207 speed 9 knots. (Nore W/T T.O.R. 100526, to Admty.).

Following received on 11200 kc/s. Italian hospital ship AQUILEIA bound to Kasdurdas (Tunis Bay) to embark wounded with our own life boats. My position was at 0400 G.M.T. 37.02 North 11.46 East, course 238 degs. speed 9 knots.

(Nore W/T 100645 to Admty.).

One unknown in Kelibia Roads am investigating.

(Malta W/T 101412 to Cruisers and Destroyers Operating in Area Between Bone and Malta).

My 101412, hospital ship approached from southwards, now anchored.

(Malta W/T 101434B)

Anchored in Kelibia Bay, embarking wounded.

(Master, AQUILEIA No.T.O.O. Recd.1553/10).

Following has been received. (AQUILEIA). We sail after having embarked 400 wounded because we are attacked with bombs by aircraft.

(Malta W/T No.T.O.O./10 to Admty. Rec'd.1916/10).

AQUILEIA boarded and correct. Permitted to proceed Naples. Route positions are approx. 36.50 North 11.42 East then 37.57 North 12.10 East thence via Trapani.

(DULVERTON 102034A to V.A.Malta (R) C. in C.Med. All Cruisers and Destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G. 263).

X VIRGILIO Following received on 11200 kc/s. From Malta. Following has been red. Italian Hospital ship VIRGILIO. We are loaded of 900 wounded, sailing from Corbus (Tunis Bay) bound to Italy, speed 13 knots.

(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 100637, to Admty.).

VIRGILIO intercepted in 037 degs. 15' North 010 degs. 52' east. Weather unsuitable for boarding. LAUDERDALE is escorting her into Tunis Bay to carry out examination.

(Capt.(D) 6 D.F. 100857A to C.S.12. (R) C. in C. Med.).

VIRGILIO proceeding. Overtook at 12 knots. F.C. confirmed only crew and 850 wounded on board. No allied wounded. Returning patrol area.

(LAUDERDALE 101245A to F.O.12th C.S. (R) C. in C. Med. Capt.(D) 6th D.F. LAMERTON).

Following read from VIRGILIO. Italian Hospital Ship VIRGILIO with 900 wounded on board position at 1400 G.M.T. was 37.19 North 10.53 East. Course 52 degs. 13 knots.

(Malta W/T, No.T.O.O. Recd. 1702/10).

/Following...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

VIRGILIO
(contd.). Following has been recd. Hospital ship VIRGILIO position 19.00 37.53 N. 11.20 E. course 40 degs. speed 13 knots.
(Malta W/T No T.O.O. Rec'd 1029/10).

ISIS
enemy
A/C 1 enemy A/C shadowing "Liege" position
37.08 N.11.35 E.
(ISIS 100556B to Malta W/T).

CESSNOCK Arrival.
(N.O.I.C.Massawa 100632Z to Admty.).

Movements
Beirut 9th May. Arrival AETOS.
Departure PROTEA.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 100825C to Admty.).

Enemy
M/V report. Following has been read by Alex. W/T.
One medium sized M/V 110 degs. Cape Bon 20 miles.
(B.R.H.100830 to B.R.N.7.).
Message T.O.O. 100830. No merchant ship in position indicated at time referred to.
(ISIS 101120B to V.A.Malta).

L.C.T's. L.C.T. Convoy sailing Bone 1500A/10th for Bizerta.E.T.A.1000A/11th.
(F.O.12th C.S. 100858 to S.O.I.D.Bizerta (R) S.O.M/S Flotilla 12 etc.).

Italian
Repatriations Departure 10th May 0600 Hospital Ships GRADISCA, ARGENTINA and CITTA DI TUNIS (Italian).
(C.S.A.Smyrna 100901C to M.W.T. (R) N.A.Ankara etc.).

LAFOREY
TARTAR
LOYAL
ZETLAND. E.T.A.Gate 1800B LAFOREY action damage engine room and electric repairs, require dockyard berth. Casualties LAFOREY 3 surgical cases. Prisoners LAFOREY 4,1 medical cot, TARTAR 67, LOYAL 25, ZETLAND 11.
(Capt.(D) 19, 100907A to N.O.I.C.Malta (R) C.inC. Med. F.O.12th C.S.).

M.T.B.
patrols. Coastal craft policy tonight 10th May.
(a) M.T.B's from Sousse in Sector C 3 and C 2.
(b) M.T.B's from Bone in Sectors B 4 and C one.
(C. in C. Med. 100914A to V.A.Malta, F.O.I.S. F.O.12th C.S. (R) A.I.G.263).

/Movements....

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-(contd.).

Movements Alexandria Arrivals 9th May: KELVIN M.L.1126 G.S. SPETSAI, G.S. CONDOURIOTIS.
Departures 9th May ROMEO, KELVIN.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria 100914 to Admty. C. in C.Levant)

German Morale Report from Greek source, hitherto pro-Axis.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 100951C to D.N.I.).
See Lion Copy.

X Operation "Antidote" 103rd M.M.S.Flottilla sailed Bone 1900A/10th for Bizerta proceeding to carry out serial 5 of operation "Antidote" commencing about 0700A/11th. Route through positions A and B to position Y. (C.S.12 101004A to S.O.I.S. Bizerta (R) Cape Serrat. All Cruisers and Destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta, S.O.M/S Flottilla 12).

APHIS M.L.121 Sail at 1200A/10th at 9 knots through positions "Social" "Zeal" "Muddle" 1800A "Worry" "Comfort" 0100A/11th proceeding "Treat" "Secure" 0600A/11th thence by searched channel, E.T.A. 130700A/11th. (sic).
Codeword "Stack"
Request fighter defence, normal priority.
(N.O.I.C. Sfax 101012A to APHIS).
My 101012A. M.L.121 sailing for Sousse in company APHIS.
(N.O.I.C.Sfax 101116A to APHIS, M.L.No.121).

LAMERTON prisoners captured. Have sunk one small fishing vessel evacuating 7 (corrupt group) Officer and 10 ratings including C.O.S. to 5th Panzer Division taken inboard. (LAMERTON 101014A to C. in C.Med. (R) C.S.12. Capt.(D) 6.).

M.T.B.6. Sousse Arrival M.T.B's 261, 268, 84 at 0830A.
(N.O.I.C.Sousse 101112A to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. C. in C. Levant, V.A.Malta).

Watch on Sidi Daud Kelibia Sidi Daud and Kelibia should be watched by destroyers on patrol as close as is possible without leaving allotted patrol areas.
(C. in C.Med. 101113A to All Cruisers and Destroyers Operating in Area between Bone and Malta. (R) N.O.I.C. Malta. F.O.15th C.S.).

Destroyer patrols. Destroyer patrol area as follows:
(Orders?) for operation "Retribution" Appendix IIIB and D refers.
(2) Area HH shift all positions 10 miles in direction 255 degs.

SECRET

MOS.

373A.

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.)

German morale.

MOST SECRET. MESSAGE 100951C/May IN

From: S.O.(I) Istanbul.

Date 10.5.43

Recd 1607.

Recirculation at

Naval Shore Code (O.T.P. by cable. the request of D.N.I.

Addressed: D. of N.I. repeated S.O.(I) Levant (Please pass to S.O.(I) Med.)

Reference my report 2479/77 (Two) February 16th (not to S.O.(I) Mediterranean. Source has again returned from Germany.

(A) Reports profound deterioration of morale since January due to:

- (1) Delayed effect of Stalingrad defeat.
- (2) Tunisian campaign.
- (3) Air Raids
- (4) Dislocation of private life resulting from mobilisation.

(B) Confirms inability of Germans to cope with Air Raid damage in Berlin. Homeless number 20,000. Rations reduced and distribution now defective.

(C) Above report of interest as Source is Greek and hitherto Pro Axis. Information available through Greek Consular intermediary and am endeavouring to renew contact for more accurate data.

100951C.

N. I. D. COMMENT.

(A) (1) The effect of the defeat before Stalingrad has probably been brought home by the personal testimony of soldiers on leave during the last few months. There has been more open criticism of Hitler among civilians.

(2) German people have been coached into indifference about Tunisia. The full impact of the Tunisian campaign is not likely to be felt in Germany until Allied troops have set foot in Europe.

(3) German official statements and propaganda must give Germans the impression that for an indefinite period Allied air-raids will increase in intensity and range.

(4) The sudden mobilisation of women for industry is strongly resented by most Germans of both sexes. The closing of small businesses and consequent transfer of labour have all tended to undermine the German sense of security and confidence; and all this in spite of the presence of over six million foreign workers.

(B) Many reports confirm the inability of the Germans to deal effectively with the results of the raids on Berlin in March, especially over the replacement of all accommodation for essential workers.

Conclusion. The three main factors in depressing civilian morale in Germany in the last three months are:-

- (i) The failure of the army in Russia;
- (ii) The success of the R.A.F. over the Luftwaffe in Germany,
- (iii) The obvious scarcity of man-power for the home front.

Advance copy D.D.I.C.

1st Lord.	Head of M. (30) for W.O. F.O.
1st S.L. (2)	A.M. Brig. Jacob (W.C.C)
D.F.S.L.	D. of P. (2)
V.C.N.S.	D.A/S W.
A.C.N.S. (H)	D.P.D.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	C.N.I.
A.C.N.S. (UF) (2)	Admiral Blake. (4)
A.C.N.S. (W)	R.A.V. (4)
A.C.N.S. (A) (2)	D. of P. (Q) (2)
Parl. Sec.	I.P. (2)
Fin. Sec.	W.D.
Naval Sec.	C.C.L.S.
U.W.R.	A.L.O
E.O.D. (H) (2)	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D.C.	
D.D.I.C. (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D.S.D. 9 (2)	

JR.

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- Destroyer patrols (contd.). (3) Insert new area Q.Q. enclosed by parallelogram Northern and Eastern side of which are lines drawn for 10 miles 220 degs. and 285 degs. from Zembra.
(C. in C.Med. 101141A to A.I.G.266, A.I.G.263, F.O.(C) 12th, V.A.Malta, F.O. I.S.).
- M.T.B's M.T.B's are to keep as close inshore as possible and are to keep clear of destroyer areas which are being moved closer inshore. My 101141 refers.
(C. in C.Med. 101143A to F.O.(C) 12, F.O.I.S. N.O.I.C.Sousse (R) V.A.Malta).
- LAMERTON LAUDERDALE WINTON LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE, WINTON shift to new area (qq) south west of Zembra Islands keeping at least 5 miles off shore. Details of (qq) in my 101142.
(C. in C. Med. 101148A to Local A.I.G.266 (R) Local A.I.G.263, F.O.12th C.S. V.A.Malta S.N.O. Trip).
- HARENG H.D.M.L. French Tug HARENG towing 2 barges with one Baloncelle in company and escorted by H.D.M.L. 1234 sailed Tabarka 0200A for Bizerta. E.T.A. 1900A/11th. My 081137A (not to all) refers.
Request M.L.1234 may be sailed for Bone on 12th May.
(C.S.12 101156A to S.N.O. Trip Bizerta (R) C. in C. Med. S.O. M.S/F.12, Cape Serrat, A.I.G.263, A.I.G.266).
- Dispositions Situation Forecast area G.C. to 011 degs. East 2001A/10th, similar except:
(1) ESKIMO, LOOKOUT area D.D.
(2) LAMERTON and 2 destroyers area Q.Q.
(3) 3 M.T.B. in each sector B4, B2, C1.
(4) FANTOME 6 fleet M/S 3 trawlers, 037 degs. 20' North 009 degs. 20' to anchor off Cape Serrat.
(5) SPEEDWELL 037 degs. 05' 007 degs. 40' east to Bone.
(6) 4 motor M/S 037 degs. 01' North 007 degs. 54' east to eastward.
(C.S.12 101157A to S and A Areas G and C).
- Dispositions Submarines. TRIDENT in Gulf of Genoa.
(2) P.221 038 degs. 14' 007 degs. 10' 087 degs.9. knots.
(3) P.(?217) east of Sardinia.
(4) P.247 038 degs. 14' 004 degs. 59' 086 degs. 9½ knots.
(5) P.211 west of Sardinia.
(6) P.45 north of Cape San Vito to pass 038 degs. 00' 011 degs. 30' at 0500/11th thence 123 degs. 7 knots.
(7) P.43 west of Lipari.
(8) S/M Movements summary in area G.C. at 2000A/10th.
All submarines diving ay day 2½ knots surface speed as

/indicated....

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Dispositions indicated.
Submarines (9) P.31 037 degs. 43' 012 degs. 04' 037 degs. 07' 013 degs. 15' thence Malta 7 knots.
(contd.) (Capt.S.8. 101200A to S. and A. in Areas G.C. (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt.(S) 1).

X 12th M.S. Your 091456A and 091756A. (Reports surrender of
Flot. enemy forces West of Zebib) Do not continue sweep
area cleared yesterday by 13th M/S Flotilla S.O.
through area M to Zebib. All quiet Zebib. Intend
anchoring Cape Serrat tonight Monday, weather permitting.
(S.O.12th M.S.F. 101201A to F.O.12th C.S.(R) 13th M.S.F.):

Situation (1) During the night 8th/9th May off Ras Idda
report 92. P.T.206 torpedoed a ship which blew up. M.T.B.61
stranded off Kelibia whilst preparing to attack
three motor barges moored alongside and had to be
destroyed by fire. At 0108/9 ZETLAND sank a barge full of men oil
and ammunition 30 miles north east of Cape Bon.
(2) At daylight ninth May destroyers were redispensed close to
the Gulf of Tunis and Hunts from Malta were relieved by Fleets.
(3) BICESTER was attacked in error by our aircraft at 0830/9
and sustained damage aft from near miss. Ship has proceeded to
Sousse. Investigations being held.
(4) LAFOREY successfully engaged battery at Cape Zafran at 1241/9
and carried out bombardment of Sidi Daud at 1700/9. Was hit in
engine room by shell from Bofors battery at latter place but
continued on patrol and subsequently to Malta.
(5) Practically no shipping left on the coast between Cape Zebib
and West of Cape Bon. A little boating activity but no large
attempts at escape, 67 prisoners being landed at Malta.
(6) Destroyers off Gulf of Tunis during daylight 9th May withdrew
to seaward at dusk. Relief destroyers sailed from Bone and Malta
to maintain patrols.
(7) Coastal craft continue to maintain inshore patrols during the
night in vicinity of Bizerta and from Sidi Daud to Kelibia.
(8) Channel to Bizerta has now been swept as far as Cape Blanc.
Four German type (R) cut and one detonated in vicinity of
37.25 North 9.45 east.
(C. in C.Med.101208A to Admty.).

X Ships for Home Imports It is of great importance to U.K. import programme
that ships allocated from North Africa to load
home from River Plate in June should be sailed
first available opportunity. M.W.TR. Med. and
Gibraltar can supply names of such ships, some of which may be
in time to join O.S.47.
(D.T.D. 101212B to C. in C.Med. F.O.C.Gibraltar (R) F.O.C.W.A.).

Minesweeping "Antidote" ACUTE, CADMUS, STORNOWAY sail Bone
Op. "Antidote" 2000A 10th to R/V with you at first light
tomorrow Tuesday, as ordered by you. Fighter
protection until joining "Vauxhall"3.
(F.O.C.S.12. 101232A to M.S.12 (R) C. in C.Med.
N.O.I.C. Bone, F.O.I.S. (5 corrupt groups) Cape Serrat, ACUTE).

/P.R.U...

376

10.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean..-(contd.).

P.R.U.
Pantellaria

P.R.U. this Monday morning shows following shipping in Pantellaria Harbour.
6 Siebel Ferries. 3? (F) Boats. 1 M.A.S.
2 90-foot E-boats.
(N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, 101246A to C. in C.Med.
(R) C. in C.Levant, V.A.Malta).

S/M attack
area

Until further orders S/M's are to be attacked within circle of 45 miles round Cape Bon lights but not within 15 miles of Pantellaria.
(C. in C.Med. 101251A to All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta).

BICESTER
(bombed by
friendly
A/C 9/5).

Preliminary report. BICESTER entered harbour 0600, pumping commenced 0700. Suspect un-exploded bomb in oil fuel tank. Removal in hand. Oil Fuel will be required before ship can proceed to Malta. Complete report should be available p.m. today.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 101254A to C. in C.Med. (R)
V.A.Malta, C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Trip.
BICESTER, Capt. (D) 19, C.S.12.).

My 101251. Visible damage BICESTER is one hole on waterline, one square foot and 24 rivets gone. These repairs should be completed tomorrow. (?Oil fuel) will then be pumped out, bomb removed if located and internal examination made. No apparent damage to machinery.

(N.O.i/c Sousse 102349A to C. in C.Med.).

TROOPER
TRIDENT
TAURUS
TACTICIAN

C. in C.Med's. 092206.
Intend sailing TROOPER 11th May, P.339 (TAURUS) about 17th May and P.314 (TACTICIAN) about 22nd May for Malta to disembark spare gear thence patrol as ordered by Capt.(S) 1.

(2) TRIDENT expected to arrive Malta about 27th May for docking and patrol leave, will subsequently be available to patrol in Eastern or Western Med. as required.
(Capt.S.8.101252A to Capt.(S) 1, Capt.(S) 10, (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant. F.O.S.).

My 101252. Intend sailing TROOPER for Malta 1830/11th routed through 038 degs. 09' 00¹/₄ degs. 50' at 0500/12th, 038 degs. 12' 01¹/₄ degs. 24' at 0001/15th P at 0130/15th thence as ordered by Capt.(S)10.

(2) All times zone minus 1.

(Capt.S.8. 101410A to C. in C.Med.(R) Capt.(S) 10, Cdre. Algiers, 8th S/M F. MARSOUIN, Capt.(S) 1).

M.K.S.13

Intend to sail 51 GULF PRINCE (T) destination unknown.
(N.O.I.C.Philippeville 101259A to Com. Algiers, Com.N.O.B. Oran, etc.).

P.R.U.

P.R.U. May 10th visual. 1100 Taranto 2 battleships
1 Cruiser seen. Dry dock containing
/ 1 cruiser...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

P.R.U. 1 cruiser at 1155B/9th obscured. 1145 Messina,
(contd.) no major naval unit.
(V.A.Malta 101316B to C. in C. Med. etc.).
My 101316. 1100 Taranto photographs show two
cruisers present. One in inner harbour, one in dry dock.
(V.A.Malta 101815B to C. in C. Med. etc.).

Dispositions (1) Motor Gunboat 646 S.O. 634 and M.T.B.636
M.G.B's. at 101430A to Sector B 4, E.T.A. Bone 111100A.
M.T.B's. Fighter protection Whitechapel 3.
P.T's. (2) M.T.B. 315, S.O.PT.201, 205, at 101611A to
Sector B 2 Eastern half E.T.A. Bone 111000A.
Fighter protection Cornhill 3.
(3) P.T.202 S.O. 207 M.T.B. 266 at 101600A to
Sector C.1 E.T.A. Bone 111000A. Fighter protection Lerwick 3.
(C.S.12, 101416A to C. in C.Med. (R) A.I.G.263, M.S.12. C.C.F.
N.O.I.C. Bone, C.F.B.Bone, All Cruisers and Destroyers Operating
in Area between Bone and Malta).
M.T.B's 65, 76, 78 will patrol C.3. M.T.B's 265, 309, 316
in C.2. sailing from Sousse 1745A/10th.
Sector C.3. codeword "Daring". Sector C.2. codeword "Numerator"
903.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 101437B to F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C.Med. C.S.12.
All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and
Malta).

OXFORDSHIRE Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE sailed routed through:
(A) 037 degs. 16' North 007 degs. 34' East.
(B) 037 degs. 28' North 006 degs. 26' East.
(C) 037 degs. 20' North 003 degs. 45' East.
S.of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. Bone 1200/11th.
(F.O.12 C.S. 101421A to N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R)
Admty. F.O.C.Gibraltar, C. in C. Med, Connav).

EPIMINONDAS My 071425. EMBIRICOS Salvage completed.
C. (Supt. 1/c Salvage 101441C to Admty. (R) C. in C.
EMBIRICOS Levant).
(cargo fire)

Enemy Cite F.H.G.B.I. signed Eisenhower.
evacuation From G.2. for J.I.C. from J.I.C.(Algiers).
from Cape 1. We have considered enemy capabilities in Cape
Bon peninsula - maintenance and evacuation -
Bon appreciation assuming that Axis might withdraw some 65000 troops
and five to seven days supplies there.
2. Enemy supply capabilities small either by
shipping or air. Extremely hazardous by either ship, lighter,
Siebel ferry, or submarine, due to nearly complete Allied control
of sea and air.
3. Has suffered great losses transport aircraft by day and
unlikely to attempt to operate except by night now. At maximum
effort might despatch up to 250 tons for two or three nights.
Four airfields Cape Bon which might be used night landings. Effort
would fall after that apart from losses aircraft which should be

/heavy....

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Enemy heavy. Could drop by air in J.U.88 some 30 to 40 tons per night. Also could drop from transport aircraft if landings too dangerous. Night average from Cape Bon 150 tons per day first week and drop to 75 tons appreciation. subsequently but unlikely achieve this figure due (contd.). to losses which should be heavy.

4. Therefore apart from supplies possibly transferred from Tunis to peninsula estimate he might get in sufficient supplies to last one further week. In our opinion no large scale evacuation possible. Troop withdrawal could be carried out by E-boats, submarines, and aircraft, and possibly lighters and Siebel ferries. At most some 10,000 might leave but by no means all arrive destination. (A.F.H.Q. Algiers T.O.O. Nil to W.O. Agwar (W.104) for J.I.C.) (Rec'd. 1450/10).

77th Trawler group "Antidote" 77th Trawler Group sails Bone 1700A/10th to R/V with you 1st light Tuesday as ordered by you. Fighter protection until joining "Hackney 3". (C.S.12. 101507A to M.S/F 12, (R) C. in C. Med. ACUTE, A.I.G.263, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, F.O.I.S. Bizerta, Cape Serrat, GOTH).

SHAKESPEARE (1) Onward route for P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) through TRIDENT 038 degs. 18' 010 degs. 01' at 2230/11th thence SARACEN through 038 degs. 45' 010 degs. 40' and 040 degs. 30' 010 degs. 40' to patrol North of 042 degs. 38' and South and East of a line 225 degs. from Spezia.

(2) TRIDENT is to report when both special operations are completed and in any case is to be North and West of P.221's (SHAKESPEARE) area by 2230/13th.

(3) P.247 (SARACEN) passing 038 degs. 31' 009 degs. 59' at 2200/12th is to proceed through 038 degs. 45' 010 degs. 40' thence course 000 degs. to patrol between latitude 042 degs. 38' and 040 degs. 30' East of Corsica and Sardinia and West of 011 degs. 30'.

(4) All position N. and E. All times Zone minus 1. (Capt.S.8. 101516A to 8 S.F. (R) Capt.S.10, F.O.Gibraltar). Paras.1 and 3 Amended by 120252A, q.v.).

DELPHINULA 081216- Oct. 1941. (no trace in War Reg.).
grounding DELPHINULA, owners Anglo Saxon Petroleum Co. fully loaded with benzine, ashore near Great Pass, Alexandria. Attempt to tow off failed, ship bumping, straining, and leaking in most compartments. Anchor laid out and discharge of cargo in hand. Position serious. (Supt. of Salvage 101601C to Admty.(R) C. in C. Levant).

MAURO CROCE Request report on incident referred to in N.A. (attacked 23/4) Madrid's 071909B/May. (re attack of British sub. on Italian MAURO CROCE April 23rd.). (Head of M.I. 101637B to C. in C.Med. (R) N.A. Madrid S.O.(I) Gibraltar). Reply: C. in C.Med. 111841A.

/Possible...

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Mediterranean.-(contd.).

Possible
Enemy
evacuations.

N.L.O. 8th Army 101246. Particular attention should be paid to possible evacuation by E-boats and M.A.S. boats.
(C. in C.Med. 101643 to All Cruisers and destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta. (R)
N.O.i/c Malta, 12th C.S.).

X Use of
French S/M's
in North
Africa.

Your 07217 being passed to F.O.C.W.Af. Some time to obtain from French full details required. F.O.C.W.Af. has been requested to reply for submarines in his area.

(2) Following is my opinion based on reports by S.8. References are to paras. A.M. 072127.

Para.3.(A) All following submarines (some subject to minor defects which can be completed by June) are fit for operational patrols in comparatively quiet areas Casablanca ARETHUSE, ANTIOPE, LA VESTALE, LA SULTANE, Minelayer PERLE.

3. Para.3. (B) Employment of French submarines on A/S training permanently for rest of the war is most unlikely to be agreeable to French on grounds of morale. Well known that French do not take kindly to dull routine work of any kind. Morale is bound to deteriorate particularly if isolated submarines are required to operate in distant British or U.S. areas. Although French may be more full of martial fervour in harbour than at sea there is undoubtedly a genuine desire in all French submarines in Mediterranean to get into action as soon as possible and they are already impatient over delays in provision of stores.

4. I have not approached Adml. Michelier yet but consider that French might agree to considerable employment on A/S training in certain areas if some bait were dangled before them such as refit in turn in U.S.A. provision in due course of British U Class, as has been done for Fighting French.

5. Areas suggested as likely to be acceptable to French are:-
(A) Oran, Casablanca and Freetown, Dakar as at present.
(B) East coast of U.S.A. while waiting turn to refit in U.S.A.
(C) Bermuda next pair waiting refit in U.S.A.

6. Para.3. (C) suitable for A/S training at Oran, MARSOUIN, LE GLORIEUX. At Casablanca ATALANTE, ORPHEE. At Freetown/Dakar subject to confirmation by F.O.C.W.Af. ARGO CENTAURE.

7. Para.3. (D) details follow later. In general French submarines are seriously handicapped by acute shortage of stores and spare gear. Submarines ostensibly of same class have minor difficulties which accentuate problem of spare gear. Batteries appear to have some years remaining life but new wood separators required and containers liable to fracture. Sound proofing generally bad. Hydroplanes electric with local hand control. 21.7 inch torpedo stocks limited.

8. Spare gear question alone makes it undesirable to send submarines as far afield as South Africa or Indian Ocean.

9. Para.3. (C) One depot ship only JULES VERNE. Details being obtained.

(C. in C.Med. 101707 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. etc.).

Admty. 072127 being passed to you with my reply. Request you will signal your opinion on S/M's ARGO and CENTAURE and information available on S/M depot ship JULES VERNE.

(C. in C.Med. 101749A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty.)

/Destroyer...

380

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Monday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-(contd.).

Destroyer
reliefs Request you will sail LAFOREY, TARTAR, LOYAL, codeword "Rockfield" and ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS, codeword "Ropsley" at 0600A/11 May to relieve ESKIMO, LOOKOUT and LAMERTON, LAUDERDALE, WILTON respectively. Route through 036 degs. 07' 013 degs. 00' and 036 degs. 10' 011 degs. 30'. Orders for destroyers being relieved will be signalled later. (C. in C.Med. 101741 to V.A.Malta (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G.263, C.S.12 F.O.I.S.).

My 101741, relief to be effected as follows:-

Tomorrow 11th May, LAFOREY, TARTAR, LOYAL to H.H. E.T.A. 1500 DULVERTON, TETCOTT (Greek ship) MIAOULES and (corrupt group) (Greek ship) PINDOS (Corrupt group) transferred to G.G. and D.D. respectively. Last 3 expect to arrive in D.D. at 1700. At 1700 ESKIMO, LOOKOUT, LAMERTON, WHEATLAND, WILTON proceed Bone. Route M.I.D. between Areas Numbers 3 and 4 in appendix 3 A of order for operation "Retribution". Thence via Channel in S.O. 12th C.S. 101804.

(2) OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON proceed to Q.Q.
(C. in C. Med. 102306 to A.I.G.266).
Amended by 110744 q.v. and 111114 q.v.

Request you will sail H.M.S.JERVIS, H.M.S. NUBIAN, PALADIN, codeword "Ferguson" and OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON codeword "Rossport" at 2000/11th May to relieve DULVERTON, TETCOTT, MIAOULES (greek) and BEAUFORT PINDOS (Greek ship) (?EXMOOR) who are to return to Malta on relief. Route to and from patrol area as in my 101744.(Instructions for destroyers).

(C. in C.Med. 102313A to N.O.i/c Malta (R) C.S.12, F.O.I.S. All Cruisers and Destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G. 263). See also 112012A.

Situation No sea activity whatever. 5 German evacuees picked up from small boat by LAUDERDALE. Fleets operating in area D.D. and Hunts in area Q.Q. during the night. 90902466.
(Capt.(D) 6th D.F. 101746A to C.S.12. (R) C. in C. Med. DULVERTON, LAMERTON).

Movements 10th May Port Said arrivals ROMEO, BARCLOSE R.F.A.
Port Said. BADARPUR R.F.A. WAR KRISHNA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 101827C to Admty. etc.).

Enemy Following has been read:
M/V 1 S/S 270 degs. Rasel - Ahmar 1 mile.
(Malta W/T 101850 to Whitehall W/T).
One Merchant vessel 180 degs. Hamman E.T.J.
(N.L.O. First Army 101900 to Algiers W/T).

X H.D.M.L's Freightship TACTICIAN speed 10 knots sailed from
for Turkey. U.K. on 4th May carrying H.D.M.L's 1223 and 1252 for discharge Middle East.
(2) Ship unable to lift with own derricks.

/Special...

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H.D.M.L's
for Turkey
(contd.) Special slings not placed on board.
(3) H.D.M.L's are to be handed over to Turkish
Government, N.A. Ankara is requested to arrange
details and place of transfer with C. in C. Levant.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 101920B to C. in C. Levant, B.N.A.
Ankara (R) C.C.F.Med. P.S.T.O. M.E. MOSQUITO).

ALBACORE E.T.A.0115, BRIXHAM in company. Request berth.
BRIXHAM (ALBACORE 101926A to Cdre. Algiers.).

M.T.B's. Request you will sail available large M.T.B's and
M.G.B's. Motor Gunboats to arrive in area H.H. before dusk
11th May. They are to keep at least 5 miles from
coast when rounding Cape Bon. On arrival in H.H.
they are to remain in V/S touch with patrolling destroyers. Further
orders will follow.
(C. in C.Med. 101941 to C.S.12 (R) F.O.I.S. V.A.Malta. All
cruisers and destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta.
A.I.G.263).

Situation Situation in area Q.Q. at 2000A. No enemy planes
seen. Own fighters plentiful and (corrupt group).
3 small fishing vessels sunk when trying to
escape but no large evacuation observed. Prisoners H.M.S.
LAMERTON 17, LAUDERDALE, 14. Huge fires seen on Cape Bon
Peninsula.
(LAMERTON 101943A to C. in C.Med. (R) WENSLEYDALE, Capt.(D) 6.).

X Enemy Mines Following German mines have been found on mining
Bizerta lighters in harbour. 6 in number 12 feet long, 17
in number 8 feet long, comprising 4 apparently
new type moored mines. External appearance similar
to T and S vane 6 day clock attachment. Markings include Z E and
Z K also (corrupt group) numeral. Mines are being rendered safe
and stored pending instructions.
(S.O.I.S. Bizerta 101945A to C. in C.Med. (R) Admty.).
Reply: Admty. 121916B.

12th M.S.F. Today Monday have swept Southern lap of Area M under
Sweeping tidal difficulties, Breadth swept area varies
between 8 cables at East and 16 cables at East and
16 cables at West. But narrows to 3 cables at
longitude 009 degs. 55.8 East. 7 R Type German Mines detonated.
4 cut. Mines looked new and were found in area 1 mile radius
round position 037 degs. 19.7 North 009 degs. 55.2 East. Intend
continuing area M tomorrow Tuesday with S.O. 13th M/S Flotilla
and 20 Trawlers Group and clear entrance to Bizerta approaches
Channel after 103 M/S Flotilla, returning Bone at end of day.
(S.O.12th M/S Flotilla 102001A to C.S.12 (R) S.O.13th M/S F.
F.O.I.S. C. in C. Med.).

/ If....

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.12th M.S.F.
Sweeping.
(contd.).

If available request one Trawler Group be sailed to complete Oropesa clearance Bizerta approach Channel as for (corrupt group) Series 1. (S.O.12 M/S 102005A to C.S.12 (R) F.O.I.S. S.O.13 M/S, C. in C. Med.).

X ROMA ?
(hospital ship)
alleged bombing.

Following intercepted on 9880 kc/s at 1955B (approx) Begins:- After having embarked 100 wounded are attacked with bombs by aircraft. C.Q. de I.E.O. (ROMA "Torrenova"). Be careful you are bombing Hospital Ship at Kelebia Bay. (Radio Security No.T.O.O. to Admty.).

Movements
Algiers

Arrivals submarine DOLFIJN (P.47) departures MINNA, ACUTE, CADMUS, STORNOWAY, submarine SARACEN (P.247). (Cdre. Algiers, 092014A to Admty. etc.).

Movements
Oran.

Arrived this date French submarine ANTIOPE French ship CHASSEUR III. (Com. ~~NOB~~ Oran 102029 to Admty. etc.).

Movements
Algiers.

Arrivals M.T.B. 670, 667, 654, M.G.B.648, 663, 657, BLYSKAWICA. Departures SPEEDWELL, JULIET, CORIOLANUS M.T.B. 638, S/M SICKLE (P.224). (Cdre. Algiers, 102031A to Admty. etc.).

Malta Air
Report.

A1520 10 May.
C.S.R. (A) Air, part 1, offensive. Night 9/10 May. 15 Wellingtons with bombs 1 Wellington with flares and 3 Beauforts with bombs on armed search for shipping between Empedocle and Trapani found no suitable shipping target and attacked alternative target Marsala harbour. 126 250 lb. H.P. bombs were dropped scoring many hits in target area and causing fires near railway station. To cover the Wellington strike 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over West Sicilian Coast and aerodrome 1 small vessel was attacked with cannon fire and damaged (?off) Granitola.
Part 2. Enemy air activity. Day 9th May. A further 8 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. Night 9/10 May, nil.
Part 4. (C) Naval during the last 10 days destroyers from Malta have been operating in the Sicilian channel and Cape Bon area. At present 16 destroyers are based on Malta and patrols are being maintained day and night. (A.H.Q.Malta 102051Z).

Movements
Tripoli

Arrivals GLOXINA, PRIMULA FALK. (S.N.O. Trip 102102A to Admty.).

/Movements....

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.-(contd.).

Movements Bone. Arrivals CUTE, CADMUS, STORNAWAY, MINNA
Bone. WHADDON, SPEEDWELL.
Departures ACUTE, CADMUS, STORNAWAY, GOTH,
ACHORITE, ARNOLD BENNETT, INCHMARNOCK.
KERRERA H.D.M.L's 1230 M.M/S 53, 68, 92, 185, 114.
(C.S. 12 102128A to C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.i/c Gibraltar).

Tripoli Situation report No.101.
situation. Arrived convoy "Pannier" from Sfax. Sailed
H.S. "Launch" 2518.
Discharged (?42 or 66) 11 tons including 1757
P.O.L. Bulk petrol discharged 2160 tons. Loaded 20 tons.
(S.N.O. Trip. 102145A to C. in C. Levant, (R) N.O.I.C. Malta,
N.O.I.C. Alexandria, N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli, S.N.O. Cyrenaica).

(?) Enemy 2 leading lights bearing 145 degs. Cape Carthage
Units, Tunis. R.D.F. report 2 vessels moving from sector A to
sector B range 46,000 yards at 2117.
(S.N.O. Tunis 102145B to S.N.O. Trip.).

Movements Departures 1830, M.L.121.
Sfax. (N.O.I.C.Sfax 102147A to Admty.).

Enemy Following read by Malta W/T.
ship. P.C. and S. of one unknown Enemy Ship is D.D.K.W.
1510 225 degs. 15 (undecypherable in W.D. but see
102225B).
(A/C G.D.Z/M 102200).

Following read. Have lost touch with enemy - last observed
position was D.D.K.W. 15.10.
(A/C G.D. Z/M 102205).

Following read. Your objective is one unknown ship in 37.15 N.
13.10 E. at 2000, steering 225 degs. speed 15 knots.
(Air H.Q.Malta Command 102225B).

SPEEDWELL SPEEDWELL sailed 0600A 11th to join you in area
L or M. Route through 037 degs. 18' North 008 degs.
55' East and 037 degs. 25' North 009 degs. 46'
East. Speed 11 knots. Fighter Protection "Brogue"3.
(F.O. 12th C.S. 102226A to S.O.12th M/S Flotilla)
(R) C. in C.Med. A.I.G.263 (Corrupt Group) All cruisers and
destroyers operating in Area between Bone and Malta, Cape Serrat
N.O.i/c Bone.).

Movements Arrivals LAFOREY, ZETLAND, TARTAR, LOYAL, OAKLEY,
Malta. EASTON, KANARIS. Departures DULVERTON, BEAUFORT,
TETCOTT, EXMOOR, PINDOS, MIAMOULES.
(V.A.Malta 102232B to Admty. etc.).

/Bizerta...

10.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -(contd.).

Bizerta Intend to sail Bizerta Coastal convoy at 1830A/12th
Coastal S. of A. 7 knots.
convoy. (2) Route through 037 degs. 04' North 007 degs.
49' East 037 degs. 18' North 008 degs. 55' East
037 degs. 25' North 009 degs. 46' East 037 degs.
21' North 009 degs. 56' 36" East 037 degs. 16' 12" North 009
degs. 54' 24" East letters A to E to Bizerta. .E.T.A. 1200A/13th.
Stragglers Route as convoy.
(3) 1st 2 letter of W/T Call sign G.N.
(4) Escort FOULA (S.O.) HUNDA, WESTRAY, and KINTRYE.
(5) Fighter protection priority 3 until 0500A/13th then priority.
2 codeword "Hammersmith".
(F.O. 12th C.S. 102236A to C. in C. Med.).

ISIS E.T.A. Boom 0530 PETARD, QUEEN OLGA in company.
PETARD Request light from 0400. Have 9 German prisoners
QUEEN OLGA in PETARD. Request grand harbour berth for ISIS
to expedite completion of defects. Acknowledge.
(ISIS 102300B to V.A.Malta (R) C.S.15. Capt.(D)
14. ST. ANGELO. Capt. of Dockyard and K.H.M.
Malta, A.S.).

T.E.21. This is my 081030A recyphered. T.E.21. Intend to
sail for Algiers W.B. TRAVIS G.LEONARD, for Bone
W.H. SEWARD, DUX, ODYSSEUS also probably L.S.T.
323.
(N.O.I.C.Oran 102315 to Admty. etc.).

Enemy Following read:
Units. Two unknown enemy vessels in 36.58 N. 13.04 E.
Course 210 degs. Speed 10 knots.
(A/C G.D.Z/N 102318B to A.H.Q.Malta).
Have lost touch with enemy, last observed
position was (as 102318B).
(A.C. G.D.Z/N 102335B to A.H.Q.Malta).
Your objective is 2 unknown type ships in 36.58 N. 13.04 E.
at 2218B hours, steering 210 degs. speed 10 knots.
(A.H.Q.Malta 102338B to A/C Call Sign A.N.P/C.).

?PARTHIAN Forward periscope defective after depth charge
attack. My position 035 degs. 44' 027 degs. (?44').
Intend returning Beirut on surface, passing through
034 degs. 06' 032 degs. 53' at 112215C thence
proceeding direct to arrive 120730C, S. of A 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.
(?PARTHIAN 102340C to Capt.(S) 1st, C. in C. Levant, (R) N.O.I.C.
Syrian Ports. S/M on patrol).

Malta Air A.I. 526 May 10 1943. Daily Opsum No.1. 9/10 May.
Report. 15 Wellingtons 3 Beauforts with bombs finding
no shipping target attacked alternative target
Marsala Harbour. 126 x 250 lb bombs dropped
causing fires near railway station. 4 Mosquitoes
intruded over Western Sicily. 1 small vessel damaged by cannon

/fire...

War Diary.

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta
Air Report
(contd.).

fire.
(A.H.Q. Malta 102345Z).

Baloncelles
for
Bizerta.

Intend sailing 2 Baloncelles escorted by H.D.
M.L.1251 at 1700A/11th to Bizerta. E.T.A.
1600A/12th. Fighter protection Wapping priority
3.
(F.O.C.C.S.12, 102352A to C. in C. Med. (R)
A.I.G.263 (Spare), All cruisers and destroyers
operating in area between Bone and Malta, F.O.I.S.
Bizerta, N.O.I.C. Bone, C.F.B.Bone).

M.T.B's.
M.G.B.

Intend sailing 3 large M.T.B's and one M.G.B. at
0830A/11th to arrive area H.H. at 1930 (corrupt
group) 11th. Fighter protection (?Joxlas). 3.
(F.O.12th C.S. 102356A to C. in C. Med. (R) All
Cruisers, destroyers operating in area between
Bone and Malta, F.O.I.S. Bizerta, C.F.B. Bone,
N.O.I.C. Bone, A.I.G.263).
Delayed see 111422.

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

Movements.

DAUNTLESS arrived.
(F.O.C. E.Af. 100130Z. to Admty.)
Departure TEWERA at 0520Z/10th for Colombo.
(N.O.I.C. Trincomalee 100532Z to Admty.)
Colombo arrivals 10th. 0230Z SCOUT, WUCHANG.
(F.O. Ceylon 101302Z. to Admty.)
Arrival 1612Z/10th VERBENA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll. 101659Z. to Admty.)
Departure CANTON.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 101332Z. to Admty.)
Arrival 10th Hospital Ship VASNA.
(N.C.S.O. Mauritius 101400Z to Admty.)

DILWARA.

If essential work to enable DILWARA to hoist L.C.P. (R)'s is to be completed ship cannot leave Bombay until p.m. May 16th repeat 16th.
(2) Petrol storage for 60 tons and other L.S.I. fittings now in hand can also be completed by this date. (3) Your 081332C (081352 intended) refers.
(4) Signal immediate instructions.
(P.S.T.O. India 100330Z. to D.N.C.X.F. (R) D.C.O. (I) C. in C. Levant P.S.T.O. M.E. D.S.T. C. in C. Med. Admty. F.L.O. Delhi.)
My 172017 April. DILWARA required in MiddleEast by 20/5 or as soon after as possible for operational purposes.
2. Request she be sailed from Bombay accordingly and anticipated date of sailing reported. 3. LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE has been delayed en route and will not now arrive Bombay until last week of May.
(D. of S.T. 101325B. to P.S.T.O. India (R) P.S.T.O. M.E.)
My 060113 C. in C. India reports that DILWARA can be released now.
(D. of P. 101326B. to D.N.C.X.F. (R) D.C.O. India, C. in C. Med. F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C. E.F. P.S.T.O. India.)

W.S.29.

Will any ships of W.S.29 due Bombay about 3rd June be returning to U.K. Information required by Arminia.
(P.S.T.O.I. 100501Z. to D. of S.T.)

Convoy
A.B.8.

Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 100800Z to Admty.)

Seafire
and
Martlet
A/C.

Your 071928. On assumption all pilots will return East Africa and that 877 Squadron will not also be transferred to Egypt in near future, propose using pilots of 877 Squadron to ferry Seafires and pilots of 795 to ferry Martlets IV. Request early remarks as pilots must be trained on Seafires. Further signal will be made regarding availability of aircraft.
(R.A.N.A.S.I.O. 100801Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant.)

Should any Seafire Spares including overload fuel tanks be forwarded to Egypt from Kilindini or Nairobi in view of your 071928 May.

(R.A.N.A.S. I.O. 101316Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies - Contd.Convoy
P.B.39.Arrived Bombay portion.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 101048Z. to Admty.)India
Air
Report.A. 257 10th May. No.421 Int. Summary 10th May.
(B) Offensive R/cs. 9th. 15 Hurricanes sorties
against river craft in Mayu River. 10 Sampans
sunk others severely damaged. Oil Barge blown
up. 2 Beaufighters attacked and damaged river
steamer and oil barge South of Prome.
(Air H.Q. India 101100Z. to Air. Min.)Convoys
A.B.8.
P.B.9.Arrival 0610Z CANTON with A.B.8. 0830Z MADRAS
with P.B.9.
(S.O. (I) Bombay 101111Z to Admty.)Convoy
programme.

I foresee no escorts available Bandar Abbas for
P.B. convoys until 19th May and P.A. convoys
until 25th May and during transition period,
intend to sail all ships except troop transports
and special ships independently your 070908
(090708 intended). 2. Your para. 3 intend to
sail P.B. 41 19th LAUNCESTON, BOMBAY P.A. 25th MADRAS, TAMWORTH.
3. Your para. 3 and 4. Co(?m).i/c Aden please confirm that
he can sail A.P. 18 May BATHURST, CARNATIC, A.P.31 26th May
PUNJAB. 4. Intend to sail tankers independently of convoy
cycle unless they conveniently fit as delays not acceptable
and they would make convoys too big. 5. Fifth Division move
can be carried out without delay in P.B.42 and P.B.43.
(S.N.O.P.G. 101643Z. to F.O. Ceylon, (R) Admty. C. in C. E.F.
Com. R.I.N. Com. i/c Aden, F.O.C.R.I.N.)

War Diary.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

AQUITANIA Your 072240Z. Hope vessel will now be able to embark and sail as stated. Request immediate report of nature of deficiencies which caused delay.

2. Phrase "Future service" in para. 2 of my 082122B should have read "repair programme".
(D. of S.T., 100025B to B.M.W.T. New York, (R) B.A.D., N.S.H.Q.)
Reply: 121944.

AQUITANIA (A.T.42 A) departed Ambrose 10/1638Z for U.K. S. of A. 19 knots. E.T.A. Greenock Boom 0900Z May 18th.
(P.D. New York, 102131 to Cominch (C. and R). (R) Admty. N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A., Cinclant. C. in C. C.N.A. Comeastseafon, Com. 3)

Movements Arrivals ALGOMA, LOOSESTRIFE, VIDETTE, PINK, SENNEN ex O.N.S.5.
Departures WASAGA, POET, HOPE escorting C.L.63. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F., 100029 to Admty).
Arrival 10th CORSAIR and left Dominica E.T.A. 0600/11th. (Harbour Master Barbados, 101710P to Admty).

Convoy U.G.L.4 Following received from U.S. N.O.B. Bermuda for transmission (Begins) addressed Cominch, Cinclant Information Connav, Comnav, Comnavnav, Comamphorlant, C.T.F.63, C.T.F.62, C.T.G.62.1. Commorseafon. Departed U.G.L.4 my 081931 at 1625Z/9 T.O.O. 100155 (ends).
(S.B.N.O.W.At., 100034P to N.S.H.Q., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af., Admty. C. in C. Med).

H.X. 237 MORDEN. Request you will reply to C.2s 092010Z (in Home Commands).
(C. in C. W.A., 100249Z to F.O.C.N.F. (R) C.2).
W.R. Note Re proposal to retain MORDEN with H.X.237 to U.K. in view of immediate U-boat threats.

Your 092010 approved. Cancel my 011746.
(F.O.N.F., 100454Z to C.2 (R) C. in C. W.A., Connav. A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q. H.Q.C.C.)
Cancel my 011746.
(F.O.N.F., 100456Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A., N.S.H.Q., Cominch, Admty. Cdr. (D) W.A., C.2).
H.M.M.L. 1175 and 1178 departed Miami 102120Z for Guantanamo via Cayo Frances for fuel. Ultimate destination Trinidad. Estimated arrival Cayo Frances.
(Port Director Miami 112300Z to S.B.N.O.W.At., S.B.N.O. Trinidad).

Movements	Ship	Position	Course	Speed
Summary	CHESHIRE	42° N. 33½° W.	045°	12½
1800 G.M.T.	CARNARVON CASTLE	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank
	(D.O.D. (F) 100911Z to Opanav (R) Comnav)			

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. - Contd.

MELBOURNE Admiralty's 1320/2/April/40.
STAR sunk Four survivors from British MELBOURNE STAR landed
April 2nd Bermuda May 9th. Ship torpedoed and sunk April
survivors. 2nd in approx. 28° N., 57° W. Ship was carrying
explosives and sunk in 2 minutes. No possibility
compromise confidential books. Survivors weak
but well and will be fully interviewed tomorrow.
My 101146P in plain language to Admiralty only with names of
survivors follows.
(B.R.L.O. Bermuda, 101114P to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy Arrived St. Johns (N.F.) less DALWARNIC.
B.W.23 (S.B.N.O.W.At., 101305Z to Admty).

Fuelling Your 032036B para. 3 and 071018B. Inspection
at Sea. ATHEL PRINCE log discloses wind between moderate
and strong. Ahead to port quarter. Sea between
moderate and rough. Swell between moderate and
heavy. 450 feet hose streamed all evolutions.
Streaming times in minutes 25, 20, 25, 18 and 15 and one fumble
by escort. Recovery times 19, 21, 14, 20, and two fumbles by
escort. Further examination discloses importance fitting lugs
or other retaining devices on all transverse members depth
charge platform, each side of all longitudinal battens.
Outer sets each batten made removable in case of jamming by
shifting of depth charges.
Flanges or adapters left coupled to extreme forward end of hose
line and attached to stern discharge by previously fitted tumbler
bolts (as in salvage ships) would speed coupling up hose line on
escort oiler, especially in heavy weather.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 101317Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. W.A., B.A.D.,
Washington).

* French Your 301043/April (Re 6627 pounds advance to
E. Vs. Officers de Liaison Francais) See my 101338B
Bermuda. (N.T. in W.D.) to C. in C. Med. (Admty. 101342B to
Cdr. I/C Bermuda).

PORT ARTHUR, Position 051° 16' N., 044° 05' W. course 213°
ADHERENT. speed 11 for 047° 40' N., 047° 40' W, thence
268° for St. Johns N.F. Asdic out of action. In
R/T contact yesterday with ADHERENT. Present
whereabouts unknown. She reported salvaging life-
boat. Advised her 092215Z if nothing further to report to
return St. Johns N.F. Weather report.
(PORT ARTHUR, 101345Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., Connav,
Admty. N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A., Cdr. D.
Argentia. Cdre. (D) W.A.)

/ORIBI...

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Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

ORIBI, F.O.N.F. 092055 ORIBI cannot be taken in hand
POLYANTHUS. at Halifax. Request tentative arrangements may be
made for repairs in a U.S. Port.
(2) POLYANTHUS is also being sailed to Halifax
with damage caused by grounding which cannot be
taken in hand. Request similar arrangements may
be made for this ship, further details of damage will be
signalled when known.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 101351Z to N.S.H.Q., (R) Admty. C. in C.
W.A., F.O.N.F.)

X Proposed repairs to ships at St. Lawrence Ports. Your 072026, if such ships are capable of proceeding in coastal convoys under own steam no objection foreseen otherwise special arrangements would be necessary in each case which with chronic shortage of local escorts might lead to considerable delays though every effort would be made but commitment of three to six lame ducks monthly all with separate escorts is considered beyond present resources.
(N.S.H.Q., 101505Z to Admty. (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A.)

Dispositions Section East. U.S.2, U.S. destroyer STANSBURY,
U.S. destroyer PALMER, U.S. destroyer HAMILTON
48.48 46.53 184° 13 altering to 263° in (747).
05 N.
O.N.181 B.3 51.38 48.03 166° 9.
RENONCULE escorting GROWLER vicinity 51.43 50.00 en route St.
Johns N.F.10.
O.N.S.5 43.12 55.49 258° 7 altering to 310° in 59.26 W.
UGANDA 43.52 53.53 336° 15 en route Argentina.
C.L.63 WASAGA, PORT HOPE 46.32 55.58 240° 7 altering to 271° in
56.01 W.
U.S.S. BARNEGAT 45.47 56.23 068° 16 altering for Argentina in
55.01 W.
(C. in C. C.N.A., 101515Z to Admty).
Section South West. B.X.50 W. One departing 42.31 70.32
2030Z/10 087° 7.5.
H.F.53 SWIFT CURRENT, ALBERNI 43.46 66.32 327° 7.5 altering to
004° in 43.55 N., and to 025° in 44.17 N.
DIGBY escorting LORD KELVIN effecting cable repair vicinity
40.16 66.30.
U.S.S. DUANE escorting SABINE SUNK, 41.02 65.10 258° 14 altering
for New York in 69.37.
X.B.51 GRANDMERE, PORT WILLIAM 43.55 64.11 230° 7.5 altering to
269° in 65.30 W.
LADY LAURIER servicing buoys vicinity Cape Sable.
M.L. 051 SHELBURNE approaching in bound.
H.F. 53 A FREDERICKTON 43.38 64.45 230° 6 altering to 266° in
65.22 W., and to 327° in 66.02 W.
U.S.S. INTENSITY departing Sambro light vessel 2300Z/10th 236°
16 altering to 230° in 64.00 W., and to 266° in 65.21 W.

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Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

Dispositions (contd) FRENCH depart St. Margarets Bay 2200Z/10th 087° 12 altering to 065° in 62.21 W., to 005° in 60.44 W. and for Mulgrave in 45.24 N. O.N.180 W. 2 42.31 58.35 257° 9 altering to 243° in 61.32 W.

AMHERST departs Chebucto Head 1900Z/10th 149° 12 to R/V with O.N.180 at 1100Z/11th thence AMHERST and TRURO escort Halifax portion to Halifax.
H.X.238 W. 8. 43.26 59.28 078° 10 Halifax portion,
H.X.238 W. 7 vicinity 43.53 62.28 en route Halifax 10.
H.S.84 NIPIGON, ALBERNI 45.56 59.14 335° 7.5, altering to 272° in 46.30 N., and for Sydney (C.B.) in 59.37 W.
SS. BAYLEAF vicinity (?44).13 63.52 coastwise to Sydney (C.B.) 6. (C. in C. C.N.A. 101545Z (as amended 102305Z) to Admty).

N.S.H.Q. S/M (N.S.H.Q., 101524Z).
estimate.

S/M estimate (C. in C. U.S. Fleet, 101525Z, 101526Z, 101610Z, May 10th. U.S. 101611Z, 101612Z).
S/M notice.

Convoy O.T.5. Departure convoy O.T.5 from Aruba delayed until May 17th. SS. ESSO PHILADELPHIA carrying fuel to Dakar will be included in convoy which will be routed through 018° 14' N., 021° 56' W. E.T.A. that point 0800Z on May 26th. F.O.C.W.Af. requested to modify time of R/V accordingly in providing escort thence to Dakar B.A.D. 061645Z. (Cominch, 101551Z to Cinclant (R) Cdr. Caribbean S.F., C.A.F.A.C. Admty. C. in C. Med., B.A.D., F.O.C.W.Af. C.T.G.21.4., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Com. Morocco S.F., Comar Dakar).

CALGARY As CALGARY is fitted with Hedgehog it is intended to replace ALGOMA in Western Support Force with CALGARY sailing from Halifax approx. 24th May. My 271951 refers. (C. in C. C.N.A., 101725Z to F.O.N.F. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., Admty. B.A.D.)

Convoy F.H.54 Pre sailing telegram (A) Saint John N.B. 2200Z May 12th (B) SWIFT CURRENT, BRANTFORD (C) 10 ships. (D) 42 hours. (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B., 101755Z to Admty).

Convoy U.G.F.8 A. Sailing telegram part 2. (14 ships, list). (R.O. Norfolk, 101825Z to Cominch C. and R. etc).

North Atlantic Convoy Cycles, S.C. Sailings. Admiralty 091534B (Proposing S.C. sailings be made one day earlier) Concur. (Cominch C. and R., 101842Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

/U/B...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies. - Contd.

U/B Submarine contact 19.36 N., 74.48 W., at 101800 G.M.T.
(KINGSTON 101915Q to Admty).

H.X. 235 arrival. H.X. 235. Average speed 9.3 knots off Oversay 0100Z/3 EL ALMIRANTE sunk in collision. Remainder arrived.
(D.T.D., 101955B to Connav, N.S.H.Q. (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

S.C.127 arrival. S.C.127. Average speed 6.98 knots. Off Oversay 021800Z. All arrived.
(D.T.D., 102004B to Connav, N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. W.A., C. in C. C.N.A.)

H.H.X.237, CITY OF GLASGOW suspected foul play. My 032005 CITY OF GLASGOW. Failing further developments and any concrete evidence from clues investigated ship was sailed in H.H.X. 238 to avoid further delay. Surg. Lt. R.H. Wesley, R.C. N.V.R. took passage with restocked medicine chest and history of the case. Quarters of crew affected were thoroughly cleaned and re-painted. All precautions and safeguards against outbreak have been taken but suspicion of foul play cannot be eliminated nor case closed as "accidental causes", two D.E.M.S. ratings Chidlow and Garfield of four placed on board in St. Johns as replacements are still on board. Case is still open anticipate further evidence may be signalled at early date.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 102010Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q., N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F.)

DANEMAN abandoned. My 091700. DANEMAN is believed to have struck submerged ice night 7th - 8th. Engine room flooded rapidly and ship was taken in tow in sinking condition by GROWLER with RENONCULE escorting. 15 hours later tow parted and ship had to be abandoned in heavy weather. Regret to report loss of (?12) men of DANEMAN crew during this operation.
(S.O. B.3., 102016Z to F.O.N.F. (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty. C. in C. C.N.A. Capt. (D) Greenock).

PASTEUR D. of S.T. 080504. Request you will signal requirements of PASTEUR at Halifax and numbers and destination of any P. of W. and personnel embarked.
(N.S.H.Q., 102023Z to C.M.S.F., (R) D. of S.T., C. in C. N.W.A., B.A.D., Connav,)

/Attacks...

War Diary.10.5.1943.
Monday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.- Contd.Attacks
on U/Bs,
Weekly
summary.

Your 221059B July. Following promising attacks reported week ending 2400Z/9. U.S. Army aircraft attacked submarine 51.32 N. 45.40 pilot estimated probable destruction. May 4th R.C.A.F. plane attacked with depth charges and exchange gunfire with submarine 55.36 N. 43.14 W. submarine believed probably damaged. Same day R.C.A.F. plane attacked submarine 56.38 N. 42.32 W. with four depth charges. Debris and oil observed. May 5th U.S.C.G. MANHASSET attacked sound contact 54.04 N. 44.05 W. heavy oil slick observed. May 8th Brazilian B.25 attacked submarine with three depth charges 09.56 S. 34.49 W., oil bubbles observed. Presume you have details of numerous promising attacks by escorts of O.N.S.5. (Cominch, 102030X to Admty.)

Sub. attack
and sighting
summary.

All times Z.
Para. (A) Catalina sights sub. on surface course 260° 59.37 N. 19.14 W. 1714/9. Surface craft attack sub. course 260° 59.39 N. 18.56 W. 1905/9. A.T.C. plane sights sub. area 60° N. 25° W. 0945/7.

Para. (B). Radar contact by aircraft 07.19 S. 33.06 W. 0801/10.
Para. (C). P.B.Y. attacks sub. 61.01 N. 51.30 W. 1300/10.
Para. (D). C.G. MONOMOY attacks sound contact 48.54 N. 47.45 W. 1425/10. Sub. sighted 18.18 N. 68.14 W. 1600/10. Surface craft attack sound contact 00.31 N. 46.28 W. 1935/10. Motor boat shelled by sub. area 19.30 N. 73.30 W. 2245/8. Dutch tug sights sub. 12.21 N. 69.14 W. 1500/8. Sub. sighted area 10.53 N. 61.08 W. 1349/8. Sub. sighted on surface 10.50 N. 60.50 W. 1648/8. (Cominch, 102114Z to Admty.)

Solops 19.

May 8th. During air attack on enemy shipping near Gizo Island, 6 U.S. Motor Torpedo Boats attacked enemy vessels in Ferguson Passage. Some enemy ships were damaged. Enemy losses from both attacks - one destroyer probably sunk, two destroyers badly and one slightly damaged. (B.A.D., 102129Z to Admty., C.O.I.S.E.F., (R) Concentric Colombo, C.O.S. Kilindini, F.L.O. India.)

MAURETANIA.

MAURETANIA departed Ambrose 101641Z for Port of Spain. S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. 0430Z May 15th. (P.D. New York, 102147 to Cominch (C. & R.), (R) Admty., N.S.H.Q., C.E.S.F., Com.3, C.C.S.F., N.O.B. Trinidad, N.O.B. Bermuda, Comsolant.)

X Attacks
on U/Bs,
assessments.

Your 081404 (Suggests all Anglo-U.S. attacks be assessed by Nationality attacker. Suggests May 15th effective date). Agreed. Please confirm application world wide. (D.A/S.W., 102232B to Cominch, (R) Comnavu, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q.)

/Convoy ...

10.5.1943.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy
F.H.53A.

Presailing telegram.
A. St. John N.B. 2200Z/11th.
B. BRANTFORD. C. 5 ships. D. 38 hours.
(N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 102345Z to Admty.)

X Passengers
in U.S. ships
numbers to
be carried.

Points made in A.M. 211528 April have been fully represented to Navy Department and question of limitation to 75% boat capacity has been discussed by U.S. Joint C.O.S. They have decided that they must continue to sail U.S. ships in trade convoys under the present U.S. passenger rules especially to meet commitments of transporting personnel to and from Iceland (C), Newfoundland, Greenland and Caribbean Ports. We presume this refusal to meet our request may be on account of the few boats now carried in American ships, many of which have been removed to make space for additional rafts.
2. U.S. authorities also are unable to relax the P.O.W. rules for reasons already given in my 1351/26 March and it is felt that nothing will be gained in pressing for an increase.
(B.A.D. 102137Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Movements.

Departure Vila 0500Z/9 U.S.S. TRIIS.
Arrivals Auckland 2034Z/8 U.S.S. KOPARA.
1855Z/9 TUI and U.S.S. JAMESTOWN.
Departure Auckland 0710Z/9 U.S.S. DELPHINUS for
Dunedin. E.T.A. 0300Z/15 for Auckland E.T.A. 0300Z/12.
Departure Tutuila 2000Z/7 ENGADINE for Nandi (Fiji) E.T.A.
2200Z/10.
Departure N.Z. 1800Z/7 U.S.S. TALLULAH for San Pedro E.T.A. 22nd.
(D.N.I. Wellington 100315 to Admty.)
Arrivals Sydney 9th AUSTRALIA, ARUNTA, F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT,
Port Moresby 9th BUNBURY Brisbane 9th U.S. Destroyer PERKINS,
U.S. Destroyer CONYNGHAM, WARRAMUNGA Milne Bay 9th U.S.
Destroyer MUGFORD.
Departures Port Moresby 9th BUNBURY for Townsville Townsville
(place) 8th U.S. Destroyer HENLEY for Brisbane 9th BOWEN for
Milne Bay Melbourne 9th ATREUS VAN GALEN for Fremantle Milne
Bay 9th U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD for Cid Harbour Brisbane 9th
WARRAMUNGA for Cid Harbour
(A.C.N.B. 101441Z to Admty.)

/Digest...

War Diary.

10.5.1943.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

Digest
Serial No.
475 May 9.

5 Liberators bombed Manokwari Town and waterfront during morning starting fires among oil drums on jetty. Buildings hit and fire started in town. One transport 6 small vessels 1 patrol craft seen in harbour. On return journey one aircraft seen airborne over Kaimana where strip at Utarom appeared serviceable and 5 fighter floatplanes on beach at Mouth Serwatoe River (40 miles South of Dobo.)

2. Another Liberator unsuccessfully bombed sea truck and 3 small vessels sighted at Sorong (northwest tip New Guinea) at noon and later many barges at Geser (southeastern extremity Coram Island).

3. 7 enemy medium bombers attacked aerodrome mission and shipping at Millingimbi before midday inflicting few casualties and slight damage only including near miss on one small ship which remains entirely seaworthy. Single Beau-fighter attacked enemy formation damaging one aircraft.

4. Forenoon R/C Fortress bombed Old Strip at Cape Gloucester and buildings at Gasmata also strafed town of Finschhafen and 5 barges being unloaded by ?130 Japs on southeast coast Rooke Island.

(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 100956.)

Solops 19. (B.A.D. 102129Z to Admty.)
See America & West Indies.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 101340B.)

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.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

7. A/C D of 58 Squadron reports one hit with depth charge on a U-Boat in 46.55 N. 14.44 W. at 110931B.

M/S Trawlers
 attacked.

8. About 0845 today H.M. Trawlers CLOTILDE, BLIGHTY and COTSMUIR were attacked by 12 or 13 F.W.190s 8 miles off Lowestoft. COTSMUIR was badly shaken by a near miss and BLIGHTY was slightly damaged, and each of the two ships had 2 casualties.

Sunk Head Fort claims to have destroyed a Ju.88 at 112335B and MALLARD escorting F.S.12 a Dornier at 112340B in 53.06 N. 01.18 E. A group of Harwich M/S trawlers believe that they destroyed a Heinkel at 2340B near 52° N. 01.45 E.

X 9. Minelaying by enemy aircraft is suspected off Yarmouth between 112300 and 112359 and 2 mines were detonated in the War Channel off Yarmouth on 13th May. Minelaying in the Humber area and off Lowestoft about the same time is also suspected.

South Atlantic.

? Renewed
 U-Boat
 campaign.

10. A fresh U-Boat campaign has now commenced off the coast from Lourenco Marques to Port Elizabeth. SS. TINHOW (British, 5232 tons) is reported to have been torpedoed and sunk at 0410B/11 (another report gives date 1930B/12) by a German S/M 5 miles east of the Limpopo River; 68 survivors landed near Inaka.

SS. NAILSEA MEADOW was torpedoed and sunk at 2155 G.M.T. today in 32.04 S. 29.13 E., about 15 miles north-east of Bashee River which is about 65 miles N.E. of East London. The vessel was torpedoed from inshore and 2 of the crew were killed.

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.

X F.O.I.S.

11. F.O.I.S. has now established his headquarters at Bizerta.

X L.C.T.
convoy.

12. The first L.C.T. convoy sailed from Bone to arrive at Bizerta, at 1000 today.

X Operations
off Tunisian
Coast.

13. LAMERTON's group engaged 6 E-Boats at 0255A, about 9 miles S.W. of Zembra Island (Gulf of Tunis). After a lively engagement the enemy retired to the northward under cover of smoke, one boat being probably damaged. Our ships suffered no casualties and only very slight superficial damage to LAMERTON and U.S. destroyer CHANDLER.

Captain D.5 (? DULVERTON) reports this morning 0753A that he intercepted M.V. LAURANA painted as a hospital ship proceeding to Kelibia, and TETCOTT is escorting her to Sousse for examination. The captain complained of having been bombed. The vessel is not a recognised hospital ship, and on C. in C. Med.'s orders she was escorted to Malta by TETCOTT. Her subsequent disposal is given in A.M. 172340B May.

Capt. D.6 reports that the only movement of surface craft was of small boats endeavouring to reach Zembra Island with evacuees by day and night.

The shore batteries at Zafran continued to fire accurately up to 11 miles and Sidi Daud batteries are still active. The destroyers cleared the enemy from Zembra Island today, taking over 120 prisoners. Floating mines were encountered. Fighter cover was good. There was some enemy aerial activity last night, but our ships were not attacked.

Capt. D.5 reports the capture of 77 prisoners from small boats. M.T.B. patrols took 13 prisoners off Ras Mahmur and 6 in the Gulf of Tunis last night.

14. C. in C. Med. reports that he has had to withdraw BLYSKAWICA from active operations in the Sicilian Channel, not only on account of the damage from bombing which she suffered on 7th May, but also because more than 50% of her engine room complement are unfit for duty as the result of heat in the engine room. He is sending her to Gibraltar for repairs, after which he intends to sail her for the U.K.

/15. ...

War Diary.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

X 15. Messages from C. in C. Med. today and Admiralty on 12th May give details of the work on cables which requires to be done in the western Mediterranean.

16. PARTHIAN is returning to Beirut on the surface with forward periscope defective after depth charge attack. PARTHIAN reports that during her 3rd patrol, in the Dodecanese and Aegean, she carried out Operation "Ironclad" at 022150. On 4th she sank a caique off Kos, on 5th exchanged shots with a S/M chaser off Andros and on 7th bombarded the railway at Platamone in the Gulf of Salonica where intense machine gunfire eventually forced her to retire and killed one man.

17. Malta Wellingtons and Beauforts on search south-west of Sicily last night found no shipping and attacked the alternative target, Marsala harbour.

Air attacks
on Catania
and Marsala.

A large force of U.S. Liberators despatched from Benina today to bomb Catania harbour made a direct hit on one of 6 ships berthed at the inner jetty.

Nearly 200 escorted U.S. bombers attacked Marsala today. The dock area and seaplane base were well hit and one ship was set on fire. Pantellaria harbour was also attacked.

18. A/C AOLZ from Malta estimates one hit with a bomb on a submarine in 37.10 N. 13.05 E. at 0010B today.

East Indies.

19. SS. TINHOW - See South Atlantic.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

20. UGANDA arrived at Argentia at 1200Z today
(cf. 5th May).

X 21. The U.S. Aleutian Force made landings at
Massacre Bay and on the west arm of Holtz Bay,
Attu, during this afternoon.

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11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.

Landing Craft. C.C.O.'s 101921 and C. in C. Plymouth's 081529 concur.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111138B)
Re. landing craft for close protection of fleet at Scapa. Large anticipated C/P requirements May/June.
(A.C.O.S. 111214B)

Beach etc. Parties, kit. C.O. personnel of beach and communication parties and landing craft flotillas are to be equipped with Army tropical kit only and not with Naval tropical kit. (2) Non C.O. personnel serving in special assault ships i.e. crews of L.S.T's., L.S.G's etc. will wear Naval tropical and not Army tropical kit.
(Admty, 112055B to C.C.O. R.A.V. in Admty, R.A.V. "Warren", S.O.A.S.C. QUEBEC, MONCK, DINOSAUR, R.A.C.O.B. (North) ROSENEATH, WESTCLIFF, FOLIOT, V.A. Dover, Capt. M.L.C., S.O. Force J. C. in C. Med., D.N.C.X.F., C. in C. Levant, C. in C. E.F. F.O. Ceylon., C. in C. Portsmouth, C. in C. Nore, C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Rosyth. C. in C. W.A.)

Movements.

B.Y.M.S. Arrived B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67 at 0107/11 May and B.Y.M.S. 185 at 0851/11 May.
(Cdre. (D) W.A. 110107B, 110851B, 110941B)
F.O.N.F. 032015 to Londonderry only. B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67 and 185 due U.K. about 13th May. Request you will sail as convenient to Grimsby to join 155th M.S.F. operating under F.O.I.C. Humber.
(D.M.S. 111351B to Cdre. Londonderry)
Request further destination for B.Y.M.S. 65, 66, 67, 185.
(Cdre. (D) W.A. 111503B to C. in C. W.A.)

S/M Movements. My 101201*delayed. Further signal will be made.
(S.O.S/M's Lerwick, 110113B)
* BARB, BLACKFISH & P.56.

CATTISTOCK, COTTESMORE. Pass the Gate at 1145 and proceed to Portsmouth Speed 20 knots. Codeword "Limited".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 110922B to CATTISTOCK, COTTESMORE)

ADVENTURE. (1) On arrival at Milford Haven, ADVENTURE is to embark outfits Z.59, Z.60 and Z.61.
(2) Request she may be sailed for Gibraltar when ready. (3) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven pass to ADVENTURE on arrival.
(A.C.N.S. (F) & (H) 111135B)

S/M's Movements. Reference Capt. (S) 9 071221* E.T.A. 090°
Nosshead 5 miles 2100B/11.
(BLACKFISH, 111340B) * Routes and escorts for submarines.
Positions/...

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War Diary.11.5.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Movements. (Contd.) Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/12th and movements for following 24 hours. (A) (B) (C) and (D) as in my 101706. (E) SATYR (P.214) approx. 64.30' N. 06° 22' W. to 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles proceeding dived by day until South of 64° N. thence probably on the surface. (F) O.10 vicinity 63° 50' N. 00° 30' W. (G) H 32 leaves Dartmouth with escort A.M.12th to exercise Lyme Bay independently during daylight returns to Dartmouth with escort on completion. (H) UNSPARING (P.55) escorted by LORD WAKEFIELD vicinity Portland Bill due 180° Lizard Head 5 miles at 2200/12th thence unescorted dived by day through 49° N. 06° W. thence to southward (F.O.(S) 111719B)

My 101201 (S/Ms BARB, BLACKFISH and P.56 (USURPER) for Holy Loch) amend time of sailing to read 1000B May 12th and E.T.A. to read 1400B May 13th. My 110113 refers. (S.O.S/M's Lerwick 111821B)

Intend to sail TAKU and H.32 escorted by DUMSAY to Holy Loch at 0930/13th. (2) Codeword "Fisher". (3) Communications. (C. in C. Plymouth 111825B to Admty, N.O.I.C. Greenock, (R) N.O.I.C.Falmouth, N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, N.O.I.C.Liverpool, N.O.I.C.Belfast, F.O.C. Submarines, Capt. (S) 3rd Capt. (S) 7th)

Sailed CHANTICLEER, UPSTART. (Cdre. (D) W.A. 112017B)

My 111821B* amend E.T.A. to read 14th, not 13th. (S.O.S/M's Lerwick, 112115B)

*(Re BARB, BLACKFISH and P.56 for Holy Loch)

My 111719. Add new para. (J) USURPER (P.56) BARB and BLACKFISH escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE sail Lerwick 1000B/12th west of Orkney for Holy Loch 9 knots E.T.A. 1400B/14th. (F.O.S.112144B)

Arrival BLACKFISH. (S.O.S/M's, Lerwick, 112225B)

CUMBERLAND. Intend to sail CUMBERLAND for Scapa at 1100/12. S. of A. 22 knots. E.T.A. Scapa 0400/13. V.H/F R/T not fitted. Request fighter protection and surface escort may be provided. (N.O.I.C. Tyne, 111420B to C. in C. Rosyth)

Your 111420. No surface escort available. (C. in C. Rosyth, 112346B to F.O.I.C.Tyne)

SCYLLA. On return from covering O.S.47 it would be appreciated if SCYLLA could remain for 48 hours at Plymouth to give night leave. After this request you will sail her for Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 111448B to C. in C. Plymouth)

RAMILLIES. RAMILLIES is expected to be ready to sail from Plymouth early in June. Owing to congestion at Scapa it is intended that she should go to the Clyde to work up until conditions at Scapa are such that you can accept her there. (D.O.D.(H), 111455B to C. in C. H.F.)

RODNEY /...

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11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Movements. (Contd.)

RODNEY. Arrived RODNEY, METEOR, TUSCAN, PIORUN.
(C. in C. Plymouth 111923B)

CHASER, B.A.D. Washington's 041635Z, which has been passed
RAVAGER. to you (para.4).
As it is considered that CHASER and RAVAGER will
not be sufficiently worked up to justify their
inclusion in a support group for passage to U.K.
even if a support group were available, it is proposed to
inform B.A.D. that they are to be sailed in convoy as soon as
ready, but that they should operate aircraft on passage as
opportunity offers provided they do not leave the convoy without
proper escort. (2) Request your remarks.
(D.O.D.(H) 111910B to C. in C. W.A.)

MILNE. Arrived Scapa 1955.
(A.C.O.S. 112116)

UGANDA. UGANDA arrived 1200Z/11 at Argentinia. After
servicing will be ready for sea 1800Z/12.
(C.T.24, 112335Z)

Operations.

BARB, U.S.S. BARB reported no enemy surface vessels
patrol during patrol north of Iceland (C). (2) Periscope
report. sighted in 68° 11' N. 016° 14' W. at 2225B
April 28th. (3) One B.V. 158 aircraft probably
sighted BARB in 71° 30' N. 010° 50' E. on April
22nd.
(F.O.S.111107B)

Coastal (1) Intend R.M.L. 500 (S.O) and M.L.233 to patrol
Force tonight Tuesday 11th May on lat. 50° 20' N.
Patrols. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. (2) Leave
harbour 2130 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol
line at dawn/12. (3) Object anti E-Boat
patrol. (4) Constant W/T Watch on 2300 K/Cs.
Usual books to be landed. (5) Codeword "Device". (6) Request
air protection be arranged.
(F.O.I.C.Portland, 111117B)

Portsmouth night patrols 11/12 May. (1) 6 destroyers
(S.O.BLEASDALE) operating south of Beachy Head constant W/T
watch on broadcast C.N. and 1700 K/Cs. (2) 9th M/S.F. 6 M.L'S
S.G.B. 6 operating south east of St. Catherines. Constant
W/T watch on 1700 K/cs Sidmouth constant watch on broadcast
C.N. in addition. (3) M.L.233, R.M.L.500 patrolling 50° 20' N.
between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. constant W/T watch on 2300
K/cs. (4) Chasseur 10 at St. Helens and KINGSTON TORQUOISE at
Yarmouth at immediate notice. Constant W/T watch 2450 K/cs.
(5) 7 L.C.F's (S.O. L.C.F.11) pass Eastern Gate 2045B 11th to
positions 50° 20' N. 00° 57' W. and 50° 20' N. 01° 35' W. thence
to Needles passing N.3 Buoy 0600B/12th. Constant W/T watch on
2450 K/cs.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 111255B)

My /...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.Coastal
Force
Patrols.
(Contd.)My 111117B "Device" sailed at 2145.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 112150B)
Intend R.M.L. 500 and M.L.253 to patrol tonight
Tuesday 11th.Exercises.Exercise
in Denmark
Straits.Your 091349 para. 3 C.S.10 BELFAST with JAMAICA
sailed.
(A.C.I.C. 111451B to C. in C. H.F.)Exercise
areas off
Londonderry.Proposals.
(C. in C. W.A. 111929B)Allied Air Activity.R.N.A.S.
Angle.Your 071430B. Until C.O. designate is appointed
Command of Station should be handed over to Cdr.
J.C.Richards R.N.
(Admty. 110008B to R.N.A.S. Angle)
Re. R.A.F. relinquish responsibility of Air
Field on 15th May.Air cover
for convoy.AP. 786 11 May. Reference A.M. 071612B*.
Final sentence para. 4 refers to both STIPPLE
and TUBULAR. My AP.776 May also refers.
(H.Q.C.C. 111631B)
*Arrangements for stating daily the priority of
requirements for air cover for convoys.Capital
Ships at
Plymouth.Two important capital ships will be at Plymouth
during the period 12th May to 7th June, increased
to three between 30th May and 1st June. Request
provision of any additional air cover which you
may consider necessary.
(D. of L.D. 112037B to Air Ministry)Enemy Air Activity.Minesweepers
attacked.Am being attacked by enemy aircraft 068° LWT 8.
(CLOTHILDE 110845 to Yarmouth W/T)
My 111117B. H.M.T. CLOTHILDE (Group Ship)
H.M.T. BLIGHTY and H.M.T. COTSMUIR were attacked
by 15 Focke-Wulf 109's in position 078° Lowestoft
8 miles at about 0845/11. The group was streaming sweeps at
the time and no warning of enemy aircraft was in force. Enemy
attacked from out of the sun with bombs, cannon and machine-gun
fire, causing two casualties in COTSMUIR (one serious) and two
in BLIGHTY. Slight structural damage to COTSMUIR and BLIGHTY.
COTSMUIR severely shaken by a near-miss from bomb. It is not
possible to say yet whether engines have been displaced. Fire
opened on enemy but no hits claimed.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 111117, 111508B)

War Diary.

11.5.1945.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

X Gt.Yarmouth LL Sweepers detonated one Red Magnetic Mine at 0905 in position 10 Cables 196° 30 Buoy. (F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 110931)(Cdr. M/S Lowestoft, 121047B)

Operation K.L.1. Carry out Operation K.L.1 tonight 11th/12th May. (2) Covering force BLEASDALE, GLAISDALE, QUORN, COTTESMORE, CATTISTOCK, LA COMBATTANTE. (3) 1 new para. 6 (A) to Portsmouth O/O 221/159 of 10th May 1945 as follows if mines are found in sufficient quantity to make it inadvisable for covering force to return as ordered in YP 6 M/S Flot. 9 is to signal "Moored mines have been found" (NGY from Auxiliary vessel signal book). Covering force is to return through passage 2. (C. in C. Portsmouth 111050 to Capt. (D) 1. S.O. M/S.F. 9. S.O.S.G.B.F. 6. S.O.Escort Force. (R) Admty. C. in C. Plymouth, V.A. Dover. N.C. I.C.Portland, Newhaven, H.Q.C.C. No.11 Group. My 111050B add new para. 4 (Callsigns for Covering Force BLEASDALE (S.O), GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE, QUORN, CATTISTOCK, COTTESMORE. Escort Force M.L.292 (S.O), S.G.B.6, M.L.343, 291, M.L.189, M.L.346, M.L.464, M.S.9, SIDMOUTH, TENBY, BRIDPORT, BLACKPOOL, EASTBOURNE, 9th M.S. Flotilla. All ships in operation. (C. in C. Portsmouth, 111140B) All Ships in Operation.

Norwegian Coast. Ref. A.M. WZ.653. Mines are reported between SANVIKA (66° 13' N. 12° 37' E.) and TONSVIK (66° 14' N. 12° 41' E). Grading B.2. (D.D.I.C.111640B to C. in C. H.F. Cmdre. 2nd i/c. A.C.O.S., F.O.(S))

X Gt.Yarmouth. LL Sweepers detonated one Red Magnetic Mine at 1720 in 200° 30 Buoy 2½ miles, and one Red Magnetic Mine at 1735 in 194° 30 Buoy one mile. (F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth, 111945B) (Cdr. M/S Lowestoft, 121535B)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Main Units. My 101345. Soviet interpretation of photographs gives: Alten Fiord one ship presumably SCHARNHORST one LUTZOW Class pocket battleship 4 destroyers one tanker 3 M/S one tug. Pilot observed but did not photograph one big ship presumably TIRPITZ at end of Lang Fiord. Your 251852* Prints of last 3 Soviet photographic R/C are being forwarded. Admiralty pass to C. in C. H.F., H.Q.C.C. (S.B.N.O.North Russia, 111015B) *?251825 intended.

U-Boats.

U/B's reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Considerable D/F Traffic indicates both convoys being shadowed. Series 7 is now being used by U-Boats in the vicinity of H.X. 237. Series 1 is still begin used against Convoy S.C.129. (D.D.I.C.120210B to Escorts of H.X. 237 and S.C.129 (R) C. in C. W.A., Cominch, N.S.H.Q., H.Q.C.C.)

11.5.1945.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U/B's reported or attacked in North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Am over enemy S/M in 46.55 W. 14.44 W. S/M was on surface. When first sighted was on course 100° speed 10 knots.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. D, 110931B)
Have attacked enemy S/M with depth charges estimate 1 (one) hit.
(A/C 58 Sqdn. 110951)
By D/F on 8362 K/cs at 0802Z, U-Boat estimated anywhere within 100 miles of 44° 00' N. 27° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 11121B to Escorts of H.X. 237, CHESHIRE, Escorts S.C. 129 (R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

Am over enemy S/M 59.30 N. 29.08 W. When first sighted was on course 270° speed 11 knots.
(A/C 84 Sqdn. D. 111210B to Artunshofdi Central W/T)
By D/F on 11068 K/cs at 0957Z/11. Position of U-Boat was approx. 45° 30' N. 28° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C. 111420B to CHESHIRE)
Am over enemy submarine in position 59.30 29.36 submarine was on surface course 270° speed 10 knots.
(A/C I of 84 Sqdn. 111822B)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges.
(A/C I of 84 Sqdn. 111845B)
D/F bearings at 11068 K/cs at 1644Z/11 indicate either convoy H.X. 237 or CHESHIRE has been sighted.
(D.D.I.C. 111921B to CHESHIRE, Escorts of H.X. 237 (R) Escorts of S.C. 129, C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C. Cominch N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

U/B Sunk by FLEETWOOD. *U.528*

My P.C. and S. at 1200Z 46.43 N. 14.03 W. 200° 6. Intend alter course to 180° at 2200Z U-Boat attacked by aircraft in 47.08 N. 14.30 W. at 0749Z is being hunted by FLEETWOOD, MIGNONETTE, S.O. Trawlers Western Patrol. Weather report 1952 8754.
(SCARBOROUGH, 111215Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. SCYLLA, Cdre. (D) W.A.)

My 1215Z. FLEETWOOD reports U-Boat sunk. Picking up survivors. One other U-Boat in vicinity unsuccessfully attacked. WEDGEPORT.
(SCARBOROUGH, 111553Z) Re U-Boat being hunted by FLEETWOOD.
German U-Boat sunk by gunfire and depth charge.
FLEETWOOD 39 survivors. My P.C. and S. 46.53 14.22 180° 14 knots rejoining O.S. 47.
MIGNONETTE in company has (?6) survivors.
My depth charge expenditure 72. 4 inch quick firing 20 rounds. C.O. Ober (? Leutnant) Von Raberan amongst survivors.
(FLEETWOOD, 111530Z)
My 1530Z. Consider there may be another damaged U-Boat in this vicinity.
(FLEETWOOD, 111755Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. Cmdre. (D) W.A. SCARBOROUGH.)

Casualties & Defects.

HALIZONES and BELGIAN FISHERMAN.

BELGIAN FISHERMAN 158° 148 G. speed through water (? 5 miles), continuous pumping and boiler defect. Endeavour to reach Clyde. If unable will proceed Limerick.
(BELGIAN FISHERMAN via Wellington W/T 110217 to Port Patrick W/T)

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11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects.

HALIZONES and BELGIAN FISHERMAN. (Contd.)

GOATHLAND, MARAUDER and LORD STANHOPE sailed. (C. in C. Plymouth, 110707B) P.C. and S. 0759Z 048° 40' N. 014° 49' W. approx. course 065° speed 9 knots, proceeding towards position (B) 049° 10' N. 012° 05' W. Weather report 8173, 9764. (KITE, 110801Z)

My 102045B May sailed, SEA GIANT. (F.O.I.C.Falmouth, 111030B)

Report situation. (C. in C. W.A. 111039B to KITE)

Request you will divert one Tug and escort to BELGIAN FISHERMAN disabled in 47.57 N. 16.36 W. at 0230/11 making for Limerick 5 knots. She should be taken to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 111042B to C. in C. Plymouth (R) KITE.)

My 102045 not to all addressees. Cancel order to R/V with SS. HALIZONES. After passing through position (A) LORD STANHOPE and SEA GAINT are to proceed as requisite to R/V and assist SS. BELGIAN FISHERMAN broke down in 047° 57' N. 016° 36' W. at 110230 and now making for Limerick at 5 knots BELGIAN FISHERMAN is to be towed to Clyde. Routeing instructions follows. (C. in C. Plymouth 111223B to LORD STANHOPE, SEA GIANT. (R) Admiralty for C.C.S.T. C. in C. W.A. Capt. (D) 18th N.O.I.C.Liverpool. N.O.I.C. Falmouth. GOATHLAND, KITE, MAURAUDE.)

My P.C. and S. at 1659B 049° 32' N. 006° 48' W. 264° 9 knots. (GOATHLAND, 111701B to KITE)

My position 49.03 N. 12.25 W. (U) SS. HALIZONES have to. Weather report 6853 0046. (KITE, 112301B to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth, GOATHLAND, MARAUDER. (R) STARLING)

DORNOCH. WALLFLOWER detaching in order to make pre-arranged E.T.A. destination. DORNOCH unable to proceed at more than 10 knots, owing to defective condenser. (DORNOCH, 110809B to C. in C. Rosyth.)

M.L.133 destroyed. Reporting total destruction by fire and explosion of M.L.133 at her moorings at Camusnagall at 0825/11 one C.P.O. missing. Propose holding board of enquiry in accordance with K.R. and A.I. articles 1130 and 1136. (ST. CHRISTOPHER, 111212B)

GRANGEBURN. Tug GRANGEBURN struck jetty in No.3 Fairway Methil Docks at 1100/7/5/43 causing damage. No damage to GRANGEBURN. Request survey. (N.O.I.C.Methil, 111710).

METEOR /...

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War Diary.11.5.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. (Contd.)

- METEOR. Your 061827B, May (not to last two addressees). METEOR reports bearings of turbine in bad condition it is essential to change lubricating oil and clean tanks. Estimate of time required will be signalled on examination of bearings. (C. in C. Plymouth, 112157B to C. in C. H.F. Admty. R.A.D.H.F. Capt. D.Plymouth, METEOR.)
- SS. CULEBRA. F.O.I.C.Greenock's 101256B* to C. in C. Rosyth and F.O.I.C. Tyne. Trawler escort will be provided for codeword "Droll" by A.C.O.S. from vicinity Pentland Firth to 32 Buoy where C. in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange onward escort. (A.C.O.S.111601B)
* Sailing of SS. CULEBRA in tow with tugs EMPIRE HENCHMAN & EMPIRE BASIDEU.

Shipping and Convoys.

- H.X. 237. H.X.237 my 101643 Z (U/B sighted on surface) not to E.G.5. A.C.I.39 para. 3 (a) 042° 04' 030° 59' 1627Z. (b) CHAMBLY, OBDURATE chased on surface. A/C from BITER attacked. U-Boat opened fire and dived. A/C dropped 4 depth charges. Result not observed. A/S contact not obtained. (c) CHAMBLY 1805 to rejoin convoy. A/C 2000. OBDURATE about 2200 to rejoin. (d) Nil. (e) Weather report 9580 1953. (f) Comment. U-Boat sighted simultaneously with DEXTEROUS and nearly on same bearing. Possibly trailing her to find convoy. (C.2, 110001Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Connav, A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A., Admty. Com.(D) W.A., N.S.H.Q.Ottawa, F.O.N.F., Cdr.(D) Argentina, H.Q.C.C., E.G.5.)
A.M.111921B H.X.237, aircraft attacking U-Boat bearing 245° 24 miles. H.F. traffic on several bearings apparently close indicate possibility H.X.237 sighted. ROSLIN CASTLE not met. Weather report 4442, 2721, 4388, 0566. (C.2 112005Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) Cominch, Escorts S.C.129, H.Q.C.C., CHESHIRE, E.G.5, H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C., C. in C. C.N.A. Cmdre. (D) W.A. Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F.Cmdr. (D) Argentina)
Following received from de KUHJ (ALCOA TRADER- Straggler from H.X. 237) Long. 29.21 W. SSSS Lat. 44 N. Missed by torpedo 112045.
(Burnham-on-Sea, Radio, 112114, to Admty etc.)
- S.C.128. Return to base. (C. in C. W.A. 110020B to HASTINGS)
SCB 128. Detach LANDGUARD at 008° W. to proceed to Belfast. (2) No local escort is available.
(3) NORTHERN GIFT is to continue with Convoy to off Belfast whence ships for Mersey proceed independently.
(C. in C. W.A. 111104B to S.C.128)
- A.T.42. Clyde arrival QUEEN ELIZABETH. Codeword "Bayrum". (N.O.I.C.Greenock, 110954B)

North/ ...

War Diary.11.5.1945.
Tuesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)North
Russia.

Your 101902. Arrival of 2nd group was reported in S.B.N.O. Archangel's 101905. 3rd and final group of 5 and these originally planned to leave Kola Inlet on May 15th but date of sailing now depends on tanker movement referred to in my 100905 not to all addressees. Intend that tankers after discharge Kola Inlet should join 3rd group for return passage to White Sea. (2) On completion whole movement 19 merchant vessels will be assembled in White Sea Ports awaiting homeward convoy. Only merchant vessels then remaining Kola Inlet being tankers PONTFIELD under repair and tanker BRITISH GOVERNOR awaiting repairs. Earliest estimated dates of completion being mid June and mid July respectively.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 111119B to Admty)

S.L.128.

C. in C. W.A. 091532B para. 5 intend to sail ROSEMARY and DERBY COUNTY to R/V at 0400Z/13 in 052° 03' N. 005° 49' W. Bristol Channel section may use A.M. Q.Z.S.300 codeword "Motor".
(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 111219B)

O.S.48
K.M.S.15.

My 082238 (1) amend para. 2 (B) to read:
Liverpool to Gibraltar, CHAMPION, BERGAMOT, BRYONY,
(2) Cancel para.2 (D)
(C. in C. W.A. 111457B)

✓ S.C.129.
attacked:
2 ships
sunk.

Convoy reported by U-Boat at 1636Z on Series one My P.C. and S. 041° 05' N. 033° 30' W. (corrupt group) 090° 8. Request repetition of B.N. 222 and 227.
Weather report 5480,1467.
(HESPERUS, 111657Z to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C. C.N.A. Connav, Admty, N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C. Comdre. (D) W.A. Comdre. (D) -Argentia.)

S.C.129 convoy attacked.
(HESPERUS, 111812Z)

S.C.129, My 111812Z ANTIGONE and GRADO sunk. A number of U-Boats in the vicinity from HF DF. Convoy diverted to 040° at 2200Z.
(HESPERUS 112119Z)

410

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

QUANTOCK Speed 20 knots, E.T.A. 1115B.
(ex G.U.S.7.) (QUANTOCK 110148B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca.)

TRACKER. TRACKER unloaded ready sail 2000A/11. Request orders. Can be included with MERRIMACK and 2 destroyers sailing Gibraltar 2000A/12. (C.M.S.F.F. 110930Z. to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty.)
Your 110930, not to F.O.I.C. Gib. Request you will sail TRACKER to Gibraltar with MERRIMACK.
(C. in C. Med. 111443A. to Commorseafron (R) Admty. F.O.Gib)

U.G.F.8. U.G.F.8. Arrival E.B. ALEXANDER.
(F.O. Gib. 111036B to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. Connav, C. in C. Med.)

Dispositions. Situation 112001B. 22 L.C.I. (L) S.O. L.C.T. (L) (?129). (A) 34.25 08.37 through 35.55 06.20 to Gibraltar 11. (2) S/M SIMOOM 42.35 10.01.1 180° diving by day 8½/2. (3) ANTELOPE 32.34 10.01 through 33.10 09.31 to Gibraltar 17. (4) LADY HOGARTH 2 merchant ships sail from Casablanca 121200 through (?34) 02 (?08) 00 and 35.47 06.24 to Gib. 4. (5) ANTHONY 38.20 10.45 to Gib. 14.
(F.O. Gib.111054B.)

Situation 1959B/11th. T.O.4 C.T.G. 21.5. (A) (29?) (54?) 20.57 through 28.20 24.03 thence 250° 13½. (3) G.U.S.7 C.T.F. 64 (A) 32.37 12.45 238° 9. (4) Tug (?)ALIGHT 6 (?trawlers) (corrupt group) 42.20 14.01 359° 4. My 111110 Part 1.
(F.O. Gib. 111100B.)

6. Spanish Training Ship GALATEA left Ferrol May 1st for Canary Islands expected time of arrival 14th.
(F.O. Gib. 111110B.)

Situation report for Area X.B. of Med. Station.
My 111110. Add new para. (8) 22 L.C.I. (L) S.O. L.C.I. (L) 129, (A) 32.08 12.54 through 33.05 10.40 thence 052° 11.
(F.O. Gib. 111544B.)

Situation 2003B/11th. Bilbao, 2 Swedish relief ships, 34.24 32.03 086° 11. (2) U.G.S.9 C.T.F. 62.34 14.27.38 085° 9½ (3) T.O.4 C.T.G. 21.5 (A) 29.10 20.57 through 28.20 24.03 thence 250 14½. (4) LADY NELSON 44.27 23.17 Southbound 13½.
(F.O. Gib. 111146B.)

Situation at 2002B/11th. 2 Swedish relief ships 034° 22' 032° 28' 086° 11. (2) 2 Swedish relief ships 034° 09' 036° 38' 086° 13.
(F.O. Gib. 111218B.)

REDSHANK. A.M. 091804. REDSHANK will sail 13th May to join O.S.47.
(F.O. Gib. 111240B. to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A. C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F.)

/Swiss...

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic. - Contd.

Swiss Shipping. My 071134 and 101136. CALANDA and ALBAREDA now leaving Genoa 14th. (D.E.W.D. 111243B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Convoy C.G.31. C.G.31 arrived. (F.O. Gib. 111433 to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connnav.)

TRIBUNE. Intend to sail TRIBUNE p.m. 13th May for U.K. Route shifting W/T watch at 0800/18 thence as ordered by F.O.S. (2) W/T watch. (3) TRIBUNE is painted dark blue. (4) F.O.S. 1149/8/1/42. 5 Marks 8B. 9 knots (111 miles per day). C. ready for patrol in an emergency diesels unreliable 100% fuel. D. (1) nil (2) 5. (5) All times Zone minus 2, positions N. and W. (F.O. Gib. 111534 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy O.S.47. Intend sailing for Freetown (7 ships). For Freetown for South America (10 ships). For Dakar (2 ships). Agreed M.W.T.R. and S.T.O. (F.O.Gib.111724B. to F.O.W.A. (R) C.M.S.F.F.etc.)

MANXMAN. MANXMAN will be ready to tow to U.K. on June 1st. Request (?ship) be sailed accordingly. (F.O. Gib. 111802B. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.)

ORKAN. A.M. 072042 and C. in C. Plymouth's 101555. Request you will detail a destroyer to relieve O.R.P. ORKAN during daylight 17th May to enable her to refuel at Gibraltar and return to U.K. as early as practicable. (D.O.D. (H) 111816 B. to F.O.I.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Plymouth, C. in C. Med. DELHI.) Reply: 121825B.

KASSOS. KASSOS (Greek), Swiss chartered, 11½ knots, sailed p.m. 11th for Philadelphia direct. Ship routed in accordance with Admty. message 072033B. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon 111819 to Admty.(R) F.O. Gib.)

Convoy G.C.8. G.C.8. G.C.8. Intend sailing at 121400 May for Casablanca BRITISH TENACITY, OCEAN LIBERTY (for Safi). (F.O. Gib. 111823B. to C.M.S.F.F. (R) C. in C. Med. Admty. Connnav.)

Movements, Gibraltar. Arrivals QUANTOCK, BROCKLESBY, BREAM, MULLET, WHITING, REIGHTON WYKE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN, ex G.U.S.7 U.S.S. KALK, HARRISON escorting SS. E.B. ALEXANDER ex U.G.F.8, SAINT NECTAN P.C.472, 475, with C.G.31. Departures M.T.B. 655, 658 to Algiers, VENOMOUS, FARNDALE, U.S.S. KALK, HARRISON to Oran. (F.O. Gib. 112233B, 121229B. to Admty. etc.)

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

HOLMBURY (sunk 7/5) SS. HOLMBURY due Freetown 7th May from Montevideo torpedoed by German U-boat at 0840 (Ships time) 7th May in 004° 30' North 010° 20' West. Sunk by gunfire from U-boat after ships lowered. 32 Survivors at Monrovia. 11 at Robertsfield (Liberia?). All embarking for Freetown 12th May. (S.O.(I) Sierra Leone, 110032Z to Admty., (R) B.N.A. Montevideo.)

DUMONT D'URVILLE. Arrival 9th May. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 110116Z to Comar Dakar, (R) Admty.)
 Departure 1530Z/10th May. DUMONT D'URVILLE, BIRDLIP escorting. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 111001Z to N.O.I.C. Bathurst (R) Admty., Comar Dakar.)

W.S.29. P.C. and S. W.S.29 at 2000Z/10th was 004° 03' S. 004° 37' E. 103° 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. Adjust sailing ROTHERHAM and destroyer to R/V with W.S.29 at first light 12th May. (F.O.C.W.A., 110230Z to B.N.L.O. W.Af. (R) ROTHERHAM, NEWCASTLE.)

Departure Pointe Noire 1500Z/11th. ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS and RACEHORSE to R/V with convoy W.S.29 Freetown pass to NEWCASTLE. (B.N.L.O.W.A., 111605A to AZALEA (R) Admty., C. in C., S.A. NEWCASTLE.)

Convoy T.S.39. T.S.39 sailed 0630Z May 11th, route Orange, S. of A. 13 knots, E.T.A. Freetown 0600Z/14th. (Stragglers route)(list etc.) Convoy code word "Jingo", convoy W/T identity XZD 1 - 9. QLA 168.

(N.C.S.O. Takoradi, 110801Z to Admty., etc.)
 ANTEENOR, CALIFORNIA, MOOLTAN, MALOJA, FELIX ROUSSEL sailed. Accommodation vacant and Freetown requirements as according to my 091015Z. (S.S.T.O. Takoradi, 110930Z to D.S.T.O. W.Af. (R) D. of S.T.)

Movements Dakar. Sailed 1925Z/11th GABRIEL GUISTHAU and NEWCHWANG escorted by F.A. Vessel ASPIRANT BRUN. (Comar Dakar, 111006Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)
 Sailed 0630Z/12th QUERCY escorted by LA GRANDIERE. My 101844 refers. (Comar Dakar, 111008Z to F.O.C.W.A. etc.)

ADELFOFOTIS. ADELFOFOTIS, Greek, sailed Buenos Aires 17th April for Freetown report from two sources to have made S.O.S. (or SSSS?) at 1240Z/1st May position 003° 064° S. (sic) 021° 33' West. No trace survivors yet. (S.O.(I) Sierra Leone, 111045Z to Admty. (R) S.O.(I) Buenos Aires.)

/Dispositions...

War Diary.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Dispositions. TRUSTY, F.S. COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, 011° 10' 007° 00' to 001° 00' 006° 00' 11 knots. FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY with C.N.19 dispersing off Walvis Bay.
ARCTIC EXPLORER, ETHIOPIAN, 031° 30' 029° 55' to Capetown 11.
MARGUERITE 029° 05' 031° 55' to Durban 10.
GAMBIA 029° 00' 033° 50' to 029° 30' 033° 18' thence Durban 19
ASTER 026° 10' 035° 50' to 026° 58' 035° 30' thence 029° 39' 032° 44' 11. NORTHERN CHIEF, ROCK ROSE. GENISTA 026° 53' 013° 45' to Durban 10.
(C. in C.S.A. 111108B)

CORNEVILLE Norwegian ship CORNEVILLE sailed Capetown 28th April for Freetown torpedoed about 100° 30 miles from Takoradi at 0500/9th May. All crew landed Takoradi.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111120Z to Admty.)

French Admirals. Following is a repetition of my 111151 May to Admiralty (R) Resmin, C. in C. Med. from F.O.C.W.A. (begins) -
Admiral Auboyneau has expressed wish to meet Admiral Collinet. Collinet is agreeable and wishes meeting to take place at Bathurst. Assume this should be encouraged.
(F.O.C.W.A. 111152Z to Admty.) Reply: Yes (Admty., 131211B)

D.N.37. Convoy D.N.37. for LIEUT.ST. LOUBERT BIE (begins) On dispersal proceed to Tamatave passing South of Madagascar and keep as close to coast as navigation permits (ends) 2. Acknowledge when when passed and understood.
(C. in C.S.A., 111209B to ROCKROSE, (R) C. in C. E.F., Admty., N.O.I.C. Durban.)
111330Z 026° 00' South, 038° 00' East, convoy D.N.37 dispersed. E.T.A. Durban 0600Z May 13th, GENISTA in co-operation. (Two corrupt groups). E.T.A. Durban 0600Z May 13th. Acknowledge.
(ROCKROSE, 111928Z to Cdre. I/C Durban, (R) C. in C.S.A.)

BULLDOG. Arrival 1919Z/10th May.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111257Z to Comar Dakar (R) Admty.)

Convoy T.S.38. Arrivals 1403Z/10 May. CORINTHIAN, BRIDGEWATER BUTTERMERE, BUTSER, ARMERIA, CYCLAMEN, PORTSDOWN with T.S.38.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111258Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi, (R) Admty., R.N.O. Lagos.)

/MALCOLM...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

MALCOLM, (1) B.N.L.O. W.Africa sailing MALCOLM, RAPID,
RAPID, WOLVERINE from Pointe Noire to Lagos E.T.A. A.M.
WOLVERINE. 16th. (2) N.O.I/C Lagos sailing ELIZABETH
when ready escorted by above destroyers to
Freetown and give R/V close off Takoradi to
N.O.I/C Takoradi (G.Coast). (3) N.O.I/C Takoradi
sail ORDUNA CHIEF, joining at R/V.
(F.O.W.A., 111329Z to B.N.L.O.W.Af. N.O.I/C. Takoradi, N.O.I/C
Lagos. (R) MALCOLM, Admty.)

U/B. American aircraft sighted S/M at 0950Z/11th in
001° 30' S. 014° 15' W. course 300°.
(F.O.W.A. 111342Z to Ships in area P.2 and P.3
(R) Admty.)

Convoy Departures 101008Z May MILFORD TAMARISK, WOODRUFF,
S.T.65. FANDANGO, YESTOR with S.T.65.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 111343Z to N.O.I.C. Takoradi
(R): Admty., C. in C. S.A., N.O.I.C.Lagos.)

Movement, Arrival A.M. 11th Free French S/M Chaser 43.
Duala. (N.C.S.O. Duala, 111415Z to Admty., etc.)

Destroyers Your 101515. Intend escorts to continue to
Escorting Gibraltar but estimate earliest time of arrival
Troop at Gibraltar with convoy will be 1400Z/23rd.
movements. Intend BOREAS to proceed with ship for Casablanca
for onward escort, remainder proceeding direct to
Gibraltar.
(F.O.C.W.A. 111416Z to F.O.C. Gibraltar. (R)
Admty. C.in C. Med.)

RESOLUTION, RESOLUTION taken in hand 10th May. Your
repairs. 230825 April my 101226 Nov. 1942 and A.L.D.
026910 1942 dated 6th Jan. 1943 refer. Earliest
date dock available 26th May. If shaft liner
repairs and or rudder rebushing is done ship must be
delayed. 2. Intend to defer repairs to rudder until repairs
to shaft liners are taken in hand. Admiralty 041259. May
refers subject to inspection during forthcoming docking. 3. It
will probably be necessary to dock in order to repack stern gland
in about three months time dependent upon amount of steaming at
speed above 15 knots and in any case before leaving African Waters.
4. Job number DA 10975 allocated M. 5. Date for completion
3rd June. Notice for sea 7 days.
(Capt. Supt. Durban, 111616B to C. in C. E.F.(R) RESOLUTION,
Admty., Cdre., Durban, C. in C. S.At. S.O.3rd.B.S.)

DESPATCH. DESPATCH arrived Recife 111600Z. Estimated time of
departure May 15th.
(Cdr. 4th Fleet, 111903Z to Cominch, (R) F.O.C.W.Af.
U.S.N,O.B. Rio de Janeiro.)

War Diary.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

S.L.129.

My 031947 refers. Following ships did not sail (list). Delete HOLMBURY, ADELPHOTIS. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 111907Z to Admty. (R) M.W.T.)
Convoy S.L. 129. List, cargoes, destinations. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 111916Z to Admty.)

GEORGES
LEYGUES,
GLOIRE.

Your 060016. (Visit of Cruisers GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE to Pernambuco.) No objections (Head of M.(I) Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 112202B to F.O.C.W.A.)

TRUSTY.

8 hours at position F. on para. 2 of your 111723Z (N.T. in W.R.). 2. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0900Z/13th May. 3. F.O.C.W.A.F. pass to other addressee. Acknowledge. (TRUSTY 112203Z to F.O.C.W.A.F. (R) A.H.Q.W.Af. B.N.L.O.W.Af.)

FORTOL
O.S.47.

FORTOL will join O.S.47 about 18th May to fuel escort. (F.O.C.W.A. 102239Z to U.S.S. HOGAN, (R) C. in C.W.A. Admty. Ships escorting O.S.47.)

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.MediterraneanVIRGILIO
(Italian
hospital
ship).Capt. (D) 6 Signal 100857A. Request report
whether there is any evidence of abuse of Geneva
Convention.(Hd. of M.I. 110001B Approved by V.C.N.S., to
C. in C. Med).Your 110001B. Following from LAUDERDALE (begins)
VIRGILIO proceeding Naples at 12 knots. Thorough
examination confirmed only crew and 850 wounded on board. No
allied wounded. Returning to Patrol Area T.O.O. 101245 (ends).
(C. in C. Med., 110140A to Admty).Following read VIRGILIO position 24.00, 38° 42' N., 12°
12' E., course 40° speed 13 knots.

(Malta W/T, No T.O.O.)

Following received: VIRGILIO with 900 wounded on board
position at 0300 G.M.T. 30.31 N., 13.03 E. course (?) 42° (?).
speed 13 knots.

(Malta W/T No T.O.O.)

Following received. VIRGILIO 0900 hours 40.15 N., 13.52 E.
course 042° speed 13 knots.

(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 110953).

U/B attacked

Following has been read. Have attacked one
submarine with bombs (level), estimate one hit,
my position 37.10 N., 13.05 E.
(A/C AOL/Z 110010B to A.H.Q. Malta).M.G.Bs.,
M.T.Bs.M.G.Bs. and M.T.Bs. referred to in my 101941 are
to leave area H H at 1945A and establish patrol
off N.W. Corner of Pantellaria until 0330/12th
May, when they are to proceed to Sousse.
(C. in C. Med., 110029 to S.O. 12th C.S.
CANDYTUFT, S.O.I.S., N.O.I.C. Malta, A.I.G. 266)
See also 110905A.Destroyer
Reliefs.C. in C. Med's 102131 (N.T. in W.R.) and my
102327 to C. in C. Med., only. TARTAR (S.O.
Fleet) LOYAL, ALDENHAM (S.O. Hunt) HURSLEY
and KANARIS sail at (?21) knots or better to
pass 036° 10' 011° 30' at about 1430A/11th
thence east of G G and through 037° 27' 011° 00' at about
1900A/11th.
(V.A. Malta, 110041B to C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S. C.S. 12, A.I.G.
266)

AQUILEIA

Following read from Hospital ship AQUILEIA.
Position 2400 36° 58' N., 11° 40' E, course
26° speed 9.5 knots.

(Malta W/T, 110052 to Whitehall W/T).

Following read: AQUILEIA, my position at 0000 G.M.T. 37°
15' N., 11° 46' E. course 255° (?) speed 9.5 knots. Master.
(Malta, W/T No. T.O.O. to Admty).

/Congratulations...

War Diary.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Congratulations. For:- A.F. Sir Andrew Cunningham. War Cabinet send to you and to all Officers and ratings in Mediterranean their warmest congratulations on vital part played by Royal Navy in the victory in Tunisia. (Admty. 110223B). Following is communicated with pleasure. (quotes former). (C. in C. Med., 111202A to Med. Station 420K).
Following read.
- Convoy "Gladstone". Unit or convoy using Codeword "Gladstone" being shadowed by one enemy aircraft course 060° position 37° 20' N., 11° ? E. (Malta via Nore W/T 110245).
- X LAMERTON E/Bs Following read. Engaged four E-boats position 253° Z.A. I, 9 miles. (LAMERTON via Malta and Nore W/T 110255A) At 0255A, engaged 6 E-boats in position 253° Zembra Is. 9 miles. After several minutes lively engagement, enemy retired under cover of smoke to northward, one probably damaged. No casualties in H.M. ships, very slight superficial damage to LAMERTON, U.S. Des. CHANDLER. (LAMERTON, 110530 to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. 12th C.S. Capt. (D) 6th D.F.)
- P.A.37 Convoy P.A.37 arrived less EMPIRE TROPHY straggler (N.C.S.O. Aden, 110500 to Admty. (R) C. in C. E.F. etc)
- PARTHIAN Your 102340 acknowledged. Walrus escort arranged from dawn 12th May. (Capt. S.I., 110539C to PARTHIAN)
- Destroyer Reliefs. My 102306 (names of relief destroyers) delete LAFOREY. For WHEATLAND read LAUDERDALE. (C. in C. Med., 110744 to C. in C. Home Fleet). Amend last sentence my 102306 to read, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS proceed to QQ. (C. in C. Med., 111114A to A.I.G. 266 (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O.I.S., 9, N.O.I.C. Bone? A.I.G. 263).
- L AURANA intercepted. Boating activity. Intercepted M.V. LAURANA painted as Hospital ship proceeding to Kelibia, TETCOTT escorting to Sousse for examination. Only small boat activity in area. (Capt. (D) 5 D.F., 110753A, to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) C. in C. Med., A.I.G. 263, BEAUFORT). Your 110753, not to all. I trust the boating activity is being firmly stopped. (C. in C. Med., 111208A to Capt. (D) 5 (R) A.I.G. 266)

/Capt. (D)...

War Diary.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

LAURANA Capt. (D) 5th D.F.'s 110753 not to Admiralty.
intercepted. LAURANA is not registered as a Hospital
Boating Ship and is to be held at Sousse.
activity. (C. in C. Med., 111212A to N.O.I.C. Sousse (R)
(contd). Admty. Capt. (D) 5th D.F. TETCOTT).
Capt. (D) 5 110753 not to Admty. Italian
merchant ship LAURANA is not a recognised hospital
ship.

(C. in C. Levant, 111426C to N.O.I.C. Sousse, C. in C. Med.,
N.O.I.C. Malta, Capt. (D) 5, (R) Admty).

Your 111212A. LAURANA entered harbour 1630 and is being
held at Sousse. Papers show vessel under orders to go to Burg
Sidi Daoud for wounded. Fitted and equipped in all respects
as hospital ship since 1941 but master admits that use was as
air sea rescue vessel until April 1942, at this date registered
denomination changed to hospital ship. Only 10 beds. Log
since 1943 shows her to have been used in the rescue or search
for personnel of ships and aircraft lost or in distress. Also
5 Orthodox journeys Pantellaria to Trapani. No evidence of
employment or anything but lifts saving at any time. Master
complained of bombing by U.S.A. aircraft.

(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 112040A to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant,
V.A. Malta, Capt. (D) 5, TETCOTT, Admty. S.N.O. Trip).

Enemy P.C. and S. of hospital ship 38.30 N., 12.02 E.
Hospital 150° 5 knots.
Ship. (C/S 99 K/S via Nore, 110815A to Admty).

APHIS For APHIS. APHIS is to (word omitted) towards
bombardment Cape Bon with a view to taking under fire
(cancelled) Menzel (?) Temin aerodrome during night. Position
of aerodrome 036° 49.5' 011° 02.5'.
(C. in C. Med., 110839A to N.O.I.C. Sousse (R)
A.I.G. 266, A.I.G. 263, V.A. Malta, F.O.C.S.12).

Arrival APHIS. M.L. 121.

(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 110846A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med.,
C. in C. Levant, Capt. C.F., Med).

Your 110839A. Our troops now in Beni Aichoun and every
prospect of Menzel Temin being in our hands by tonight Tuesday.
APHIS due to sail from Sousse at 1500A this afternoon.

(N.L.O. 8th Army Tripoli 111410 to C. in C. Med., (R)
V.A. Malta, F.O. C.S.12, A.I.G. 266 (905) A.I.G. (263)).

Bombardment of Menzel Temin cancelled as own army may
reach there tonight. Continue on present course and await fur-
ther orders.

(C. in C. Med., 111437A to APHIS, (R) A.I.G. 266, N.O.I.C.
Malta, F.O. 12th C.S.)

My 111410A. 1st Army have just ordered all R.A.F.
bombing in Cape Bon Peninsula to cease. Have cancelled sailing
of APHIS pending further instructions from you.

(N.L.O. 8th Army, Tripoli, 111525A to C. in C. Med.,
(R) N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O. 12th C.S., N.O.I.C. Sousse,
A.I.G. 266, A.I.G. 263).

Your 111515. (111525 intended) Approved. Cancel last
sentence of my 111437.

(C. in C. Med., 111622A to N.L.O. 8th Army, Tripoli).

War Diary.11.3.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

?Enemy Vessel. One unidentified vessel bearing 160° distant 10 miles.
(?) via Malta W/T, 110858A to DULVERTON, TETCOTT)

AETOS 10th May, departure.
(S.O.(I) Beirut, 110905C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

M.T.Bs. Coastal craft policy tonight 11th May.
M.G.Bs. (A) Large M.T.B. and M.G.Bs. from Bone as in my 101941 and 110029.
(B) Small M.T.B. from Bone off Sidi Daoud.
(C) M.T. Boats from Sousse in Sector C.1. and C.2, passing Kelibia before 2000/11th and after 0400/12th. After 0500/12th keep more than 5 miles from coast until arrival at Sousse.
(C. in C. Med., 110905A to N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O. 12th C.S., F.O.I.S. (R) A.I.G.263).

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 10th May, SEKSERN, M.L. 351. Departure 10th May BURRA, DELPHINIUM M.L. 357, M.L. 1126, G.S. SAKTOURIS, G.S. PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 110912C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).

Minesweeping. M/S.F. 12 and M/S.F. 13 now working independently M/S F. 12 in area L. M/S.F. 13 in area M. S.O. M/S 12 intends to anchor tonight Tuesday off Bizerta.
(S.O. M/S.F. 12th 110915 to S.O. S/M F. 13th F.O.I.S., Bizerta, C.S.12, (R) C. in C. Med).

Reliefs for destroyers. C. in C. Med., 101741 and 102306 (102313? intended). Para. 2. for OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON read ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS, routed as in my 110041 thence North and West of Area DD to QQ.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 110916B to A.I.G. 266 (R) F.O. I.S., F.O. 12th C.S. Med., addressees, C. in C. Med).

Enemy cruisers. P.R.U. 10th May shows following movements of Italian Main Unit.
1 6 inch cruiser has moved from Genoa to Spezia and 1 REGOLO has left Spezia. 2 6inch cruisers have arrived Genoa from Taranto.
(Capt. S.8., 110916A to 8th S/M Flotilla).

ALBACORE, BRIXHAM. Intend to sail ALBACORE, BRIXHAM, at 1130A/May 11th by route 92, 96 to Bone.
(2) Speed 12 knots E.T.A. 0730A May 12th.
(3) Codeword "Upset" "Ridgeway" "Able".
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 110925A to F.O. 12th C.S. (R) S.O. 12th M/S Flotilla, C. in C. Med., S.O. 13th M/S Flotilla. NEMESIS F.O.I.S., ALBACORE, BRIXHAM).

/BATHURST...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

BATHURST

Arrival 0345.
(Cdre. Aden, 110938Z to C. in C. Levant, etc).Naval Air
Sqdns.
Middle East.A. 694 11th May. Your AX. 303 21st April acknowledged. (Activities of Naval Air Squadrons in Middle East under operational control of R.A.F.) Difficulties being experienced in collating information but anticipate comprehensive statement will be available end of month.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., 110947Z to Air Min).M.T.Bs.
M.G.Bs.My 102356A M.T.B. 656 (S.O.) 633, 635, motor gunboats 647, 735, 0900A. E.T.A. area HH 1945A? 11th E.T.A. Sousse 0900A/12th.
(F.O. 12th C.S., 110952 to C. in C. Med., All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta A.I.G. 263, Spare A.I.G.266).Enemy
Battery,
ZafraBattery on Cape Zafraⁿ shelling Southern half of patrol QQ with accuracy.
(LAMERTON, 110955A to C. in C. Med., (R) C.S.12, Capt. (D) 6.)Destroyer
Reliefs.Sail at 2000A today Tuesday to comply with C. in C. Med's 102313 S. of A. 21 knots to pass 036° 10' N., 011° 30' E. at 0410/12th. Thence "Ferguson" to area GG at 0700/12th and "Rosspart" to area DD at 0930/12th by route in my 110041.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 111037B to JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., F.O.C.12th C.S. All cruisers, destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G.263).12th M.S.F.
minesweeping.Report by 1500A today Tuesday if channel for destroyers from Zebib to westward is not cleared, in which case be prepared to sweep them through about 1900.
(F.O.C.S.12, 111048A to S.O. M/S 12 (R) Capt. D. 6th).Axis Shipping
Cartagena.Departure Cartagena 10th May Spanish CARMEN, FREIXAS, Port Vendres, Oranges, German destination.
(Cartagena 1055/11 to Arfar No. 10 (R) Gib. Bank Block)L.S.Ts.
H.D.M.Ls.

Intend to sail L.S.T. 304 and 403 escorted by H.D. M.Ls. 1163 and 1154 at 2130A/11 to Bizerta. Routed through 037° 18' 009° 55' 037° 24' 009° 39' 037° 22'.5, 009° 51' .3, 037° 21' 009° 56' .6, 037° 16' .2, 009° 54' .4. Speed 10 knots.

E.T.A.1000A/12th. Fighter protection "Battersea CQ."
(F.O.12 C.S. 111122A to C. in C. Med. etc).

/Situation...

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- Situation Report No. 93.
1. During the night 9 May-10th May M.T.Bs. sank 1 small craft off Cape Bon taking 36 prisoners and also fired torpedoes and attacked with gunfire a number of small boats in Kelibia anchorage results were unobserved.
 2. Destroyer patrols were closed in on the Cape Bon peninsula on 10th May. 21 destroyers were at sea between Bone and Malta on these operations.
 3. Italian hospital ship VIRGILIO and AQUILEIA were intercepted on 10th May and released after search revealed only wounded on board.
 4. During daylight 10th May LAMERTON and LAUDERDALE sank 3 small vessels in Gulf of Tunis and received 31 evacuees including Chief of Staff to 5th Panzer Division.
 - x 5. F.O.I.S. has now established headquarters at Bizerta.
 - x 6. First L.C.T. convoy sailed from Bone to arrive Bizerta 1000/11.
 7. Channel has now been cleared as far as Cape (?Bon) German R type mines detonated and four cut.
 8. Destroyer blockade continues to be maintained by day and night. Inshore M.T.B. patrols are operating by night. At 0255/11 LAMERTON engaged 6 E-boats in vicinity of Zembra, enemy retired northwards under cover of smoke, one boat probably damaged, very slight superficial damage was sustained no casualties.
(C. in C. Med., 111124 to Admty).

Enemy Units. Course and speed of one small craft about 300 tons, 305° 5 knots based on fix at 1100.
(A/C 99K/J via Alexandria and Malta 111125A to Air H.Q. Malta).
My 1125 position of enemy is 38° 16' N., 12° 56' E.
(A/C 99 KJ via Alexandria and Malta, 111140 to Air H.Q. Malta).
Position of 2 destroyers 37° 58' N., 12° 10' E. course 305° speed 20 knots.
(A/C 99KJ via Alex. 111136B to Air H.Q. Malta).
Position of enemy is 37° 20' N., 11° 16' E. course 250.
(A/C 03NB/1 via Alex. 111144, 111151Z to Air H.Q. Malta).

BLYSKAWICA I have had to withdraw P.D. BLYSKAWICA from active operations in S. Sicilian Channel, not only on account of bomb damage from a near miss but also because more than 50% of her engine room complement are unfit for duty due to heat in engine room. My 2003/25 March (N.T. in W.R.) refers. I am sending her to Gibraltar for repair and I intend on completion sail her for U.K.
(C. in C. Med., 111131A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Capt. (D) 6).

Convoy T.E. 21 T.E. 21 sailed for Algiers; W.B. TRAVIS GEORGE LEONARD, H.M.S. LINNET L.S.T. 323 for Bougie; L.S.T. 409, for Philippeville: ZACAPA. For Bone DUX W.H. SEWARD, 358.
(Comnob, Oran, 111129A to Admty. etc).

/Cable...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Cable ship for Algiers. Request you will sail a cable ship to Algiers in U.G.S. 8 to carry out following work.
 (A) join No. 3 Gibraltar - Malta cable to one of the Marseilles - Algiers cables to provide another Gibraltar - Algiers cable.
 (B) Remainder of No. 3 cable to be brought into Algiers to provide Algiers - Malta cable.
 (C) Remainder of No. 1 Gibraltar - Malta cable to be brought in to provide Algiers - Bizerta cable.
 (2) Presume another shore end will be required for which hauling in facilities and trench are being provided.
 (3) Cable ship will subsequently be required to join cable in para. 1 (C) above to Bizerta - Marseilles cable.
 (C. in C. Med., 111140A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. Cdre. Algiers.) Reply: D.S.D. 121404B.

S/M Dispositions. (1) TRIDENT Gulf of Genoa.
 (2) P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) 038° 18' 009° 35' through 038° 18' 010° 01' and 038° 45' 010° 40' thence to 000° 9 knots.
 (3) P.217 (SIBYL) east of Sardinia.
 (4) P.211 (SAFARI) through 039° 00' 007° 40' at 0330/12th from north thence 358° 10 knots.
 (5) P.43 (UNISON) west of Lipari.
 (6) P.247 (SARACEN) 038° 22' 007° 20' 086° 9 knots.
 (7) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) 037° 38' 012° 07' through 037° 07' 013° 15' to Malta 7 knots.
 (8) Submarine movements summary in area G.C. at 2000A/11th All submarines diving by day 2½ knots surface speed as indicated (Capt. S.8., 111152A to S. and A. in Areas G.C. (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1st S.F.)

Air Support. "Fortu" Wellington Albacore 10 Brilliant 15 1400 1900 18, 19, 666.
 (?? (via Nore and Malta) 111205A to Malta Aspro) W.D. Note - "Fortu" = aircraft being sent to your assistance.
 2 Beaufighters (1) Sunderland have been despatched to your assistance, 1630, Brilliant.
 ((?) via Malta, 111445A to ?).

Turkey, Situation Report. Following from Adm. Kelly. Saw General Asim Gunduz, full of congratulations.
 2. Italy can be brought to terms by bombardment without invasion. Bulgaria pro-German Government against general will of people, half for and half against Russia but all against

England. Practically no German troops there and only movement of one weak division from Russian Front to Salonica through Bulgaria so as not to frighten Turks; 3 other divisions sent through Yugo Slavia to reinforce Greece and Islands, battered division from Russian Front. One Division as reinforcement between Grete and Rhodes. No menace of invasion. 40,000 reservists being released on completion of service recruiting replacement, leaving 548,000 under arms.
 3. 12 out of 72 German tanks and 12 aircraft all of excellent and up to date manufacture have arrived in Turkey (details).

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Turkey,
Situation
Report.
(contd).

4. Roumania and Hungary turning thoughts more and more to us, ie. Turkey and Great Britain.
5. Principal defences in Southern France (?) 20 between Marseilles and Spanish Frontier. East of Marseilles principally Italian.
6. He will send Turkey N.A. to Japan, due here in ten days, to see me. Please send list of

questions.

7. He is informed from London Adm. Cunningham is shortly taking up C. in C. Levant and that he will be visiting Ankara. He will be welcome and opportunity could be then taken to discuss naval question.

8. Minister of Communications had just asked him for Turkish Ferries for use at Iskanderun which he had been obliged to refuse but he had offered him in lieu unlimited use in Middle East on their arrival. He is anxious to know when they may be expected.

(N.A. Angora, 111223C to Admty).

Ships
ex U.G.F.8.

Your 082144 May (Five ships ex U.G.F.8 are required return U.K.) Ships should proceed to U.K. in M.K.F.15 unless there is earlier suitable opportunity.
No special escort is available.
(D.O.D. (H) 111236B to C. in C. Med).

ROYAL
ULSTERMAN,
ROYAL
SCOTSMAN.

It is intended to sail ROYAL ULSTERMAN and ROYAL SCOTSMAN in K.M.F.15.
Request final destination in order that passengers may be embarked.
(D.O.D. (H) 111237B to C. in C. Med).
Your 111237, Algiers.
(C. in C. Med., 112246 to Admty).

BALKAN,
CELENO.

My 101530. BALKAN loading Panderma still interrupted by bad weather. B.2.
(2) Report B.3. CELENO expected Istanbul from Black Sea 15th - 16th May.
(S.O. (I) Istanbul, 111253C to C. in C. Levant, S.O.(I) Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S)10, D.N.I.)

Black Sea,
Situation.

1. Sea. (a) Enemy E-boats have been active off Caucasus coast (b) Russian M.T.B.s operating in Cunepeal Straits sank a barge.
2. Air.
3. Land Russians commenced attacking along 25 km. front N.E. of Novorossisk on May 2nd. Fierce fighting continues on this front.
(N.L.O. Black Sea, 111405C to Admty. etc).

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

M.T.Bs. My 102356. M.T.Bs. delayed. Expect to pass Cape Bon 2000A/11th. Proceeding direct to patrol off North West corner of Pantellaria pass alongside southern edge area DD and between area GG and HH. E.T.A. Sousse 0900A/12th.
2. Intend sailing (P.T?) 203, S.O. 206, M.T.B. 266 at 1500A/11 to patrol off Sidi Daoud, proceeding for south of area QQ. E.T.A. Bone 1030A/12th. Fighter protection Vauxhall 3. (F.O. 12 C.S., 111422A to C. in C. Med., (R) All cruisers and destroyers Operating in area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G.263 Spare for Med., N.O.I.C. Bone, F.O.I.S. Bizerta, C.F.B. Bone).

Target- C. in C. Levant 031417 May. Position with
Towing regard to supply of Defiant aircraft to
aircraft. Mediterranean is as follows
(a) You have received 5. (b) The next 9 should arrive Gibraltar by mid May in THURLAND CASTLE and MANCHESTER PORT. (c) 5 are being sent in UNICORN. (d) A further 6 will leave U.K. in mid May.
2. Admty. cannot supply any further target towing aircraft to meet C. in C. Levant's needs. Request you will arrange disposal of available TT aircraft between Western Mediterranean and Levant as you see fit.
(D.N.A.O. Approved A.C.N.S. (A) 111422B to C. in C. Med., (R) C. in C. Levant, F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Situation, Situation on ?Tuesday. Hunts in area QQ engaged
6th D.F. 6 E-boats at 0255/11. Some enemy aerial
Report. activity at night but ships not attacked. Small boats endeavouring to reach Zembra Is. with Evacuees by day and night. No other movement of surface craft. Shore Batteries at Zafran firing with accuracy up to 11 miles. Sidi Daoud H.A. Batteries still active. Floating mines in both areas. Fighter cover good.
(Capt. (D) 6th D.F., 111501A to F.O. 12th C.S., C. in C. Med., BEAUFORT, ALDENHAM A.I.G.266).

P.R.U. P.R.U. May 11th. Taranto 2 battleships, 1 cruiser. Dry Dock not covered.
(V.A. Malta, 111502B to S.O. Force Q, N.O.I.C. Algiers, C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, etc).

/ Loop system C. in C. Levant's 062016C. Consider that
for Tripoli. occasional use only of outer anchorage does not justify employment of further valuable material and trained defence personnel, for whose services there are more important requirements.

/2. Laying...

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Loop
system for
Tripoli.
(contd).

2. Laying craft, equipment and personnel could not under present circumstances be made available for about 6 months unless C. in C. Med., can release these requirements from craft, equipments and personnel now available or from those being provided for future operations.

3. C. in C. Med., is requested to remark. (D. of L.D. approved by A.C.N.S. (F) 111551B to C. in C. Levant (R) C. in C. Med).

DORSETSHIRE

Sailed Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE at 1600/11th for Alexandria through 20 N., "Mind" "Hail" "Cold" "Home" "Shoulder" Speed 12 - 1/2 knots. E.T.A. boom 1600/14th. (S.N.O. Tripoli 111604A to Naval and Air Authorities, Tripolitania, Ships Tripolitania Area. Ships W. Desert, Naval and Air Authorities W. Desert).

Convoy
E.T. 20

Algiers section arrived. 8 ships. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 111607A to N.O.I.C. Bone etc). E.T. 20 sailed as in my 101144A. (14 ships) EMPIRE GALE and BLAIRNEVIS now for Melilla. (Cdre. Algiers, 111609A to Com N.O.B. Oran, F.O.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med., Admty. Connav).

Convoy
G.U.S. 7 A.

Following for inclusion, EXILONAN, M.B. LAMAR, POTTER, ANDREW HAMILTON, A. BALDWIN 5 ships. (Cdre. Algiers, 111621A to Comnob Oran (R) Admty. etc).

Convoy
M.K.S. 13

Ships for inclusion. (N.O.I.C. Algiers, 111623, N.O.I.C. Philippeville 111626A).

Situation,
5th D.F.
Report.

General situation on leaving H H for G G. No Action enemy aircraft or E-boats seen. Only small boat activity, yielding 77 prisoners throughout the day. TETCOTT expected to rejoin from Sousse after escorting LAURANA at about 1900.

(Capt. (D) 5th D.F., 111627A to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, TETCOTT, TARTAR, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G. 263).

Convoy
U.G.F. 8.

U.G.F. 8 arrived (list). (Comnob Oran, 111630 to Admty etc).

TETCOTT

Report time passing through HH and time of arrival in GG. (Capt. D. 5th D.F. 111631A to TETCOTT (R) TARTAR).

/TARTAR...

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

TARTAR, LOYAL (?U/B). TARTAR and LOYAL attacking confirmed contact in position 36.39 N., 11.25 E. (TARTAR, 111701A to A.I.G. 266 (Med. Spare) (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.(C) 12th). W.D. Note - Probably non - sub. see TARTAR 120711A.

Movements, Port Said. 11th May Port Said. Arrivals M.L.349 tug BURWICK, COUNDOURIOTIS, LARGS. Departures. PANTHER, SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE COUNDOURIOTIS, R.F.A. RELIANT. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 111721C to Admty etc).

Italian Repatriations. Admty. 240350B April. Italian Government have officially intimated VULCANIA and SATURNIA leave Trieste 1500 hours May 20th arriving Gibraltar 0800 hours May 25th. GIULIO CESARE and DUILIO leave Trieste 2000 hours May 22nd arriving Gibraltar 0800 hours May 28th. 2. Routes are contained in (a) Admty. 141603B April, (b) Admty. 181612B April as amended by Admty. 191303B April (c) F.O.R.S.C.A 061113C October 1942 as amended by F.O.R.S.C.A's 221816C April. 3. Vessel should not be molested while following above routes. Air Authorities concerned should be informed. (Head of M.I., 111814B to C. in C. Med., F.O. Gibraltar, etc).

OAKLEY German prisoners. Ref C.B. 3074 para. 15 (A) OAKLEY recovered 5 German other ranks survivors from enemy merchant ship off Tunisian coast 9th May 1943. 3 merchant seamen and 2 airmen by own statement. All handed to military authorities at Malta. (OAKLEY 111817A to V.A. Malta (R) C.S.12, Admty).

MAURO CROCE (attacked by SICKLE 23/4). At 230832/April SICKLE sighted MAURO CROCE leaving Valencia. At 0910 when ship was 2 cables outside territorial waters 2 torpedoes were fired from position 039° 31' 00" N. 000° 14' 20" W. range 400 yards. Torpedoes ran under. SICKLE then surfaced at 0917 and engaged with 3 inch guns and Oerlikon, 15 hits with former being scored. Enemy returned fire and turned in towards land, action was broken off at 0922 before territorial waters were reached. When last sighted MAURO CROCE had listed and was proceeding towards Sakni to about half mile from shore. A.M. 101637* refers. (C. in C. Med., 111841A to Admty. (R) N.A. Madrid S.O.(I) Gibraltar) *Request report on incident re attack of British sub. on Italian MAURO CROCE.

P.R.U. P.R.U. 11th May. Photographs, 1140, Taranto, confirm 1 cruiser in dry dock. (2) My 090921. Second cruiser in inner harbour now reported as REGOLO class. (V.A. Malta, 111843B to C. in C. Med., etc).

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- No Shore Bombardments. Following is a repetition of my 111749A. (begins) Address A.I.G. 266, M.T.B. Flotilla 7th, 10th, 32, 33, M.G.B. Flotilla 19th, 20, from C. in C. Med., No shooting up of shore targets tonight in view of movements of own army. (ends). (C. in C. Med., 111846A to All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta).
- JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT. Request information future movements J.VAN OLDENBARNEVELT and can service personnel be embarked. Admty. 072042 refers. (P.S.T.O, Med., 111917 to D.S.T.)
- M.L.s Arrival 11th May M.L. 361, 384, 385. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 112010C to Admty. C. in C. Levant).
- Destroyer reliefs. My 102312 (102313 intended) Relief to be effected as follows.
(A) JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN to HH. E.T.A. 0500, when TARTAR, LOYAL proceed to DD. E.T.A. 0730, when BEAUFORT, PINDOS, EXMOOR proceed to Malta.
(B) OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON to QQ. E.T.A. 0900 when ALDENHAM HURSLEY, KANARIS proceed to GG. E.T.A. 1100 when DULVERTON, TETCOTT, MIAOULES proceed to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 112012A/5 to All cruisers and destroyer operating in area between Bone and Malta (R) V.A. Malta. F.O. 12th .C.S., S.N.O. Trip. A.I.G.263).
- Movements, Algiers. Arrivals CIRCE, HUSSAR, BUDE, JULIET, CORIOLANUS, M.Ls. 218, 240, 568, 575, Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE S/M TACTIGIAN (P.314), departures PIROUETTE, BLYSKAWICA Tug RESTIVE S/M TROOPER L.S.T.s 368 426. Arrived and sailed HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, WHEATLAND, PENTSTEMON L.S.T.s. 306, 333, 369, 391, 392, 393 BRIXHAM, ALBACORE. (Cdre. Algiers, 112014A to Admty. etc).
- DULVERTON, enemy E-boats. Intercepted R/T on 40530 k/cs indicating that E-boats are searching. My position 070° Cape Bon 20 miles. (DULVERTON, 112025A to Malta W/T). Following read E-boats, COBRO -investigate, nothing present 2030. (DULVERTON 112038A to Malta W/T)
- Movements, Tripoli. Sailed SANTA, SAHRA. (S.N.O. Tripoli 112045A to Admty).
- Movements, Benghazi. Arrived ZINGARELLA M.L. 358. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 112046C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

/Minesweeping...

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

Minesweeping, "Antidote". Complete phase 1 tomorrow Wed.
Op. "Antidote" Trawlers sweep rectangular area in series 6.
Fighter protection priority 2, codeword as for today.

(F.O. 12 C.S.112102A to S.O. M/S F. 12 S.O.
M/S F. 13 S.O. Motor M/S Flot. 103, S.O. Motor
M/S Flot. 114 (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S. etc).

Movements
Oran.

Todays arrivals were 5, M.T.B.638, P.C.607,
M.L. 559, M.L. 562, M.L. 232, L.C.I.(L)s 120,
268, 300 L.C.T.320, L.C.T.396. JAUNTY, WISHART,
ILEX, PUCKERIDGE, HAYDON, CALPE, VETCH.

Departures were MAN O' WAR, BONITO, L.S.T.323,
L.S.T. 409, LINNET, L.C.I.(L)s 120, 268, 300, M.L.555, M.L.
483.
(Comnob, Oran, 112110A to Admty. etc).

LEOPARD

F.S. LEOPARD is to be (?adminstered) by Cdre.
(D) maintained by WOOLWICH, with accounts of
liaison personnel carried in NILE.
Admiralty pass to F.N.F.L. (?London).
(C. in C. Levant, 112115C to F.S. LEOPARD (R)
Admty. Cdre. (D) WOOLWICH, R.A. Alexandria,
Base Accountant Officer NILE, F.N.F.L. (?London))

Malta Air
Reports.

A.I. 529 11th May. (A) Air. Part 1, offensive.
Night 10/11th May. 9 Wellingtons and 3
Beauforts with bombs and 2 Wellingtons with
flares on armed search S.W. Sicily found no
shipping and attacked alternative target Marsala

Harbour. 111 250 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped scoring hits on
railway tracks and starting many fires in railway area. 2
Albacores with bombs on shipping search in Marittimo area
found no shipping and attacked alternative target Empedocle
harbour scoring hits in power station and railway station area.
Armed searches in the same area were also made by 1 special
equipment and 3 bomb-carrying Albacores which sighted no
shipping. 3 Torpedo-carrying Beauforts made shipping searches
along west coast of Toe of Italy. To cover these shipping
strikes 4 Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over east and west
Sicily. Day 11th May. 47 Spitfires provided close escort
and rear cover to Middle East Liberators bombing Catania Harbour
Close escort R/V'ed with Liberators over Cape Passero and then
provided continuous escort from target. 6 Macchi 202 which
approached Liberators just before bombing were driven off by
Spitfires.

Part 2. Enemy air activity nil.

Part 5. Operations by Aircraft of other command. Day 11th
May. 1 of a force of Liberators 415 Squadron despatched from
Benina to bomb Catania Harbour scored direct hit on 1 of 6
ships berthed in inner jetty and was damaged by flak. 1
return journey Liberator was attacked by M.E.109s and claims
hits on 2 of them. Liberator then landed at Malta.
(A.H.Q. Malta, 112116Z)

/A.I....

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Malta Air Reports. (contd). A.I.541. Daily Opsum 2, 10/11th May. 11 Wellingtons 4 beauforts with bombs 2 Wellingtons with flares despatched against shipping S.W. Sicily found no shipping. 3 Wellingtons 3 Beauforts returned with engine trouble and remainder attacked alternative target Marsala Harbour. 111 x 250 lb. bombs dropped scoring hits railway lines and starting many fires in Railway area. 5 Albacores with bombs despatched on shipping search Marittimo area. 2 returned with engine trouble, 1 dropped bombs near Mazara dos Vallo and 2 bombed Empedocle Harbour, scoring hits near power and railway stations. 4 other Albacores with bombs made shipping search Marittimo area. 4 Mosquitoes intruder over Sicily. 3 torpedo Beauforts made shipping search toe of Italy. 11th May 47 Spitfires close escort and rear cover to Middle East U.S. Liberators bombing Catania Harbour. (A.H.Q. Malta, 112200Z).

ORION V.A. Malta is requested to sail F.S. ORION (as received ?H.M.S. ORION intended) escorted by 2 destroyers to bombard Pantellaria Harbour at about 0220/13th May. Route through 036° 07' 013° 00' 036° 10' 011° 30' 036° 40' 011° 30'. Return to Malta after bombardment. Fighter priority high, codeword "Liege".

(2) F.O.C. 12th C.S. is requested to sail available large M.T.Bs. and motor gunboats to arrive in H.H. before dark on 12th May. To leave H.H. in time to establish patrol Pantellaria Harbour by 0001/13th May. Patrol to be maintained within 2 miles of Harbour until 0300 to intercept any enemy force leaving Harbour. Subsequently proceeding to Sousse. (C. in C. Med., 112132A to V.A. Malta, F.O.C.12th C.S. (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, F.O.I.S.)

Movements, Bone. Bone arrivals L.S.T 304, L.S.T.403. Departures H.D.M.L. 1234 (10th) L.S.T.304, L.S.T.403, SPEEDWELL. M.M.S.s 63, 88, 58, 89, 46, 140. H.D.M.Ls. 1251, 1163, 1154. (C.S.12, 112134A to Admty. etc).

Gibraltar Local Defences. Ref. your 101817. B.D.V. BARFOIL is required at Malta at first opportunity and temporary lack of one Bar vessel must be accepted. 2. B.D.V. BARBERRY is allocated to Gibraltar on arrival, A.M. 1623/19 March refers, and PANORAMA may be retained temporarily. 3. Request you will sail BARFOIL to Algiers with K.M.S.14. (C. in C. Med., 112214A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) V.A. Malta, Cdre. Algiers, Admty).

/L.C.T...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

- L.C.T. Flotillas. Following shipped in 10th and 11th L.C.T. flotillas:- L.C.T. 325 - (a) One L.C.T. slipway cradle for Malta or as required. (b) L.C.T. after action hull fittings for Bougie and Malta. (c) 10 shipping cradles for L.C.P. for Jejelli.
- L.C.T. 313, 353, 417, 391, 354, 318. L.C.T. after action repair materials and fittings for Bougie, Malta and in accordance with station requirements.
- L.C.T. 346 Material for construction of light-weight. L.C.I.(L) ramps.
2. Each C.O. has copy of Bill of Lading.
 3. Copies of Bills of Lading have also been given Cdr. Power. (D. of P. 112232B to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta).

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11.5.1943.
Tuesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.East IndiesConvoy
C.M.41
RANPURA.Arrival RANPURA with C.M.41.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 110231Z to Admty.)BRITISH POWER
"S" report:Intercept 0141Z De Simonstown Radio SSSS 27.00
S. 36.17 E. BRITISH POWER, suspicious, D.E.
Z.S.G. 0137 G.M.T.
(Port Patrick Radio 110341B to Navy Charge,
Greenock.)

SUTLEJ

Subject to satisfactory engine trials SUTLEJ
will be ready to sail a.m. 19th May.
(SUTLEJ 110425Z to C. in C.E.F. (R) Admty.
F.O.Ceylon, Com. R.I.N.)MAURETANIA,
AQUITANIA.See my 061139Z (N.T.in W.R.) to D.S.T. These two ships
?cannot be accepted at Bombay during S.W.
monsoon period between first June to 15th
August. Your 061728 to B.A.D. and 072040 to C.
in C.U.S.Fleet, refer.
(P.S.T.O.I. 110607Z to Admty. (R) B.A.D.
F.O.C.R.I.N. C. in C.E.F.)

Movements.

Arrival U.S.S. HERMITAGE, request A.C.N.B.
inform us authorities concerned.
(S.O.I. Bombay 110631Z to Admty. F.O.C.R.I.N.
F.O.Ceylon, C. in C.E.F. A.C.N.B. Cominch C.
and R.)

Departure 0545Z/11th VERBENA.

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 110703 to Admty.)

TULIP arrived. Left CAPETOWN, KENYA.

(F.O.E.Af. 111231Z to Admty.)

Arrival 1725Z/11th HOXA.

(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll 111754Z to Admty.)

DAUNTLESS.

Following is intended programme for DAUNTLESS.
Place. Arriving. Leave.
Kilindini 13th May 19th May
Durban 19th May 21st May
?Simonstown 25th May 31st May.
Pointe Noire 31st May 6th June
Freetown thence U.K. (Chatham) A.M. 211532
April refer.2. C. in C.S.A. Stn. and F.O.C.W.Af. are requested to sail
DAUNTLESS to comply this programme as far as practicable.
(C. in C.E.F. 110705Z to Admty. (R) DAUNTLESS, F.O.C.W.Af.
S.N.O.Afloat, C. in C.S.A. Stn. N.O.I.C. Durban.)Movements
Summary.

No. 63 May 11th.

1. KENYA leaves Kilindini 12th May to relieve
HAWKINS as escort to convoy J.M.1 HAWKINS to
Kilindini due 14th.2. CARTHAGE, JUMNA and GERALDTON left Bombay
8th escorting convoy B.A.43 due Aden 16th.

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Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements
Summary
(Contd.)

3. CANTON left Bombay 10th due Colombo 13th.
4. DAUNTLESS leaves Kilindini 13th due Durban 19th.
5. CAPETOWN leaves Kilindini 11th escorting convoy K.A.6 to Aden.

6. The following Y messages are cancelled 262 Y of May 1st 271Y of May 4th.

(C. in C.E.F. 110722Z to E.F.278Y.)

RAJPUTANA
collision.

RAJPUTANA in collision with EMPIRE CORAL collision (bulkhead?) buckled but holding. Sending ORRISA with P.B.40. Will endeavour to sail RAJPUTANA under escort of PANGKOR 14th May to Bombay unless other destination ordered. (S.N.O.Persian Gulf 110851Z to F.O.Ceylon, (R) C. in C.E.F. etc.)

R.N.A.S.
Indian Ocean

R.A.Rawlings assumed command R.N. A.S.Indian Ocean on 11th May.
(F.O.E.Af. 110909Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. Com. N.A.Ceylon.)

X A/S Forces,
Northern
Indian Ocean

The following are my proposals for C.A.S.F. ships
1. Hormuz patrol as in F.O.Ceylon's 031202, but propose relieving some of these ships by BASSETS after the hot weather.

2. West Coast Group. NETRAVATI, CORNWALLIS and 4 BASSETS, SS. DIPAVATI will be used for local escorts only.

3. East Coast Group. IRRAWADDY, RAMDAS, ST. ANTHONY and 4 BASSETS.

4. Arakan patrol and Calcutta Chittagong escorts. PANSY, KALAVATI, HASHEMI and 2 BASSETS.

(F.O.C.R.I.N. 111114Z to C. in C.E.F. F.O.Ceylon, (R) Admty. S.N.O.Persian Gulf, Com.R.I.N. F.L.O.Delhi, N.O.I.C. Aden.)

WAYLAND,
BURNIE.

WAYLAND escorted by BURNIE sails from Kilindini 0859Z Friday 14th for Aden routed as follows
M. 002° 25' N. 047° 30' E. N. 010° 58' N. 052° 07' E. O. 012° 17' N. 051° 10' E. P. 012° 28' N. 045° 40' E. E.T.A. Aden 0400Z/20th.

2. Request you will arrange onward passage for WAYLAND to Levant Station with suitable escort. BURNIE should return to Kilindini as soon as possible.

3. Acknowledge E.T.A. to WAYLAND.

4. A.M. 041245 May refers.

(C. in C.E.F. 111158Z to N.O.I.C. Aden. (R) WAYLAND, F.O.R.S.C.A. Admty. C. in C.Levant, C. in C.Med.)

Seafire and
Martlet A/C

Your 100801Z. Pilots will return. 877 Squadron remains with you. Concur in your proposals.
(D.N.A.O. 111316B to R.A.N.A.S. (R) C. in C.E.F. C. in C.Levant.)

/Kilindini...

War Diary.

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Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies - Contd.

Kilindini A.X. 89 May 11th.
R.D.F. Further my A.X.617 and May 6 and A.X. 812 May 8
cover. not to A.H.Q. E.Africa and in reply to H.Q.R.A.F.
M.E. A.605 May 6 concerning R.A.F.cover
Kilindini. Policy is at present to have
Kilindini manned and operational as soon as
stations completed. This policy is however to be reviewed
next week. As soon as decision is arrived at you will be infor-
med. Views expressed by H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. and C. in C.Eastern
Fleet will be taken into account.

(Air Min. 111521Z to H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. (R) Admty. A.H.Q.E.
Africa, C. in C.E.F.)

A.621 May 11th. Your A.X.812 May 8th.

Do not understand what is meant by statement "That South
Africans may be willing to provide personnel on exchange
basis with Middle East" particularly in view of your support
to our contention that our limited resources of personnel
have to be disposed where most required request elucidation.
Para. 2. Propose to defer any action with South African
Authorities until Chiefs of Staff decision is received.
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E. 111634Z to Air Min.)

Movements, Colombo arrival 11 May 0930Z H.M.M.L. 1086.
Colombo. Departure 1445Z Dutch submarine O.24.
(F.O.Ceylon 111527 to Admty. etc.)

Convoy K.A.6. Sailing telegram. 2. 111700Z. 3. Time of
passing 010° N. 150500Z E.T.A. Aden 170430Z.
4. 13 knots. (Route). 6. CAPETOWN.
(N.C.S.O. Kilindini 111716Z to Admty.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

New Construction, sailing dates. My 040119Z. Re direction of mails. Read following further additions and amendments -

Name	No.	Sailing date	Destination
RAVAGER	A.C.V. 24	1st week July	U.K.
STRIKER	A.C.V. 19	4th week June	U.K.
BENTINCK	D.E.52	4th week May	No change
BYARD	D.E.55	2nd week June	No change
CALDER	D.E.58	2nd week July	U.K. via Bermuda
BURGES	B.D.E. 12	1st week July	U.K. via Bermuda

Number	Sailing date	Destination
Y.M.S.186	2nd week May	Levant via St. Johns, Londonderry & Gibraltar.
B.Y.M.S.49,50	1st week June	No change.
Y.M.S.155,156	1st week June	No change.
B.Y.M.S.70,71, 189,211.	4th week June	U.K. via St. Johns
B.Y.M.S.55,52	2nd week July	U.K. via St. Johns
Y.M.S.157,173	2nd week July	U.K. via St. Johns.
B.Y.M.S.37,47 48.	4th week May	Levant via above route.

(B.A.M.R. Washington 110121Z to Admty.)

U/B. Submarine report by shore watcher in 047° 45' N. 052° 55' W. at 2320Z course westerly. (C. in C.C.N.A. 110130Z to G.B.7A.)

Movements. St. Johns N.F. May 10 arrivals S. STRATFORD ex B.W.23, M.L. 062 ex Wabana. Departures M.L.060 to Wabana. (N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 110144Z to Admty.)

Arrivals LETHBRIDGE, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE, ex H.X. 238. (C.Halifax 111152Z to Admty.)

Arrival U.S.S. INTENSITY, ALACRITY from Quebec departure AMHERST to O.N.180 U.S.S. INTENSITY for Boston. (C.Halifax 111152Z to Admty.)

U.S.N. Authorities report M.L.Q. 1173 and 1174 arrived Antilla May 9th and expect depart May 11th. (B.R.L.O.Havana 111617Q to Admty.)

San Francisco arrival May 8th KLIPFONTEIN (Du.) Departure May 9th ROBERT C.GREIR for Bora Bora and Suva. KOTI AGOENG (Du.) for Espiritu Santo. Departure May 8th for Honolulu in convoy KENMORE, ERNEST J.HINDS, PRESIDENT TYLER. Departure Port Hueneme May 9th HORACE GREELEY for Espiritu Santo. All U.S.

/Army...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies

Movements (Contd.)	Army Transports. (N.S.H.Q. 111703Z to Admty.) Departure MINAS to O.N.181. (N.O.I.C. Halifax 112153Z to Admty.)																
Convoy H.F.53.	Arrived H.F.53 less HJALMAR WESSEL. (N.C.S.O. St. John N.B. 110147Z to Admty.)																
U/B SACKVILLE	D/F at 0100Z indicates U-Boat in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 110501B to SACKVILLE, (R) N.S.H.Q. Cominch, C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.)																
FREDERICTON.	E.T.A. St. John N.B. approaches 1500Z/11. (FREDERICTON 110900Z to N.O.I.C. St. John N.B.)																
Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 11th.	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Ship.</td> <td>Position.</td> <td>Course</td> <td>Speed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CESHIRE</td> <td>46$\frac{1}{2}$° N. 27$\frac{1}{2}$° W.</td> <td>045°</td> <td>12$\frac{3}{4}$</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CARNARVON CASTLE)</td> <td>08° N. 28° W.</td> <td>Patrol</td> <td>Blank.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(D.O.D.(F) 110907Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed	CESHIRE	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	045°	12 $\frac{3}{4}$	CARNARVON CASTLE)	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.	(D.O.D.(F) 110907Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.)			
Ship.	Position.	Course	Speed														
CESHIRE	46 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° N. 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° W.	045°	12 $\frac{3}{4}$														
CARNARVON CASTLE)	08° N. 28° W.	Patrol	Blank.														
(D.O.D.(F) 110907Z to Opnav (R) Comnav.)																	
Net instal- lation St. Johns Roads proposed transfer.	Am informed verbally by U.S. Authorities here that it is their intention to lift net instal- lation in St. Johns Roads and transfer to Trinidad at an early date. (B.R.L.O. Antigua 111050Q to S.B.N.O.W.At. (R) S.B.N.O. Trinidad, B.A.D. N.S.H.Q. Admty.)																
U/B believed destroyed by MADDOX	This is re-encypherment Comdesron 17 despatch 102358Z. At 1836Z/6th in 35.20 N. 20.15 W. U.S.S. MADDOX, Lt. Comdr. E.S.Sarsfield Commanding, attacked enemy submarine four times dropping 24 charges. Sea smooth, visibility unlimited. Submarine blown to surface on second attack exposing about 75 feet of midsection of keel to height of about eight feet, seen to sink rolled over at angle of about 130° with keel exposed. No survivors recovered. Additional deep charges dropped on one hatch at sinking spot. No further contact after continued search for four hours. Believe submarine definitely destroyed. (Radio Washington 111052Z, 111545Z to Admty.)																
116th H.D. M.L.Flottilla	Your 082151 para. 1 affirmative. Para. 2 request flottilla do A/S course at Key West. (S.B.N.O.W.At. 111224P to B.A.D. (R) Admty.)																
Convoy H.S.84.	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Sydney C.B. 111312Z to Admty.)																

/SNOWBERRY...

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies - Contd.

SNOWBERRY Sailed SNOWBERRY when ready about May 15th
Charleston direct to Halifax.
(Cominch 111353Z to C.E.S.F.)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q. 111448Z.)
S/M estimate

S/M estimate (C. in C.U.S.Fleet 111454Z, 111455Z, 111542Z,
May 11th 111543Z, 111544Z.)
U.S.S/M
Notice.

U/B sighted Aircraft sighted submarine in 48.05 N. 61.30 W.
by A/C. at 1400Z.
(C. in C.C.N.W.A. 111521Z to G.B.7A.)

S.C.130, Departures MONCTON, NIAGARA, MATAPEDIA, KENORA
Escorts. escorting S.C.130.
(C.Halifax 111630Z to Admty. etc.)

Convoy Arrived.
G.A.T.60 (B.R.L.O.Trinidad 111634Q to Admty.)

S.C.130. Sailing telegram (37 ships, list).
2. Gate 1400Z/11th. 4. 7.5 knots. 5. Ocean
Route. T. W.5, B.7.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 111643Z, 111645Z to Admty.)

UGANDA. Arrived St. Pierre with considerable quantity
water ballast in fuel tanks, C.A.F.C. 1966/42.
As no arrangements for disposal of oily sullage
am proceeding to sea tomorrow wednesday to dis-
charge overboard, topping up with oil fuel on return to
harbour. Unlikely to be complete with fuel before 2000Z/12.
(UGANDA 111651 to Admty.)

Fuelling Escort oiler for S.C.130 SS. BENTE MAERSK
at sea. carrying pool gas oil No. 21 fitted with five
inch hose buoyant method astern. First standby
oiler SS. E.G. SUEBERT, carrying Admiralty fuel
oil fitted with 1000 feet 2½" canvas hose
astern method. Second standby oiler SS. BENEDICK carrying
American Navy Special Fuel fitted with 3½" hose for trough
method alongside, also carries 60 mark VII depth charges all
ships are experienced oilers.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 111658Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. Connav,
N.S.H.Q. F.C.N.F. Cdr. D.Argentia, B.A.D. C.E.S.F. P.D.N.Y.
B.R.L.C.New York.)

/QUEEN MARY...

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QUEEN MARY. New York arrived Ambrose 1335Z/11th QUEEN MARY.
(N.S.H.Q. 111705Z to D. of S.T.)

O.N.182 U/B. (?Large number) of bearings on B message at
1534 on series two line two 10510 k/cs while
yielding no fixing indicates U-Boat in your
vicinity.
(N.S.H.Q. 111708Z to Ships escorting O.N.182,
(R) C. in C.C.N.A. F.C.N.F. Admty. Cominch,
S.B.N.O.W.At. A.C.I.C.)

X G.U.Convoy stragglers,
re breaking W/T silence. We have heard from N.C.S.O. Mediterranean that
he and Commorseafon jointly wish A. to suggest
G.U.convoy stragglers should break W/T silence
on passing through last position on stragglers
route and report position and estimated time
of arrival vicinity of Patrol Boat stationed in
triangle Ambrose Scotland Gedney. Apart from
above W/T silence to be maintained unless otherwise ordered
by B.A.M.S. (B). To request that when possible Cdre. of U.G.S.
convoy be sailed to Oran, Vice-Cdre. to Casablanca and Rear-
Cdre. to Gibraltar.
2. Request your concurrence or otherwise with A. above and
necessary action on B. if agreed.
3. Should instructions for entry for alternative ports be
supplied to ships in G.U. convoys for use in event of
straggling and if so for which ports.
(D.T.D.111710B to Connav, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O.
Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. N.C.S.O. Med.)
Reply: Conroute 121607, 121609.

NORTHERN GEM. In view of loss of DANEMAN intend to hold
NORTHERN GEM from S.C.130 to act as escort
for GROWLER sailing in H.X.239.
(F.O.N.F. 111750Z to C. in C.W.A. (R) C. in
C.C.N.A. Admty. N.S.H.Q. B.7 NORTHERN GEM.)

X Attacks on U/Bs, assess-
ments. Your 102232B. Affirmative world-wide.
(Cominch 111800Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Comnav
B.A.D.)

U.G.F.8A. "Chop" U.G.F.8A 24 W. 18, 2100Z Fighter protection
Codeword "Embargo" Associated callsign 128
convoy "Camsi" callsign T.R.
(Cominch C. and R. 111854Z to C.E.S.F. C. in C.
Atlantic Fleet, C. in C.Med. Admty. C.T.F.60,
Commoroccan S.F., F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

U/B attacked by A/C. U.S.Aircraft attacked submarine in 061° 01' N.
051° 32' W. at 1242Z/10th.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 111929Z to G.B.7A.)

/Convoy...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy O.N.181. 1. O.N.181. 2. 1830Z/11th. 3. 1200Z/12th in 046° 02' N. 048° 39' W. 4. 11. 5. As per Admiralty's 231531/4th and C. in C.W.A's 041744/5th. 6. ST. ALBANS, TRAIL, TIMMINS (N.C.S.O. St. Johns N.F. 111929Z to Admty.)

RESTORER. Seattle arrival May 9th Cable Ship RESTORER (U.S.) (N.S.H.Q. 112009Z to Admty.)

Convoy O.N.181. O.N.181. My 101442 (N.T. in W.D.) cancel para. 3 substitute upon relief proceed with your unit and NAPANEE to St. Johns N.F. (F.O.N.F. 112020Z to B.3 (R) ST. ALBANS, C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. C. in C. U.S.Fleet.)

Convoy S.Q.47. Sailing telegram. 2. 1230Z/12th. 3. Red Islet 1200Z/15th. 4. 7½ knots. (Route). Sydney Gaspe "Chop" 0200Z/13th KYL, AYRSHIRE. (N.C.S.C. Sydney 112027Z to N.C.S.O. Quebec.) As amended 120017Z.

LORD KELVIN DIGBY. Your 101959Z (N.T. in W.D.) LORD KELVIN expects complete cable repair at 0300Z/12th thence Halifax. Intend escorting her there. Weather report. (DIGBY 112030Z to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) C.E.S.F. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, U.S.S. CAPTOR, N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy cycles, S.C.sailings, Admty. 091534B. Concur. Admty pass to C. in C.U.S.Fleet in European Waters. (N.S.H.Q. 112103Z to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. B.A.D. C. in C.U.S. Fleet. in European Waters.)

Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z. Para. A. Navy plane sights sub 59.30 N. 19.08 W. 111038. Planes attack subs one area 59.49 N. 19.00 W. one area 61.15 N. 20.30 W. 9th PELICAN attacks sub area 54.00 N. 44.00 W. a.m. 6th. Para. C. P.B.Y. attacks sub 61.01 N. 51.32 W. 100942. P.B.M. sub contact 19.36 N. 74.48 W. 101800. Para. D. Plane sights sub 48.05 N. 61.30 W. 111400. Shore watcher reports sub 47.45 N. 52.55 W. 102320. (Cominch 112106Z to Admty.)

CLARKIA. Your 081905 (N.T. in W.D.) In view of fuel endurance propose routing CLARKIA to Recife (? in T) B.14. Thence to (?Freetown) escorting following ship from Recife (? as far) as

/practicable...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West IndiesCLARKIA.
(Contd.)

practicable. ROBERT MORRIS. (?Speed) 11.
General cargo. Destination. Takoradi.
(U.S.N.O.B. Trinidad 112130 to C.C.S.F. (R)
S.B.N.O.W.At. Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. Com. 4th
Fleet.)

BLAIRMORE.

BLAIRMORE departed Boston 1200Q/11th en route
Halifax via N. 42.23 N. 70.42 W. O. 42.31 N.
70.32 W. P. 42.46 N. 65.09 W. Q. 44.07 N.
63.26 W. making best speed.
(Com. Northern Group 112218Z to C.E.S.F. (R)
Connav, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.C.N.A. Admty. Port
Director New York, Cdr. Destroyers Atlantic Fleet)

X Convoy
breaks off
(diversions)
from O.N.
Convoys.

Your (?031422.)* In view of intended operating
reverse of X.B. - B.X. cycle to conform to new
S.C. cycle there will be occasions when ships for
Boston and Portland in O.N.S's will have 4 or 5
days lay over in Halifax awaiting next X.B.
Propose therefore that C. in C.C.N.A. be given
(?discretion) to either break off these ships
for Halifax or order them to continue to New

York as circumstances direct bearing in mind extra steaming
involved.

(N.S.H.Q. 112235Z to Conroute (R) Admty. C. in C.C.N.A.
C.E.S.F.)

* re breaking off of ships from O.N. convoys.

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No.33 X

Three Jap D.D. attacked a.m. 8th May by
Dauntless and Warhawk A/C near Gizo Island
results attack and apparently from mines, also
reported by Coastwatcher, one D.D. probably
sunk, one D.D. beached, one D.D. badly damaged, one D.D.
slightly damaged, one A.K. on reef near Hunda. Refer my
090005Z. Bougainville 7 large vessels (?seen) p.m. 9 May
heading south a.m. 10th May.

(C.W.R. Wellington 110351Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty. D.N.I. A.C.N.B.
G.H.Q. New Delhi, India.)

W.D.Note:- The place, time and damage caused is identical
with the attack by M.T.Bs. already reported on 9th May.

/Digest...

War Diary.11.5.1943.
Tuesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.- Contd.

- 7 Digest serial 6 medium merchant vessels, 3 escorts observed
No. 476 May 10 rounding Cape Matanalem New Hanover course
330° late afternoon.
2. Morning R/C sighted 2 large merchant vessels
15 miles East Cape Gazelle course 270°
- 3. Submarine reported proceeding south past Cape Orford
afternoon.
4. One Liberator bombed strafed small craft Kimbe Bay Area
morning.
11. Five Catalinas hit Babo aerodrome and installations same
night causing explosions and great fires in oil tank and
wharf areas also minimum twenty fires started in dispersal
area. Three grounded aircraft destroyed and probably others
destroyed or damaged. One vessel 500 tons strafed and 4
very large aircraft, ten to twelve medium bomber type and 16
fighters observed. On return 1 Catalina strafed 1 100 ton
vessel at Kaimana while another attacked Dobo.
12. Photos morning 9th revealed Utaon runway probably
serviceable for 1000 to 1500 yards but no aircraft and also
showed 17 barges at Kaimana.
13. Ref. Digest No. 475 paras. 1 and 2, photos show one 5500
ton freighter, 1 other badly damaged merchant vessel at
Manokwari and 1000 ton tanker, 2 smaller sea trucks at Sorong.
15. Two Beaufighters by strafing destroyed 2 motor boats
Trangan Island morning.
16. Nine Zeros attacked Millingimbi forenoon destroying 1
supply vessel 70 tons also 1 grounded Beaufighter and damaged
2 Beaufighters. Five Spitfires intercepted destroying 2
Zeros plus 1 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 Spitfire
lost. 3 of these Zeros later unsuccessfully attacked convoy
2 small vessels near Millingimbi and 1 Zero damaged.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 110858Z.)

Movements. Departure Melbourne 10th U.S. Ship GOLD STAR for
Sydney.
(A.C.N.B. 111306Z to Admty.)
10th May arrivals Thursday Island WARREGO from
Merauke and GLENELG Port Moresby SWAN Brisbane, BALLARAT, COLAC,
MORESBY, BENDIGO, U.S.Des. HENLEY, Fremantle U.S.Seaplane
Tender HERON.
Departures Melbourne ALSEY for Sydney N.S.W. Brisbane U.S.Des.
SELFIDGE, U.S.Des. RALPH TALBOT for Noumea Sydney, ARUNTA
for Cid Harbour Thursday Island WARREGO for Merauke.
(A.C.N.B. 111307Z to Admty.)

X Merchant shipping losses, policy re publication
Your 050300. H.M. Government decided in July
1941 to cease publication of shipping losses
because publication gave valuable information
to the enemy. Losses of merchant ships are
therefore never announced in U.K. but Press
cannot be prevented from republishing names of
merchant ships which have been sunk and
announcements purporting to give tonnage sunk
if such reports have been published in a foreign
or neutral country.

11.5.1943.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand.

Merchant
Shipping
losses,
policy re-
publication
(Contd.)

2. When U.S.A. entered the war they began to announce losses of merchant ships but as a result of representations in February 1942 the U.S. Government stated that the policy of the Navy Department was substantially the same as British policy, but at that time they were obviously having the same difficulties with their Press as we had with the British Press in the early days of the war.

3. Throughout the first six months of 1942 the U.S. Press continued to publish losses on the American seaboard but only in those cases where survivors were landed on the American continent. No name of ship or tonnage was published.

4. The present policy of the U.S. Government is understood to be that they publish only U.S. ships when survivors have been landed on the American continent.

5. Other Dominions follow British policy in this matter and it would be very embarrassing if the Commonwealth were to depart from it.

(Head of M.II Approved by 1st Lord 112236B to A.C.N.B.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 111356B, 111401B.)

Submarines Attacked.

Weekly
Summary.

My 221059 July.

1. At 1836/4 a Liberator of 86 Squadron attacked a U-Boat on the surface 750 miles west of Ushant. Considerable wreckage, planks and a black cylinder were seen in the water after the attack.

2. At 0500/4 M.T.B. 670 in 43° 32' N. 13° 20' W. found survivors from a U-Boat swimming in the water. Shortly before this COVERLEY, escorting the convoy, had struck a submerged object. One survivor stated he came from a second U-Boat which had been sunk by Sunderland aircraft. This may have been the one reported in my 042043B, para. 4.

3. At 1228/7 Sunderland W of 10 Squadron attacked a U-Boat 200' N.W. of Cape Ortegal. U-Boat remained on surface for half an hour and then submerged slowly leaving a large oil patch.

4. After four weeks of concentrated air patrols in the Bay of Biscay the total sightings and attacks are now 69 sightings, of which 46 have been attacked.

(D.A.S.W. 112001B to Cominch, etc.)

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.S.C.129
2 U/Bs
sunk.

1. HESPERUS reported at 0724Z that several U-boat attacks had been driven off during the night about 140 miles N.W. of Flores (Azores) One U-boat was left sinking and abandoning ship. Several U-boats were still in close contact. His position was 41.55 N., 31.38 W. BITER lost an aircraft in attacking a U-boat about this time. An hour and a half later he reported at least 4 U-boats were shadowing and at 1536Z at least 10 were in touch. At 1230Z HESPERUS sank another U-boat and recovered a quantity of debris with German markings in 42.30 N., 31.30 W.

X H.X.237
U/B sunk.
2 ships
sunk.

2. SS. FORT CONCORD which straggled off Newfoundland was torpedoed about 400 miles north of the Azores, early today, and apparently sunk. DRUMHELLER picked up 15 survivors, and the escorts of S.C.129 were told to look out for others. C.2 group (BROADWAY) reports a U-boat destroyed by hedgehog at 1245Z, and a second damaged by a Liberator, both near 46.40 N., 25.41 W. (about 450 miles N.N.E. of the Azores) and that PATHFINDER considers she damaged in the dog watches in d.r. position 47.50 N., 25.38 W. a U-boat which was reported by BITER's aircraft at 1730Z about 27 miles N. by W. from the convoy's 1800Z position (46.59 N., 24.52 W) MORDEN this evening picked up in 47.08 N., 24.13 W., survivors of SS. BRAND, a straggler off Newfoundland. The convoy at 1915 today passed many sacks of flour and some landing craft in 47.07 N., 24.44 W.

X P.R.U. of
Altenfiord.

3. C. in C. Home Fleet proposes that R.A.F. air crews and photographic interpreter trained in boom defence and warship identification should be sent to North Russia to take over P.R.U. as frequent P.R.U. with reliable interpretation of photographs of Altenfiord are becoming increasingly important, and in neither respect have Soviet results been adequate to date.

4. H.M.T. STRATHGARRY suffered some casualties when Lowestoft town and vessels at anchor in the roads were bombed and machine gunned by about 12 F.W.190s at 0850 today.

X Operation
K.L.1

5. C. in C. Portsmouth reported at 121830B that a channel had been swept 4 cables each side of a centre line joining 50° 03' N., 00° 18' W. and 49° 50' N., 00° 18' W. No mines were swept.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

6. SS. PIRATINY (Brazilian 5187) was in trouble of some sort late tonight in heavy fog about 205 miles north of Capetown.
SS. CAPE NEDDICK (Balboa for Durban and Suez) was torpedoed at 0113Z today in 23.21 S.01.22 W. (about 480 miles S.S.E. of St. Helena) but arrived safely at Walvis Bay on 16th or 18 May with one hold flooded. The vessel is being made seaworthy for passage to Capetown. There were no casualties.

Mediterranean.

↖ Coastal
Craft
re-grouped.

7. M.T.Bs. are to be re-grouped as follows:-
2 M.T.Bs and one M.G.B. Flotillas each at Malta, and at Bone - Bizerta respectively. Bone will be the main repair and training base for the western Mediterranean and only operational boats will be kept at Bizerta. VIENNA will be sent to Bizerta shortly as M.T.B. base ship. American M.T.Bs. sent forward by Comnavnav will also operate in the Bone - Bizerta area.

Patrols.

8. M.T.Bs. on patrol off Sidi Daud took 8 Germans who were making for Zembra last night. Destroyer patrols round Cape Bon peninsula today report only minor boat activity. DULVERTON took a further 75 prisoners and TARTAR 58.

× Bizerta

9. At Bizerta, the entrance to the canal is at the moment effectively blocked. Ferryville Dockyard and all facilities are completely out of action but Bizerta Naval Depot is little damaged.

10. The Italian hospital ship TOSCANA which was proceeding to Kelibia was intercepted at 0904 by Capt. D.5 and ordered to proceed to Trapani without embarking any personnel, wounded or otherwise.

11. M.M.S. 89 was sunk at 0550 today in 052° Cape Guardia Signal Station 8 miles, after detonating mines.
11 mines were swept today off Ras Engela.

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

12. A convoy of 20 merchant ships arrived at Alexandria today from Malta and Tripoli (L), without incident.

X 13. 5 Malta Wellingtons finding no shipping southwest of Sicily last night bombed Porto Empedocle docks. Beaufighters set a small coaster on fire off Point Stilo and the vessel drove ashore where it was seen still on fire. 22 Wellingtons of N.W.A.A.F. bombed Marsala last night. Many bursts were seen in the harbour area and a large fire was started in the dock area.

14. About 8 enemy aircraft raided Algiers at 2045 today. SS. DORSET COAST capsized after damage by near miss. Four aircraft are reported shot down by gunfire and one by fighters.

America & West Indies.

X 15. Task Force 61, consisting of U.S. battleships SOUTH DAKOTA and ALABAMA, and destroyers ELLYSON, RODMAN, EMMONS, MACCOMB and FITCH sailed from Argentia today for Scapa.

X 16. By noon today, surface vessels having neutralised enemy opposition, the troops of the U.S. Aleutian Force who landed on Attu yesterday were advancing inland.

Australia & New Zealand.

17. SS. ORMISTON (British 5832 tons) was torpedoed in convoy at 0414Z today in 30° 16' S., 153° 23' E. (about 180 miles south of Brisbane). There were no casualties and the ship reached Coff Harbour.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

X R/C of
Altenfjord

Frequent P.R.U. with reliable interpretation of photographs of Altenfjord becoming increasingly important.

2. In neither respect have Soviet results been adequate to date.

3. Propose R.A.F. air crews and photographic interpreter trained in boom defence and warship identification be sent to North Russia to take over P.R.U.
(C. in C.H.F. 121215B to Admty.)

Fuel in
Iceland.

Request weekly signal giving stocks of furnace and diesel fuel ashore in Iceland (C) and disposition of Fleet attendants with quantities on board. During H.M. operations this signal should be made more frequently as the situation demands.

(C. in C.H.F. 121400B to A.C.I.C.)

Defence of United Kingdom.

X Yarmouth
A/A defences
Operation
"Crittall".

1 flight 12 "Crittall" balloons will be transferred from Norwich to Yarmouth becoming operational at Yarmouth W.E.F. 1800B/13th May. While Yarmouth balloons will continue as part Norwich barrage for administration and communication they will control operationally as independent barrage.

(H.Q.F.C. 121910B to Air Ministry.)

Movements.

S/M
Movements.

Sailed UNSPARING escorted by LORD WAKEFIELD.
(C. in C.Portsouth 120521B to F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar.)

My 101201B as amended by my 111821B. Sailed.
(BARB, BLACKFISH, USURPER.)
(S.O. S/M Lerwick 121012B.)

My 11171 para (G). H.32 returns to Plymouth on completion, not Dartmouth.

(F.O.S. 121016B.)

Intend to sail TUNA, STUBBORN, SEADOG escorted by BRYONY from 180° Sanda Island 7 miles at 2000B/14th to 000° Dunnet Head 2 miles, E.T.A. 0600/16.

2. A.C.C.S. is requested to sail ULTIMATUM with escort to this R/V. Thence SEADOG to Scapa. BRYONY, TUNA, STUBBORN, ULTIMATUM East of Orkneys to Lerwick, E.T.A. 1700/16th, speed 10 knots.

(Capt. S.3 121053B.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800/13 and movements for following 24 hours.

(F.O.S. 121624B, 131247B, 131526B.)

DEVONSHIRE.

Sailed DEVONSHIRE in accordance with my 101156B May. Amend E.T.A. Tyne Pier Head 1300B/13th.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 120706B.)

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements - Contd.

ADVENTURE. Your 082132B. Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 120929B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.)

KENT. Intend proceeding at 2100 today. E.T.A. Scapa Flow 1830/14. Request sleeve target at 1700 in position 240 J.J.14. Course easterly. (KENT 121200 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

DELHI. S.O.E. 396 and my 101555B. Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(C. in C.Plymouth 121203B to DELHI.)

SCYLLA. My 091011B. para. 1.
On return pass through position C. 049° 15' N. 012° 36' W. D. 180° Bishop Rock 10 miles to Plymouth, keeping west of The Lizard during dark hours.
(C. in C.Plymouth 121445B to SCYLLA.)

CHESHIRE. Onward route from J.D.53.30 N. 16.05 W. to J.E. 55.02N10.58 W. J.F. 55.35 N. 07.00 W. thence destination.
(C. in C.W.A. 121550B to CHESHIRE.)

CUMBERLAND. Your 111420. Arrived.
(A.C.O.S. 122346 to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

Operations.

Coastal Patrols. My 111117B. "Device" returned 0705.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 120710B.)
1. Intend M.L. 205 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 495 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N. between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W.
2. Leaving harbour at 2130 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/13.
3. Object anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Attache".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 121120B.)

Dover Area. All C.D/C.H.L. Stations in the Dover area report strong D/F interference from 0045 to 0129 today.
(V.A.Dover 120726B to Admty.)

X Enemy coastal batteries. Between 1330 and 1410 yesterday enemy coastal batteries fired twenty-four rounds at T.H.V. VESTAL. VESTAL escorted by ANDRADITE while passing westward through the Folkestone Area to service buoys off Dungeness. A further sixteen rounds ANDRADITE. were fired at these vessels in the same area

/between...

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Enemy coastal batteries. VESTAL. ANDRADITE. (Contd.) between 1930 and 1950 while returning to Dover. VESTAL sustained slight damage to superstructure and hand steering, steering was put out of action by one near miss and one straddle. No damage to ANDRADITE and neither vessel sustained casualties.
(V.A.Dover 121105B to Admty.)

S/M Patrols. Leave patrol at 0600B/13th May through 090° Muckle Flugga 5 miles to Lerwick.
(Capt. S.9 120911B to O.10.)
Positions of submarines at 0800/13 and movements for following 24 hours. HERRING, SHAD, TRUCULENT, SURF as in my 101706.
(F.O.S. 121624B to Admty.)

Exercises.

INDOMITABLE, UNICORN. INDOMITABLE, UNICORN arrived Clyde from exercises (N.O.I.C. Greenock 121024B.)

Exercise D.M.A. ANSON, MALAYA, DUKE OF YORK. Practices Monday 17th. Short title D.M.A. A. Tactical exercises west of Orkneys 1115 to 1200. Details.
(C. in C.H.F. 121040B to B.S.2.)

Exercise in Denmark Straits. Exercises completed. MIDDLETON return to harbour. JAMAICA intercept and shadow BELFAST.
(C.S.10 121719B to JAMAICA, MIDDLETON.)

Allied Air Activity.

Bombing Targets in Occupied Countries. Following from Chiefs of Staff C.O.S.(W) 612. Reference J.S.M. 909 (282307 April).
1. The telegram 9013 from Andrews to Marshall does not correctly describe the arrangement which has been reached. It was agreed by the C.A.S. and Andrews that a list of suitable targets in enemy-occupied country should be

drawn up primarily with the view to :-

A. providing alternative targets for attack when conditions made it impossible to attack objectives in Germany or the U-Boat bases.

B. giving opportunities of creating diversions to draw off enemy fighter forces from large-scale attacks staged over Germany of the U-Boat bases.

C. Permitting new groups to obtain operational experience in conjunction with or independently of experienced operational groups.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Allied Air Activity.Bombing
targets in
Occupied
Countries.
(Contd.)

2. The choice of these targets had particular regard to the need for avoiding populous areas and obviating heavy casualties to civilian population. The targets, however, are of military and economic importance. There is as yet no intention of publishing the list for the information of our Allies. This is undesirable on security grounds. General Eaker is satisfied with the list and the War Cabinet have taken note of this arrangement.
(Air Ministry 121130Z to Britman, Washington.)

Enemy Air Activity.Enemy A/C
destroyed.

One Dornier Bomber crashed into sea in 001° Cromer 10 at 2340. Flare recovered with graph marking. No bodies recovered.
(PYTCHLEY 120012B to C. in C.Nore.)
SUNK HEAD FORT claims to have destroyed one Ju.88 at 2335B/11th. Previous to opening fire tracer was observed bearing 290°, distant. S.L.C. picked up plane on this bearing, showing no I.F.F. Fire opened with Bofors on bearing 050°, height 1000/1500 feet, range 750/1000 yds. Plane hit on tail and set on fire with third round. Fire spread rapidly, and plane was seen to crash into sea on bearing 090°, 12,200 yds. Lookouts report 2 parachutes observed falling in this position. Bearing and range confirmed by 273 set.
(C. in C.Nore 121121B to Admty.)
Group of Harwich M/S trawlers. STAUNCH, EARL ESSEX, CAPSTONE, SUTHERNESS, claim to have shot down a Heinkel A/C in vicinity 52° N. 01° 45' E. at 2340B/11th April. (?May intended).
(C. in C.Nore 121515B and 121936B.)
MALLARD claims to have shot down a Dornier at 2340B May 11th in 53° 06' N. 01° 18' E. PYTCHLEY reports seeing this aircraft crash into the sea in the position given and has recovered a flare with German markings. No survivors found.
(C. in C.Nore 121736B to Admty.)

X Yarmouth
Area.

Approximately nine enemy aircraft operated in Yarmouth Sub-Command between 112300 and 112359. No land incident reported. Minelaying suspected.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 120017.)

X Lowestoft
bombed.
STRATHGARRY.

Lowestoft town and vessels at anchor in roads bombed and machine gunned by approximately 12 F.W. 190s at 0850 today. A. Nil. B. 1 killed, three injured on H.M.T. STRATHGARRY. C. Nil. D. Nil.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 121126B to Admty.)

Faroes.

1 Ju.88 reconnoitred Vaago and Nolso fjords at 1000 today flying at low level. Similar R/C carried out at 0900/10th. Engaged by Thorshavn H.A.A. Battery on both occasions. No hits claimed.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 121153B to A.C.O.S.)

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

- X Humber Area on 11th May Approximately eight hostile aircraft operated in Humber area between 2320 and 2345 yesterday. No report of any land incident. Scattered minelaying is suspected by 12 group R.A.F. but no concrete evidence is available.
(F.O.Humber 120120B.)
- X Lowestoft. At 2321/11th May an enemy plane flying about 50 feet approaching harbour entrance from the southward was seen in searchlight to dive and drop some object. Large splash observed. Position just north of a line joining Lowestoft harbour North Pier light and L2 Buoy, approximately 200 yards from harbour entrance. Suspected mine or unexploded bomb.
(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 121036B.)
- The Sound. Following received from Niton Radio. R.A.F. No. LUOSSA. 11 Group Axbridge, intercepted 1150 G.M.T. begins S.O.S. DE LUOSSA position 54.51 N. 12.43 E. (unread), mine explosion after Sjuncker Sakta. Ends (C. in C.Portsmouth 121350 to Admty.)
Intercept 1150 G.M.T. From LUOSSA, position 54.51 N. 22.43 E. If tug boats can arrive immediately we can keep our (remainder unreadable.)
(Humber Radio 121354 to Immingham.)
- Harwich. At 1331/12 one Ground Mine detonated by Sweeper in 51° 56' 30" N. 01° 40' 6" E. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 121721B to Admty.)
- X K.L.1. Operation K.L.1 completed. (My 111050B May.)
2. Channel swept 4 cables each side of a centre line joining 050° 03' N. 000° 18' W. and 049° 50' N. 000° 18' W. No mines swept.
(C. in C.Portsmouth 121830B to Admty.)

Enemy Intelligence.

GRAF ZEPPELIN. GRAF ZEPPELIN carried out exercises April 22 with Naval Air Personnel on board. She was reported in Stettin Harbour well camouflaged on May 5th. Graded A.3.
(N.A.Stockholm 121800). Comment: GRAF ZEPPELIN was seen in floating dock at Kiel on 7/3 and was next seen off Swinemunde on 22/4. No corroboration has been received that she has yet carried out any steaming trials.

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in N.Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 45° 20' N. 24° 05' W.
(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty R. 120850B to 15 Group.)
Have lost touch with enemy submarine last seen in 45° 32' N. 24° 05' W.
(A/C 86 Sqdn. 120950B.)

/Have...

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in N. Atlantic. (Contd.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 86 Sqdn. 121315B.) Enemy submarine previously reported has surfaced. (A/C 86 Sqdn. 121319B.) Am over enemy submarine in 49° 10' N. 22° 40' W. (A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty N. 121710B to 15 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 86 Sqdn. 121730B to 15 Group.)

My 121710. Corrected position (?latitude) 23° 04' W. (A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty N. 121835B to 15 Group.) Am over enemy submarine in 50° 24' N. 19° 08' W. (A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty K 121915B to 15 Group.) Have attacked enemy with depth charges. (A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty N. 121950B to 15 Group.) D/F bearings at 1710Z indicate U-Boat within 75 miles of 60° N. 23° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 122120B to Escorts O.N.S.7.)

Casualties & Defects.

MIRZA. Information has been received from Principal Officer Ministry of War Transport Northern Ireland, that Dutch Tanker MIRZA is expected to arrive Belfast at end of May for engine repairs by Harland and Wolff. Period of repairs expected to be about six weeks. Request information whether it is intended to fit oiling at sea equipment and/or depth charge stowage during this period. (F.O.C.N.I. 120803B to Admty.)

PRINCESS IRIS. PRINCESS IRIS arrived Swansea p.m. 11th requiring full 48 hours to carry out thorough overhaul of steering gear which broke down due broken steering chain on passage during Monday night's gale. Other minor E.R. defects also being carried out by ship's staff. Ship not ready for sea until a.m. 14th. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 121051B.)

BADZO. Arrived in Yarmouth motor vessel BADZO damaged by enemy action. (N.C.S.O. Gt. Yarmouth 121215B.)

BACHAQUERO. In company S.L.128 South. Request destination. (BACHAQUERO 121500Z to Admty.) Your 121500Z. Destination is Clyde. (C. in C.W.A. 122103B to BACHAQUERO.)

ADVENTURE. Your 111135 to C. in C.W.A. 3 days will be required to disembark stores, repair and regauge mine rail and embark outfit. It is proposed therefore to clean boiler now due and to sail on 18th May. (ADVENTURE 121551B to Admty.)

/HALIZONES...

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12.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties & Defects - Contd.

HALIZONES and BELGIAN FISHERMAN. HALIZONES met 049° 05' N. 012° 00' W. KITE proceed Liverpool 18 knots. Request destination. (GOATHLAND 121610B to C. in C.W.A.) GOATHLAND's 121610B. Destination of HALIZONES is Clyde. If condition permits she is to be taken to Clyde via A.M. Q.Z.L. 18. If weather necessitates ship may be taken to Falmouth or Milford Haven. Report intention in due course.

(C. in C.Plymouth 121745B to GOATHLAND, MARAUDER.)

My 111223B. Route through positions A. 180° Fastnet Rock 10 B. 051° 43' N. 007° 30' W. C. 051° 58' N. 006° 15' W. thence in accordance with Fleet notice to Mariners 385 (T) 1943. BELGIAN FISHERMAN is to be taken to Liverpool. LORD STANHOPE pass to SEA GIANT. GOATHLAND pass to MARAUDER.

(C. in C.Plymouth 121811B to LORD STANHOPE, etc.)

If practicable request relief escorts may be detailed to relieve GOATHLAND and LORD STANHOPE when tows reach St. Georges Channel, GOATHLAND and LORD STANHOPE then proceeding Milford Haven.

(C. in C.Plymouth 121831B to C. in C.W.A.)

JONQUIL due Milford Haven a.m/13 is to relieve GOATHLAND and escort HALIZONES in tow to Clyde.

2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to arrange R/V.

(C. in C.W.A. 122237B to C. in C.Plymouth.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 110944 and my 121111.

1. On completion of this escort BERGAMOT is to relieve LORD STANHOPE and escort BELGIAN FISHERMAN in tow to Liverpool.

2. C. in C.Plymouth is requested to arrange R/V.

(C. in C.W.A. 122242B.)

S.G.B.4.

S.G.B.4 has been in collision and sustained following damage: Gusset Stays and Stem damaged. Two 9" diameter holes in shell plating. All damage about 4 feet above waterline. Temporary repairs effected with cement boxes. Request permission to sail her for Southampton for repairs tomorrow.

(F.O.I.C. Portland 121624 to C. in C.Portsmouth.)

Your 121624B. Approved.

(C. in C.Portsmouth 121922B to F.O.I.C. Portland.)

MOURNE.

My 111555B. Sailing of MOURNE delayed for at least 4 days due to Engine room defects.

(C. in C.Nore 121721B to A.S. C.B.S.)

CAPE COMORIN

N.C.S.O. Plymouth's 111612B. CAPE COMORIN entered Portland at 1820 with defective A/S Gear. (F.O.I.C. Portland 121832B.)

ASCANIA.

ASCANIA requires to have two boilers retubed before taking part in operations.

2. She is to be made a "named ship". Completion is required by 24th May.

(D. of P. 121945B to F.O.I.C. Glasgow.)

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- O.N.183. Sailed HIGHLANDER to overtake O.N.183.
(Cdre. D.W.A. 120042B.)
- T.A.42. My 070501B para. 4. In view of delay in
(QUEEN arrival convoy T.A.42 should now be ready to
ELIZABETH) sail p.m. 15/5.
2. Embarkation programme detailed in para. 3
of my 070501B will be adhered to.
(D.S.T. 120628B.)
- A.M. 101911 and 112249. Sailing of convoy T.A.42 is delayed
24 hours.
(D.O.D.H. 121326B to C. in C.W.A.)
- S.C.129. Several attacks driven off during the night.
Two U/Bs One U-Boat left sinking and abandoning ship.
sunk. Several U-Boats still in close contact.
HESPERUS 52 depth charges remain. My P.C. and
S. are 041° 55' N. 031° 38' W. 022° 7½'.
(HESPERUS 120724Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- My 120724. At least 4 U-Boats now shadowing.
(HESPERUS 120849Z to C. in C.W.A.)
U-Boat attacked by HESPERUS at 1230Z/12 and sunk.
Quantity of debris with German markings retrieved.
(HESPERUS 121316Z.)
Your 121059B. Lowest fuel remaining 356 tons. One A/C
lost attacking U-Boat 0730Z today. Another A/C attacked
1130Z, 2 escorts now hunting. Estimate at least 4 U-Boats
in contact. A/C situation: 7 Swordfish, one Martlet.
Flying conditions Borderline owing to swell. Weather 4491 0365.
(BITER 121351Z to C. in C.W.A.)
Estimate at least 10 U-Boats in touch. Any support
would be welcome. My 112119 whole crew of GRADO rescued.
Missing from ANTIGONE 1st Radio Officer, one A.B., one Seaman.
Names.
(HESPERUS 121536Z.)
2 submarines on surface 340° 15 miles. My P.C. and S.
042° 52' N. (?044°) 05' W.
(HESPERUS 121601Z to C. in C.W.A.)
3 U-Boats on surface.
(HESPERUS 121934Z to C. in C.W.A.)
- X
H.X.237. One U-Boat 150°, 12 miles. My position 046°
One U/B sunk. 33' 026° 48'.
one U/B da- (C.2 120730Z to C. in C.W.A.)
maged. FORT One U-Boat 050° 6 miles has dived. One U-Boat
CONCORD 330° 15 miles on surface. My position 046°
torpedoed. 40' . 025° 41'
BRAND (C.2 121245Z to C. in C.W.A.)
survivors. My 121245.
First U-Boat destroyed by Hedgehog. No
prisoners, but evidence secured.
Liberator reports second U-Boat damaged.
Surface escort unable to make contact. Other
U-Boats considered to be in touch with convoy
and one reported by BITER A/C 27 miles 342°
1730Z.

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

H.X.237
1 U/B sunk.
1 U/B damaged. FORT
CONCORD
torpedoed.
BRAND
survivors.
(Contd.)

PATHFINDER hunting. DRUMHELLER has 15 survivors from FORT CONCORD straggled off Newfoundland and torpedoed 02(740)Z/12th. Uncertain if there are other survivors.
My P.C. and S. 1800Z, 046° 59', 024° 52' 041° 10 knots.
(C.2 121800Z to C. in C.W.A.)
My 121800. PATHFINDER considers U-Boat damaged. Lost contact and rejoined after dark. MORDEEN picked up in 047° 08' 024° 13', 40 survivors BRAND straggler off Newfoundland. Reports 3 lost. Passed many sacks of flour and some landing craft in 047° 07' 024° 44' at 1915.
(C.2 122140Z to C. in C.W.A.)

Enemy S/M attacked during dog watch. Position by dead-reckoning 047° 50' 025° 38'. Consider U-Boat damaged.
(PATHFINDER 122246Z to C. in C.W.A.)

My 112005. No definite results observed. Fire was exchanged and 4 depth charges dropped. U-Boat dived.
(C.2 120750Z to C. in C.W.A.)

P.W. and
W.P. Convoys

In view of weather P.W. and W.P. convoys are to continue to destination and not put into Falmouth or Plymouth tonight.
(C. in C.Plymouth 121031B to Escorts P.W.337 and W.P.337.)

P.W.337 has entered Plymouth for shelter, and will be resailed at 0600B/13th weather permitting.
(C. in C.Plymouth 121821B.)

SS. JOHAN VAN
OLDENBARNE-
VELT. &
SS. DESEADO.

Admiralty 072042 and N.C.S.O. Mersey 081225. Sailing delayed 24 hours. Amend R/V accordingly.
(C. in C.W.A. 121111B.)

X Escorts of
C.E. and
C.W. convoys.

Admiralty 120144B. C.M.B.B. will cease to escort C.E. and C.W. convoys after C.E. 175 sailing from Portsmouth 12th May.
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to arrange for BUNGAY and DEAL to proceed to Southampton to land Balloon Gear, destore and pay off.
3. PINGOUIN and ROEBUCK II will be sailed for Portsmouth with C.W.178, latter to pay off at Southampton, and former to await decision in accordance with para. 5 of Admiralty's 120144B.
4. HASLEMERE and FRATTON will be administered by Com. Sheerness. Balloon gear is to be landed at Sheerness as convenient.
5. TOREADOR will be sailed for Southampton to pay off on completion of boiler cleaning at Sheerness. Balloon gear is to be landed before sailing.
6. F.O.I.C. Southampton is requested to arrange for ASTRAL to be sailed for Shoreham and MAMMOUTH for Harwich as soon as ready.
7. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to retain PINTADE at Portsmouth pending Admiralty decision.
(C. in C. Nore 121155B.)

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys - Contd.

- W.P.338. W.P.338 postponed 24 hours owing to weather.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 121252B.)
- X O.N.S.8. O.N.S.8 will now sail on May 17th and O.N.S.9
O.N.S.9. on May 28th and thereafter O.N.S. convoys at
eleven day intervals.
(D.T.D. 121303B to A.I.G. 21.)
- E.G.1. Your 121219Z/5. From an operational point of
view it is most desirable that the whole support
clean boilers simultaneously. Only by this
method can the full advantage of the group be
obtained at short notice when an emergency arises. It is
requested that SPEY and SENNEN may be boiler cleaned now if
practicable, even if this would appear to be premature.
(C. in C.W.A. 121711Z to F.O.N.F.)
- O.N.184. F.O.I.C. N.I. is requested to sail BOGUE to
comply with C.T.24.7, 111459 May with
following orders.
On completion of H/F D/F calibration BOGUE is
to fly on aircraft so as to sail p.m. 15th May for Iceland
(C). BOGUE is to inform C.T.24.7 of time and R/V East of
7° W. for meeting GREENE, BADGER, LEA, BELKNAP, OSMOND, INGRAM.
C.T.24.7 is requested to sail these destroyers to R/V with
BOGUE. On arrival at Iceland (C) this support group is to
refuel and will be required to support O.N.184. Further
orders for leaving Iceland (C) will be issued. BOGUE and
escorting destroyers designated C.T.U. 92.3.
(C. in C.W.A. 121933Z.)
- W.S.30 & A.M. 091638 and 091530.
K.M.F.15. Combined convoy will R/V at 0530B/20 in position
C.B. 270° Oversay 6 miles thence C.C. 55.02 N.
09.58 W. C.D. 51.00 N. 16.01 W. C.E. 44.59 N.
16.03 W. C.F. 38.03 N. 15.31 W. C.G. 35.32 N.
10.00 W. C.H. 32.35 N. 09.59 W. C.J. 29.04 N.
12.32 W. C.K. 24.00 N. 18.21 W. C.L. 14.57 N. 18.20 W.
C.M. 10.05 N. 17.30 W. thence W.S.30 to Freetown.
2. K.M.F.15 will part company at position C.G. thence as
ordered by C. in C.Med.
3. S.O.A. estimated at 12½ knots is to be adjusted to pass
through position C.G. at 0900B/25.
4. Stragglers route. P. 47.59 17.00 Q. 42.25 16.58 R. 37.12
16.30 S. 35.32 10.00 T. 32.35 09.59 U. 29.04 12.32 V. 23.50
19.21 W. 17.01 19.15 X. 10.05 17.30
5. Ships of K.M.F.15 are to be given stragglers route to S.
thence to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.H. 121950B.)
- X.K.6B. X.K.6B in 044° 20' N. 014° 08' W. at 1300B/12th.
Going well.
(SCYLLA 122241B to C. in C.W.A.)
- O.N.S.7. One S/M on the surface bearing 320° distant 5
miles, my position 60.16 N. 24.00 W. course 280°
7 knots.
(SWALE 122355Z to Admty.)

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy T.E.21. T.E.21 sailed as in my 081626 less EMPIRE ANN, British TENACITY plus DJEBEL AURES, LE TRAIT, CARTHAGE, CAPE PINDEDE, L.S.T.411 for Algiers, EMPIRE KESTREL for Oran. Cmdre, Cdr. Hayward R.N.R. in ROSSUM. (F.O.Gibraltar, 120702B, 121853 to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty. etc.)

ANTELOPE E.T.A. 1630B. Acknowledge. Weather report. (ANTELOPE, 120901B to F.O.Gibraltar)

Dispositions. Situation at 1959B/12th. (1) TRIBUNE sailing 1400B/13th through 35.49 06.06 at 1845/13th and 35.53 06.15 at 19(?40)B 13th thence 308° on the surface until 0700B/14th thence dived by day 9/2. (2) P.225 40.49 10.01 180° dived by day 8½/2. (3) 22 L.C.I.(L) S.O. L.C.I.(L) 129, 34.30 08.32 through 35.55 06.20 to Gib.11. (4) TRACKER, 2 U.S. destroyers one merchant ship leaving Casablanca 2100B/12th through 34 (?03) 08.01 and 35.46 06.25 for Gib.16. (5) G.C.8, 35.45 06.28 through 34.26 07.06 34.03 07.59 and 33.(?58) 07.58 to Casablanca 10. (6) LADY HOGARTH 2 merchant ships 33.59 07.57 through 34.(?02) 08.01 and 34.18 07.(?19 or ?42) thence 030° 4. (F.O.Gibraltar, 121003)

Swiss Shipping. My 071655B and 101746B (No trace in W.R. of either). Now reported CALANDA and ALBAREDA leaving Genoa 14th May for Gibraltar. (F.O.Gibraltar 121215B to 8th S.F. MARSOUIN.)

Cable Ship for Algiers. Your 111140 (requesting to sail a cable ship to Algiers in U.G.S.8). MIRROR detailed. (F.O.Gibraltar, 121223B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty etc.)

PASTEUR. SS. PASTEUR arrived 12th May. (M.S.F.F. 121241Z to P.D. New York (R) Admty. etc.)

Convoy G.C.8. G.C.8 sailed as in my 111822. (F.O.Gibraltar 121452C to C.M.S.F.F. (R) Admty. Connnav, C. in C. Med.)

Routeing of neutral ships. Routeing instructions contained in para. (3) of Foreign Office saving telegram No.49 to Stockholm 3rd May seems at variance with para. 1 and 3 of your 072033. Request immediate clarification. (N.A.Lisbon, 121635B to Admty) Reply: Admty 132300

Relief for ORKAN. A.M. (? 111816) (11816, F.O.I.C.Gib. to detail a destroyer to relieve O.R.P.ORKAN 17 May.) This can only be done at expense of reducing escort to M.K.S.13. (F.O.Gib. 121825B to Admty (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)
Movements/...

War Diary.

12.5.1945.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic (Contd.)

Movements,
Gibraltar.

Arrivals: BLYSKAWICA from Algiers.
Departures: P.C.472, 475 with G.C.8A, BROCKLESBY
QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, TANGO, GAVOTTE, MULLET,
WHITING, escorting T.E. 21 and L.S.T.411, MOLDE
escort duties Melilla.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 122010 to C. in C. Med.)

UNICORN,
Beau-
fighters.

Disembarkation of aircraft mentioned in your
022209 (UNICORN required to ferry 18 Beau-
fighters to Gibraltar) will present considerable
difficulty including the construction of a
special road and modification of lighters also
the use of No.1 dock, unless aircraft can be off
loaded with ship's crane. (2) Is there any technical
difference between these and R.A.F. aircraft which prevents their
being flown direct to Gibraltar. (3) Can these aircraft
be flown off UNICORN?
(F.O.Gibraltar, 122325 to Admty (R) C. in C.W.A., C. in C. Med.)
Reply: Admty 131800B.

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War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

MALCOLM,
WOLVERINE. E.T.A. Pointe Noire 0650A/12th. WOLVERINE in company.
(MALCOLM 120201A. to B.N.L.O. W.A. (R) R.A.W.Af)
Arrived 0200Z (B.N.L.O., W.A. 120955.)

GAMBIA. Arrived
(Com. i/c. Durban 120624Z. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy
D.N.38. Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z/12th May.
(4) 10 knots. (5) B. 028° 32' S. 032° 30' E.
C. 026° 038' thence as in my serial number
(corrupt group) 817. (6) JASMINE, LE TIGER,
ST. LOMAN.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 120652Z. to Admty. etc.)

Convoy
C.N.19A. Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z/12th.
(3) Point of dispersal position (?C) D.E.M.S.
12½ knots. (5) Ocean route:- B. 033° 13' S.
017° 36' E. C. 027° 40' S. 014° 00' E.
(6) QUADRANT, WORCESTERSHIRE. (15) Convoy
callsign XPD 1 to 9, convoy codeword "Justice" B.E.K.
(N.C.S.O. Capetown 120702Z. to Admty. etc.)

S.L.129.
FINISTERRE. Following is a repetition of Comar 111 (?707)
May (begins) F.O.C.W.A. (R) LEITH, escort
S.L.129 from Comar. Your 101543, Request
FINISTERRE continues in convoy to Gibraltar
if endurance allows. Economical Speed 8 knots.
(F.O.C.W.A. 121009Z. to F.O.I.C. Gib. M.S.F.F.
C. in C. Med. Admty. Comar, Dakar.)

WORCESTERSHIRE. Sailed WORCESTER (WORCESTERSHIRE intended)
0545Z/12 May for U.K. routed as in my
102005 abd 081430, S. of A. 13 knots. (2)
Shifts to W/T organization F. at 0600Z May
20th and to W/T organization P. at 2000Z May 25th.
(3) F.O.C.W.Af. is requested to order shift of W/T organiz-
ation from area P. (4) E.T.A. position Q 0500Z June 3rd
E.T.A. Clyde 0400Z June 5th.
(C. in C. S.A. 121032B. to Admty. etc.)

MALVINA. Proceed now direct to Lourenco Marques for
onward routing to destination. Acknowledge
immediately to C. in C. S.A.
(C. in C. S.A. 121046Z. to MALVINA.)
Cancelled by 131103Z q.v.

ASTER,
MARGUERITE. Arrived.
(Cdre. Durban 121052Z. to Admty. C. in C. S.A.
C. in C. E.F., F.O.E.A.)

EMPIRE
BRONZE. Your destination is changed to Marshalls where
you will discharge 2,000 tons aviation spirit.
Steer immediately for new position C. 002° 50'
N. 011° 15' W. thence (?direct to) Marshalls.
(F.O.C.W.A. 121125Z. to EMPIRE BRONZE (R) Admty.) /Dispositions.

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Dispositions. QUADRANT, WORCESTERSHIRE, with C.N.19A, 031° 30' 016° 15' to 025° 00' 012° 30' 13 knots.
2. REDOUBT with D.C.24 030° 40' 030° 35' coastal to Capetown 13½. ASTER 029° 40' 032° 25' to Durban 11. ROCKROSE, GENISTA 029° 00' 032° 35' to Durban 12. NORTHERN CHIEF 028° 10' 034° 03' to Durban 10. JASMINE, LE TIGRE, ST. LOMAN with D.N.38 off Cape St. Lucia to 026° 00' 038° 00' 8. MARGUERITE 028° 50' 032° 15' to Durban 10.

(C. in C. S.A. 121125B, 121516B.)

Situation 2002Z/12th May. BULLDOG 007° 13' 013° 34' 146° 21. PICT off Freetown to Marshall 7. MILFORD, WOODRUFF, TAMARISK, YESTOR with S.T.65 04.19 32.12 to 04.00 07.32 thence 086° 8½. BOREAS. FOXHOUND, WITCH, CATTERICK with T.S.39, 04.28 09.26 (700) (754) 13. BURDOCK, CROCUS escort 08.08 15.15 to Freetown 8. B.Y.M.S. 17, 25, 10 about 07.02 15.08 to 08.00 14.30 thence Freetown 7. TRUSTY, COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 06.38 S. 09.35 E. to Pointe Noire 11. SNOWDROP, PETUNIA escorting 03.46 (702) 22 to Takoradi 13½. 4 M.Ls. about 04.40 05.46 coastwise to East 12. French sloop SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA 03.25 05 (705) E. 080° 11½. ORFASY with Marshall. NEWCASTLE, ROTHERHAM, RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, LEWES with W.S.29, 09.47 S. 10. (739) E. (?254°) 12.

(F.O.C.W.A. 121313Z.)

Situation at 1957Z/12th May. CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol in 08.30 27.30 15½. LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, AMARANTHUS, ANCHUSA, WHIMBREL, BELLWORT, M.S.105, 4 M.Ls. with S.L.129 10.08 N. 16.08 W. C. 10.15 N. 16.28 W. to 11.00 17.24 thence 350° 7. QUERCY 13.13 19.53 to 12.00 22.00 thence 270° 13½ M.Ls. 10, 72 and 12, 31, 13.45 16.55 to 14.00 16.58 to Dakar 12.

(F.O.C.W.A. 121600Z.)

x A.M.Cs.

Your 101534. Re-allocation of A.M.Cs. to West Africa Command. I have no objection to proposed re-allocation.

(C. in C. S.A. 121212B. to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

U/B.

U-Boat sighted by British aircraft in 06° 10' N. 13° 08' W. at 1100Z/12.

(F.O.C.W.A. 121352Z. to Admty.)

RAPID.

Arrival Pointe Noire 1300Z/12th.

(B.N.L.O.W.A. 121455A. to F.O.C.W.A.)

NAILSEA,
MEADOW,
sunk.

British ship NAILSEA, MEADOW torpedoed and sunk at 0045B/12th in approx. 15 miles N.E. of Bashee River. Vessel was torpedoed from inshore. (2) 42 survivors landed, 2 of crew killed.
(C. in C. S.A. 121536B. to Admty.)

NAILSEA, MEADOW torpedoed and sunk at 0045B/12th. Position 032° 12' S. 029° 02' E. 42 survivors including 7 D.E.M.S. (ratings ?) landed East London. 2 injured in hospital not D.E.M.S. 2 fireman killed. All C.Bs. dumped. (N.O.I.C. East London 121538Z to Admty. C. in C. S.A. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Port Elizabeth.) (Amended to 32.04 S. 29.13 E. at 2155 G.M.T. 11th May, Position and time) (N.O.I.C. East London 130443Z.)

/VIRGINIA...

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. - Contd.

- VIRGINIA (A/S Yacht.) Departure 12th May VIRGINIA. (N.O.I.C. Lagos 121545Z to Admty. F.O.C.W.Af. N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)
- CILICIA. Arrival 1630Z/10/5/43 CILICIA from ocean patrol. (S.O. (I) Freetown 121549Z. to Admty. (R) Cdr. 4th Fleet.)
- Suspicious Ship, St. Helena. Unidentified ship passed 25 miles S.W. of St. Helena 1315-1520 G.M.T. on northerly course. (General, St. Helena 121550Z. to Admty. (R) Fairmiss London, F.O.C.W.A. Connav, C. in C. S.A. Naval Ottawa.)
- X Cable Repairs. Cable & Wireless report St. Vincent-Ascension Nr. 2 cable interrupted 775 miles from St. Vincent St. Vincent Ascension Nr. 1 also faulty near St. Vincent since April 23rd. 2. In view importance these cables request LADY DENISON PENDER be sailed for these repairs as soon as possible after completion repair of Freetown-Bathurst cable. 3. Latter repair will provide stop-gap connection between St. Vincent and Ascension via Bathurst and Freetown until repair of direct cables effected. (D.S.D. 121615B. to F.O.C.W.A.)
- S.L.129. Departures 111947Z May LEITH, WHIMBREL, ANCHUSA, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, BELLWORT, M.Ls. 296, 285, 256, 289 with S.L.129. (S.O. (I) Freetown 121658Z. to C. in C. W.A. (R) Admty. etc.)
- X Routeing of Independant Ships. Your 120841. (See East Indies). Concur generally except as follows (? (a)) all direct traffic to Lourenco Marques to be suspended forthwith. Ships for this port to be routed via Durban. (b) Your para 1 (D) traffic to Beira to be routed N. of Madagascar. (2) Straight route to Durban for all traffic will be through. (a) 031° S. 038° E. (b) 117° Cape St. Lucia Light 6 miles (c) from (b) close to shore to Durban. (C. in C. S.A. 121720B. to C. in C. E.F. (R) Admty. etc.)
- MAURETANIA. A.M. 061728 and Cominch 081906. Choice of port in South Africa at which MAURETANIA calls will be at your discretion in light of U-Boat situation. Fuel and water will be required but not transhipment. 2. From Cominch 071755, MAURETANIA's endurance now appears to be low, which may affect your decision. D. of S.T. is asking New York for latest figures which will be repeated to you. (D.O.D. (F) 121820B. to C. in C. S.A. (R) Cominch, P.S.T.O. Capetown, D.S.T.O. Durban, C. in C. E.F.)

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12.5.1943.
Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.Movements,
Brazil.Departures 11th May Brazilian Minelayer
CABEDELLO and Submarine Chaser No. C.S.1.
(R.O. Recife 121855Z. to Admty.)

EMPIRE MIGHT.

A.M. 241715. EMPIRE MIGHT did not sail in
W.S.29 owing to fire on board. Anticipate
ship will join W.S.30.
(D.S.T.O. West Africa 121913Z to Deputy N.C.X.F.
(R) C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. Levant,
D. of S.T. Admty. P.S.T.O. Middle East.)Movements,
Takoradi.Arrivals 12th May. ROHILKHAND, ORFASY, BARWIND,
(?V.R.) S.107, ARRAN, M.L.1016, M.L. 1042,
PETUNIA M.Ls.271, 265, SNOWDROP, DUNKERY.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 122040Z to Admty. R.N.O.Lagos,
F.O.C. W.Af.)PIRATINY.
Wrecked.Following has been read on 500 kc/s. S.O.S.
DE BGZA (BTF, PIRATINY.) Wrecked position
29.45 S. 16.50 E. heavy fog.
(Simonstown, T.O.R.2150 G.M.T/12 to Admty.)CARNARVON
CASTLE,
defect.CARNARVON CASTLE has one defective armature for
main forced lubricating pump and remaining three
armatures are reported in poor condition. Can
this defect be taken inhand at Cape? If so
propose to sail CARNARVON CASTLE with W.S.30
leaving Freetown about 2nd June. This visit
will also allow South African ratings borne to be given home
leave.
(F.O.C.W.A. 122345Z. to C. in C. S.A. (R) CARNARVON CASTLE,
Admty.)

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Air
Survivors.

Have picked up 3 survivors from Junkers 88.
Position 037° 07' N. 006° 14' E. Aircraft
crashed 2135/11th May.
(PIROUETTE, 120005 to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C.
Philippeville, Admty.)

Algiers Air
Report.

Ref. No. J.M.306. To: Brereton and Eaker.
From: Spaatz N.A.A.F. Adv. Hdqs.
1. On Palermo Wellingtons dropped 2 4,000 pound
14 1000 pound, 44 500 pound, 16 250 pound bombs
from 5,000 - 10,000 feet. Dock installations
and barracks were hit.
6. May 9th additional: Hurribombers attacked roads at K4156,
K5042, K5464 and motor trucks at 6070 with good results.
Schooner north-east of Bizerta full of troops, was attacked and
seen to break up.
(Algiers, 120053A to Etousa.)

LAURANA
(intercepted
by D.5, 11th
May.)

Capt. D.5th D.F.'s 110753A.
LAURANA and certain other small vessels were
notified by the Axis as hospital ships but were
rejected by us. The legal status of such vessels
if placed in prize is not yet clear and is being
considered.
2. Request report if LAURANA or any other vessel
bearing hospital ship markings but not recognised as a hospital
ship, and which is taken in for examination, are found to be
carrying other than sick and wounded, or committing acts which in
the case of registered hospital ships would amount to an abuse
of the Geneva Convention. All such vessels should be detained,
pending further instructions.
(Hd. of M.Br.I., Approved V.C.N.S., 120200B to C. in C.
Med., (R) C. in C. Levant.)
Detail one destroyer from those returning to Malta to
escort LAURANA from Sousse to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 121148A to Capt. (D) 5, (R) V.A. Malta,
All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone
and Malta.)
Your 121148A.

TETCOTT detailed. E.T.A. Sousse 1630.
(Capt. D.5, 121353A to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta,
All cruisers and destroyers operating in areas between
Bone and Malta, N.O.I.C. Sousse.)
Arrived (? TETCOTT), sailed TETCOTT with Italian Merchant
ship LAURANA to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 121754A to Admty.)
Sailing TETCOTT escorting Italian ship LAURANA 1830B direct
Malta. Speed 13½ knots. E.T.A. Boom 0900B/13th, codeword
"Rose" 957.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 121802A to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) Med.
Addressees A.I.G.67, TETCOTT, A.I.G.266.)

/D.5's ...

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.LAURANA
(intercepted
by D.5, 11th
May.)
(Contd.)D.5's 110753 and N.O.I.C. Sousse 112040, Italian ship LAURANA is being sent to Malta.
(2) Admiralty state that she and certain other small vessels were notified by Axis as Hospital Ships but were rejected by us. Legal status of such vessels if placed in prize is not yet clear and is being considered. Such vessels are to be detained pending further instructions.
(C. in C. Med., 121227 to V.A. Malta, (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)ORION,
ISIS,
PETARD
(to bombard
Pantellaria)Sail at 1730A/12th and act in accordance with C. in C. Med.'s 112132. Return by reverse of outward route. S. of A. 25 knots.
(V.A. Malta, 120407 to ORION, ISIS, PETARD, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, S.O.I.S., F.O. 12th C.S.)
My 120407. Request fighter escort over ORION from first light 13th. Malta Beaufighters will take over in 036° 09' 012° 00' at 0700B estimated.
(V.A. Malta, 121105 to N.L.O. 211 Group, (R) C. in C. Med., PETARD, ORION, ISIS.)ALBACORE,
BRIXHAM.Intend sailing ALBACORE, BRIXHAM at 120700A to Bizerta to rejoin respective flotillas there. Route 037° 18' N. 008° 55' E. at 1200A/12th, 037° 25' N. 009° 46' E., 037° 21' N. 009° 56' 36" E., speed 12 knots. E.T.A. 121700A. Fighter protection "Cornhill 2".
(C.S.12, 120658A to C. in C. Med., (R) A.I.G.263, F.O.I.S. Bizerta, Cape Serrat, M.S.12, M.S.13, N.O.I.C. Bone.)TARTAR,
situation.Situation in HH on Tuesday. Contact reported in my 111701 not to Capt. (D) 14, probably was not S/M. A few boats in area this morning. No other activities.
(TARTAR, 120711A to C. in C. Med., (R) C.S.12, Capt. (D) 14, Destroyers on Patrol.)M.M.S.89
mined, sunk.M.M.S.89 sunk in position 052° Cape Guardia signal station 8 miles at 0550 today Wednesday after detonating mines. 3 ratings seriously injured. None lost. Survivors being landed in H.D.M.L.1145.
(S.O. 12th M/S., 120801A to C.S.12, (R) F.O.I.S., C. in C. Med.)X TOSCANA
intercepted.
(Kelibia).Intercepted Hospital ship TOSCANA proceeding Kelibia. Have informed Master Kelibia is in British hands. TOSCANA informing his own authority. TOSCANA now stopped.
(Capt. D.5, 120804A to C. in C. Med., (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)

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Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

TOSCANA My 120804. TOSCANA is now stopped in 36.56 N. intercepted. 11.734 E. I am returning GG. (Kelibia). (Capt. (D) 5, 120820A to Capt. (D) 14, (R) (Contd.) C. in C. Med.)
Kelibia flies white flag but Capt. (D) 14 informs me town may not have been entered. TOSCANA therefore allowed to proceed.
(Capt. (D) 5, 120910A to C. in C. Med., (R) Capt. (D) 14, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)
TOSCANA is to anchor off Cape Bon. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. Med., 120941A to Capt. (D) 5, (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)
My 120941. Release TOSCANA. She is to proceed to enemy territory without embarking any personnel, wounded or otherwise.
(C. in C. Med., 121111A to Capt. (D) 5, (R) A.I.G.263, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)
Your 121118 (? 121111 intended). Instructions passed to TOSCANA. She is proceeding to Trapani.
(ALDENHAM, 121257A to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)
Following received on 500 k/cs from Malta. TOSCANA position at 1800 G.M.T. 37.22 N. 11.55 E. course 26°, speed 7.5 knots.
(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 2048/12 to Whitehall W/T.)
Following received from Malta. TOSCANA 2200 hours 37.37 N. 12.04 E., course 034°, speed 7.5, knots.
(Nore W/T, T.O.R. 122233 to Whitehall W/T.)

Movements, Arrivals M.T.B.656, 635, 633, M.G.B. 647.
Sousse. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 120815A to Admty.)

N.A.A.F. To: Eaker, Brereton. From: Spaatz, N.A.A.F. Adv.
Report. M-3523. Ref. No. J.M.288.
1. 36 B.25s, 44 B.26s and 124 B.17s escorted by
* 154 P.38s dropped 1,429 - 500 pound, 16 - 300 pound and 744 - 300 pound bombs on Palermo.
2. Oil fires seen in city and fires in dock areas were started, railroad yards set ablaze, also explosions and fires observed at Jue (?) Army Headquarters, a ship at the dock exploded and gas holder was hit and exploded.
3. Formations encountered approx. 40 aircraft, destroying 16 and damaging 7. 1 B.17 was shot down by flak, 54 were damaged, mostly minor damage, by flak. 1 B.26 crashed into sea and 1 is missing.
4. 36 Spitfires strafed a large barge and set it afire. 48 P.40s strafed and bombed barges at D.9306 and motor trucks between Hammamet and Soliman.
5. 19 missions were carried out at A.20s, B.26s, D.B.7s. against shipping, motor trucks and enemy positions.
6. Beaufighters and Hurricanes patrolled Cap Bon throughout the night and destroyed 3 Ju.52s and damaged 4.

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Wednesday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

N.A.A.F. Report. (Contd.)

7. Bostons, Balitmores and Mitchells attacked Pantellaria Airdrome and started five fires.

9. Night 8th/9th.
(c) Coastal carried out usual patrols. Hudsons attacked a U-Boat with depth charges. The U-Boat was observed to submerge slowly.

10. Day May 8th, additional report:
(a) Fighter bombers reinforced by Baltimores, attacked shipping, sinking 1 motor vessel and damaging 3.
(N.A.A.F. Adv., 110827A to Cairo and Etousa.)

Enemy Units. Following read. P.C. and S. of small craft 38.35 N. 13.20 E., 000°, 5 knots.
(A/C 850/S via Alexandria W/T, 120900.)

ALDENHAM, Situation. Situation on leaving QQ. Activity nil. 126 mixed prisoners removed from Zembra Island. Believe Island now cleared.
(ALDENHAM, 120905A to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, A.I.G.263.)

Movements, Alexandria. Arrival 11th May BARCLOSE; arrived and sailed 11th May ROMEO.
(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 120913C to Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

M.T.Bs., M.G.Bs. My 112314A. M.T.B.634 (S.O.), 640, 636 and Motor Gunboat 644 sailed 0900A/12. E.T.A. area H 1930A/12. E.T.A. Sousse 0800A/13.
(C.S.12, 120916A to C. in C. Med., (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)

X Kelibia Fort, surrender signal. Kelibia Fort is flying white flag.
(Capt. (D) 14, 120920B to C. in C. Med.)

G.U.S. 7A. Request ocean route for convoy G.U.S.7A sailing Bone 17th May.
(C. in C. Med., 121031A to A.I.G.260, Commorsea-fron.)

Patrol Area T. The following patrol area T established within following boundaries -
(1) North of 036° 40' N. (2) West of 016° 00' E.
(3) South of line 320° drawn from 037° 20' N. 016°

/00' E. ...

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Patrol
Area T.
(Contd.)

OO' E. to coast.
Area M restrict accordingly. Request old Tobruk Area T be (? cancelled).
(Capt. (S) 10, 121032B to (? C. in C. Levant), (R) Submarines on patrol, C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 1, Capt. (S) 8.)

RORQUAL,
UNRULY.

RORQUAL sailing at 1600B/12th for laying in area M as in V.A. Malta's 111158 (not to S/MS on patrol).
2. P.49 (UNRULY) sailing at 1600B/12th for patrol off east coast Sicily.
(Capt. S.10, 121043 to C. in C. Levant, (R) C. in C. Med., Capt. S.1, Capt. S.8, S/MS on patrol.)

Movements,
Malta.

May 11th arrivals and departures: JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN. Arrivals: ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, UNRUFFLED (P.46). Departures: TARTAR, LOYAL, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS, OAKLEY, ZETLAND, EASTON.
(V.A. Malta, 121046B to Admty., etc.)

BICESTER.

Request you will sail one destroyer to Sousse to fuel BICESTER and escort her to Malta.
(C. in C. Med., 121113A to V.A. Malta, (R) N.O.I.C Sousse, C.S.12, C. in C. Levant, S.N.O. Trip.)
See also 122138A.

Shipping
Repairs in
Neutral
Ports.
LALANDE.

To relieve docking congestion have been exploring possibility of repairs at neutral ports.
(2) Following received from Lisbon. (Begins). Consider if ships requiring repair were sent into Lisbon at plausible intervals as from the high seas there would be no difficulty. Essential that no official application is made. (Ends).
(3) Any ships sent must be of indisputable British ownership and would have to sail from Gibraltar ostensibly for U.K. Request you will report - (A) whether LALANDE could be got as far as Lisbon and (B) whether repairs required before onward passage to U.K. are such that Lisbon would be capable of carrying them out.
(C. in C. Med., 121127 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty., B.N.A. Lisbon.)
Reply: N.O.I.C. Gibraltar 150754B. (See North Atlantic.)

Situation
(Capt. (D) 5.)

Situation on leaving area GG. TOSCANA 110° Cape Bon 29 steaming for Kelibia. ALDENHAM instructed comply with your 120941. All quiet, only very minor boat activity now in progress. Am returning with 134 prisoners, 18 others landed by TETCOTT at Sousse.
(Capt. (D) 5, 121145A to C. in C. Med., (R) V.A. Malta, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, Med. Addressees, ALDENHAM, Capt. (D) 14.)

/M.T.Bs. ...

War Diary.

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

M.T.Bs., Intend sailing - (1) M.T.B.315 (S.O.), P.T.204
 P.Ts. 1400A/12 to Sector C.1 E.T.A. Bone 1100A/13
 fighter protection "Vauxhall", 3.
 (2) P.T.207 (S.O.), 201, 202 at 1400A/12 to
 Sector B.4 E.T.A. Bone 1100A/13, fighter
 protection "Whitechapel", 3.
 (C.S.12, 121156A to C. in C. Med., (R) All cruisers and
 destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, Med.
 Addressees, F.O.I.S. Bizerta, C.F.B. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bone.)

MARYBOROUGH, MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER and LISMORE are to be
 GAWLER, administered by Commodore (D) and maintained by
 LISMORE. PROMETHEUS.
 (C. in C. Levant, 121154 to MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER,
 LISMORE, (R) Admty., R.A. Alexandria, Com. (D)
 PROMETHEUS.)

Situation Situation forecast area G.C. to 011° E. 2000A/12,
 (C.S.12). submarines excepted.
 (1) Coaster convoy FOULA and 5 escorts 037° 00'
 N. 008° (900') E. to (corrupt group).
 (2) 3 M.T.B., 037° 45' N. 010° 25' E. to Sector
 C.1.
 (3) 3 M.T.B., 037° 07' N. 010° (? 30') E. to Sector B.4.
 (C.S.12, 121202A to S. and A. Area G.C.)

PARTHIAN, PARTHIAN's 3rd patrol summary.
 R. of P. 2150/2nd carried out operation "Ironclad".
 0959/4th sank 50 tons heavily laden caique by
 gunfire in 036° 36' N. 026° 48' E.
 2010/5th engaged S/M Chaser ALBATROSS class with
 guns 038° 20' N. (? 24°) 46' E. 5 hits registered before being
 forced to dive by return of fire. Severe depth charge attacks,
 76 charges, damaging forward periscope.
 2015/7th bombarded railways at Platamone, 41 rounds at 800 yards,
 2 caiques of 70 and 30 tons, and 30 hits registered on railway.
 Forced to retire following intense machine gunfire. One man
 killed.
 (Capt. (S) 1, 121205C to C. in C. Levant, (R) Capt. (S) 10th
 S/M.F., Capt. (S) 8th S/M.F., F.O.C.S., Chief of Intelligence
 Staff.)

UNBROKEN. Intend to sail P.42 (UNBROKEN) at 1700B/13th,
 routed through 036° 08' 014° 22' thence 037° 07'
 013° 15' thence through P at 1200/15th for
 patrol as ordered by Capt. (S) 8, keeping to
 starboard of route.
 (Capt. (S) 10, 121223B to C. in C. Med., Capt. (S) 8, (R)
 TROOPER, P.43 (UNISON), Submarines on Patrol, C. in C. Levant,
 Capt. (S) 1.)

/ S/M ...

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

S/M S/M Movements Summary in area G.C. at 1958A/12th.
dispositions.

1. TRIDENT in Gulf of Genoa.
2. TROOPER 038° 10' 005° 41' 089° 10 knots.
3. SHAKESPEARE 040° 12' 010° 40' 000° 9 knots.
4. SIBYL east Sardinia.
5. SARACEN 038° 29' 009° 42', 038° 45' 010° 40' thence 000° 9 knots.
6. SAFARI 038° 48' 006° 35' 258°, 10 knots.
7. UNISON west Lipari.
8. All S/Ms diving by day surface speed as indicated.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121226A to S. and A. in Area G.C., (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1.)

AQUILEIA. Following read. Hospital ship AQUILEIA at 1200 hours. P.C. and S. 39.42 N. 12.25 E. 40°, 10. (AQUILEIA, 121227.)

SHAKESPEARE, Throughout paras. 1 and 3 of my 101516 for 010°
SARACEN, 40' E. read 010° 30' E. P.217 (SIBYL) keep well
SIBYL. clear accordingly.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121252A to P.221 (SHAKESPEARE),
P.247 (SARACEN), P.217 (SIBYL), (R) Capt. S.10.)

U/Bs. Disposition U-Boats No.49. Two boats operating in Gulf of Sirte probably south of 033° N. and possibly one off coast Cyrenaica though locations not ascertained.
(C.O.S. Alexandria, 121257C to all ships, etc.)

Axis As all coast line is ^{?now} not in Allied hands no
Hospital further Axis Hospital Ships are to be allowed to
Ships. proceed to Tunisia.
(C. in C. Med., 121259A to A.I.G.266.)

Target Admty. 111422, not to S.O. Force H and N.O.I.C.
towing Malta, refers. Endeavour will be made to assist
aircraft. Malta and later C. in C. Levant with F.R.U. but
F.R.U. aircraft now arriving cannot operate until
necessary stores T T 11 96 wireless sets arrive.
2. Request confirmation that these have been despatched as it is urgently required to start very heavy training assigned now.
(C. in C. Med., 121316A to Admty., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, S.O. Force H.)

KELVIN, Your 112241 (No trace in W.R.) KELVIN and
JAVELIN. JAVELIN should arrive Malta 21st May. Request you will arrange onward passage to U.K.
(C. in C. Levant, 121322C to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty., etc.)

/Situation ...

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

Situation
Report
Number 94.

Following is a re-encypherment of my 121415A.
(1) During night 10th/11th May M.T.B. patrols took 13 prisoners off Ras Mahmur and 6 in Gulf of Tunis. Cape Bon patrol engaged an E-Boat at 0300/11 which retired after hits were observed. M.T.B.264 was mined in approaches to Sousse at

1820/10. Craft has been beached inside Harbour but is a total loss.

(2) (? On) 11th May small boat activity on east side of Cape Bon Peninsula yielded 77 prisoners to DULVERTON and MIAOULES.

(3) Italian merchant vessel LAURANA painted as a hospital ship but not registered as such was intercepted on 11th May, taken to Sousse and is now being sent to Malta.

X(4) At Bizerta, entrance to canal is at the moment effectively blocked. Ferryville dockyard and all facilities are completely out of action but Bizerta Naval Depot is little damaged.

(5) Coaster convoy sails from Bone p.m./12th May to Bizerta.

? (6) Approach channel has been swept into Bizerta. Sweeping of main coastal channel continues. A total of 12 mines were swept on 11th May. M.M.S. 89 sunk by mine off Cape Guardia at 0550/12. Three serious casualties.

(7) Destroyer and M.T.B. patrols continue close blockade. M.T.B. patrol was established off Pantellaria during night 11th/12th May.

(8) ALDENHAM, HURSLEY and KANARIS on 12th May removed 126 prisoners from Zembra Island which it is believed is now clear.

(9) TACTICIAN reports sinking by gunfire 500 ton schooner at 1911/5 in 42° 34' N. 10° 45' E.

(C. in C. Med., 121347Z to Admty.)

X Cable Ship
for Algiers.

Your 111140 to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.

Proposals A and B are not in accordance with plans which have been worked out in co-operation with Cable and Wireless.

2. Company propose (a) MIRROR should carry out provision of Algiers - Bizerta cable using remainder of Gibraltar - Malta No.1. (b) MARIE LOUISE MACKAY to carry out repairs near Gibraltar of Gibraltar - Malta No.2 and then divert into Algiers.

3. No point intaking remainder of No.2 into Algiers until position in Sicilian channel is clarified as this cable and No.3 are cut in two places close Sicilian coast. Connection Algiers - Malta will probably be more easily provided by repairing Gibraltar - Malta No.4 which has only one break near the Talbot shoal and traffic could then circulate via Gibraltar either by retransmission or by connecting cables through.

4. Master of MIRROR has full details of item 2(a), and apparatus has already arrive Algiers.

5. Apparatus for Algiers end of 2(b) is awaiting shipment.

(D.S.D., 121404B to C. in C. Med., (R) F.O. Gib., Cdre. Algiers.)

/Enemy ...

War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
M/V. Lightning aircraft reports one merchant ship 4 miles N.W. Pantellaria Harbour, course northerly speed slow at 1100.
(V.A. Malta, 121412B to Capt. (D) 14, ALDENHAM, (R) Med. addressees.)

R.A.
Force H. R.A. A.W. La T. Bisset hoisted his flag on 7th May in KING GEORGE V as R.A. Force H. S.O. Force H continues to wear his flag in NELSON.
(C. in C. Med., 121413 to Med. Stn. 423 K, (R) Admty., C. in C. Levant.)

M.T.B.
Patrols. C. in C. Med. 120903 (N.T. in W.R.) Area D.4 M.T.B.78, (? 76), 84 codeword "Daring" 978. Area C.3 M.T.B. (?81), 65 codeword "Numerator" 903.
Sail Sousse 1530A/12th, leave patrol area 0500/13. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 121418A to V.A. Malta, C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S., C.S.12, A.I.G.266, S.N.O.Trip., Med. addressees.)

M.T.Bs. Intend sailing M.T.Bs 62, 261, 309 at 1300A/13th through position 10, North of Linosa to Malta. Speed 10 knots, E.T.A. 0730. Codeword "Ralph" 987.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse, 121421A to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) A.I.G.67, A.I.G.266, A.I.G.263, S.N.O. Trip.)

UNISON. Leave patrol so as to pass P at 2359A/14th thence Malta as ordered by Capt. (S) 10.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121422A to P.43 (UNISON), (R) 8th S.F., Capt. (S) 10.)

Convoy
T.E. 21. Pass to Commodore. T.E.21 intend to sail, for Philippeville TITUS, BRISK, BOLLSFA, ZACAPA; for Bone ABBEYDALE, JANINE (French) TOSET (?ER), W.H. SEWARD, DUX. Also for (? if) available L.S.T. 364, 409, 323.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 121423A to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca), F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty., Connav, (R) N.C.S.O. Port Said, Escorts of T.E.21.)

CHITRAL. Arrival 1130Z.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 121429Z to Admty., etc.)

/TARTAR ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

- TARTAR, mine. Moored mine seen in position 046° Plane Island 17.2 miles.
(TARTAR, 121540A to C. in C. Med., (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, 12th C.S.)
- Convoy E.T.20. E.T.20 sailed as in my 121327 (no trace in W.R.) less EMPIRE OPOSSUM, plus H.M. Tug EMPIRE NED. (Com. N.O.B. Oran, 121541A to Admty., etc.)
- U.G.F. 8. E.B. ALEXANDER arrived escorted by U.S.S. KALK and U.S.S. WARRINGTON.
(Com. N.O.B. Oran, 121608A to Admty., F.O.C. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med., Connav, (R) Cominch, Comnavnaw, Commorseafron.)
- TRESPASSER. Leave patrol through 042° 19' 005° 17' at 0800A/14th 038° 18' 004° 02' at 2100A/16th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 56' 003° 08' at 0600A/17th.
(Capt. (S) 8, 121610A to P.312 (TRESPASSER), (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 8th S.F., Cdre. Algiers.)
- UNRIVALLED, UNITED. Amend your routes as follows -
(1) P.45 (UNRIVALLED) to pass through 036° 23' 014° 00'.
(2) P.44 (UNITED) to pass through 036° 18' 013° 44' both to R/V with M/S in position 036° 08' 014° 22' at 0830B/13th. Submarine hunt in usual submarine sanctuary.
(Capt. (S) 10, 121643A to P.45 (UNRIVALLED), P.44 (UNITED.))
No attempt, thanks to weather. Expect me usual place 0830B/13th.
(P.44 (UNITED), 121901B to Capt. (S) 10, (R) Subs. on Patrol).
Your 121901, comply with my 121643.
(Capt. (S) 10, 122021B to P.44 (UNITED), (R) P.45 (UNRIVALLED).)
- ✓ Enemy Convoy. At 0900C/12th, a German Convoy was reported (? in company with) enemy aircraft close north of Messina. Size and course unknown.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria, 121708C to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, C.S.12th, Capt. (S) 8th, Capt. (S) 10th, (R) C. in C. Levant.)
- Movements, Port Said. 12th May Port Said arrivals ROMEO, MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, R.F.A. GREEN RANGER.
Departures ROOKE, JAN DE WAELE, H.M. Tug BARWICK, R.F.A. GREEN RANGER.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 121709 to Admty., etc.)

/P.R.U. ...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

P.R.U. May 12th visuals. 1400 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers.
(V.A.Malta 121721B to C. in C.Med. etc.)
My 121721. Photographs now show only one cruiser in Taranto at 1400. Sighting at 1430 in 40.20 N. 17.03 E. identified as REGOLO Class Cruiser heading 180° 10 kts. (N.O.I.C. Malta 122139B to C. in C.Med. C. in C.Levant, F.O.I.S. S.N.O.Trip., S.O.Force Q. N.O.I.C. Oran, N.O.I.C. Algiers, (R) Admty. F.O.Gibraltar, S.O.Force H.)

N.A.A.F. Report. To C.G.8th Air Force, C.G.9th Air Force. From Spaatz, H.Q. N.A.A.F. Advanced. (?11th May) 1. 90 B.26s and 100 B.17s escorted by 105 P.38s dropped 870 x 1,000 pound bombs on warehouses, docks, railroad yards, hangars, repair shops and sea plane bases and barges in Marsala from 11,000 - 11,600 feet and 23,000 - 25,580 feet. 2. Hits were scored, and many fires started. 4. 10 P.40s escorted by 10 P.40s dropped 10 x 500 pound bombs from 2,000 feet on Pantellaria Harbour among 12 small boats. 5. Fires were started on the docks. 8. Coastal carried out usual patrolling and escort missions. 9. Night 10/11, Beaufighters patrolling Gulf of Tunis damaged a Ju.52 attacked an 800-1,000 ton vessel, scoring hits. 10. Additional report for May 10: Beaufighters and Hurricanes patrolling Cap Bon Area destroyed 2 Ju.52s. Medium and light bombers attacked landing crafts, E-Boats, in Pantallaria Harbour. 11. Direct hits and near misses scored. Fires and large explosions were observed. 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed. (Advanced N.A.A.F. 121722A to Etousa.)

Destroyer Reliefs. C.S.12 is requested to sail ESKIMO, LOOKOUT, WHADDON, EGGESFORD at 0500/13th May to patrol in D.D. to Q.Q. Route south of Q.K.34. E.T.A. patrol area 1200. TARTAR, LOYAL, OAKLEY, ZETLAND proceed to Bone on relief.

2. At 0600 EASTON proceed to join JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN to patrol in area G.G. and H.H.
3. At 0900 ALDENHAM, HURSLEY and KANARIS leave patrol and proceed to Malta. Route through 36.10 11.30 and 36.07 13.00. (C. in C.Med. 121728A to C.S.12. A.I.G. 266 (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, S.O.I.S. A.I.G.263.)

Request you will sail LAFOREY and 3 Hunt class destroyers p.m. 13th May to relieve JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, EASTON a.m. 14th in areas G.G. and H.H. Codeword "Artisanhemway" (C. in C.Med. 122322 to N.O.I.C. Malta, (R) A.I.G. 266, Med. Addressees. Cdre. Cdg. 12 C.S. S.O.I.S.)
Order on this (V.A.Malta 131034.)

FORMIDABLE. Martlets, supply of spares. A.M. 171941B May. A.M. 0003 of 25th Nov. not received by S.O.Force "H" or FORMIDABLE. 2. A. On sailing for "Torch" initial outfit of Martlets spares was incomplete. B. 22 demand notes made on N.S.O.Perth by Admiralty for FORMIDABLE between 3rd Nov. and 13th Jan. have not been met.

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FORMIDABLE (C) Of 24 demand notes sent N.S.O. Perth by Martlets, FORMIDABLE on various dates since Jan.16 have not supply of been met. Store arrival on 8 notes dated 17th Feb. spares. were received on 8th May. -(contd.). (D) 4 demand sent by signal 86 12th Feb. and 29th Mar. have not been met. (E) Principal requirements are those already demanded vide (C) and (D) which have not yet been met.

(3) There appears to be considerable delay in despatch and shipment of Naval air stores. As example, fittings for long range fuel tank for Albacore which Admiralty states in A.M.1513A of 7th Mar. were being despatched by air were in fact sent in DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and did not reach ship until 9th May. As non-receipt of some of above may be due to loss in transit request it be confirmed that action to replacing such losses is taken at Admiralty without further demand.

(4) Under present conditions casualty rate of Martlets lost or damaged beyond repair on Station but not due to combat is 2 to 3 per month for an I.E. of 24. For FORMIDABLE is to be ready for a sustained operation consider reserve of the (corrupt group) 100% I.E. should be established in Western Med. and maintained by regular shipment to ensure immediate replacement of loss in action as well as usual wastage. (S.O. Force H. 121751B to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. etc.). Reply: Admty. 182126B.

PORCUPINE C. in C. Med.'s 261948A/April. On arrival in U.K. about end of May, PORCUPINE will be taken in hand at Portsmouth dockyard for permanent repairs. (D.O.D.(F) 121809B to C. in C. Portsmouth A.S.Portsmouth, (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C.W.A. C. in C. Plymouth, F.O.C.Gibraltar, F.O.C.Tyne, Capt.D.19, PORCUPINE).

Malta Situation. Situation report week-ending 8th May 1943. (3) Naval. D/RS and M.T.B's active Cape Bon and Gulf of Tunis. Several of few small enemy craft attempting reach Sicily sunk. Approx.100 (?P.W.) landed Malta. (4) Convoy M.W.27 consisting 5 M/V's 1 tanker arrived 4th May 1943. Unloading proceeding. Personnel ship and tanker sunk en route with (details). Survivors at Tripoli and Benghazi details now known. A.O.C. has now released 700 Army personnel from assistance to R.A.F. Except guards and defence, only about 150 remain mainly drivers. (Govr. Malta 121810Z to C. in C. M.E.).

Bizerta Bizerta coastal convoy sailed. convoy (F.O.12th C.S. 121832A to Admty. etc.).

OXFORDSHIRE Sailed OXFORDSHIRE 1800A/12 (route). Thence to Belfast, S. of A. 13½ knots. (Cdre. Algiers 121836A to C. in C. Med. Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Connav, (R) Com.N.O.B.Oran).

/Enemy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. -contd.

Enemy Mines Bizerta. Ref.101945A from S.O.I.S. Bizerta. Several unknown types of mines are to be expected, and duplicate specimens of each are required urgently. Request duplicates be shipped home separately, and despatch reported by signal to Admiralty, so that they may be met by lorry at port of arrival. (D.T.M. 121916B to C. in C. Med. (R) S .O.I.S. Bizerta).

TROOPER UNISON UNBROKEN Onward route from P through position 037 degs.07' 013 degs. 15' thence to R/V with sweeper in 036 degs. 08' 014 degs. 22' TROOPER and P.43 (UNISON) are to arrive at 0830B/17th. P.43 is to keep clear to northward of P until 0600B/15th P.42 (UNBROKEN) may be met outward bound. (Capt.S.10 121917B to TROOPER, P.43 (R) Capt.S.8. C. in C.Med. Capt.(S) 1, C. in C. Levant, P.42, S/M's on patrol).

QUEEN OLGA BICESTER. Abandon search at 2145 and proceed to arrive Sousse 0700B/13th through (E) 5 miles South H.U.G. (as received) 2220B/12th. (F) 10 miles East of Cape Scalambri (G) 035 degs. 10' 012 degs. 00' 0300/13th. S. of S. 24.

(2) Codeword "Entire".
(3) You will be required to fuel BICESTER and escort her to Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Malta 121919B to G.S. QUEEN OLGA, (R) Capt.D.5. A.I.G.67, BEAUFORT).

X Security of M/V's in Occupied ports. Increasing anxiety felt here both by M.W.T. and Admty. regarding security of merchant ships in occupied ports from the outset against all forms of secondary attack. Possibility of including specially trained personnel within present port organisation under consideration.

Request your remarks on following:

- (a) Arrangements for routine external examination of hulls.
- (b) Control exercised over shore boats.
- (c) Guards mounted in individual ships.
- (d) Control exercised over authorised persons going on board and examination of their possessions.

Request information whether sufficient trained personnel are available locally to deal with these points. If not, details of trained assistance required from U.K. should be forwarded, also statement whether untrained personnel could be surrendered in lieu.

(D.N.I. Approved A.C.N.S.(F) 121935B to C. in C. Med.(R) F.O.Bizerta).

Reply: C. in C. Med. 131844A.

X Operation M.K.I.D. My 122124 (No trace in W.R.) operation M.K.1.D. Day 15th. (C. in C. Levant 121946C 132033C to All concerned M.K.1).

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.-contd.

PARTHIAN 12th May arrival.
(S.O.(I) Beirut 121950C to Admty.).

X Force X French are extremely short of anti-submarine escorts in West Africa. Ref. your 302332, when Alexandria times come to dock and overhaul Force "X" requests A/S equipment. any practicable action to get A/S equipment in BASQUE and FORBIN in working order.
(2) Request confirmation that FORTUNE is structurally fit for asdics but requires complete type 128 C.
(3) It would also be of great assistance if 4 Oerlikons per destroyer could be provided from Levant resources when the situation clarifies.
(C. in C.Med. 121953A to C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty.).

Movements Arrivals ALBACORE, BRIXHAM, EGGESFORD, KERRERA, Bone. INCHMARNOCK, ESKIMO, LOOKOUT, LAMERTON, WILTON, LAUDERDALE, BARFLAKE, H.D.M.L.1234.
Departures ALBACORE, BRIXHAM, FOULA, HUNDA, WESTRAY, KINTYRE, BARLAKE, MINNA H.D.M.L.1241, H.D.M.L.1227.
My 002913A delete WHADDON from departures.
(F.O.12 C.S. 122016A to C. in C. Med. etc,).

Malta Air A.I. 551 C.S.R. 12th May.
Report. (A) Air, Part 1. Offensive. Night 11th/12th May.5 Bomb carrying Wellingtons on Armed Search S.W. of Sicily found no shipping and attacked alternative target Empedocle Harbour. 30 250 lb G.P. Bombs were dropped scoring hits on Decks and between Power House and Railway Station and starting numerous fires in Target Area. 6 Torpedo Carrying Beauforts were despatched on Armed Search West of Toe of Italy for convoy sighted by Spitfire at 1240 hours. See para.3. 1 of the Beauforts sighted 2127 hours. 1 M/V escorted by 1 D/R and 2 E-boats. Southbound 35 degs. (239) 10' N. 15 degs. 34' E. and attacked with 1 Torpedo but results were unobserved. To cover these Shipping Strikes 4 Mosquitoes made Intruder Patrols over Western Sicily and Toe of Italy. Day 12th May. 20 Spitfire made Offensive Sweeps over Southern Sicily. 4 Long Range Spitfires on Offensive Sweep along East Coast of Sicily attacked a Goods Train at Lazzaro, South of Reggio.
4 Beaufighters of which 3 carried bombs on Armed R/C along East Coast of Toe of Italy attacked 1 Coastal Vessel 100 tons off Point Stilo. Near misses were scored with bombs and after Cannon and Machine gun Attack vessel was seen on fire.
4 hours later Baltimore on Shipping R/C found vessel beached and still on fire.
Part 2. Enemy Air Activity Nil.
Part 3. R/C Day 11th May. 2 Baltimores on Shipping searches in Gulf of Taranto visual 0650 hours 39 degs. 33' N. 17 degs. 40' East 1 T/K 8000 tons. 1 E/boat, 1 small craft, 1 possible F/boat, 1 M/V Aircraft Course 200 degs. Speed 8 to 10 knots. (A.H.Q. Malta 122018Z).

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Malta A.I.552 12th May. Daily Opsum 3, (similar details
Air to 122018Z).
Report (contd.) (A.H.Q. Malta 122230Z).

Movements Arrivals 12th May SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA,
Haifa. Greek Destroyer PANTHER.
Departures 12th May M.L's 385 and 384 JENNET,
PANTHER, PROTEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, SOUTHERN SEA.
(N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 122019C to Aqmty.
C. in C. Levant).

M.T.B. and M.G.B. organisation VIENNA. M.T.B's and M.G.B's will be regrouped as follows
7th and 32nd M.T.B. and 20th M.G.B. Flotilla
at Malta. 18th and 33rd M.T.B. and 19th M.G.B.
Flotilla at Bone and Bizerta.
(2) Bone will be the main repair and training base
for the Western Mediterranean and only operational
boats will be kept at Bizerta. VIENNA will be sent to Bizerta
shortly as M.T.B. base ship.
(3) Boats will be directed to their new base shortly.
(4) American M.T.B's will also be operating in the Bone Bizerta
area.
(C. in C. Med. 122020A to N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O. I.S. F.O. 12th
C.S., N.O.I.C. Sousse, (R) Capt. C.F.Med.).

Enemy mines My 122102A (?112102A) request you will station
H.D.M.L. close south of 037 degs. 25' north 009
degs. 46' east from 0800/13th until (?1200) 13th
to keep convoy clear of mines especially
American L.S.T's.
(F.O.12th C.S. 122118A to F.O.I.S.(R) S.O. M/S
F.12).

BICESTER U.X.B. Un-exploded (?500) lb bomb removed from BICESTER.
Pumping and salvage operation completed and ship
now upright. BICESTER ready to sail on receipt
of oil fuel. Ship will require docking (?for)
repairs.
(N.O.i/c Sousse 122138A to C. in C.Med. (R)
N.O.i/c Malta, BICESTER, C. in C. Levant, Capt.
(D) 19th D.F. S.N.O. Tripoli, F.O.C. 12th C.S.).

"Liege" fighter protection. V.A.Malta's 121105 (N.T. in W.D.) Regret "Liege"
too far from coast for fighter escort but
protection available from 4 Spitfires call sign
"Able" at 15000 feet over coast from 0500 until
0600A/13th May. V.H/F 6450 V.
(N.L.O. 211 Group 122210A to V.A.Malta ORION,
PETARD, ISIS (R) C. in C.Med.).

/Movements....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean-contd.

Movements
Tobruk. Arrived ABERDARE, FAREHAM, BAGSHOT, HARROW,
RAGLAN CASTLE, KINGSTON CYANITE.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 122209C to Admty. (R) C. in C.
Levant).

✓ Minesweeping "Antidote". Commence phase 2 tomorrow Thursday and
Op."Antidote" complete serials 11 to 14 if possible. If
Mines-sweeping Flotilla 12 is still confirmed in
area L, Minesweeping Flot.13 is to carry out
serial 11. Fighter protection codewords as for today.
(Cdre. CDG. 12th C.S. 122244 A to S.O. M/S F.12, S.O.M/S F.13,
S.O.M.M/S F.103, S.O.M.M/S F. 114 (R) C. in C.Med. S.O.I.S.).

Movements
Algiers. Arrivals JULIET, CORIOLANUS, KING SOL, HOY,
MAN O WAR, BONITO, LINNET, L.S.T's 322, 409,
M.T.B's 655, 658 French submarine MARSOUIN,
U.S.N.S.C.770 Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND,
departures hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE.
(Cdre. Algiers 122319A to Admty.).

Movements
Malta. Arrivals SOKOL, UPROAR, SANTA SAHRA, BEAUFORT,
PINDOS, EXMOOR, DULVERTON, MIAOULES.
Departures ORION, ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA, UNRULY,
RORQUAL.
(V.A.Malta 122347/ to Admty. etc.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy C.M.41, RANPURA. Following is repetition: Arrived RANPURA with C.M.41 T.O.O.110221Z (Ends) (M.C.U. Bombay, 120322Z to Admty)

Convoy J.C.11 Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Calcutta, 120415Z to Admty)

P.B.40. Sailing telegram (Ships - list etc.)
(2) 0400Z/12th. (4) 8 knots. (5) (Route)
(6) ORISSA.
(N.C.S.O.Hormuz, 120435, 120440Z to A.I.G.357)

BRITISH UNITY. You are now required to call at Mombasa. Alter course on receipt of this signal pass through position G.010° N. 055° E. H 003° N. 050° E. thence to Mombasa. Acknowledge report if you have instructions for entering port.
(Adml. Mombasa. 120840Z to BRITISH UNITY (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. Cdre. Durban.)

BRITISH UNITY your 120840Z received. No entering instructions for Mombasa.
(BRITISH UNITY, 122350Z to Adm.Mombasa.)

Independent Shipping, routing. As temporary measure intend to route future southbound shipping sailing independently as follows. Your 111556 May and 071311 May refer.
(A) Traffic from Aden and Kilindini for Durban and ports south of Durban through Mozambique Channel keeping east repeat east of Q.R.S. line. thence to approach position arranged by you. (B) Traffic from Persian Gulf, in convoy and Ceylon for Durban and ports south of Durban by normal routes to an approach position to Durban arranged by you. (C) Traffic for Beira and Lourenco Marques in Mozambique Channel direct. (D) Traffic for Beira and Lourenco Marques (?east) of Madagascar direct.
(2) If you concur request details of approach positions for paragraphs one (A) and (B).
(C. in C. E.F. 120841Z to C. in C. S.A. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Aden, S.N.O. Persian Gulf, Com. R.I.N., F.O. Ceylon)
Reply - See C. in C. S.A. 121720B to C. in C. E.F., South Atlantic

Air Target Vessels. A.269 May 12th. After discussion here Rear Adm. Phillips considers that Torpedo training requirements can be met up to end September by one destroyer type target vessel and three recovery vessels. (2) (Suggests LEWES might be transferred from South Africa to Ceylon and replaced in South Africa by another target vessel from U.K.)
(3) (Re 2 further target vessels required)
(B.11. 120930Z to C. in C. E.F.(R) F.O. Ceylon etc.)

MAURETANIA. Admiralty 091225 (Re sailing of MAURETANIA with U.S. Troops) cannot accept delay at Suez. Prefer transshipment at Trincomalee or Colombo in order named.
(Conroute, 121025Z to Admty (R) C. in C. E.F.)
Movements /...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies (Contd.)

Movements.

Departure 1044Z/12th BALTA.
(N.O.I.C. Addu Atoll, 121049Z to Admty)
Colombo arrivals 12th 0200Z CERES, 0245Z
RAMDAS.
Departures 1203Z RAMDAS.
(F.O. Ceylon, 121300Z to Admty)

BUSHWOOD

Arrival.
(S.O.(I) Bombay, 121131Z to Admty etc.)

TULIP.

Left.
(F.O.C.E.A. and Z, 121221Z to Admty)

Ceylon
Movements
Summary.

No.50 of 12th. (1) BATHURST and CARNATIC
leave Aden 18th escorting A.P. Convoy.
(2) BALUCHISTAN leaves Colombo 13th escorting
M.B.35 due Bombay 18th. (3) CESSNOCK and
IPSWICH in company left Aden 8th. (4) FALMOUTH
due Seychelles 14th. (5) LAUCESTON left Aden
6th and escorts 49th M.L. Flotilla from Masirah to Khor Kuwai
due Bandar Abbas 19th. (6) MADRAS and TAMWORTH leave Bombay
17th escorting B.P.80. (7) SATYAVATI arrived Cochin 10th.
(8) ORISSA expected to leave Khor Kuwai 11th escorting P.B.40.
(9) PUNJAB escorting P.A.38 due Aden 15th. (10) RAJPUTANA
escorted by BANGKOR leaves Bandar Abbas 14th for Bombay.
(11) RATNAGIRI and KONKAN leave Bombay 14th escorting B.P.79.
(12) RAMDAS escorting SAROENA arrived and left Colombo 12th
for Madras. (13) SONAVATI left Cocos 10th due Colombo 16th.
(14) TEWERA left Trincomalee 10th due Colombo 12th.
(F.O. Ceylon, 121420 to Admty)

M/V's
Smoke.

Request information re my 1206A/25th Feb.
(D.T.D. 121600B to Com. R.I.N.)

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

X Boom Defence Vessels. Lorsa 9160. Navy Dept. has put in a very strong bid to M.A.B. for all 20 of the vessels on 1799 programme plus 20 vessels on the Naval Programme. Adm. Reeves made tentative offer of five vessels to U.K. but in view of strong pressure on him from Navy Dept. it is doubtful if he could fulfil this promise. American requirements have advanced from 77 to 90 during the last two months.

(2) Difficult to justify some of the numerical requirements stated by Admty. in view of fact that Americans have not more than two Boom Vessels in any one port.

(3) We have stressed urgency of our requirements for a certain number of these vessels for future operations but without a clear statement that lack of these vessels would prejudice future operations. We see little hope of obtaining any adequate assignment. If such is the case a firm statement on these lines would be of great assistance.

(4) In our view the easiest way to reconcile our point of view with Americans would be for an Officer from Admiralty to visit this country in very near future to reconcile what appear to be different technical standards in the two Navies and also to discuss strategic factors involved, for example, scales of attack to be expected and scales of defence to be provided at different ports.

(5) Unless we do this we feel that the case may have to be decided on a numerical basis unfavourable to us without discussion of all relevant factors.

(B.A.D. 120029Z to Admty.).

X Merchant Shipping from U.S. routeing U.S. Following is Connav 101530 to Authorities concerned: "Merchant Ships departing from U.S. West Coast ports destined for India and Persian Gulf shall be routed to Hobart for onward routeing instead of Sydney N.S.W. or Fremantle. Vessels departing Balbao for Persian Gulf and India shall be routed to Fremantle for onward routeing.

(2) This directive based on Com.7th Fleet 030313 as follows: "Hobart now prepared to received Merchant Shipping recommend ships from U.S. West Coast Ports bound for India and Persian Gulf be directed to call at Hobart instead of Sydney (N.S.W.) or Fremantle passing south of New Zealand and that Cdr. South Pacific (New Zeland Naval Board) (corrupt) directed to divert ships already sailing so routed to Sydney (N.S.W.) continue routeing of ships from Panama to Fremantle as at present.

(3) Request information whether this should apply to British managed shipping your 2038/12th Jan. refers.

(B.A.D. 120103Z to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.R.L.O. Cristobal).

Convoy U.G.F.8A. Following is a re-encypherment of Routeing Officer Norfolk's 101804 to Connav C.E.S.F. C. in C. Lant C.T.F. 60 Admty. C. in C. Med. U.S.N.O.B. Bermuda Com. Morocco S.F. Com.8th Fleet F.O.C. Gibraltar.

Sailing Telegram part 1.

(1) U.G.F. 8A. (2) Ref. (?1701)Z 10th May (3) Ref.2100Z May 11th 12.5 knots (5) Route. (6) Task Group 60.1 U.S.Cruiser SAVANNAH

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy U.S.Destroyer WAINWRIGHT. U.S. Destroyer TRIPPE
U.G.F.8A. U.S.Destroyer ROWAN U.S.Destroyer PLUNKETT
(contd.). U.S.Destroyer NIBLACK U.S. Destroyer BENSON
U.S.Destroyer RHIND U.S.Destroyer GLEAVES U.S.
Destroyer COLE U.S.Destroyer BERNADOU U.S.

Destroyer DALLAS U.S.Destroyer MAYRANT.
Request U.S.Naval Operating Base at Bermuda and Comnavnav furnish
air coverage as practicable.
(Radio Washington 120200 to C.T.F. 60 C. in C. Med. Admty.
N.S.H.Q. U.S.N.O.B. at Bermuda Com. Morocco S.F. Com.8th Fleet,
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Convoy This is C.T.F.62 112348 passed for information.
U.G.S.8. Conroute has for action. C. in C. Lant C.T.G.62.1
and Commoroccanseafon have for information. 2000
position Z/11 U.G.S.8 lat. 34.11 long. 26.19.
Course 086 degs. Speed 9.5. No stragglers. Weather clear. Ceiling
and visibility unlimited, slight sea no swell. Wind S.W. force 3.
(Radio Wash. D.C. 120303Z to Admty.).

Movements St. Johns N.F. May 11th. Arrivals PORT ARTHUR and
St.Johns H.M.R.T. ADHERENT ex search for abandoned ships
N.F. of O.N.S.5. Departures TROIS RIVIERES, SARNIA
escorting W.B.20 to Sydney C.B. M.L. 052 to St.
Pierre, ST. ALBANS, TRAIL, TIMMINS to join O.N.181.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 120545Z to Admty.).

CARNARVON Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 12th May.
CASTLE Position CARNARVON CASTLE 08 degs. North 28 degs.
West on patrol.
(D.O.D.(F) 120900Z to Opnav (R) Comnavneu).

U.S. This is Cinclant's 112337 addressed to Admty.
Dispositions (Comnavneu pass) for action and to Comnavneu and
Cominch for information. April 12. Lantfleet
location sheet 43. New York City. TUSCALOOSA,

AUGUSTA, 4 Destroyers proceed Argentina.
Argentina: SOUTH DAKOTA, ALBAMA, 7 Destroyers.
Casco Bay: NEW YORK (Battleship).
(Comnavneu 120901 to Admty.).

This is Cominch's 111655 addressed to Admty. (Comnavneu pass)
for action and to Comnavneu for information. Serial 73. Change my
041534. Atlantic: PHILADELPHIA at New York. TEXAS at Casablanca.
CARD, MILWAUKEE, MARBLEHEAD, PHOENIX, ESSEX, CINCINNATI, SAVANNAH
at sea. Pacific. NORTH CAROLINA, VICTORIOUS, COPAHEE at sea.
BARNES in South Pacific. TRENTON in Balboa. WEST VIRGINIA in
Seattle. WASHINGTON, ENTERPRISE at Pearl. BRETON, INDIANAPOLIS at
San Diego.

(Comnavneu 120902 to Admty.).

CLARKIA Trinidad arrival May 11th.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 120912Z to S.B.N.O.W.A.(R)
Admty. etc.).

/U.S.A.T....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. --(contd.).

U.S.A.T. Departure 11th U.S. Army Transport E.L. LIBERTADOR. (Aruba 121132RQ to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.). My 124132OR. (?121132 intended) Ship sailed for Curacao. (Aruba 121107QR to Admty. N.S.H.Q.).

North Atlantic Convoys and speed. A.M. 292040Z April. As an alternative to paragraphs 4 and 5 it is proposed that all ships of less than 10 knots be passed on to Halifax as at present but should there be too many for S.C. convoy and space available in current H.X. convoy N.S.H.Q. to select ships of 9 to 10 knots from those available at Halifax and sail them in H.H.X. convoy. (D.T.D. 121155B to N.S.H.Q. (R) Cominch etc.). Reply: Concur (N.S.H.Q. 151612Z to Admty.).

Movements Halifax. Arrivals TRURO, AMHERST ex O.N.180. Departure ACADIA to Sydney. (C. Halifax 121230Z to Admty. etc.). Arrived HAMILTON, THE PAS KAMSACK ex B.X.50. Departure MINAS to X.B. (Corrupt Group). (C. Halifax 122138Z to Cmd. 1st U.S.N.D. Boston).

Movements Argentina. Argentina 11th May. Arrival UGANDA, departure GEORGIAN. (British Maintenance Comdr. Argentina. 121241Z to Admty.).

X Soviet Shipping policy. Following policy effective. Soviet Merships in Pacific do not use wartime calls. Use Soviet International calls for radio traffic and as recognition. Soviet Merships from Soviet Pacific ports to vicinity Dutch Harbour not issued identification signals from key memo Sim. Return voyage issue signals only for reasonable distance in no case beyond zone U.S. control. In Atlantic use assigned British signal letters as basis recognition and for derivation wartime call. Letter follows. (V.Opnav 121301 to Cincpac, Cinclant, Comnortheastseafon, Comwestseafon, Com:15, Alusna Moscow Amcon Vladivostock (R) N.O.B. Dutchharbor, N.S.H.Q. Comnavu).

Routeing N.S.H.Q. 112235 (N.T. in W.D.) Request Commodores and Masters of ships with destination U.S. Ports be instructed to be prepared on approaching Halifax to be detached for onward routeing to Cape Cod. F.O.N.F. will be instructed to sail ships for U.S. Ports to Junction at Westomp. (C. in C.C.N.A. 121441 to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q. Conroute, F.O.N.F. C.E.S.F.). 112235 Concur. (Conroute 121620 to N.S.H.Q. (R) Admty. C. in C.C.N.A. Comeasseafon).

/s/M...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-(contd.).

S/M estimate (Cominch 121450Z, 121451Z, 121521Z, 121522Z,
12th May. 121523Z, 122210Z, 122322Z).
U.S.submarine
notice.

N.S.H.Q. N.S.H.Q. estimate of S/M's North of 040 degs.
S/M Estimate North west of 040 degs. West 1200Z/12th.
(N.S.H.Q. 121504Z 121509Z to Admty. etc.).

U/B S/M sighted by aircraft in 045 degs. 09' North
049 degs. 51' West at 1515Z 12th.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 121542Z to Ships escorting O.N.
181, G.B.7A(R) C. in C.W.A., Connav, Admty. etc.).

O.N.181 Aircraft report having attacked S/M close
U/B proximity of convoy at 1516Z in (765) 00 North
50.05 West. Have carried out search without
result. TIMMINS detached to remain in area,
returning before dark. Convoy is (? approaching Halifax).
Weather report.
(ST. ALBANS 121555Z to Connav, (R) A.C.I.C. Cdre. (D) W.A.
C. in C. C.N.A. Admty. etc.).

QUEEN Your 051824 Para.1.A.
ELIZABETH No definite answer can yet be given by U.S.
escort Authorities but it appears unlikely that escort
Frigates. will be provided by them.
(2) Para.2 A and B confirmed but see S.B.N.O.W.
At's 072356 and B.A.M.R. 082008. Para.2 C.

BENTINCK mid June and BYARD end of June.
(3) Para.4. of your 051824. In view of necessity for return
to U.S.A. of DRURY desirability of return of BLACKWOOD vide my
121151 and probability that Frigates will have to escort from
U.S.A. propose programmes are adjusted to meet all these
requirements.
(B.A.D. 121547Z to Admty.).

* Frigate My 121547 and B.A.M.R. 082008. (DRURY to be
Compasses repaired at New York). U.S. Navy authorities
are very concerned at failure of Arma Compasses
in BAYNTUN and BAZELY during heavy weather on
passage to and from Bermuda.
(2) BLACKWOOD and DRURY were fitted in addition with Sperry
Mark XIV for comparison and U.S.Navy and Arma Observers took
passage in ships to Bermuda. Owing to fair weather no useful
comparison could be made.
(3) Bureau of Ships has requested that BLACKWOOD and DRURY be
sent to U.S.A. on completion of working up for further comparative
trials in bad weather with observes on board. This request has our
strong support as so many later ships will be affected.
(B.A.D. 121551Z to Admty.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.--(contd.).

B.3. Group R.A. report without T.O.O. (R.A. = Aircraft
O.N.181 escorting odd No. O.N. Convoy). Overtook B.3.
? U/B. negative RENONCULE rejoining convoy with all
despatch.
(S.O.B.3. 121600Z to C. in C.C.N.W.A. (R) A.C.I.C.
Connav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cdre.(D)
W.A. Cdre. (D) Argentia, B.3. Group, ST. ALBANS.).
No merchant ship saw S/M but LADY RODNEY reports sighting
large black (?fish) shortly after attack. Intend group proceed
St. John's N.F. on completion of sweep astern unless aircraft
quite definite target was S/M. Please interrogate.
(S.O. Escort Group B.3. C.T.U. 24.1.17 121805Z to F.O.N.F.
C. in C.C.N.A.(R) A.C.I.C. Connav, Admty. C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q.
F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. Cdre. (D) W.A. Cdre.(D) Argentia).
C. in C.C.N.A. 121611 (N.T. in W.R.) ORCHIS detail of
refuelling will not be required.
(S.O. Escort Group B.3. 122200Z to Connav, A.C.I.C.(R)
C. in C.C.N.W.At. Admty. etc.).
ORCHIS is to remain with O.N. 181 until MINAS joins.
(2) F.S. ROSELYS : take remainder of second division with GROWLER
and NAPANEE to St. Johns N.F. and report names of ships
detailed to comply with F.O.N.F. 121145 para.1. (N.T. in W.R.).
(S.O. Escort Group B.3 122201Z to B.3. (R) MINAS, C.in C.C.N.A
F.O.N.F. ST. ALBANS N.S. NAPANEE).

G.U. Convoys Para.1. B. Admty. 111710 to C. in C.Med. (Proposals
Use of W/T. to break W/T silence for stragglers) referred
for comment. C. in C.Med. pass to C. in C.A.F.
(Conroute 121607Z to C. in C.A.F. (R) Admty.
C. in C.Med.).

Your 111710. 1A. Concur 1B referred to C. in C's A.F.
3 Affirmative.
All ships now sailing in U.G. convoys are given entrance instructions
for Boston, N.York, Delaware Capes, and Hampton Roads for
diversion purposes.
C. in C.Med. pass to N.C.S.O. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar pass to
N.C.S.O. Gibraltar and N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).
(Conroute 121609Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C.
Gibraltar, N.C.S.O. Gibraltar, N.C.S.O.Med.).

Convoy Sailing telegram.
X.B.52 (2) Halifax 1500Z 12.
(3) E.T.A. Cape Cod Canal 0200Z/15. Boston 0100Z/15.
(4) 7½ knots. (Route). Junction with O.N.S.5 in
position P. Ships for Boston detach position (S).
(6) MALPEQUE to position P thence BUCTOUCHE, BARRIE, COWICHAN,
(N.C.S.O.Halifax 121629Z 121641Z to Admty.).

U.S.A.T's Arrival New Orleans May 10th.
DAVID C. SHANKS, FLORIDA, SEMINOLE, all U.S.
Army transports.
(N.S.H.Q. 121731C to Admty.).

/UGANDA...

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd

UGANDA. UGANDA's 111651 and C.T.F.24's 112335.
Request you will arrange to sail UGANDA as necessary to arrive Plymouth by a.m. 20th May routed through P.44 N. 51 W. Q. 39 N. 44 W. R. 39.30 N. 34 W. S. 43 N. 24 W. T. 49 N. 19 W. U. 50 N. 12W thence as ordered by C. in C.Plymouth.

2. C.T.F.24 pass to UGANDA.
(D.O.D.(H) 121745B to C. in C.C.N.A. C.T.F.24 (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cinclant, Cominch, UGANDA.)
Request you will take action on Admty. 121745B. informing F.O.N.F.
(C.O.A.C. 121841Z to C.T.24 (R) C. in C.Plymouth, C. in C.W.A. Cominch, F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cinclant.)

EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND. Convoy A.T.43. Request you will sail EMPRESS OF SCOTLAND from Halifax on 17th May to Liverpool so as to arrive on daylight High Water reporting E.T.A. Bar L.V. and estimated position at daylight on day of arrival.

2. C. in C.W.A. and C. in C.C.N.A. are requested to arrange air protection.
3. Fighter protection code word "Henbane."
(D.O.D.(H) 121940B to C. in C.C.N.A. (R) N.S.H.Q. Connav, B.A.D. C. in C.H.F. etc.)

AQUITANIA. Your 100025. Following from B.M.W.T.New York.

1. Report of deficiencies and action taken being airmailed. In general U.S.criticisms were
 - A. Vessel fire hazard owing to alleged poor condition wiring also number of wooden closets, wooden partitions, etc.
 - B. Unsatisfactory condition and inadequacy of latrines.
 - C. Unsuitability of mess kit washing facilities.
 - D. Inadequate ventilation of lower troop sections.
 - E. General verminous condition.
2. Essential items for immediate correction agreed with U.S.Authorities and carried out. Vessel passed by U.S. Authorities who expressed appreciation and commendation of work done within time available. (Further questions and proposals.)
8. If above work carried out we believe reported deficiencies can be made satisfactory.
(B.R.L.O.New York 121944Z to D.S.T.)

X T.F.61. Task Force 61 sailed from Argentia 1430B on May 12th routed through A. 43° 10' N. 49° 20' W. B. 43° 10' N. 28° 10' W. C. 53° 10' N. 22° 05' W. D. 58° 01' N. 16° 01' W. E. 58° 45' N. 11° 10' W. thence to Scapa Flow E.T.A. 1300B/20th May. S.O.A. 16 knots.
(D.O.D.(H) 121951B to C. in C.H.F. (R) C. in C.W.A. A.C.O.S.)

H.X.239. 1. Sailing telegram part 1. 2. Position C.Y. at 1600Z May 13th. 3. 5.8. Routes and R/V as per Admty. 061146 May and C. in C.C.N.A. 082020 May. Homp 1030Z May 16.

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.H.X.239
(Contd.)

6. Task Unit 24.18.9. BUXTON. S.O. MID (?MIDLAND) and KAMLOOPS, REGINA, TRANSCONA. (P.D. New York 122008Z to Admty. (R) Cominch C. and R. Comeastseafon, C.T.F.24, C.T.G.24.6. N.S.H.Q. F.C.N.F. C. in C.C.N.A.)

ACADIA,
SEMINOLE
(hospital
ships.)

War Department has designated as Hospital Ships U.S. A.T. ACADIA 403 feet 7800 tons and U.S.A.T. SEMINOLE 402 feet 7180 tons. Both ships white hull with horizontal green band. Red Cross each side. Red Cross on deck and on funnel illuminated at night. Pass to appropriate Air Commands. This is U.S. Fleet General Message No. 6.

(Cominch 122022Z to U.S. Fleet (R) Admty. N.Z.N.B. A.C.N.B. N.S.H.Q. and Chief of Staff U.S. Army.)

Shipping
Casualties.

Connav Serial 9 to 12. ANTIGONE and GRADO torpedoed sunk May 11th Convoy S.C.129. HOLMBURY torpedoed date unknown off coast of Liberia, 32 survivors arrived Monrovia May 9th.

DANIEL HUGER bombed by aircraft bombing practice harbour May 8th, near miss caused slight damage. Serial Q6 cancel report of casualty to DIRECTOR and correct casualties O.N.S.5 to read May 5th not May 4th serial 22 April 465 sinking report of THORSHOV. (Conroute 122045 to Connaveu.)

X Neutral
Shipping
Routes.

My 072033, Neutral routes, para. 5, which embodies approach lanes issued by Navy Department effective 20th November, 1942.

2. Ref. sub-paras. B.C. and D., it is presumed ships should remain on trans-ocean route until reaching long. of appropriate approach

lane and then follow meridian due south to required latitude. 3. If so some adjustment of approach lane B would appear desirable.

(D.T.D. 122051B to Connav (R) B.A.D.)

B.Y.M.S.

B.Y.M.S.21,22,23 Canal Zone awaiting spare parts E.T.A. indefinite. 11,12,20 Recife E.T.A. 21st. 13,19,28 arrived Belem 5th E.T.A. 27th. 43,44, 45,46 expected to arrive Belem 12th M Freetown

June 3rd. 47 at Navy Yard Charleston indefinitely. M.M.S. 99,100,101, 104, 108 at Norfolk working up E.T.A. indefinite. In addition 14,24 Canal Zone E.T.A. June 20th. Your 111959Z. Admiralty pass to C. in C. Levant. (Passing action being taken by W.R. P.2589.)

(C. in C.U.S. Fleet 122112 to Admty. (R) Cinclant, etc.)

/Convoy...

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War Diary.12.5.1943.
Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Convoy S.C.130 1 Mid Ocean group B.7, DUNCAN H/F D/F (S.O.) TAY H/F D/F VIDETTE, SUNFLOWER, SNOWFLAKE, LOOSESTRIFE, PINK will relieve you in West O.M.P. 46.18 N. 47.43 W. at 1200Z May 15th.
2. W.S.C.130 (3 ships), supporting escort KITCHENER and trawler NORTHERN SPRAY, joining in 45.48 N. 51.27 W. at 1500Z May 14th.
3. "Chop" 1200Z May 6th.
(F.O.N.F. 122117Z to W.5 (R) C. in C.C.N.A. C. in C.U.S.Fleet, C. in C.W.A. N.S.H.Q. Admty. S.O.B.7. in DUNCAN.)

WASAGA. Arrival from St. Johns N.F.
(C.Halifax 122133Z to Admty. Connav, N.S.H.Q. etc.)

MONTGOMERY. Arrival ex O.N.S.5.
(C.Halifax 122135Z to Admty. etc.)

Sub attack & sighting summary. All times Z.
Para. A. ANTIGONE and GRADO torpedoed sunk area 41.17 N. 34.12 W. 111800.
Surface craft sight two subs. on surface area 43.04 N. 31.08 W. 121545.
Surface craft attacks sub. area 41.17 N. 34.12 W. night 11/12.

P.B.Y. attacks sub. course 270 59.30 N. 29.36 W. 111622.
Plane attacks sub. area 45.12 N. 26.30 W. 112000.
Para. C. Plane attacks sub. 45.10 N. 49.59 W. 121511.
H.M.S. QUESMEL attacks sub. 41.15 N. 63.02 W. 111930.
Para. D. Plane sights submerged sub. 14 S. 23 W. 111025.
Commercial 1 plane sights sub. course 090 16.20 N. 87 W. 111735.
(Cominch 122141Z to Admty.)

C.U.2. 1. Sailing telegram part 2 (list, etc.)
Total 12 ships sailed. Task Group 21.6.
(P.D.New York 122204 to Cominch C. and R. (R) Admty. etc.)

WEST POINT. Departing New York 1130Z May 13 Ambrose U.S.S. WEST POINT. Casablanca. E.T.A. 0530Z May 20.
(Route). S.O.A. 20 knots. Fighter protection code word "Berserk" with 3 figured call sign 120.
(P.D.New York 122230Z to Cominch C. and R. Admty. N.S.H.Q. etc.)

U.S.A.Ts. Balboa 12 May 2100 U.S.A.T. FREDERICK C. JOHNSON Seymour Island, Salinas, and return Balboa 15th, coastal.
(R.O.Cristobal 122304 to Admty.)
Arm. transport YARMOUTH (U.S) arrived Greenland May 12.
(N.S.H.Q. 122339Z to Admty.)

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Wednesday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi No. 34. Dutch ship TJUSADANN sighted possible periscope 24.45 S. 175.42 E. at 1115M/11, 10,000 ton ship sighted 5 miles off Numa Numa (Bougainville) at 1410M/11 course 135°. C.T/ - Watcher reports intense barge schooner and small A.K. activity Buka Tinputz Teop Numa area past week. (C.W.R.Wellington 120049Z to C. in C.E.F. Admty. etc.)

Movements, Arrivals Auckland 0053Z/12th U.S.S. TRION ?
Auckland. Departure Auckland 2000Z/11th U.S.S. WALRUS
for Espiritu Santo, E.T.A. 2000Z/17th.
(D.N.I.Wellington 120501Z to Admty.)

Digest Two cargo vessels of 2000 to 4000 tons at
serial No. Kavieng morning including 1 unloading near
477 May 11. drome.
4. Forenoon search Liberator saw 2 small
vessels Wewak Harbour in which vicinity 4 Zeros
ineffectively intercepted. Blurred photos 2
hours later show 2 small Coasters and 30 barges? in harbour.
5. Same Liberator strafed motor boat in Ale-Ishafen harbour.
6. 7 Bostons attacked barge concealments Labu Lagoon (Lae.)
7. Afternoon 10th small submarine sighted by aircraft from
1,000 feet 7° 49' S. 150° 04' E. course 130° speed 11 knots.
8. After daybreak patrol Beaufort saw 3 torpedo tracks
missing small convoy 33 miles southwest China Strait but no
submarine sighted. Escort vessel dropped depth charges.
10. Three enemy Floatplanes unsuccessfully attacked small
convoy refer digest 476 para. 16 morning 11th 20 miles
southwest Cape Wessel. Escorting Beaufighter shot down one
plane.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 120946Z to Admty. etc.)

Movements. 11th May arrivals Brisbane U.S.S. BROOKS
Milne Bay BROOME, KAPUNDA, SHEPPARTON.
Departures Cairns WHYALLA for Milne Bay, Port
Moresby SWAN for Cairns, Brisbane COLAC,
MORESBY, DUNCAN, BENDIGO, U.S.S. BROOKS, U.S.S. HENLEY for
Sydney (N.S.W.) KATOOMBA, WAGGA for Townsville.
(A.C.N.B. 121207Z to Admty. etc.)

Arrival 11th May.
Brisbane H.T. TAROONA, Fall River U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN,
R.A.F.A. AASE MAERSK, H.T. KATOOMBA, U.S. Transport ANHUI,
CREMER, depart Brisbane 11th, due Sydney (N.S.W.) 15th,
U.S. Transport BONTEKOE departs Brisbane 11th due Sydney (N.S.W.)
13th. U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT departs Brisbane 11th due
Newcastle 13th. Hospital ship CENTAUR departs Sydney (N.S.W.)
12th due Cairns 17th.
U.S. Transport MAETSUYCKER departs Thursday Island 12th due
Portland Road 13th.
(C.S.W.P.S.F. 121431Z to Admty. Connv.)
Arrival Wellington Hospital Ship MAUNGANUI.
(Wellington 121945Z to D.S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

188

War Diary.

12.5.1943.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 121353B, 121420B.)

War Diary.13.5.1945.
Thursday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

S.C.129

H.X.237,
U/B sunk
by
LAGAN.

1. Netherlands S/M O10 reported at 0801B that her diesel engines had broken down and that she was unable to effect emergency repairs. Her position was 63.26 N. 00.33 W (about 170 miles E.N.E. of the Faeroes), CHIDDINGFOLD and later BRECON and BRISSENDEN were sent to stand by her, pending the arrival of HALCYON to tow. O10 was brought to Lerwick on 16 May.

2. HESPERUS reported at 1115Z that the situation now appeared much easier, a 40° diversion having apparently shaken off most of the U-Boats. One U-Boat which attempted to attack during the night was heavily counterattacked.

3. C.2 (BROADWAY) reported at 0750Z today that a U-Boat which had been sighted on the surface 10 miles south of the convoy (which was in 48.35 N. 22.50 W) had been sunk by hedgehog. A later report from LAGAN stated that it was she who sank the U-Boat, in 48.37 N. 22.39 W. In his preliminary report dated 17 May on the passage of the convoy C.T.G.24.7 stated that BROADWAY destroyed a U-Boat by hedgehog with LAGAN and BITER's aircraft co-operating. There is no indication of the position, nor of the date, beyond the fact that it occurred between 9 and 13 May. The result of the convoy is given as 2 U-Boats destroyed, two reported damaged. Two stragglers torpedoed.* One BITER aircraft shot down and 3 lost by forced landings. The convoy was not attacked, thanks to the efficient air support by E.G.5 and excellent work of escorts.

x ? 4. 12 Bostons of Bomber Command with fighter cover attacked a merchant vessel in dry dock at Cherbourg; there is no report that the ship was hit, but a ship is believed to have been hit alongside a mole.

* A.M.231357B to Connav states that a third ship, SANDANGER, was also torpedoed and sunk, D.O.R. 373 states that KOOTENAY reported on 22 May that she had picked up 19 survivors from SANDANGER, about 170 miles W. by N. of Donegal Bay.

North Atlantic.

5. Gibraltar aircraft J/233 attacked a U-Boat at 1638B, with depth charges, in 37.04 N. 00.04 E. No results were seen.

13.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.X Bombardment
of
Pantellaria.

6. ORION escorted by ISIS and PETARD bombarded Pantellaria in the early hours of today. Two Albacores from Malta dropped flares. An M.T.B. and M.G.B. inshore patrol was established, and JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN and EASTON were also on patrol during the night N.W. of Pantellaria, to intercept ships leaving or approaching, ORION fired 20 broadsides from 10,000 yards, all of which fell in the harbour area. Only small craft were seen in the inner harbour. Two shore batteries returned the fire but our forces suffered no damage or casualties.

X Bizerta
and
Tunis.

7. L.C.T's and L.S.T's can now berth at Bizerta and there is anchorage for coasters. The port can handle 1000 tons a day. 16 mines were swept in the Bizerta area today. At Tunis, the canal is at present blocked but there are some berths for coasters and the port will be able to handle 500 tons a day as soon as the approach channel has been swept.

X Air
Attacks
on
Augusta,
Naples
and
Cagliari.

8. 9th Bomber Command Liberators attacked Augusta harbour today, 46 Malta Spitfires providing close escort and rear cover. The oil storage was set on fire. 21 Wellingtons of the strategic Air Force attacked the railway yards and docks at Naples last night. More than 100 escorted U.S. Fortresses of N.W.A.A.F. attacked the harbour and industrial area of Cagliari today. The attack was followed up by a further one by a similar number of escorted U.S. medium bombers. Direct hits were seen on several vessels which were left on fire, and one was seen to explode. Great damage was caused to the naval base, naval berths, oil tanks and installations in the town.

East Indies.X Future
use of
Aden.

9. In a signal to C. in C. Eastern Fleet and N.O.I.C. Aden, the Admiralty state that, as far as can be foreseen, the main requirement for Aden after the defeat of Germany will be for heavy transit traffic. Arrangements must be made to accommodate a force of 2 Capital Ships or carriers, 2 cruisers, 6 destroyers and 6 sloops, plus as many merchant vessels as can be fitted in. Proposals are asked for.

War Diary.

13.5.1945.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

America and West Indies.

10. Cominch reports MAMBI and the small tanker NICKELINER torpedoed and sunk at 130728 in convoy in 21.25 N. 76.40 W. in the North Bahama Channel about 120 miles N.W. of Guantanamo.

X Aleutians.

11. Approximately 5,000 U.S. troops have landed in the Aleutians. Surface vessels bombarded enemy batteries in the Holtz Bay area, (Attu) enabling the U.S. artillery to move up. An enemy submarine which attacked a large U.S. warship supporting the Aleutians landing was depth charged and believed sunk.

Australia and New Zealand.

X 12. A bombardment of Vila and Munda was carried out by a United States Task Force last night. No details have been received.

CENTAUR.

13. See 14 May.

War Diary.

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

S/M
Patrols.

Your letter 1023/S.M./04318 of 6th May 1943 approved.
2. With reference to para. 4 two submarines may be employed at one time. The break-out patrol is being dealt with separately in the light of C. in C. H.F's 101934.
(A.C.N.S. H., 130110B to F.O.S.)

KALE,
ROTHER.

My 090126 to Commodore Londonderry. Approval has been given to remove the LL equipment from KALE and ROTHER.
2. This equipment should be removed if possible during the present period vessels are in hand.
3. The equipment removed to be returned to the makers for overhaul and re-issue to meet urgent requirements of another service.
(D. of Dockyards, 131904B to F.O.I.C. Tyne, F.O.I.C. Cardiff).

EGERIA,
FLANDRE,
COMMANDER
NASMITH.

My 302206 April not to Humber, three ex M/S trawlers EGERIA, FLANDRE and COMMANDER NASMITH are to be sailed to Grimsby for conversion to fishing.
(D.S.V.P. 132102B to C. in C. Nore, F.O.I.C. Humber).

Proposed
retention
of Landing
Craft at
Scapa.

A.C.O.S., 111214. This would be at the expense of combined operational training and preparations for cross channel operations.
(C.C.O. 132126B to Admty).

Movements.

CHESHIRE

Your 121823. Regret no air escort available. Fighter protection has been arranged from 007° W.
(C. in C. W.A., 130311B to CHESHIRE).

BELFAST,
JAMAICA.

Hvalfiord arrivals F.O. 10th C.S. in BELFAST and JAMAICA.
(A.C.I.C., 130454 to C. in C. H.F.)

SCYLLA

Have reached P.L.E. My P.C.S. 042°45' N., 014° 30' W, 012° 17 knots.
(2) E.T.A. 0730B/15th.
(SCYLLA, 130901B to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M Movements

My 111823B. Delayed by fog. (TAKU, H.32) (C. in C. Plymouth, 130923B). Intend to sail P.214 escorted by LOCH MONTEITH for Dundee 0800B/14. Route.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 130951B to A.C.O.S.)

/Position...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

S/M Movements (contd). Position of S/MS at 0800B/14 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S., 131524B, 132329, 140856B, 141304B)
BARB and BLACKFISH, BRITISH USURPER all escorted by F.S. LA CAPRICIEUSE are southbound from Minches tonight.
(C. in C. W.A., 131616B to SALAMANDER).
My 111823B sailed. S. of A. 8 knots E.T.A. 0530B/16th. (TAKU, H.32).
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131705B).
Your 121053B. Intend sailing ULTIMATUM escorted by STELLA PEGASI to R/V as in para. (1).
2. When met STELLA PEGASI returns with SEADOG to Scapa. (A.C.O.S., 131805B).
Intend sailing HAKE escorted by CHANTICLEER from Clyde at 1000B/15 to 180° Barrahead, E.T.A. 2300/15.
2. Thence HAKE to assigned patrol-area proceeding on the surface at C.O's discretion to 018° W. thence dived by day to assigned area.
(Comsubron, 132118B).
N.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to sail CHANTICLEER to R/V with HAKE at Clyde boom at 1000B/15th and escort her to 180° Barrahead 10 miles.
(C. in C. W.A., 132126B to N.O.I.C. Greenock).
Cancel my 130951.
(S.O. S/M Lerwick, 132315B).

LAGAN On completion of escort duty with H.X.237 LAGAN is to proceed to Clyde to land bags of gold coin.
(C. in C. W.A., 131024B to BROADWAY).

ADVENTURE Your 121551. Approved.
(A.C.N.S. H., 131040B to ADVENTURE)
A.M. 111135 and ADVENTURE's 121551.
Request you will sail ADVENTURE on 18th May routed as follows: by Q.Z.L.18 to positions:
A Fastnet 180° 10 miles. B. 50° N. 13 W. C. 41° N 13° W.
D. 36° N. 10° W. Thence to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. H., 131834B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

DELHI Sailing DELHI, ORKAN, TUSCAN to R/V in 052° N., 006° W., at 0900B/14th.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 131501B).

MONTROSE Have abandoned search. E.T.A. Medway gate 1930B.
(MONTROSE 131613B to C. in C. Nore).

KENT Sailed KENT for Scapa in accordance with her 131200.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 132134B to C. in C. H.F.

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.S/M
Patrols.

- (1) Request you will sail HAKE 15th May for Anti U-boat patrol in accordance with my letter 1023/S.M./041318 of 6th May.
- (2) Area of operation is contained by line joining position W. 055° N., 037° W. X. 054° N., 042° W. Y. 050° N., 040° W, Z 051° N., 035° W.
- (3) The area is sub-divided into 12 squares each of approx. 60 mile sides. Squares numbered West to East one to three and North to South. A. to D. that is North West square is A one.
- (4) HAKE is sailing to patrol in square A.3 and will be moving to other squares according to information available.
- (5) HAKE is to be escorted to vicinity of Barrahead and thence proceeds on surface at C.O.'s discretion as far as 018° W, thence diving by day. Route will be signalled.
- (6) Comsubron 50 is requested to arrange bombing restrictions to cover route to 037° W. F.O.(S) will arrange restrictions to cover the patrol area.

(F.O.S., 131236 to Cdr. U.S. S/M Sqdn. 50).

Position of submarines at 0800B/14th and movements for following 24 hours.

- (A) HERRING vicinity 67° 45' N., 018° 55' W.
 (B) SHAD vicinity 68° 01' N., 016° 04' W.
 (C) TRUCULENT vicinity 66° 40' N., 018° 15' W.
 (D) SURF vicinity 67° 01' N., 016° 02' W.

(F.O.S., 131524B).

My 131236 para. 5. Following route for HAKE from (a) 180° Barrahead 8 miles through (b) 055° 45' N., 012° 01' W, thence by Great Circle to (w) 055° N., 037° W.

(F.O.S., 132231B to Comsubron 50).

Sweep off
French
Coast.

Striking force consisting of BLEASDALE and STEVENSTONE (1st Division) and GLAISDALE and LA COMBATTANTE (2nd Division) is to proceed along convoy route to C.2 A buoy and thence so as to pass through 050° 11' N., 000° 25' E., by 2330B/13th.

2. Force is to carry out sweep into Baie de La Seine returning through 049° 50' N., 000° 18' W., and 050° 03' N., 000° 18' W. (passage 4). The north end of passage 4 should be reached by approx. 0500B/14th.

3. Object of 1st part of sweep is to intercept enemy torpedo-boats which may be proceeding eastward from Havre. If torpedo boats are not intercepted the sweep to westwards of Havre is intended to intercept patrol-vessels of convoys.

4. 1 Albacore will sweep French Coast from approx. St. Valery en Caux to Havre and thence Cherbourg Peninsula passing Cap D'Antifer about 1 hour ahead of striking force. If Albacore sights enemy he will shadow and report.

5. Owing to suspected enemy mining ships are not to enter area between line joining following points except in pursuit of enemy: 050° 32' N., 001° 02' E, 050° 20' N., 001° 14' E, 050° 03' N., 000° 42' E, 050° 15' N., 000° 30' E. Attention is drawn to P.N.O.31

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131423 to Capt. D.1).

BLEASDALE, S.O. STEVENSTONE, GLAISDALE, LA COMBATTANTE patrolling to southward between Beachy Head, and Saint Catherine's Passes E.A.5 outward at 2030B/13 and E.A.3 inward at 0645B/14.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131541 to Admty).

/Coastal...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDSOperations.Coastal
Force
Patrols.

1. Intend M.L. 233 (S.O.) and R.M.L. 513 to patrol tonight on lat. 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W., and 02° 25' W.
2. Leave Portland at 2130 via Q.Z.S. 382 and leave patrol line at dawn/14.
3. Object anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Object" (F.O.I.C. Portland, 131441B).

M.Ls. 309 and 464 patrolling south of E.A. 5 buoy.
M.L. 233 and R.M.L. 513 patrolling 50° 20' N., between 01° 45' W. and 02° 25' W. Chasseur 13 at St. Helens and KINGSTON TURQUOISE at Yarmouth at immediate notice.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 131521B).

M.Ls. 141 and 257 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight buoys.

M.G.Bs. S.2, S.3 and 42 patrolling at Bullock Bank E.T.D. 2230 E.T.R. 0530/14.

M.A.S.Bs. 32 and 24 patrolling at V Buoy on completion of practice firing E.T.R. 0445/14.

(V.A. Dover, 131807B).

Allied Air Activity.Homing
procedure.

See Shipping.

Enemy Air Activity.Enemy
A/C
destroyed.

My 121515B and 121936B.
Further investigation shows that this Heinkel engaged by all vessels of the group and was heavily hit and believed destroyed, though not actually seen to crash. It is confirmed that

this is additional to the J.U.88 reported in my 121121B.

Delete name of RED GAUNTLET from my 121515B.

(C. in C. Nore 131203B to Admty.).

Mining.Skager-
ack.

Following intercepted at 0850 G.M.T. from Goteburg Radio begins:-
Floating mine observed today at 0500 G.M.T. 6 distance W.N.W. Hallo ends.
(Wick Radio 131105 to Lyness).

+ Yarmouth.

W.W. Sweepers detonated 1 Red Mine 1322 in 005° No.6. buoy 2 miles.
(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 131408B).
(Capt.M/S Yarmouth 151110B).

L.L. Sweepers detonated 1 red magnetic mine at 1936 in 340° 6 Buoy 1 mile.

(F.O.I.C.Gt. Yarmouth 131951B).

(Capt.M/S Yarmouth 151110B).

War Diary.

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

ALBATROSS Consul Helsingborg reports Minelayer ALBATROSS passed Helsingborg Northbound p.m. May 9th. (N.A. Stockholm, 131021 to Admty).

X Havre Photos taken on 13/1530/B May show:-
Le Havre east part of port only covered.
Four Trawler Type auxiliaries at Quai Jeanne Couvert, one auxiliary 100/150' in Bassin de la Citadelle
Arrival of one M/V 260' approx. in Bassin Bellot previously seen at St. Malo is only significant change in Merchant Shipping seen.
(R.A.F. Medmenham 132205B).

X Cherbourg Photographic R/C show 2 ELBING class destroyers and 4 T.Bs. in Cherbourg p.m. today.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 132207B).

X Bordeaux, La Pallice, Cherbourg. Photographic R/C p.m. today shows:-
Bordeaux: 3 NARVIK class destroyers.
La Pallice: 1 NARVIK class destroyer and 1 MOEWE class T/B.
Cherbourg 2 ELBING class destroyers, 3 T class, and 1 MOEWE class T/B.
(D.D.I.C., 132210B to A.I.G.21, F.O.S., H.Q.C.C.)

U-boats.

U-boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic.
Am over enemy S/M in 48° 43' N., 22° 15' W. (A/C 028G 130845B to 15 Group).
Have attacked enemy. (A/C 028E 130855B to 15 Group).
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 31' N., 28° 00' W. (A/C 84 sqdn. Duty.U. 132053B to Artunshofdi).
Attacked Sub. with 4 depth-charges. (A/C 84 Sqdn. 132105B to Artunshofdi).
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 16' N., 30° 48' W. (A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty G., 132230B to Admty).
Am over enemy S/M in 45° 39' N., 29° 51' W. (A/C 86 sqdn. Duty G., 132332B) See also Shipping.

Casualties & Defects.

0.10 Diesel engine broken down. Unable to effect emergency repairs. Request assistance. (True?) position 063° 26' N., 000° 33' W. (0.10 130801B to Capt. S.9).

Your 130801. Catalina leaves forthwith followed by Beau-fighters to act as A/A escort. Destroyer and Fleet M/S leaves Scapa forthwith.

(Capt. S.9., 131109B to PUFFIN, 0.10).

Proceed with all despatch to 063° 26' N., 000° 33' W. where D.S. 0.10 is broken down. Provide A/S protection pending arrival of HALCYON to tow. SATYR east estimated

/position...

War Diary.

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

O.10 position 062° 47' N., 003° 40' W., at 0800B/13
(contd). also proceeding to assist. A.O.C. 18 Group C.C.
co-operating.
(A.C.O.S., 131112B to CHIDDINGFOLD).

063° 26' N., 000° 33' W., and tow O.10 to Lerwick. Request
your E.T.A. position as soon as known.
(A.C.O.S., 131139 to HALCYON)

Your 131139. E.T.A. 1200/14.
(HALCYON 131246 to A.C.O.S.)

HALCYON left Scapa 1317. CHIDDINGFOLD left Scrabster
1225. CELIA left Lerwick 1400.

(A.C.O.S., 131459 to Capt. S.9.)

My 131112. Amend communication to read constant H.D.
and 4740 k/cs.

(A.C.O.S., 131533 to CHIDDINGFOLD).

On completion of practice proceed with despatch
west about Orkneys and Shetlands to join CHIDDINGFOLD to
provide A/S A/A and surface protection to O.10 until arrival
of Lerwick.

(2) A.C.O.S., 131139, 131111, 131303 refers.

(3) Appreciate you will reach position at 0900/14.

(C. in C. H.F., 131801B to BRECON, BRISSENDEN).

At 2200B tonight report situation briefly including P.C.S.,
addressing your signal to F.O.S. repeated A.C.O.S. and Capt.

(S) 9.

(2) CHIDDINGFOLD should arrive about 2359/13th for A/S protec-
tion until arrival of HALCYON who will tow you.

(3) HALCYON expects to arrive position as in your 130801 at
noon 14th.

(F.O.S., 131921B to O.10).

Fix 2030B, 063° 29' N., 000° 01' E. Stopped on surface.
Drifting 2 miles per hour to N.E. Battery half discharged.
Capt. (S) 9 131109B (2 groups missed) Catalina sighted.

(O.10 132200B to F.O.S.)

HALIZONES,
BELGIAN
FISHERMAN.

Consider it inadvisable to approach South
Ireland Coast in present weather. Ammaking
for Q.Z.S. 315 for Milford Haven.
(GOATHLAND, 131201B to C. in C. Plymouth).
C. in C. W.A.'s 122237B. GOATHLAND unattached
to report E.T.A. of tow at 051° 59' N., 006° 04'

W. to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.

2. N.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail JONQUIL to
relieve GOATHLAND at above R/V.

3. GOATHLAND to Milford Haven on relief. GOATHLAND pass to
MARAUDER.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131335B to GOATHLAND).

C. in C. W.A., 122242B. LORD STANHOPE is to report E.T.A.
in position 052° N., 006° W., to BERGAMOT.

2. BERGAMOT to take over escort of BELGIAN FISHERMAN at
above R/V.

If BERGAMOT is unable to keep R/V towing is to continue and
BERGAMOT is to overtake.

3. LORD STANHOPE to Milford Haven on relief.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 131901B to LORD STANHOPE, BERGAMOT).

/Expect...

War Diary.

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties & Defects.

HALIZONES,
BELGIAN
FISHERMAN.
(contd).

Expect to arrive off Hartland Point 2000B/14th.
Tow now making 7 knots.
(GOATHLAND, 131949B to C. in C. Plymouth).
One merchant ship in tow of one tug GOATHLAND
50.42 08.48 to Milford Haven 4.
(Capt. S.3., 132303B to S/Ms).

LEA

Request you will sail LEA at first opportunity
a.m. tomorrow to proceed at best speed to
Iceland (C). Arrangements are being made to
dock LEA on arrival for repairs to dome.
(C. in C. W.A., 131437Z to C.T.G.24.7).
Your 131621. LEA can be docked on arrival 16th
(A.C.I.C., 131915B to C. in C. W.A.)

LONDON

Your 121415B. Every endeavour will be made to
sail LONDON on May 24th. Request A.S. Rosyth
will confirm that ship can be received for
Tilt Test p.m./24th May.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 131800B to C. in C. H.F.)

EXE,
TOTLAND.

EXE and TOTLAND have been in collision in Firth
of Clyde. Request damage be examined and re-
paired. Damage is above waterline and will
probably not take more than 4 days to effect
temporary repairs which will last until next
refit.
(Capt. D. Greenock, 131956 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

- A.T. 42A. Convoy A.T.42A comprising AQUITANIA is due Tail of the Bank a.m. 18th May with approximately 6,370 personnel on board.
2. She is required to be ready to sail again about 1st June.
(D.S.T., 130201B.)
- O.N. 183,
O.N.S. 7. U-Boat transmissions possibly contact reports heard at 2226Z, 2306Z and 2346Z/12th. No fixes obtainable.
(D.D.I.C., 130241B to Escorts O.N.183, O.N.S.7.)
A.M. 130241. Further transmissions at 0133Z and 0301Z. It is considered that these and the earlier ones were from general vicinity of O.N.S. 7.
(D.D.I.C., 130716B to Escorts O.N.S.7, O.N.183.)
U-Boat in contact with convoy has transmitted at 0557Z, 0621Z, 0640Z and 0648Z.
(D.D.I.C., 131017B to Escorts O.N.S.7.)
- H.X. 237. One U-Boat on the surface 180° 10 miles. My position 048° 35', 022° 50'.
One U-Boat sunk. (C.2., 130655Z to C. in C. N.W. Atlantic.)
My 130655Z. U-Boat sunk by Hedgehog.
(C.2., 130750Z to A.I.G.303.)
U-Boat transmissions heard at 0442Z and 0548Z.
Inconclusive bearings indicate area between the two convoys.
(D.D.I.C., 130816B to H.X.237, S.C.129.)
One U-Boat 310°, 10 miles. My position 048° 55', 022° 25'.
(C.2., 130925Z to C. in C. W.A.)
My 130925Z. Add possible U-Boat 280° 15 miles.
(C.2., 131005Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Keep good lookout for survivors of FORT CONCORD torpedoed 120240Z straggler from H.X.237, position uncertain. Only 15 survivors so far picked up.
(C. in C. W.A., 131542B to Escorts S.C.129.)
Did you find U-Boat reported by Liberator B/86 by V/S at 121328Z and to OPPORTUNE at 121410Z.
(C. in C. W.A., 131855B to PATHFINDER, OPPORTUNE.)
Your 131855B. Yes. U-Boat dived after aircraft left.
(Corrupt group) (2 incomplete groups) in position 046° (incomplete group) N. (? 013°) (incomplete group) W. Searched for 2 hours without result. Consider U-Boat not damaged.
(OPPORTUNE, 122311Z to C. in C. W.A.)
If you consider convoy is clear of U-Boats detach ROSLIN CASTLE at daylight 14th to proceed independently through position (W) thence to Belfast for Avonmouth.
(C. in C. W.A., 132047B to Escorts H.X.237.)
- O.N.S. 8,
O.N.S. 9. My 291820Z April and my 011016Z May. O.N.S.8 will sail May 17th and O.N.S. 9 May 28th.
(C. in C. W.A., 130955Z.)

/S.C.129 ...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C.129. Situation now appears much easier. A number of chases followed by inconclusive attacks late yesterday and a 040° diversion to port seems to have shaken off most of the U-Boats. Only one attempted attack on convoy during night which was substantiated and the U-Boat heavily attacked. My P.C. and S. at 1030Z 044° 17' N. 030° 48' W., 026°, 7. Weather 6280 2506.
(HESPERUS, 131115Z to C. in C. W.A., (R) E.G.5.)
By D/F at 1249Z U-Boat estimated anywhere within 45 miles of 48° 00' N. 24° 30' W.
(D.D.I.C., 131527B to E.G.5, Escorts of S.C.129.)
KYKLADES straggler put into Horta, Azores.
(D.T.D., 131839B to C. in C. W.A.)
Since A.M. 130816B moderate W/T activity has continued from vicinity of S.C.129, and one or two signals have been intercepted from vicinity of E.65.
(D.D.I.C., 131912B to Escorts S.C.129, E.G.5.)
U-Boats attacked 1945Z in 048° 16' N. 024° 16' W. Hunt abandoned at 2230Z in order to rejoin BITER. No visible result.
(OPPORTUNE, 132309Z to BITER, Escorts S.C.129.)

North Russia. My 111119, para. 1. Intend to sail 3rd Group to White Sea on May 17th. No action has been taken on tanker movement pending Admiralty's decision.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 131145B to Admty.)

S.L.B.128. S.L.B.128. Ships are to proceed unescorted from position A.
(C. in C. W.A., 131306B.)

W.S. 30, MATAROA. Intend to sail and request fighter protection (A) one troop transport MATAROA escort H.M.S. BRIGHTON. (B) 2030/16 to 0230/18. (C) 2. (D) Leaving Breaksea light vessel 2030/16th by standard route to Clyde. E.T.A. 0230/18th.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 131641B to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

* Homing procedure in N.W. Atlantic. V.L.R. and L.R.A/S aircraft in the N.W. Atlantic due to normal weather cannot expect to meet convoys unless homing procedure is used. Strongly recommend that procedure B as laid down in A.C.I. Article 330 be adopted forthwith with additional instructions that homing will be commenced when the aircraft arrives within 100 miles of the convoy's estimated position. Further recommend in view of extreme unreliability and delay incident to V/S that R/T communication invariably be established between aircraft and escort Command upon arrival at convoy. Finally recommend that

/ A/S ...

501

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Homing
procedure
in N.W.
Atlantic.
(Contd.)

A/S aircraft be continually exercised in convoy homing procedure and R/T communication with escort vessels. Consider that until above recommendations are made effective the great advantage of A/S air escort will seldom be realised.
(Allied A/S Survey Board, 132044Z to C.N.S. Ottawa.)

K.M.F. 15.

A.M. 091530 para. 2.
Add ROYAL SCOTSMAN and ROYAL ULSTERMAN from Clyde. Destination Algiers.
(D.O.D.H., 132215B.)

Request you will sail ROYAL ULSTERMAN from Cardiff as early as possible on 18th May to the Clyde to embark landing craft and top up with fuel.

2. Request ROYAL ULSTERMAN may be sailed to join K.M.F.15.

3. If it is required to embark personnel these will join at Cardiff on 17th May.

(D.O.D.H., 132220B and 141216B to C. in C. W.A.)

P.W. 338.

Convoy P.W.338 is to proceed into Falmouth forthwith. CATTISTOCK and QUORN remain at immediate notice. N.O.I.C. Falmouth is requested to sail convoy at 0600/14.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 132301B to Escorts P.W.338.)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

Convoy E.T.20 EMPIRE NED towing STELLA CARINA unable to keep up. Proceeding (when) last seen P.C. and S. 36.26 N. 02.07 W. 028° 5½ knots at 0700A. Tug No W/T Trawler Gibraltar broadcast and 2410 kcs. per second R/T. Weather report. (HOLCOMBE, 130859 to F.O.C. Gib. (R) C. in C. Med.)

Spanish Trawlers, Suspicious Conduct. Your 051415. Only Spanish vessels of this name are two fishing boats 86 and 21 tons respectively and dredger 415 tons. Could aircraft have sighted first which is steam? (N.A. Madrid, 131015B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty. and S.O. (I) Gibraltar).

Dispositions. Situation 1957B/13th. TRIBUNE 35.55 06.19 through 36.37 07.24 at 0330/14th thence 274°. On the surface 9 knots until 0700/14th thence diving by day 9/2.

(2) LADY HOGARTH 2 Merchant Ships 35.10 06.50 through 35.47 06.24 to Gibraltar four.

(3) S/M SIMOON 39.03 10.01 through 38.50 10.01 at 2300/13th thence 162° diving by day 8½/2. (F.O. Gibraltar, 131034B.)

PASTEUR. Intend sail PASTEUR depart Casablanca 1000A/14 escorted first 400 miles by DD routed through Q.K.A. 92 as amended thence (route) thence Halifax S. of A. 19½ knots, first Chop 10° W. 1700A/14 second Chop 24° W. 0430A/16, Radio shift 20° W. 1830A/15. Communications accordance Vice Opnav 271232 codeword "Battle" associated call sign 126. (Commorseafon, 131238 to N.O.I.C. Halifax (R) C. Route, Cinclant, Admty., C. in C. Med. etc.)

TRIBUNE. Sailed S/M TRIBUNE in accordance with my 111534. Only such Q messages affecting passage to Plymouth or Portsmouth and extracts up S.R.N.T.M. 5116 carried. (F.O. Gibraltar, 131508 to Admty. F.O.S.)

TRIBUNE sailed 14/13th (route). Thence route "Rose". Diving by day 111 miles per day (F.O. Gibraltar, 131542B to P.225 (SIMOON), P.55 (UNSPARING) (R) TRIBUNE, F.O.S.)

Neutral Shipping Routes. Your 072033 part 5 not yet received. Am I to communicate these neutral shipping routes to Spanish Government? (N.A. Madrid, 131602B to Admty.) Reply 181710B.

/U/B...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic - Contd.

- U/B. Following read. Am over enemy submarine in 37.08 N. 00.09 E. sighted on surface and observed to submerge. Have attacked with depth-charges.
(A/C M.3 M.J via Gib. W/T., 131635.)
- UNICORN, Your 122325. Aircraft are being embarked with
Beaufighters. outer wings removed. Ships crane can be used for off loading. 2. Beaufighter Mark II are not fitted with additional tankage and have insufficient range for flight delivery to Gibraltar. 3. Aircraft cannot be flown off UNICORN.
(D.N.A.O. 131800B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.Med., C. in C.W.A.)
- SAENTIS. Swiss SAENTIS 4349 G.T. speed $9\frac{1}{2}$ knots, 3 masts no funnels national colours and Switzerland painted on black design, sailed 131830 for Genoa by approved route. Not to be interfered with this voyage.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 131901B to S. and A. in Area "G" Capt. (S) 10 H.Q. N.W.Af. Coastal Air Force, A.O.C. Malta, 8th S.F. (R) Admty.)
- Movement, May 13th U.S.S. P.C.475 arrived Casablanca from
Casablanca. Gibraltar.
(Commorseafon, 131935Z to C. in C.Med. (R) Cominch, Admty., F.O. Gibraltar, Commavnaw.)
- Movements, Arrivals. FARNDALE, VENOMOUS from Oran.
Gibraltar. TRACKER, U.S.S. GILLESPIE CARMICK, U.S. Tanker MERRIMACK with P.C.211, 214, 215, 216 from Casablanca, WISHART, VETCH from Oran.
Departures, ANTHONY to Bone, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN escort duties East.
(F.O., Gibraltar, 132049B to Admty., etc.)
- U/B. Following read: Am over enemy S/M in 36.28 N. 02.58 W. 280° 6. Sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C T7KQ via Gibraltar W/T, 132100B)
- Air A.I.452 May 13th. Op. Summ. No. 193 for 24 hours
Report. ended 1800 hours May 13th. (G) Sightings and attacks. Hudson J/233 on A/S sweep east at 1635B/12 attacked U-Boat in 37.08 N. 00.09 E. No details available. (I) Enemy aircraft activity. Nil.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar 132210Z)
- + Roubeing Your 121635B. A.M. 072033 does not apply to
of neutral Swedish vessels engaged in Gothenburg traffic
ships. which come under different rules and are those to which telegram mentioned in your message refers.
(D.T.D.132310B to B.N.A.Lisbon)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Movements
Dakar. Arrived 2200Z/12th DUMONT D'URVILLE.
Departure 1200Z French OUED FEZ, M.L. 1072,
M.L. 1231.
(Comar Dakar 130008Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.
N.O.I.C. Bathurst.)

Convoy
D.C.24. Sailing telegram. 2. 0051Z/13th May. 4. 17
knots to East London thence 15 knots.
5. Coastal reference Saldanha Bay A.Y.61 to 68.
6. REDOUBT. 15. Call sign Y.T.D.3.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 130121Z to Connav, etc.)

NAILSEA
MEADOW
(sunk.) My 121538Z. NAILSEA MEADOW. Amend position
and time to read 032° 04' S. 029° 13' E. at
2155 G.M.T. 11th May.
(N.O.I.C. East London 130443Z to Admty. C. in
C.S.At. N.O.I.C. Durban, N.O.I.C. Port
Elizabeth.)

Ref. C.A.F.O. 97/43. Shipping casualties para. 3. A. NAILSEA
MEADOW. B. British. C. 2155 G.M.T. D. 032° 04' S. 029° 13' E.
E. Torpedoed. F. Sunk. G. Casualties.
(N.L.O. East London 131431Z to Admty.)

Convoy
T.S.39. T.S.39 sailed 0630Z/11th May. Freetown E.T.A.
0600Z/14th May. Route "Orange" escorted by
FOXHOUND, S.O. of Escort, BOREAS, CATTERICK,
WITCH and 6 troop transports.
(N.O.I.C. Takoradi 110730Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty.
N.O.I.C. Lagos.)

TRUSTY. Arrival Pointe Noire 0900Z/13th CMDT. D'ESTIENNE
D'ORVES escorting S/M (?TRUSTY).
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 131005A to R.A.W.A. (R) Admty.
C. in C.S.A. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi.)

My 131005. Unless otherwise ordered intend to adhere to
onward programme (?TRUSTY), and sail her escorted by COMMANDANT
D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES to Freetown through 002° 30' N. 010° 00' W.
Do you concur?
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 131155A to R.A.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.
Lagos, (?N.O.I.C. Takoradi).)
Your 131155.

1. Sail COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting (?TRUSTY)
at 1200Z/14th passing through G.003° 01' S. 008° 02' E. at
0200Z/16th H. Equator 002° 59' W. at 0030A/18th. I. 004°
10' N. 007° 51' W. at 1100Z/19th thence to Freetown, keeping
as close to coast as safe navigation permits. E.T.A. 0600Z/21st
Speed made good 11 knots.
2. Total bombing restriction (?30) miles ahead and astern and
10 miles each side of estimated position is to be imposed.
3. TRUSTY may dive if attacked and is to report by immediate
signal if separated from COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES or if
outside limit of bombing restriction zone.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131605Z to B.N.L.O.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos,
N.O.I.C. Takoradi, A.H.Q.W.Af.)

/BULLDOG...

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

BULLDOG. Departure 121541Z BULLDOG escorting to Marshall.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 131035Z to Admty. (R) R.O.
Monrovia.)

PICT. Departure 121759Z PICT for Marshall.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 131036Z to Admty. (R) R.O.
Monrovia.)

SAVORGNAN Arrival 13th a.m.
DE BRAZZA (N.C.S.O. Duala 131045Z to Admty. etc.)

MALVINA. Cancel my 121046. Alter course at once direct
for position 117° 6 miles from Cape St. Lucia
thence coastwise to Durban. Acknowledge and
report forthwith to C. in C.S.A. your bearing
and distance from nearest altered position.
(C. in C.S.A. 131103Z to B.A.M.S. 3C, MALVINA.)

CORNEVILLE My 111120Z May. N.O.I.C. Takoradi reports
(sunk 9/5.) CORNEVILLE sunk in 13 minutes by 2 torpedoes
at 0445Z/9th May from German U-Boat large type
armed with 2 guns, painted light grey.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 131200Z to Admty.)

DISPOSITIONS. KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ALLIGATOR with KELT in tow
011° 20' 011° 35' to 018° 011° 20' 4½.
NEWCASTLE, ROTHERHAM, RACEHORSE, RELENTLESS,
LEWES with W.S.29, 014° 25' 010° 28' to 020°
010° 40' 12¼. FRITILLARY and NORWICH CITY with N.C.12, 023°
40' 014° 15' coastal to Capetown 9.
WORCESTERSHIRE 026° 50' 013° 25' to 021° 010° 13.
QUADRANT standing by wreck in 029° 45' 016° 50'.
REDOUBT with D.C.24 033° 50' 027° coastal to Capetown 15.
QUICKMATCH off St. Lucia R/V with J.M.1.
NIZAM 028° 45' 036° 30' to R/V 026° 43' 034° 14' 20.
JASMINE, LE TIGER, ST. LOMAN 026° 25' 037° 05' 026° 038° 10.
(C. in C.S.A. 131205B.)
Situation at 2002Z/13th.
CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol 008° 30' 027° 30' 14.
LEITH, ANCHUSA, AUBRETIA, AMARANTHUS, VIOLET, WHIMBREL,
COREOPSIS, BELLWORT (?2) M.L. with S.L.129 (?012°) 38' 017°
40' to 013° 00' 017° 47' thence 000° (?7.)
CHARON 013° 45' 017° 47' 000° 12.
AIMWELL, M.Ms. 105, about 012° 52' 017° 14' to Bathurst 8.
M.L. 256, 574, about 012° 38' 017° 35' to Bathurst 9.
BRIDGEWATER 010° 12' 016° 05' to 011° 02' 017° 23' thence 008°
10½.
QUERCY, LA GRANDIERE, 012° 00' 024° 47' 270° 13½.
U.S.Destroyers, ROPER, BAINBRIDGE, DECATUR with T.O.4 025° (?12°)
032° 12' 246° 13½.
(F.O.C.W.A. 131325Z.)

/Meeting...

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

Meeting of French Admirals. Your 111152Z. Yes. (Hd., of M.I. Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 131211B to F.O.C.W.A.)

Troop Movements Nigeria to India. Your 061724. Arrangements can be implemented providing no Escort by West African escorts is required for ships from Mediterranean to Freetown and/or South to Lagos. (F.O.C.W.A. 131501Z to D. of S.T. (R) Admty. C. in C.S.A. etc.)

X Saldanha Loop Defence. Admty. 091806 and 111200. Endeavour will be made to recover and relay loop. 2. Request you will send nucleus laying party to Saldanha Bay as soon as possible reporting numbers and date party will leave Durban. (C. in C.S.A. 131530 to MANCHESTER CITY, (R) C. in C.E.F. Admty.)

Wingfield Aerodrome. Your 232157 April. Following is proposed total number of W.R.N.S. to be employed at Wingfield. (C. in C.S.A. 131534 to Admty.)

CITY OF EDINBURGH. Flooded number 2, when fire positively under control, will open up and discharge that hold. (S.S.T.O. Takoradi 131640Z to D.S.T. (R) D.S.T.O.W.Af.)

Convoy N.C.12. Sailing telegram. 2. 1400Z/13th May. 4. 9 knots. 5. Coastal 23rd FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY. 12. Saldanha Bay E.T.A. 0800B/17th May. 15. WYD 1 to 9 codeword "Choice". (N.O.I.C. Walvis Bay 131601B to C. in C.E.F. Admty. etc.)

Convoy R.S.4A. Your 1220?0 May (originated by W.R.) Following is a repetition of S.O.(I) Freetown's 051731 May (Begins) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R) Admty. C. in C.Med. Commorseafron, Comar Dakar from S.O.(I) Freetown. Arrivals 1115Z/5th May 1943 COWSLIP with R.3.4A (Ends.) (Freetown C.C.O. 131725Z to Admty.)

Movements Takoradi. Arrival 13th May. M.L. 277, 305, 302, 287, 266, 244. Departure 13th May. DUNKERY, M.L.291 and 277 escorting to sea R/V and returning Takoradi 16th May. M.L.1016 and 1042 escorting to Accra, screening and thence escorting to Lagos for refitting ARRAN to R/V and returning Takoradi 14th May. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 131805Z to Admty. etc.)

/ADELFOTIS...

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic - Contd.

ADELFOOTIS
(sunk 1st
May.)

R. Off. Natal reports having received note signed by Chief Officer ADELFOOTIS, Greek, stating ship torpedoed 1st May in 003° 20' S. 021° 06' W. 19 crew landed Pitagui 12th May, other boat with 18 missing.
(B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro 131859Z to Admty.)

EMPIRE MIGHT.

Flooding of number 4 lower hold lower tween deck and upper tween deck will be completed p.m. tomorrow. Anticipate commence discharge Saturday. Subject to no further complications arising vessel will sail with W.S.30.
(D.S.T.O.W.A. 132107Z to D. of S.T. (R)
F.O.C.W.Af. Care. i/c Freetown.)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

X Minesweeping. "Antidote". My 122244A, carried out serials 13 and 14 only. 12th and 13th M/S flotillas carried out high percentage sweep of area L. and returned to Bone for fuel. Fighter protection for fleet sweepers "Wapping" 2.
(Cdre. C. 12th C.S. 130038A. to S.O.M/S Flotilla 12, S.O. M/S.Flottilla 13 S.O. Motor M/S.Flottilla 103, S.O. Motor M/S.F. 114 (R) C. in C. Med. S.O.I.S.)
(N.T. in W.R.) Your 122244A. and S.O. M/S.F. 13s.122133A.)
Have told S.O. M/S.F.13 to carry out his 122133 which is apparently considered necessary. Request any suitable opportunity may be taken to send me replenishment of dan buoys with extra wire and extra Sinkers.
(S.O. M/S.F.12. 130501A. to S.O.12 C.S. (R) S.O. M/S.F.13.)
My 130038A, 12th M/S.F. anchor off Bizerta on completion and carry out serial 11 tomorrow Friday. Report percentage of fuel remaining.
(F.O.12 C.S. 130652A. to S.O. M/S.F. 12 (R) S.O. M/S.F. 13, C. in C. Med. S.N.O. Trip.)
Intend to begin "Antidote" series 11 tomorrow Friday 14th. Report of today's progress to follow.
(S.O. 12th M/S.F. 131001A. to C.S.12. (R) C. in C. Med. S.O.I.S.)
Intend to begin QG serial 11 tomorrow Friday 14th. Report of today's progress to follow.
(M.S.12 131901A. to C.S.12. (R) C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S.)
"Antidote". Tomorrow Friday carry out Serials 11, 17 and 18. Fighter protection as follows:- (1) 12th M/S.F. Cornhill 2. (2) 103rd M.M.S. Flottilla Whitechapel 3. (3) 114 M.M.S.Flottilla Vauxhall 2.
(C.S.12 132018A. to S.O.12th M/S.F. S.O. 103rd M.M.S. F. S.O.114th M.M.S.F. (R) S.O. 13th M/S.F. C. in C. Med. F.O.I.S.)

TRIDENT. My position 043° 10' 009° 30'. Operation "Leg" landed R/V night 10th/11th, no contact made then or on following night. Operation "Etna" now impracticable due moon. Probable hit on merchant ship 12th May.
(TRIDENT 130120A to S.8. (R) C. in C. Med.)
Your 130120 acknowledged. Leave patrol passing 042° 59' 008° 01' at 2100/14th 038° 02' 004° 25' at 2058/17th thence R/V escort Algiers in 036° 57' 003° 02' at 0602/18th.
(Capt. S.8. 130920A. to TRIDENT (R) C. in C. Med. 8th S/M.F. F.O. Gib. Capt. (S) 10, Cdre. Algiers.)

Destroyer Your 121728 para. 1. sailed.
Reliefs. (F.O.C.S.12 130531 to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A.Malta S.O.I.S. Bizerta, A.I.G.263, A.I.G.266.)

L.C.Ts. Arrived and sailed at 0730 U.S.N. S.C.770 escorting L.C.T.28 and 31 in passage to Bone, calling at Bougie for night. E.T.A. 2330A/13. Speed 7 knots.
(Cdre. Algiers 130750A. to N.O.I.C. Bougie (R) N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Philippeville. C. in C. Med. Cominch, Comnavaw.)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- / ? U/B
14th D.F. Hydrophone effect probably torpedo heard at 0030 in position 056°. Kelibia Point 9 miles explosion 7 minutes later. No sign of surface vessel. A/S search continues in area. (no result, see 140549A)
6 Floating mines disposed of.
(14th D.F. 130816A. to C. in C. Med. (R) V.A. Malta etc.)
- Movements, 12th May arrivals JENNET M.L.384, 385, PANTHER, Beirut. PROTEA. Departures PANTHER. (S.O. (I) Beirut 130845C. to Admty.)
- ORION, Signal short report of bombardment giving bombardment estimated result and opposition encountered. of Pantellaria. (C. in C. Med. 130915A. to ORION (R) V.A. Malta.) W.D. Note:- See reference in 132229A.
- Movements, Arrival 12th May KELVIN, JAVELIN, HURWORTH, Alexandria. CROOME, ROCKWOOD, Gr. Dest. PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS, ADRIAS. (S.O. (I) Alexandria 130917 to Admty. C. in C. Levant.)
- Convoy Arrived (4 ships). E.T.20. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 130917A. to Admty. etc.)
- LAFOREY, Sail at 2000B today Thursday to comply with DULVERTON, C. in C. Med's. 122322 through 036° 15' N. MIAOULES, 013° 00' E. and 036° 10' N. 011° 30' E. EXMOOR. S. of A. 21 knots. Acknowledge. (V.A. Malta 131034 to LAFOREY, DULVERTON, MIAOULES (G.S.) EXMOOR (R) C. in C. Med. F.O. (C) 12th, F.O.I.S.)
- Convoy My 091154 (091140 intended) para. 8. Delete M.K.S.13. and substitute BANFF, LAMERTON, WILTON, LAUDERDALE. (C. in C. Med. 131101A. to F.Os.i/c. and N.Os.i/c. French North Africa. (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca). F.O. Gib. Admty. Connav. S.O. Force 'H' Capt. (S) 8th.)
- M.K.S.13. For U.K. Tugs JAUNTY and HENGIST towing two parts H.M.S. PORCUPINE, EMPIRE OPOSSUM. For U.S. H. MARSHALL, ELLIOT, GATEWAY CITY. LORRAINE, NARANIO, WILLIAM JOHNSON. Cdre. Algiers is requested to allocate Pendant. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 131115A: to Admty. F.O. Gibraltar, C. in C. Med. Connav. (R) Cdre. Algiers.)
- M.K.S.13. My 131115A (?add) JAMES MUNRO, VINLAND, JAMES GUNN, MEANTICUT, EZRA CORNELL all for U.S. (Com. N.O.B. Oran 131620A. to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

G.U.F.8. Request you will sail convoy G.U.F.8. at 2000A/May 18th S. of A. $13\frac{1}{2}$ knots.
(2) Route through 56.73 3.16 lettered A. to D. thence via Q.K.A. 87 and (E) 35.39 N. 07.01 W. to R/V with Casablanca Section in position (F) 34.07 N. 09.11 W. at 0700A/May 20th. (3) Gibraltar Section join in position 16 at 1400A/May 19th with local escorts. (4) Ocean route as in A.M. 101910 not to F.O.H. (5) First two letters of W/T call sign 9.T. Incon 339. (6) Fighter priority 3, codeword "Irving" 173. (7) Escorts, two escorts detailed by F.O.C. Gib. and three destroyers detailed by F.O.H. Escorts are to return to Gibraltar after R/V. (8) F.O.C. Gib. is requested to sail escorts to Oran as requisite.
(C. in C. Med. 131115A. to Com. N.O.B. Oran (R) F.O.C. Gib. Commorseafron. F.O.H. Cominch C. & R. C. in C. W.A.)

GLOXINIA. Codeword "Evolution". Leave Tripoli 131500A for Malta. S. of A. 13 knots. Route Blaze Hug 0500 E.T.A. 0800A/14. Fighter protection normal. V.A. Malta is requested to take in hand for boiler cleaning and repairs.
(S.N.O. ? Trip., 131135A. to GLOXINIA (R) Naval & Air Authorities Trip, negative Benghazi.)
Sailed GLOXINIA.
(S.N.O. ? Trip., 132050A. to Admty.)

S/M. Movements summary in area GC. at 2000A/13.
Dispositions. 1. TRIDENT Gulf of Genoa. 2. P.43 (UNISON) North of Cape Gallo moving to pass $038^{\circ} 00' 011^{\circ} 30'$ at 2359/14 thence Malta. 3. TROOPER $038^{\circ} 10' 008^{\circ} 12' 089^{\circ} 10$ knots. 4. All S/Ms. diving by day $2\frac{1}{2}$ knots surface speed as indicated. 5. P.221 (SHAKESPEARE) East Corsica moving North. 6. P.217 (SIBYL) South East Sardinia. 7. P.247 (SARACEN) $039^{\circ} 53' 010^{\circ} 30' 000^{\circ} 9$ knots.
(Capt. S.8. 131138A. to S. and A. in Area G.C. (R) C. in C. Levant, Capt. (S) 1.)

Situation, Situation on relief, both areas QQ and DD quiet.
TARTAR. No boats seen today Thursday. Zembra Is. apparently cleared of escapers. 23 taken from Zembrettathis morning Thursday. Enemy air by day nil. By night very slight and no attacks.
Fighter Protection good. Total number of prisoners 58.
Unexplained mine explosion in 37.10 N. 10.44 E. at 1125A, 2 miles from nearest ship.
(TARTAR 131144A. to C. in C. Med. Capt. (D) 6. (R) C.S.12. V.A. Malta, Destroyers on patrol.)

BICESTER, Sail at 1900A/13th passing through position A, QUEEN OLGA. 090° Sousse 30 miles at 2100A, thence through $035^{\circ} 00' N. 012^{\circ} 30' E.$ at 0140/14th, E.T.A. swept channels 0815A/14th, code word "Rose" request fighter defence normal.
(N.O.I.C.Sousse 131200A. to BICESTER, QUEEN OLGA, (R) All cruisers and destroyers operating between Bone and Malta.)

/Corrupt...

511

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

- BICESTER, (Corrupt Group) BICESTER delayed. Hope to sail
QUEEN OLGA, a.m. tomorrow Friday.
(Contd.) (N.O.I.C. Sousse 132129A. to V.A. Malta (R)
C. in C. Med. BICESTER, G.S. QUEEN OLGA.)
- N.A.A.F. N.A.A.F. Opsum No.81. 12 May. Strategical 11/12.
Report. 22 Wellingtons attacked Marsala dropped 4 X
4000, 32 X 1000, 66 X 500, 46 X 250 bursts in
Harbour and large fire started in docks. Some
aircraft believed Nazara del Vall. and Trapani.
No ops. Day 12. 12 May, U-Boat hunt, 4 Hudsons,
2 Swordfish. Convoy escort, 4 Hudsons. 1 attacked fully
surfaced U/B with 3 depth charges nearest exploding 25ft. from
port quarter M.K. swirl results unseen.
(N.A.A.F. Adv. H.Q. 131214A.)
- Italian Admty. 111814B. Italians announce that on
Repatriations. passage from Trieste to Gibraltar, repatriation
liners will signal their position en clair on
wavelength of 600 metres every 15 minutes.
(Head of M. (I) 131218B. to C. in C. Med.)
- X Jijelli Sub-Depot has been established at Jijelli owing
Sub-Depot. to congestion at Algiers. A.L.M. 052926/43
dated 3rd April just received. (2) Spare gear
should be consigned to L.C.M.S.O. (Jijelli) via
Algiers or Bougie as most convenient.
(3) For information. Local resources hope to
handle 25 major engine overhauls per month. (4) C.C.O. pass to
L.C.M.S.O.
(C. in C. Med. 131240A. to Admty. (R) V.A. Malta C.C.O. C. in C.
Levant, D.N.C.X.F.)
- SOEMBA. Arrived at Suez 13th date of departure 14th.
(SOEMBA 131300Z. to C. in C. Netherlands Forces
in East, (B.S.O.) Netherlands, N.H.Q. London.)
- WHADDON, Indications of moored mines 037° 11'.5 N. 010°
mines. 48'.5 E.
(WHADDON, 131327A/5 to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.
12th C.S. Capt. (D) 6th D.F. All cruisers and
destroyers operating in area between Bone and
Malta.)
- UNBROKEN. After passing P. at 1100A/15th proceed to patrol
in area C.E. and F. E. of 014° E.
(Capt. S.8. 131332A. to P.42 (UNBROKEN) (R)
Capt. (S) 10th S/M.F. 8th S/M.F.)
- UNITED, Intend to sail P.44 (UNITED) for patrol as
ULTOR. ordered by Capt. (S) 8th at 1700B/14th routed
through 036° 08' 014° 22' thence 037° 07' 013°
15' thence through (P) at 1200/16th.

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.UNITED,
ULTOR.
(Contd.)

2. P.53 (ULTOR) sails at 1600B/14th for patrol in area 190 routed through 035° 10' 015° 40' thence 038° 20' 017° 52'.
(Capt. S.10. 131423B. to C. in C. Med. Capt. (S) 8th. (R) P.42 (UNBROKEN) Capt. (S) 1st, S/MS. on patrol, C. in C. Levant, TROOPER, P.43 (UNISON.)

Situation
Report
No.29.

Benghazi 2nd Minesweeping Flotilla has completed sweeping of British minefields to North-East.
2. Alexandria - British tanker DELPHINULA ran aground off Great Pass 1430/10th May. Ship holed port side flooded throughout, salvage in progress. Convoy of 20 merchant ships from Malta and Tripoli (L) arrived 12th May, no incidents. 3. S/MS. PARTHIAN on return from Aegean patrol reports sinking a 50 ton heavily laden Caique by gunfire 0950/4th May in 36° 36' N. 26° 48' E. At 2010/5th May in 38° 20' N. 27° 46' E. engaged a S/M chaser ALBATROSS class with gunfire. 5 hits registered before being forced to dive by return fire. Several depth charge attacks PARTHIAN's forward periscope damaged.
4. At 2015/7th May she bombarded railway at Platamona with 41 rounds at 800 yards. 30 hits registered on railway and in addition two Caiques hit. PARTHIAN forced to retire due to intense machine gunfire. One rating killed. ((S) 1's 121833 to Admty. only refers.) (NT. - W.D.)
(C. in C. Levant 131423C. to Admty.)

L.S.Ts.
L.C.Ps.

33 L.S.T. (2) numbered 8,9,11,12,13,62,65, 159/162, 164, 199, 322, 324, 410/412, 414/417, 419,423, 425/430, have one L.C.P. (R) each on board. 2. Request that these L.C.P. (R) on arrival in your command be numbered in accordance with C.A.F.O. 2553/42 L.C.P. (R) 964 to 996 in consecutive order of above L.S.T. (2) numbers, and confirmation of allocation reported in the Monthly State of Landing Craft. (D.N.E. (C.O.) 131425B. to C. in C. Med. (R) S.O.A.S.C. C.C.O. C. in C. Levant, B.A.D.)

D.14.

When relieved as in C. in C. Med's. 122322 return to Malta through 036° 10' 011° 30' and 036° 07' 013° 00'.
(V.A. Malta 131448B. to Capt. (D) 14th D.F. (R) All Cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta, Med. Addressees, S.O.I.S. F.O.12th C.S.)

American
M.T.Bs.

In several recent signals reference has been made to American M.T.Bs. operating in Med.
2. Are these Elco boats of 10th Flotilla or American manned M.T.Bs? If the latter, how many are operating and what type are they?
(D.D.O.D. (C) 131456B to C. in C. Med.)
Reply: 160924A.

/Movements...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements, Aden. Arrival 0557Z EREBUS. Departures 1156Z BATHURST and SIMBRA in company. 1428Z EREBUS. (Cdre. Aden 131459 to Admty. etc.)

M.T.B. Sweep. Your 130 (403 or 916). Intend sailing M.T.B.635 (S.O.) M.T.B.656, 633 M.G.B. 647 at 131730A direct Ras Mahmur, then sweeping 4 miles from coast to Sidi Daud thence direct to Bone. Speed 18 knots. E.T.A. 0900A/14th. Code word "Ralph" 987. M.T.B. 634 (S.O.) 640, 636 M.G.B. 644 same speed and route, 2 hours later. Code word "Daring" 978. Wireless guard on Malta 170 kc/s and 2150 kc/s. (N.O.I.C. Sousse 131500A. to C. in C. Med.etc.)

KINGSTON. Your 052153 April, para. 5, request particulars of serviceable items recovered from KINGSTON may be reported in due course. (D. of D. Bath 131501B. to A.S. Malta.)

MOLDE, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN. Request you will sail MOLDE and HUDDERSFIELD TOWN in next convenient convoy to U.K. (C. in C. Med. 131517. to F.O. Gib. (R) Admty. C. in C. W.A.)

SIBYL. P. 217 (SIBYL) leaves to patrol through 038° 45' 009° 59' at 0330/16th, 037° 59' 004° 01' at 2230/18th thence R/V escort for Algiers in 036° 58' 003° 08' at 0600/19th. (Capt. S.8. 131534A. to S.8. (R) C. in C. Med. Cdre. Algiers.)

Cable Repairs. Request you will sail MIRROR to Algiers in U.G.S. 8. to carry out work in para. 2. (A) Of A.M. 121404 and arrange for MARIE LOUISE MACKAY to carry out work in para. 2. (B) With local escort for repairs near Gib. sailing thence at first convoy opportunity for Algiers to complete diversion. (C. in C. Med. 131554A. to F.O.C. Gib. (R) Admty. Comm.Algiers.)

P.R.U. May 13th visuals. 1240 Taranto 2 battleships 2 cruisers. (V.A. Malta 131600B. to C. in C. Med. etc.)

Convoy T.E.22. Arrived (list). Escorted by MULLET and WHITING. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 131646A. to Admty. etc.)

Malta. Question of command and Governor's position in relation to armed forces and Middle East Defence Committee. (Mideast 131747Z. to Air. Min. for Chief of Staff.) See Lion Copy.

MOST

SECRET

513A

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

MOST SECRET

MESSAGE

131747Z/May

IN

FROM: Mideast.

DATE: 14.5.43

RECD: 2345Z +

CYPHER

ADDRESSED: Air Ministry Repeated Malta for Governor.

Malta - Command and Administration

IMPORTANT:

IZ.1756. CC/237. 13th May, 1943.

For Chiefs of Staff from Mideast Defence Committee.

1. With reference to OZ.771 dated 10th/ March, 1943, and our reply No.CC/203 of 23rd March, we have again been considering the question of Command in Malta and reviewing the Governor's position, both in relation to the Armed Forces in and passing through the island, and in relation to Middle East Defence Committee.

2. As Malta is a fortress we consider that the Governor should remain as at present the Commander-in-Chief. Moreover, we consider that he must have local command and full responsibility for local administration of all army and air forces passing through the island so as to enable him to ensure order and discipline in the fortress. He should be empowered to exercise operational command of troops passing through but only in respect of anti-aircraft defence measures or in case of emergency for the defence of the island against airborne or seaborne attack. We see no prospect of the latter contingency arising but it must be taken into consideration.

3. Paragraph 6 of OZ.771 should stand except that problems which cannot be solved locally should not necessarily be referred to Middle East Defence Committee but rather to Allied Force Headquarters.

4. Troopers Telegram No. 63630 dated 24th March, indicates that the boundary between A.F.H.Q. and Mideast is likely to be the frontier between Tripolitania and Tunisia thence across the Mediterranean to junction

Albanian/

Albanian-Grecian frontier. This would put Malta within the sphere of A.F.H.Q. which in view of its position is operationally logical. Malta will play only a small part in Mideast operations in that some naval and air forces co-operating with us may be based on Malta. The naval and air forces already operate under command of C. in C. Mediterranean and Air Command Mediterranean except when used in the direct defence of the island. From the operational point of view, therefore, we do not consider there is any valid reason for Malta to retain its connection with Middle East Defence Committee.

5. Middle East still remains responsible for the maintenance and administration of Malta. We recommend that as soon as supply from the west is assured this responsibility should pass from us except for such items of Eastern Group supply as can more easily be met by Mideast.

6. The question which next arises, where ultimate responsibility for Malta should rest. The Colonial Office will presumably continue to be responsible for civil administration, but the alternatives as regards service responsibility appear to be

(a) Service Ministries in U.K.

(b) A.F.H.Q.

(c) The 3 British Service Commanders in North Africa.

7. As regards (a) we feel this is probably the best solution provided of course that the naval and air forces in the island should still operate under the Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean and Air Command Mediterranean as at present. We are opposed to (b) because it virtually puts the defence of the island under an American which we regard as bad from the point of view of prestige and morale. As all 3 Service Commanders in North Africa are in some circumstances under General Eisenhower's Command and the Commander of the Land Forces is specifically his deputy, we consider that (c) is objectionable on the same grounds as (b).

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

- 3 -

8. We, therefore, recommend that the Governor should in that capacity be directly under the Colonial Office and in his capacity as C. in C. should be under the Chiefs of Staff. Such naval and air forces not specifically allotted for the defence of the island as the C. in C. Mediterranean and Air Command Mediterranean wish to base on Malta should continue to be commanded by them. The same should apply to land forces except that those passing through should be under the local command of the Governor and C. in C. while in transit and at his disposal for A.A. Defence and in emergency to repel attack.

9. We recommend that the above should be implemented as soon as possible with the exception of Middle East's responsibility for maintenance, which we should retain until supply from the west is assured.

10. We have discussed this telegram with Lord Gort who is here. He agrees that his present functions are in need of modification in view of the changing military situation.

131747Z

4 161625/3 + Held for check and repeat.
Recd. in War Reg. 15th May.

1st Lord	
1st S.L. (2)	Circulation:
D.F.S.L.	Brig. Jacob
4th S.L.	Foreign Sec.
5th S.L.	First Sea Lord
V.C.N.S.	C.6 Tels. War Office
A.C.N.S. (A)	A.M.C.S. (C)
A.C.N.S. (H)	S. of S. for Colonies.
A.C.N.S. (F) (2)	
A.C.N.S. (W)	
Sec.	
Nav. Sec.	
N.A. Mails.	
D.O.D. (H) (2)	
D.O.D. (F) (2)	
D.N.I. (4)	
D. of P. (2)	
D.C. (2)	
D.D.I.C. (2)	
D. of P. (Q)	
Hd. of M. (2)	
I.P. (2)	
W.D.	
Adm. Blake	

13.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

X Balloon Intend sailing on 14th May.
Equipment 1. L.C.T. 578 with 20 tons (incomplete group)
for steam pump equipment, 60 tons, R.A.F. balloon
Bizerta. equipment, 35 tons, hanwood party equipment
and remainder hanwood party at 1800A. E.T.A.
1300A/15th. Fighter protection "Lerwick" 3.
2. SALVENTURE and KING SALVOR escorted by
SHIANT and INCHMARNOCK and carrying (corrupt group) and
(corrupt group) 894 and 981 balloon Squadrons at 2100A. E.T.A.
1015A/15th fighter protection "Hackney" 2. 3. Both routes
037° 18' 008° 55' 037° 25' 009° 46' 037° 21' 009° 46' 037° 21'
009° 56'. 4. Request you will sail SHIANT and INCHMARNOCK
to Bloody Foreland as early as possible.
(C.S.12 131802A. to F.O.I.S. (R) C. in C. Med. etc.)

U/Bs. Estimated U/Bs. in Western Med. One attacked
at 130840A, 36.45 N. 00.06 W. the same as in
my 121 (?404, 609, or 637). (N.T. in W.D.)
Otherwise no known change.
(C. in C. Med. 131814A. to F.O.I.C. Gib. S.O.
Force "H" F.O.I.S. etc.)

U.G.S.14. Your 111710 para. B. and Connav 121609. In
view of present altered circumstances now
suggest U.G.S.14 to Algiers instead of Oran.
(C. in C. Med. 131820A. to Admty. (R) Connav.etc.)

NEWFOUNDLAND. Sailed Hospital Ship NEWFOUNDLAND 131700A.
S. of A. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots. (Route) to Belfast for
onward routeing to Avonmouth.
(Cdre. Algiers 131833A. to Admty. etc.)

X Security Admiralty's 121934 (121935 intended) prefixed
of M/Vs. immediate was received at a time of acute
in operational congestion of W/T line in the
Occupied battle of Tunisia. It is observed that we have
Ports. been in occupied ports in North Africa for the
last six months. (2) I have no remarks on
items A. to D. My general instructions to
F.O.I.C. and N.O.I.C. as regards Limpet attacks
and anti-sabotage precautions were originally issued in
T.S.G.S. and subjects remain substantially recorded in M.S.G.O.
on Reprint. (3) I am fully confident that Flag O.I.C. Bizerta
will take appropriate action, making best use of patrol craft
and Naval or D.E.M.S. personnel at his disposal and Military
sentries without requiring large additional number of Naval
personnel from U.K. at a time when I am assured on all sides
that our manning situation is acute. (4) There may be scope
for additional Military Police in dock area. If so this will
be dealt between A.F. H.Q. and War Office.
(C. in C. Med. 131844A. to Admty. (R) F.O. Bizerta.)

Convoy Following received. One shadowing aircraft,
A/C. convoy "Cleopatra" position 36° 58' N. 03° 10' E.
(ANTHONY via Nore W/T 131920B.)

/JERVIS...

13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

JERVIS,
NUBIAN,
PALADIN,
EASTON.

JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, EASTON shift patrol during night N.W. of Pantellaria, keep outside 100 fathom line B, intercept ships approaching or leaving Harbour. Return area GG and HH at daylight.

(C. in C. Med. 131922A. to All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta (R) N.O.I.C. Malta.)

LAFOREY,
WHADDON,
EGGESFORD,
DULVERTON,
EXMOOR,
ESKIMO,
LOOKOUT.

On arrival in Patrol Area LAFOREY join WHADDON, EGGESFORD in DD and QQ, leaving DULVERTON, EXMOOR, in GG and HH. On arrival of LAFOREY in DD, ESKIMO, LOOKOUT proceed to Bone.

(C. in C. Med. 131923A. to All Cruisers and Destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta (R) N.O.I.C. Malta, F.O.I.S. C.S.12, Med. Addressees.)

SPLENDID,
SAHIB
(lost).

Your 041945 Approved.

(Head of Military Branch II. 131959B. to C. in C. Med.)

Movements,
Oran.

Today's arrivals:- WHITING, MULLET. Today's departures:- WISHART, VETCH, ILEX, HAYDON, U.S.S. KALK, U.S.S. HARRISON, and H.S. AMARAPOORA. (Com.N.O.B. Oran 132001A. to Admty. etc.)

Aden.

Moorings for heavy traffic. (Admty. 132009.)
See East Indies.

Movements,
Algiers.

Arrivals:- M.M.S. 21, 33, MINNA?, ILEX, Y.M.S. 34.
Departures:- M.T.B. 670, 667, 654, 655, 658.

M.G.Bs. 648, 663, 657, ILEX, Hospital ship NEWFOUNDLAND.

(Cdre. Algiers 132027A. to Admty. etc.)

Arrived Y.M.S. 34.

(Cdre. Algiers 132028A. to Cominch, Comnavaw.)

X
French
Warship
Refits and
New
Construction.

Following points arose at an interview with Adm. Michelier today 13th May. 2. Cruisers. U.S. authorities state that they are ready to accept GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE, one on 1st July and one on 8th July. Michelier wishes to send them over but would like Admty. concurrence as it means no French cruisers for South Atlantic patrol unless or until Force "X" should become available. Michelier urges strongly that most important thing is to get these cruisers modernised and I full concur. He would like cruisers as they are refitted to work in Med. Request very urgent reply on this matter as U.S. are awaiting his answer to conclude necessary arrangements. 3. Manning new construction. Michelier now states that contrary to previous information he is very short of personnel and that if Admty.

/are...

13.5.1943.
Thursday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

French Warship refits and New Construction (Contd.) are able to provide escort vessels as put forward in my 081956 he will only be able to send crews for perhaps two ships at a time to take them over and bring them out after a brief working up period. In fact his strongest objection to sending crews to England is his fear of De Gaulle propaganda of which he has had bitter experience. 4. Propaganda. The Admiral asked for strongest measures to be taken to keep secret and to avoid comment on Godfroy negotiations. He quoted a most harmful broadcast from London at 1430/12th May on 22.10 metres, purported give opinions of "Washington Star". I am referring this matter to Minister Resident for urgent action.
(C. in C. Med. 132044 to Admty. (R) F.O.C.W.A.)

U-Boat. Following read. Am over enemy S/M in 36.28 N. 02.58 W. 280° 6, sighted on surface and observed to submerge.
(A/C 07K/Q. 132100 in Alexandria.)

Movements, Sousse. Arrival G.S. QUEEN OLGA. Arrived and left M.T.B. 634, 640, 636. Motor G.B. 644 for Bone. Departure M.T.B. 656, 646, 633, Motor G.B. 647 for Bone. Departure M.T.B. 62, 261 for Malta.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 132131A to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant.)

ZAHRA. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Tobruk 132135C. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant.)

Malta Air Report. A.I.563 C.S.R. 13th May. Part 1. Air night 12/13th. Successful intruder patrols were made by Mosquitoes over Eastern Sicily and Southern Italy. Attacks were also made on coastal vessel off Point Stilo still on fire as a result of previous Beaufighter attack (see my A.I.551) 2 Albacores dropped flares co-operating with Naval Bombardment of Pantelleria. 3 Beauforts made armed shipping search South of Gulf of Taranto. Day 13th May. 46 Spitfires provided close escort and rear cover to 9th Bomber Command. Liberators attacking August Harbour. Close escort was provided from R/V at Cape Passero to the target, and to 50 miles East of Syracuse on the homeward journey. Several enemy fighters were seen, but no attack was made on bombers on return journey. Para 2. Enemy air activity nil. Day 13th. 7 Beaufighters provided escort for incoming Naval Units.
(A.H.Q. Malta 132135Z.)

PAPANICOLIS. My 131726. Arrivals Port Said. N.T. in W.D. Add PAPANICOLIS.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 132200C. to Admty. etc.)

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War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

B.D.Vs. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar's 101817B, and your 112214A. BARBERRY and BAROVA should be ready to leave U.K. about 17th and 25th May respectively. 2. BARCOCK and BARNDALE follow about 24th and 30th June. 3. CONSBRO and PANORAMA are on passage from Casablanca. 4. The arrival of these vessels in Mediterranean should ease situation regarding Boom Vessels. (D.B.D. 132221B.)

Movements,
Malta.

Arrivals:- ORION, ISIS, PETARD, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS, TETCOTT Italian ship LAURANA. Departures:- LAFOREY, DUNVERTON, EXMOOR, MIAOULES (V.A. Malta 132228 to Admty. etc.)

Situation
Report 95.

1. During night 11th/12th May M.T.Bs. on patrol off Sidi Daud took 8 Germans who were making for Zembra. 2. Only minor boat activity was reported by destroyer patrols round Cape Bon Peninsula on 12th May. DULVERTON collected a further 75 prisoners and TARTAR 58. 3. Italian hospital ship TOSCANA was intercepted approaching Kelibia on 12th May and ordered to return to enemy territory as the area was now under allied control. 4. 11 mines were swept on 12th May off Ras Engela where clearance operations continue. 5. Algiers was raided by about 8 aircraft at 2045/12. SS. DORSET COAST was damaged by near miss and subsequently capsized. 4 aircraft claimed shot down by gunfire and one by fighters. 6. Berths are now available in Goulet Dulac, Bizerta, for L.C.Ts, 4 L.S.T. can berth at Cavalier Nord, and anchorage is available in Avant Port for Coasters to handle 1000 tons per day. At Tunis the canal is at present blocked but berths are available at La Goulette for 3 Coasters stern to South Quay at 23 feet draught and 550 feet of North Quay is cleared for discharge over Lighters at 18 feet draught. The Port can handle 500 tons per day as soon as the Approach Channel has been swept. 7. ORION escorted by ISIS and PETARD carried out bombardment of Pantellaria at 0200/13. Twenty broadsides all fell in harbour area from 10,000 yards range. Only small craft observed in inner harbour. Two shore batteries about 4" returned ship's fire. No damage or casualties. M.T.Bs. established inshore patrol during bombardment to intercept any forces leaving. (C. in C. Med. 132229A. to Admty.)

N.W.A.A.F.
Report.

To Brereton and Eaker C.G. 9th Air Force, C.G. 8th Air Force. From Spaatz H.Q. N.A.A.F. Advanced N.R. 3816. 3. 3 Hudsons attacked a fully surfaced U-Boat 70 miles N. of Mostaganem dropping 3 depth charges, within 25 feet of swirl as U-Boat submerged. 4. Night 11/12 May, 1943, 22 Wellingtons dropped their usual assortment from 10,000 to 12,000 feet on Marsala. Many bursts seen in harbour area and large fire started in dock area. (N.W.A.A.F. to Etousa. etc.)

/Enemy...

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13.5.1943.
Thursday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Enemy
Unit.

Following read. Have obtained A.S.V. contact
in 38.24 N. 13.34 E.
(A/C FAV/V. 132330B.)
Following read. One medium sized enemy M/V in
38.24 N. 13.35 E. course 090° speed 15 knots.
(A/C FAV/V. 132340B.)

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War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

- 55th Flotilla. Departure 55th Flotilla Fairmiles less 475 and 476 for Madras.
(N.O.I.C. Vizagapatam, 120131Z to Admty)
- DEVONSHIRE, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. Reference P.S.T.O. Middle East's 041757C not to last three addressees. DEVONSHIRE is being retained in Middle East on arrival in B.A. 43.
(2) CHRISTIAAN HUYGENS is required to arrive Middle East by 10th June if no D.E.M.S. or other preparatory work is necessary on arrival in Middle East. Otherwise she must arrive earliest possible.
(3) If she is not required to proceed to Middle East for D.E.M.S. etc. work she may be employed as desired by you provided date of readiness in Middle East given above is not prejudiced.
(4) Request report.
(D. of S.T. 130205B to P.S.T.O. India, (R) P.S.T.O.M.E., C. in C. E.F., F.O.R.S.C.A, F.O.C.R.I.N.)
- Convoy Programme. (1) Following programme of escorts is to be substituted for that given in my 090708. B.P.89 MADRAS, HIRAVATI. B.P.82 BOMBAY, KONKAN. B.P.83 NIMHURST, LAUNCESTON. B.P.84 PUNJAB, CARNATY. B.P.85 MADRAS, BENGAL. (2) F.O.C.R.I.N. is requested to release BENGAL in time for B.P.85 unless either KHYBER or RAJPUTANA can be made available which appears to be most unlikely. (3) Refits of PUNJAB and LAUNCESTON will be postponed until KHYBER, RAJPUTANA and ORIFSA are in service again.
(F.O.Ceylon, 130631Z to S.N.O. Persian Gulf, N.O.I.C. Aden, Com. R.I.N. (R) C. in C. E.F., F.O.C.R.I.N. Admty)
- M.M.'s. Reply From S.N.O. Persian Gulf.
My 051318Z (Re request all names of M.M.'s in Eastern Fleet out of action over 5 months) re serviceability of ships is blank.
(C. in C. E.F. 130634Z to Admty)
- TINHOW, Torpedoed survivors. 68 survivors landed at Chai-Chai 40° 65' from Inhab at 2230B/12th May from British Ship TINHOW torpedoed at 1930B/12th May (But see 131005B following).
Details later.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 130850B to Admty, C. in C. S.A., C. in C. E.F. Cdre. Durban.)
- My 130850. TINHOW sunk by torpedo 5 miles Eastwards of Limpopo River at 0410B/11th from German submarine with 2 large guns and one large steering gear forward. Number somewhat like U.23 on bows. 68 survivors, 172 at present unaccounted for. SSSS made. Portuguese tug is searching for survivors. 2 torpedo hits.
(C.S.A. Lourenco Marques, 131005B to Admty, C. in C. S.A. C. in C. E.F., Cdre. Durban.)
- Movements. Departure KARACHI escorting CITY OF LONDON.
(N.O.I.C. Karachi, 131021Z to Admty)

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Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.Movements
(Contd.)DAUNTLESS, STORMWRACK, SATSA left.
(F.O.E.Af. 131121 to Admty (R) F.O.Ceylon,
N.O.I.C.Aden.)Convoy
M.B.35.M.B.35 CLYDEFIELD sailed 0830Z/13th escorted
by BALUCHISTAN S. of A. 9½ knots E.T.A. Bombay
1000Z/17. Route: (A) 07° 10' N. 78° 19' E.
(B) 07° 56' N. 77° 14' E. keeping approx. 10
miles off shore to Bombay.
(N.C.S.O.Colombo, 131052Z to Admty (R) C. in C
E.F. F.O. Ceylon, F.O.C.R.I.N., Com. R.I.N.)BERAKIT
(sunk
7/5)BERAKIT sunk by torpedo and gunfire from
Japanese U-Boat 0556 (Y?) 7th May in 003° 40' N.
075° 20' E. F.O. Ceylon 111050 May refers.
(C. in C. E.F. 131111Z to Admty (R) F.O.Ceylon)U.S. Pacific
Fleet
dispositions.A.M.061050/May. Changes in disposition of U.S.
Pacific Fleet.
NORTH CAROLINA, VICTORIOUS, COPAHEE At Sea.
BARNES, In South Pacific. TRENTON, at Balboa.
W.VIRGINIA, at Seattle. WASHINGTON, ENTERPRISE,
at Pearl Harbour. BRENTON and INDIANAPOLIS at
San Diego.
(D.O.D.(F) 131222B to C. in C. E.F.)

RANPURA.

Departure.
(S.O.(I)Bombay, 141305Z to Admty etc.)

Movements.

Colombo arrivals 13th. 0500Z CANTON.
Addu Atoll 0930Z BALUCHISTAN.
(F.O. Ceylon, 131413Z to Admty etc.)X Aden,
Moorings
for
heavy
traffic.(1) As far as can be foreseen, main requirement
for Aden after defeat of Germany will be for
heavy transit traffic. Arrangements must be
made to accommodate a force of: 2 Capital Ships
or Carriers. 2 Cruiser, 6 Destroyers, 6 Sloops
plus as many Merchant vessels as can be fitted
in. A revised berthing plan should be forwarded
showing your proposals to give effect to these
berthing requirements (Details)
(Director of Navigation, 132009B to C. in C. E.F., N.O.I.C. Aden.
(R) C. in C. Levant, F.O. R.S.C.A.)Kilindini
R.D.F.
Cover.H.S. 41413 May T.O.O.131156B. Your A.610 May 7
referring to Air Min. A.X.617(061000) May 6.
Brought my notice by A.H.Q.E.A. Please say
what South Africans and what equipments to be
taken over by them for operation.
(Dechief, 132102B to Perapduæ Cairo)

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

D/F H/F D.F. Bearing 082 degs. (?U-boat) exceptionally
U/B near at 2250Z from 045 degs. 29' N. 050 degs. 32'
W.

Am dispersing with O.R.P. GARLAND, ESCAPADE, to
Dragons Mouth 40 miles.

(S.O. Escort Group B.3. 130030Z to A.I.G.302 (R) ST.ALBANS,
Escort Group B.3. Escort Group H.X.238).

B.3's 130030 received corrupt transmission on 4600 kc/s at
2250Z 12th fixed within 120 miles of 44.30 N. 32.30 W.

(N.S.H.Q. 131426Z to Admty. (R) S.O. E.G.W.8. Connav,
C. in C.W.A. S.O. E.G.C.3. A.C.I.C. F.O.N.F. H.Q.C.C. C. in C.
N.A. Cmdre. (D) Argentinia Cmdre. (D) W.A.).

B.3. Group My 121611 (121600 intended) and F.O.N.F's 122019.
O.N.181 All corvettes at R/V Escort Group B.3. except
RANUNCULUS (?RENONCOLE intended) Kingston ample
fuel.
(S.O. Escort Group B.3. 130050Z to C. in C.N.A.
Admty. etc.).

UGANDA Intend to sail UGANDA at 1030Z 14th as routed by
your 121745. S. of A. 19 knots. Guarding B.N.
continuously and Halifax L west of 35 west.
(Comtask 24 130155Z to Admty. (R) UGANDA, C. in C.
W.A. C. in C. Atlantic Fleet, N.S.H.Q. C. in C.
U.S. Fleet, F.O.N.F. C. in C. Plymouth).

Movements St. Johns N.F. May 12th. Arrivals PELICAN WEAR,
ex O.N.S.6. Departures ALGOMA, SAMSONIA,
NORTHERN SUN, SKEENA, MAYFLOWER, BITTERSWEET,
PICTOU, EYEBRIGHT. GALT to join H.X.238. ORILLIA
sailing independently to U.K.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 130349Z to Admty.).
Halifax arrival LORD KELVIN.
(C. in C. N.A. 130852 to Admty.).
U.S. Naval Authorities report M.L's Q 1175 and Q 1174 depart
Antilla 12th due Guantanamo 13th.
(B.R.Liaison Officer Havana 131104Q to Admty.).
Departure FENNEL NANAIMO to St. John's N.F.
(C. Halifax 131153 to Admty.).
Trinidad departure 13th CLARKIA.
(S.B.N.O. Trinidad 131402Z to S.B.N.O.W.At.).
Departure MONTGOMERY to St. Johns N.F.
(C. Halifax 131611 to Admty.).
San Francisco 11th TORRENS (Nor) for Noumea. JOHN BARTRAM
for Sydney N.S.W. both U.S. Army Transports.
(N.S.H.Q. 132142Z to D.N.I. Wellington).
Arrived at Balboa 13 May MONOWAI.
(Cmdr. Panama S.F. 132214Z to C. in C.U.S. Fleet (?Comtask
24)).
Departures THE PAS to O.N.181 UNGAVA for Gaspe.
(C. Halifax 132221Z to Admty.).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.-contd.

U.S. Submarine Notice. S/M Estimate 13th May. (Cominch 130730Z, 131444Z, 131445Z, 131522Z, 131523Z, 131524Z).

Movements Summary at 1800 G.M.T. 13th.	Ship.	Position.	Course.	Speed.
	CARNARVON	08 degs.N	Patrol	Blank.
	CASTLE	28 degs.W.		
	F.S.QUERCY	12 degs.N. 24 degs.W.	270 degs.	13.
	(D.O.D.(F) 131101Z to Opanav (R) Comnavau).			

Convoy T.B.14 Sailing telegram (10 Ships list). (2) 1500Z/13th. (4) 8 knots. (5) (Route). (6) U.S.S. GOFF, U.S.S. SIREN, CLARKIA, U.S.S. P.C.488, P.C.494, P.C.577. (B.R.L.O. Trinidad 131103Q 131106Q to Admty.).

MELBOURNE STAR (British) torpedoed 2nd April. My 101114 May. Following particulars supplement previous reports attack was by two torpedoes from submerged submarine. First torpedo struck at approx. 0300 A.T.S. April 2nd, second torpedo followed almost simultaneously ship blew up 1½ minutes later. Submarine last seen approx. 0800 A.T.S. steaming in an easterly direction. One other raft got away with 7 Crew (no Officers) on board but part company on April 3rd. Description of submarine No Number but shield transfixed with Submarine lighting device word "Hamburg" painted in black on conning tower flying Swastika Flag. (B.R.L.O. Bermuda 131110P to Admty. (R) S.B.N.O.W.At. N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy short titles Request allocation of short titles for Convoys Drake's Island to Merauke and Sydney (N.S.W.) to New Caledonia and vice versa. (Cmdr. Pacific S.F. 131203Z to Admty.).
Australia and New Zealand

X Merchant Shipping from U.S. routeing. Your 120103 para.3. (Routes for Merchant ships bound from U.S. West Coast destined for India and Persian Gulf) Yes. (D.T.D. 131314B to B.A.D. (R) N.S.H.Q. B.R.L.O. Cristobal).

Air Report Canada. A995 13 May. (B) A/S patrols 18 sorties operational. A/S patrols 32 sorties training. Enemy sighted S.1. Can Baker of 5 Squadron sighted periscope at 1515 G.M.T. 12 May in position 45.10 N. 49.50 W. while flying in heavy fog at 50 feet. Sub. apparently not in motion but laying on course 295 T of reciprocal. Attack carried out with 4 250 lb D/Cs dropped within 5 seconds of first sighting. No further sight of U/boat due heavy W.X. Preliminary assessment no evidence of results

/due...

War Diary.13.5.1943.
Thursday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.Air Report
Canada
-contd.due W.X. Corvette K.223 in vic. investigating.
(H.Q.E.A.C. Canada 131330Z to Air Min.).

NIGERIA

Request you will signal - (a) Estimated sailing date of NIGERIA for U.K. (b) Details of outstanding work to be completed on arrival if any. (2) NIGERIA will probably proceed to Chatham. (D.O.D.(H) 131410B to B.A.D. (R) NIGERIA, C. in C. Nore. A.S.Chatham).
Reply: 141848Z.

WEST POINT

U.S.S. WEST POINT departed Ambrose 131103Z for Casablanca. S. of A. 20 knots. (Estimated time) 0530Z 20th.
(P.D. New York 131510Z to Admty. N.S.H.Q. C.E.S.F. Cdr. North West African S.F. Connv, (R) Cinclant, C. in C.Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar. Cdr. 3rd N.D. New York, Director N.T.S. V.C.N.O.).Convoy
H.X.239
Escort oilers
and ships
carrying depth
charges.Convoy H.X.239. Escort oilers.
SCOTTISH HEATHER full cargo Admiralty fuel platform and rail. GULFDISC full cargo U.S. Navy special fuel American canvas. PRESIDENTE DE VOGUE full cargo Admiralty fuel five inch English canvas. Ships carrying depth charges.
SCOTTISH HEATHER flotation 55 improvised 40. PRESIDENTE DE VOGUE improvised 60.Alusnob Halifax pass to C. in C.C.N.A. for info. Conroute to B.A.D.
(P.D. New York 131516 to Admty. (R) C. in C.W.A. C.E.S.F. Alusnob Halifax, F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Conroute).Convoy
sailings.

My 302042 April. Sail H.X. 241 May 25th instead of 24th. Otherwise H.X. as already promulgated. (Cominch C and R 131523Z to C.E.S.F. (R) Admty. C. in C.W.A. C. in C.C.N.A. N.S.H.Q. Comnaveu, P.D. New York).

B.Y.M.S.

When ready about 0800Q May 14 depart Throggs Neck proceed Boston via Long Island bound and Cape Cod Canal. Report Comtask Group 02.1 for onward routing to Halifax. Arrival Halifax report C. in C.C.N.A. for orders. Speed 10 knots.
(C.E.S.F. 131548Z to B.Y.M.S.68, 31, 186, 187, 209 (R) Cominch Comtask Group 02.3 Comtask Group 02.2 Comtask Group 02.1 C. in C.C.N.A. Comtaskforce 24, N.S.H.Q. F.O.N.F. Admty. C. in C. Lant.).

Dispositions

Section North West W.B.20 SARNIA TROIS RIVIERES
46.34 59.25 270 degs. 7 alter for Sydney in
59.30 West S.O.47 AYRESHIRE, VILLE DE QUEBEC
48.28 63.18 335 degs. 7.5 alter to 309 degs. in

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Dispositions -contd. 49.01 North and 268 degs. in 64.43 West MISCOU, PAYNTER, BAFFIN, patrolling Cabot Straits WESTMOUNT escorting S.S.KYLE Port Aux. Basque approaches inbound.
(C. in C.C.N.A. 131630Z to Admty.).
As amended 140130Z.

Soviet Call Signs. Vice Opnav's 121301 (Reports Soviet Merships do not use wartime call signs) being passed N.S.H.Q.'s letter N.S.1008-12-15 dated 15th January refers.
(N.S.H.Q. 131856Z to Admty.).

Convoy F.H.53A Arrived less IONIAN.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax 132006Z to Admty.).

CAPE ARGONA collision with wharf. On 1st May CAPE ARGONA collided with Gas Company wharf whilst berthing doing damage estimated at 3000 dollars. Consider ship responsible. Request approval for repair by civilian contractor. S.232 report follows.
(F.O:N.F. 132025Z to Admty.).

Convoy H.X.239 Completes my 122208. Sailing telegram part 1 H.X.239 7. 32 ships.
(P.D. New York 132035 to Admty.).
(1) Sailing telegram part 2. H.X.239.
(32 Ships, list etc.).
(P.D.New York 132220Z to Admty.).

Convoy W.B.20 Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Sydney 132037Z to Admty.).

Shipping Casualties Connav Serial 13.
FORT CONCORD torpedoed 12th in convoy H.X.237
NAILSEA MEADOW torpedoed 11th off East London.
MAMBI and NICKELINER torpedoed sunk 13th. Position 21.25 N. 76.40 W in convoy.
(Connav 132054Z to Comnav).
21.25 N. 76.40 W in convoy.
(Connav 132054Z to Comnav).

U/B Convoy O.N.S.7. D/F transmission on 12215 k/cs. at 1812Z indicates U-boat in your vicinity.
(D.D.I.C. 132055B to Escorts of O.N.S.7. (R)
Cominch, N.S.H.Q. A.C.I.C. C. in C.W.A. H.Q.C.C.).

River Group Convoy Arrival special river group two less PORJUS.
(N.C.S.O. Quebec 132126Z to N.C.S.O. Halifax).

Convoy U.G.S.8A. (1) Sailing telegram Part 1 .
(2) 1800Z May 14 point Z seaward end swept channel

/ (3) ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Convoy (3) Position K at 1400Z May 16. S. of A. 8½ knots.
U.G.S.8A. (4) 1st "Chop" 0500Z May 28 diversion control
-contd. changes from Connav to British Admty. 2nd "Chop"
1600Z May 31 diversion control changes from
Admty. to C. in C. Med.
(5) Route.
(6) Task force 66. U.S.C.G.C.BIBB, S.O. U.S.C.G. INGHAM U.S.
Destroyer BABBITT, GREER, UPSHUR, U.S.S.DOYLE, U.S.S. PIONEER,
U.S.S.PORIENT, U.S.S. THREAT, U.S.S. ESCALANTE escort tanker
also Task Group 21.3 U.S.S. CARD, S.O. U.S.S. BRISTOL, U.S.
Destroyers LUDLOW WOOLSEY. Stand by escort Tankers PAN FLORIDA
210 feet 4 inch rubber wire reinforced hose side fuelling with
throttle flange and 4 inch adaptor.
ANTIETAM 210 feet 4 inch rubber wire reinforced hose.
(P.D.New York 132134Z to Connav (R) C.E.S.F. Cdr. Northwest
Africa S.F. Admty. C. in C, Med. N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
U.S.N. O.B. Bermuda).
Continuation see 142350Z.

Sub attack All times Z. Para.A. MAMBI and NICKELINER
and torpedoed sunk 21.25 N. 76.40 W. 130728. Surface
sighting craft attacks sub area 44.00 N. 30.00 W. night
summary. 12th and 13th. HESPERUS sights three subs on
surface are a 43.10 N. 30.55 W. 121930. Para.D.
Two B-18's have made contacts 36.25 N. 74.15 W.
and 37.11 N. 73.40 W. 1345 to 1700 on 13th. Sub reported
20.06 N. 71.50 W. 120100. Surface vessel reports possible sub
23.26 N. 80.16 W. 122342.
(Cominch 132136Z to Admty.).

Australia and New Zealand.

ORMISTON Steamship ORMISTON (5832 tons) was attacked by a
(British) submarine 0414Z 12th in 030 degs. 16' S. 153
attacked by degs. 23' E. when in convoy. Vessel was torpedoed
U/B. in number 1 hold but was able to proceed to
Coff's Harbour. No casualties.
(A.C.N.B. 130746Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. N.Z.N.B.).

Digest Serial (2) British ship ORMISTON (5800 tons) torpedoed
No.478 May 12th. in convoy at 0414Z/12 in 30 degs. 16' S. 153 degs.
23' E. Nil casualties and ship reached Port Stnd.
(?).
(3) Forenoon Photos Kavieng show 2 merchant vessels of 2000 tons
each and 1 coaster in Harbour also minimum 14 fighters, 11
medium bombers on Aerodrome.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. ?

Digest Serial / (6) After dark Catalina located submarine 40 miles South of Gasmata course West.
No. 478
May 12th. (7) Morning search Liberator sighted 1 cargo ship of 2000 tons in Wewak Harbour and another similar vessel approaching through Muschu Strait.
-contd. Photos from second R/C one hour later show single subchaser and several barges in Harbour.

(8) Pictures Hansa Bay reveal new wharf under construction and several barges.

X (10) After midday enemy R/C plane over Milne Bay and probably another later over Woodlark Island.
(G.H.Q.S.W.P.A. 130818Z).

Convoy Short Titles See Page 522 (Under Pacific S.F. 131203Z)

Movements

Arrivals Port Melbourne 12th.

ADELAIDE Townsville 11th. BUNBURY 12th.

GOULBURN Lithgow 13th. U.S. Destroyer MUGFORD

Thursday Is. 12th. INVERELL Sydney (N.S.W) 12th. U.S. Destroyer

BROOKS departure Brisbane 12th. U.S. Destroyer PERKINS U.S.

Destroyer CONYHAM for Townsville Milne Bay 12th.

BROOME for Townsville Fremantle 13th. U.S. Seaplane Tender

HERON for Exmouth Gulf.

(A.C.N.B. 131321Z to Admty.).

Arrival 12th May MERAUKE U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS Brisbane

Fleet Auxiliary Oiler KURUMBA (Aust.) KING ROAD U.S. Transport

MAETSUYCHER. Hired transport DUNLROON depart Port Moresby 12th

due Cairns 13th hired transport TARDONA depart Brisbane 12th

due Townsville 14th R.A.A.F. store ship WENAKA depart Brisbane

12th due Townsville 15th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 131359Z to Admty.).

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.

(D.D.I.C. 131341B, 131355B).

Submarines Attacked.

? Assessments As from 0001Z May 15th Cominch will assess all attacks on targets known or believed to be U-boats made by U.S. Forces and by forces of nationalities not British or American operating under American control.

(2) Admiralty will assess remainder of such attacks with following exceptions:-

(a) C. in C. Levant will assess such attacks made by forces under his command.

/(b)...

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U/BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Attacked.

Assessments
-contd.

(b) C. in C. Eastern Fleet will assess such attacks made by forces under his command.

(c) A.C.N.B. will assess attacks by local A/S forces in Australian waters.

(3) Reports of attacks should be forwarded in the usual manner through Administrative authority to the assessing authority as set out in para.2.

(4) A.G.M. 154A of 13th Aug. 1942, is cancelled.

(A.C.N.S.(U.T.) 132250B to A.G.M. Home and Abroad 872 A ,

(R) A.M. H.Q.C.C.).

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.

X Attack on
enemy convoy
off Hook.

(Minesweeper M.8
sunk)

M.T.B's. 234, 244, 241 and 232 carried out a sweep last night of the enemy convoy route from Noordwijk to the Hook for a possible northbound convoy. A southbound convoy escorted by 4 T.B's. or M class minesweepers and a number of E or R boats was attacked off the Hook; two of the T.B's. or minesweepers were hit with torpedoes and the bow of one was blown off and the other broke in half. Our forces sustained only slight damage.

2. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, GLAISDALE and LA COMBATTANTE carried out a sweep last night into Baie de la Seine, to intercept torpedo boats which might be proceeding eastward from Havre, or patrol vessels or convoys. There was no result. The force was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft off Cap d'Antifer.

O.N.S.7.

3DF bearings this afternoon indicated U/boat near O.N.S.7. E.G.3 (OFFA, PENN and PANTHER), proceeding from St. Johns N.F. to overtake S.C.130 were ordered to support O.N.S.7.

4. Albacore aircraft attacked 5 enemy ships, probably M class minesweepers or trawlers in approx. 49.28 N. 00.40 N. steering northerly at 01.09 and it is thought one was hit and sunk.

X 108 Fortresses and 17 Liberators of U.S.A.VIII Bomber Command attacked F.Krupp Germania shipyard at Kiel today. Targets at Ijmuiden and Antwerp were also attacked.

3 Enemy
A/C's shot
down by
Trawlers.

5. M/S Trawlers destroyed by gunfire in the early hours of this morning three enemy aircraft operating off Harwich, viz. RED GAUNTLET and STELLA LEONIS or D.217 at 0210; LORD MELCHETT and STELLA RIGEL a J.U.88 at 0213; and ETRUSCAN, RAYMONT, EXAHNE and WAR WING a J.U.88 at 0220. Minelaying is suspected in the Thames Estuary. Several ground mines were detonated off Orfordness today.

TUSCAN
mined.

British mine

6. At 0235B DELHI, escorting two valuable ships, reported that destroyer TUSCAN had been mined or torpedoed, probably the former, off Hartland Point and was being taken in tow for Milford Haven by ORKAN. TUSCAN is in no danger of sinking. A tug was sent to take over the tow and brought TUSCAN to Milford Haven this evening. Traffic was diverted and the area was swept.

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War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.SITUATION REPORT.South Atlantic.

7. The local schooner DIVA, with petrol and Kerosene in transit to Natal, was destroyed by an explosion this morning in the inner harbour at Pernambuco. The cause is not yet known.
- X 8. A United States Naval Observer Post has been established at Sao Luiz, Brazil.
9. Admiralty concur in the proposal that GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE should proceed to the U.S.A. for refit as soon as they can be accepted.

Mediterranean.Situation
in Tunisia.

- X 10. Destroyers patrolled off Pantellaria last night and around Cape Bon today. Captain (D) 14, on relief in the Sicilian Channel, reports no shipping off Pantellaria or in areas GG and HH since the cessation of the "Kelibia Regatta" on Wednesday. He has 96 prisoners.

? M.W. 27.

11. V.A. Malta reported that total general cargo of 22,532 tons completed discharge at 1830 today.

Air
Operations.

- X 12. Wellingtons from Malta last night bombed a train ferry in 39.02 N. 17.14 E. approaching the Gulf of Taranto and it seems likely that it was sunk.
- X R.A.F. heavy bombers attacked Messina last night. 23 Wellingtons of N.W.A.A.F. bombed Cagliari last night. Bursts were seen near the naval arsenal and some bombs were dropped in the dock area. About 50 B.17s of N.W.A.A.F. bombed Civitavecchia Harbour today. Hits and near misses were made on 3 large and 3 small merchant vessels in harbour and large fires were started on shore. 36 B.26s bombed Porto Ponte Romano (Sardinia) and made many hits on the carbonisation plant which was set on fire.
- The escort of 40 P.40s half of them carrying bombs, dropped bombs on Calasetta and Caterina; the dock and a small vessel were hit at Calasetta.

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Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air
Operations
(contd).

- 54 B.25s escorted by 87 P.38s 11 of which carried bombs, dropped 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs on Olbia harbour (Sardinia) where 2 large and one small vessels were sunk and others hit and damaged, including a tanker. Bombs also fell in the dock and town area.
- X 12 P.38s bombed Porto Torres (Sardinia) and made a direct hit on a dock where 2 small ships were moored, and 2 hits on a ship in the harbour. Some bombs fell in the town.
- Wellingtons again attacked Cagliari today.
- 4 Malta Beaufighters attacked 3 F/boats today off Siderno Marina (toe of Italy) setting one on fire.
- X 13. ILEX was slightly damaged by a near miss and had 3 ratings killed, during an air raid on Bone at 2201 today.
14. H.D.M.L. 1154 was destroyed, probably by a mine, whilst patrolling the Bizerta Approaches at 2245 today. There were several casualties.

America & West Indies.

- / 15. During the period when large numbers of prisoners must be transported from North Africa, the U.S. Atlantic passenger rules have been modified to provide that numbers in U.S. ships will be decided in each case by the C. in C. Allied Forces, but adequate guards must be furnished and the life-saving capacity of each ship is not to be exceeded.
16. Convoy O.N.180 arrived at New York today complete - 33 ships.
- ? Convoy U.G.S.8 A, which left New York today, for the Mediterranean, includes 80 ships. The Commodore is Admiral H.D. Cooke, U.S.N.

War Diary.

14.5.1943.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT

Australia & New Zealand.

Hospital
Ship
CENTAUR
sunk.

17. The hospital ship CENTAUR, on passage from Sydney to Cairns, fully illuminated was sunk by torpedo before dawn today (at 1800Z/13) in 27.17 S., 154° 05' E. (50 miles east of Brisbane). No evidence of sinking was received until 35 hours later, when it is reported that 55 men and one nurse were rescued out of a total of over 300 aboard.

U/B sunk

18. U.S.S. GANSE VOORT is believed to have sunk a submarine by depth charges and gunfire in the North Pacific today.

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Policy.Proposed
new S/M
Patrols.

X C. in C. H.F. 101934. Admiralty concurs.
2. Request your proposals for the future
employment of these submarines.
(D.O.D.H., 141212B to F.O.(S).)
Your 141212. As first action it is proposed to
establish anti U-Boat patrols in Greenland Sea
to northwards to Shetlands on approximate line joining 064°
30' N. 007° 30' W., 064° 20' N. 000° 55' E., 062° 50' N. 002°
30' E.
SHAD, TRUCULENT and SURF for this purpose.
HERRING to be diverted through Denmark Strait to augment anti
U-Boat patrol in area now allocated to HAKE in my 131236.
Admiralty's 130110 refers. C. in C. U.S.F. in E.W. concur.
(2) Long term policy as regards U.S. S/Ms to be decided later.
The six S/Ms of Subron 50 are eminently suited with their long
endurance and habitability for operations in Atlantic and it
might well be possible to employ all of them on anti U-Boat
patrols in mid Atlantic, three being on patrol continuously.
(F.O.(S), 142136B to Admty.)

X Russian
congratu-
lations.

On conclusion of North African operations.
(Ad. Fisher, 141652C to Admty.)
(30 Mission, Moscow 141830C to War Office.)

North
Russia.

Under consideration to sail single destroyer to
North Russia with mail and essential stores etc.
for JASON, BRITOMART, LORD AUSTIN and base
establishments.
(2) Total capacity of destroyer about 30 dead
weight.
(3) Request you will signal any special stores required.
(4) CAMELLIA and BLUEBELL will be returning from Kola Inlet
about 3rd June.
(C. in C. H.F., 142259B to S.B.N.O. North Russia.)

Defence of the United Kingdom.X East Coast
A/A defences.

Swindon "Crittall" withdrawn and non-operational
W.E.F. 13th May. Balloon barrage will be
operational at Lowestoft 1200B/15th May. Barrage
will operate within area bounded by line joining
coordinates 9808, 0108, 0213, 9913 1 inch Map
sheet 77.
(Station Z., 141900B to R.A.F. Flying Units List
X (A).)

Movements.S/M
movements.

My 131705B. Amended E.T.A. 0730B/16. (TAKU, H.32)
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141017B.)

/Return ...

14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

S/M Return Falmouth forthwith. DAMSAY pass to TAKU
Movements. and H.32.
(Contd.) (C. in C. Plymouth, 141139B to TAKU, DAMSAY, H.32)
My 131705B. TAKU, H.32 and DAMSAY delayed about
30 hours pending sweeping of Q.Z.S.315.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141713B to Adnty.)

Positions of S/Ms at 0800B/15 and movements for following
24 hours.
(F.O.(S), 141721B, 150017.)
Cancel my 141647. DAMSAY, TAKU and H.32 resume voyage to
Clyde forthwith.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141853B and 142111B.)
Sailed TUNA, STUBBORN, SEADOG escorted by BRYONY in
accordance with S.3 121053B.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 142024B.)
TAKU, H.32 in company. I am resuming voyage to Clyde in
accordance with your 141853B.
(DAMSAY, 142250B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

ROYAL A.M. 111240B.
SCOTSMAN. Intend sailing ROYAL SCOTSMAN from Needles 0545/15
for Clyde. Route. E.T.A. 0500/17th.
ROYAL SCOTSMAN will be escorted by GLAISDALE till
last light on 15th when GLAISDALE will proceed
Plymouth or as ordered by C. in C. Plymouth.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141020B.)

DELHI. Request you will sail DELHI independently routed
through - RA 180 Fastnet 10 miles. RB 49.56 N.
14.50 W. RC 41.20 N. 14.25 W. RD 36.40 N.
10.02 W. thence as ordered by C. in C. Med.)
(D.O.D.H., 141305B to C. in C. W.A.)

ROYAL K.M.F.15. Intend sailing (? and) request fighter
ULSTERMAN, protection - (A) ROYAL ULSTERMAN, BANN.
BANN. (B) 1800/18th to 1800/19th. (D) Leave in company
Barry Roads 1800/18th by standard route to Clyde,
E.T.A. 1800/19. BANN parts company Corsewell
Point, E.T.A. Tobermory 2200/19 and requires no
protection after parting.
(N.O.I.C. Cardiff, 141717B and 161801B.)

North Dispositions of operational units in North
Atlantic Atlantic:
dispositions. Area Iceland (C) - ANSON, BELFAST, JAMAICA, 2
destroyers.
Area Scapa - DUKE OF YORK, MALAYA, BERMUDA, BERWICK
CUMBERLAND, EMERALD, GLASGOW, KENT, 4 destroyers.
Area Clyde - FURIOUS, INDOMITABLE, 4 destroyers.
Area Belfast - UNICORN.
Area Plymouth - DELHI, SCYLLA, 1 destroyer.

/Area ...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.North
Atlantic
dispositions.
(Contd.)Area Gibraltar - KING GEORGE V, NELSON,
FORMIDABLE, AURORA, CARLISLE, NEWFOUNDLAND,
PENELOPE, SIRIUS, 6 destroyers.
Support Group - 6 destroyers.
Passage to U.K. - UGANDA.
(D.O.D.H., 141720B to C. in C. U.S. Fleet.)

KENT.

Scapa arrival KENT.
(A.C.O.S., 141915B.)

RODNEY.

Request you will sail RODNEY in accordance with
A.M. 232332B April to work up under C. in C. H.F.
(D.O.D.H., 142028B to C. in C. Plymouth.)T.F. 61.
SOUTH
DAKOTA,
ALABAMA.Task Force 61 consisting of SOUTH DAKOTA, ALABAMA
and five destroyers is estimated to be in 43°
10' N. 37° 01' W. at 142000B. Route thence to
position F. 47° 55' N. 35° 40' W., G. 54° 15' N.
26° 20' W., D. 58° 01' N. 16° 01' W., E. 58° 45'
N. 11° 10' W. and to Scapa Flow. S.O.A. 16
knots. E.T.A. Scapa 201300.
(D.O.D.H., 142044B to C. in C. H.F.)Operations.Coastal
Force
Patrols.My 131441B. "Object" returned at 0615.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 140700B.)
1. 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. Leave Portland at 2130 by Q.Z.S.382 and leave
patrol line at dawn/15th.
3. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol. Codeword "Artful".
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 141058B, 141654B.)
1. M.G.Bs 111, 115, 112 and 75 are to patrol 8 miles 230°
and 050° from 110° Start 15 miles.
2. Object. Anti E-Boat patrol.
3. Leave Dartmouth to arrive patrol line 2330B. Leave patrol
for Dartmouth 0500B.
6. Codeword "Stencil".
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141553B.)
M.G.Bs 41, 40 and 43, M.T.B.38 patrolling at Bullock Bank,
E.T.D. 2230, E.T.R. 0530/15.
M.A/S.Bs 38 and 26 patrolling at "V" buoy, E.T.D. 2330, E.T.R.
0400/15.
(V.A. Dover, 141731B.)
My 141058B and 141654B. "Artful" sailed at 2143B.
(F.O.I.C. Portland, 142156B.)
Your 141553B. Sailed.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 142238B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

/ S/M ...

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14.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Operations - Contd.

S/M F.O.(S) 132231 para. (1).
 Patrols. From (B) HAKE proceeds on surface at C.O's discretion through (C) 055° 55', 015° 01'. (D) 056° 06', 017° 59' thence as indicated through (E) 056° 15', 020° 02'. (F) 056° 01', 025° 00' and (G) 055° 43', 029° 59' to (W). E.T.A. (W) 0200B/24th. Daily S.O.A. to 018° W. is 240 miles, from 018° West to (W) is 100 miles.

2. H.Q.C.C. is requested to arrange bombing restrictions as follows. Details.

(Comsubron 50, 141513B to F.O.(S).)

Positions of submarines at 0800B/15th and movements for following 24 hours. HERRING, SHAD, TRUCULENT, SURF as in my 131524.

(G) HAKE escorted by CHANTICLEER leaves Clyde 1000/15th, due 180° Barra Head 8 miles at 2300/15, thence unescorted probably on surface through 55° 45' N. 12° 01' W., thence by Great Circle to 55° N. 37° W. diving by day when west of 18° W. (F.O.(S), 141721B and 151239B to Admty.)

X Engagement Report of C/F operations last night.
 off Hook. M.T.Bs 234, 244, 241 and 232 were ordered to
 2 Enemy sweep enemy convoy route from Noordwijk to the
 T.Bs. or Hook for possible northbound convoy leaving Hook
 Minesweepers after midnight. Signal was made after sailing
 sunk. that southbound convoy sighted by aircraft North
 M.T.Bs 234 of Ijmuiden might be late arriving at Hook.
 and 244 2. 234 had trouble with leaky exhaust gasket
 damaged. which gassed E.R. crew and unit stopped in 52°
 02' N. 4° 07' E. to await developments. At 0330
 unit closed H.E contact bearing S.W. and obtained
 R.D.F. contact at 2500 yards. At 0341 southbound
 convoy was sighted turning to enter Hook escorted by 4 craft
 that were either T.Bs or M-class minesweepers. A number of E or
 R-Boats also formed part of escort.
 3. M.T.B.241 was challenged by E-Boat with letter P. 241
 replied with RR which apparently deceived enemy as enemy did not
 open fire until challenge-lights had attracted starshell from
 convoy. 234 ordered 241 and 232 to remain stopped until 234 and
 244 had attacked van. Owing to deceptive visibility 234 and 244
 reached firing range before they had separated sufficiently with
 result that 4 torpedoes were fired simultaneously at same target
 range 400 yards torpedoed set to 6 feet. Two hits observed. Bow
 was blown off and other hit aft.
 Boats disengaged to North under smoke having met considerable
 enemy fire without casualties. They were joined by 241 and 232
 who had disengaged from E-Boat and were preparing to attack
 having seen result of first attack. 241 next attacked under
 heavy fire and at range of 700 yards fired both torpedoes at T.B.
 standing by wreck of craft previously hit. 241 considers
 torpedoes set to 6 feet ran under. At 0410 232 went in to attack
 and under severe fire closed to 400 yards passing wreckage of first
 target on the way. She fired at 0414 but port tube missed due to

/faulty ...

14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Engagement
off Hook.
2 Enemy
T.Bs. or
Minesweepers
sunk.
M.T.Bs 234
and 244
damaged.
(Contd.)

faulty charge. Target was struck amidships by other torpedo and broke in half, unit then disengaged and returned to base. At 0540 4 F.W. 190s attacked unit in half hearted manner with cannon fire until 0550. Fighter protection arrived 0555.

4. During return passage 234 struck sunken wreckage with her propellers. 234 also reports 20 mm. shell through port tube and suspects damage to petrol compartment remaining damage slight. One rating trivial casualty. 244 has damaged port tube all other damage to boats slight.

5. Owing to similarity of silhouette it cannot be determined whether ships destroyed were T class T.Bs or M-class minesweepers. (C. in C. Nore, 141750B to Admty.)

* Enemy
Force
attacked.

My 131423 May. Force carried out sweep as ordered with no results. Force was attacked by one enemy aircraft in 337° Cap D'Antifer 2 miles at 0114 which missed with four bombs. Albacore aircraft attacked five enemy ships probably M-class minesweepers or trawlers in approx. 049° 28' N. 000° 40' W. steering 100° at 0109. Bombs straddles centre ship and after attack only four craft were seen. Consider possible hit.

(C. in C. Portsmouth, 141907B to Admty.)

Exercises.

STURGEON.

STURGEON exercising off Plymouth in area D between 1000B and 1645B/15th May.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 141844B.)

Allied Air Activity.

Convoy
S.C. 129.

Escort two Catalinas dawn to dusk C.A. at 42A One Liberator prior to dusk.
(E) Flt 2359/14th May to 2359/15th May.
(15 Group, 140930Z to Iceland.)

* East Coast
Balloon
Barrage

Operation "Crittall" is being transferred from Swindon to Great Yarmouth and? Lowestoft and will become operational at these areas at 1800B/15th May. The balloons from Norwich temporarily deployed to Great Yarmouth will then revert to Norwich.
(H.Q.F.C., 141605B to Air Ministry.)

/Bomber ...

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War Diary.

14.5.1943.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Allied Air Activity - Contd.

Bomber
Command
operations.

Boulogne. On day 13th May 6 Mitchells of 2 Group were despatched to attack the Outreau Marshalling Yards. 5 aircraft attacked the Primary from 11,000 feet. Bursts were seen across the centre of the target.

Cherbourg. 12 Bostons of 2 Group with fighter cover were detailed to attack a merchant vessel in No.6 dry dock. All aircraft attacked from 10,500 feet bursts from both boxes were seen on both sides of the centre of Digue Homet and one burst on the Mole is believed to have hit a ship lying alongside. (H.Q.B.C., 141700.)

Enemy Air Activity.

3 Enemy
A/C shot
down.

M/S Trawlers claim 3 enemy aircraft destroyed, reports confirmed.

- (1) By RED GAUNTLET vicinity 51 Buoy.
- (2) By LORD MELCHETT vicinity No. 3 Buoy.
- (3) By ETRUSCAN Group vicinity Shipwash float. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 140952 and 141408B.)

X Reykjavik.

Unidentified enemy aircraft carried out R/C of Reykjavik area at 0630. Aircraft flew over over land from (Husavik ?) 066° 02' N. 017° 20' W. and departed course East. (A.C.I.C., 131454B.)

Mining.

TUSCAN
mined.

British mine.

Request rescue tug proceed toward 308° Hartland Point 4 to take over TUSCAN now in tow of ORKAN proceeding toward Milford Haven. TUSCAN in no danger of sinking.

(DELHI, 140227B to Admty., C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Plymouth.)

TUSCAN struck by mine or torpedo probably former in 308° Hartland Point 5. Flooded from aft to 76 bulkhead and magazine. Starboard engine appears serviceable but heavy knock in port engine and rudder thought lost. ORKAN taking in tow towards Milford Haven unless diverted to Swansea. Request fighter protection from daylight. DELHI proceeding to R/V with (?ships).

(DELHI, 140235B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)

DELHI's 140227B. Sailed rescue tug ABEILLE 4 to take over and tow TUSCAN to Milford Haven.

(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 140528B to DELHI, TUSCAN, ORKAN.)

ABEILLE IV plot indicates position 051° 30' N. 005° 00' W. Destroyer plot position 051° 26' N. 004° 23' W. at 0729B/14th.

(?) TUSCAN indicate draught fore and aft.

(N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 140737B to TUSCAN, ORKAN, ABEILLE IV.)

/ABEILLE ...

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War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Mining.

TUSCAN ABELILLE took H.M.S. TUSCAN in tow at 1000.
 mined. My E.T.A. 1230/14.
 (Contd.) (ORKAN, 141102B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)
 DELHI's 140235. Consider was struck by mine,
 possibly floating, on port propeller. Flood
 boundary established 71 bulkhead and water under
 control above main deck between 71 and 77 bulkhead. All below
 and abaft this destroyed. Confirm no casualties. Ship towing
 well, 5 knots.
 (TUSCAN, 141201B to Admty., C. in C. W.A.)
 Arrived TUSCAN in tow of ABELILLE IV.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141801B.)

Search off M/S VIKING BANK and BLOEMENDAAL will be sailed
 Hartland from Milford Haven when visibility permits to
 Point. carry out a search of area 308° Hartland Point
 5'.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141017B to C. in C.
 Plymouth.)

DELHI's 140235B. Arrangements have been made for M/S
 vessels from Milford Haven, Swansea, and Plymouth to carry out
 LL and Oropesa searches around this position.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141152B to C. in C. W.A.)
 Sailed my 141017B.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141247B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 My 141017B. A.S./M.S. Trawlers FIARAY and BERN sailing
 to 'A' sweep search area specified.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141427B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 4th M/S Flot. is to continue sweep in Admty. Mess. Q.Z.X.
 962. Sweep dangerous area in accordance with my 141150 not
 to all addressees will be carried out.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141853B to M/S.4.)

Harwich. One ground mine detonated by M.M/S at 1022 in
 51° 58' N. 01° 40.1' E.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141102 and 141831B.)
 One ground mine detonated at 1124 by M.M.S. in
 52° 00.2' N. 01° 48' E.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141211B.)
 4 ground mines detonated by M.M/S in positions:-
 At 1208 in 51° 59.8' N. 01° 50' E. At 1210 in 52° 00.3' N.
 01° 48.3' E. At 1217 in 52° 00.8' N. 01° 50'3" E. At 1245
 in 52° 05' N. 01° 55' E.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141312B.)
 One ground mine detonated by M.M/S at 1350 in 52° 00.9' N.
 01° 50.2' E.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141429B.)
 1 ground mine detonated by M.M.S. at 1440 in 52° 00.2' N.
 01° 49' E.
 (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 141539.)

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War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.

Off Stavanger. 1 enemy merchant vessel and 2 escort vessels in 58° 38' N. 05° 32' E., course 330°, speed 5 knots.
(A/C 489 Sqdn. Duty 'V', 141357B to 18 Group.)

Channel Islands. Aircraft report 4 E-Boats proceeding N.N.E. from Guernsey at 2100. Two E-Boats from St. Peter Port Guernsey at 2050.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 142153B.)

U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. Am over enemy S/M in 60° 31' N. 31° 05' W.
(A/C LL5K, 140800B.)
Have attacked enemy U-Boat with depth charges. Time 0730.
(A/C 84 Sqdn. Duty 'K', 140850B to Artunshofdi.)
Am over enemy S/M in 60° 25' N. 30° 50' W.
(A/C K of 84 Sqdn., 140930B to Artunshofdi.)
Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges

Time 0800?.

(A/C K of 84 Sqdn., 140945B.)

One submarine sighted on the surface in 046° 30' N. 028° 06' W.

(BITER, 140949Z to C. in C. W.A.)

Am over enemy submarine in 60.28 N. 31.18 W.

(A/C K of 84 Sqdn., 141045B.)

Certain 2, probably 3 submarines sighted within 15 miles of convoy from ahead to port beam.

(A/C K of 84 Sqdn., 141130B.)

Following read from GNVV (undecypherable).

Sub. sighted in 63° 18' N. 20° 25' W.

(R.A.F. Iceland, T.O.R. 141253B.)

Following read from GNVV (undecypherable).

Course of sub. 45 and submerging.

(Iceland T.O.R. 141350B.)

Am over enemy submarine in 60° 10' N. 31° 52' W.

(A/C C of 84 Sqdn., 141355B to Sandgerdi.)

Am investigating suspicious object possibly a periscope.

Position 47° 37' N. 13° 26' W.

(A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty 'R', 141521 to 19 Group.)

Am over enemy submarine in 60° 08' N. 32° 00' W.

(A/C C of 84 Sqdn., 141550B.)

Am over enemy submarine in 47° 45' N. 26° 57' W.

(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty 'B', 141635 to 15 Group.)

Have attacked enemy submarine with depth charges.

Estimate 1? hit.

(A/C 86 Sqdn. Duty 'B', 141700B to 15 Group.)

Am over enemy S/M in 47° 40' N. 27° 12' W.

(A/C B of 86 Sqdn., 141713B to 15 Group.)

/A.623 ...

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.U-Boats.

U-Boats reported or attacked in North Atlantic. (Contd.)

A.623, 14th May. Navigator of Fortress No.23270 en route Reykjavik to Prestwick reports that at 1325 G.M.T. 14th May he sighted submarine position 58.11 N. 06.18 W. steering 120°. Submarine crash dived on approach of aircraft. Details already passed to 15 Group. (T.A.C. Prestwick, 141730A to Air Ministry.) Am over enemy submarine in 47° 39' N. 21° 06' W.

(A/C L of 502 Sqdn., 141735 to 19 Group.)
Have attacked enemy with bombs. Estimate one hit.

(A/C R of 502 Sqdn., 141736 to St. Eval.)
Am over enemy submarine in 60° 12' N. 31° 40' W.

(A/C 120 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 141737B to Artunshofdi.)
Have attacked enemy with depth charges at 1737B.

(A/C 120 Sqdn. Duty 'J', 141800B to Artunshofdi.)

Am investigating oil patch 1000 yards long in 47° 35' N. 21° 10' W.

(A/C R of 205 Sqdn., 141830B to 19 Group.)

Message 141830 from aircraft duty 'R'. Oil probably from S/M sunk in 048° 37' N. 022° 39' W. by LAGAN and reported by C.2 in his 130750.

Oil was rising freely when LAGAN left. My P.C.S. 051° 12' N. 017° 40' W., 196°, 17.

(LAGAN, 142250B to C. in C. W.A.)

* Assessment of A/S attacks.

As from 0001Z May 15th U.S. Authorities will assess all A/S attacks made by U.S. Forces and also by Allied (other than British) forces under U.S. operational control. Remainder of attacks will be assessed by Admiralty except those made by forces under C. in C. Levant, C. in C. Eastern Fleet and by local forces in Australian waters. These excepted attacks will be assessed by respective Cs. in C., and by A.C.N.B. 2. It is requested, in order to obtain uniformity, that copies of reports of A/S attacks by aircraft may be forwarded to Admiralty for assessment, except those occurring within areas of C. in C. Levant, and C. in C. Eastern Fleet and local Australian waters which should be forwarded to appropriate C. in C., or A.C.N.B. (A.C.N.S.(U.T.), 132255B to Air Ministry.)

Casualties and Defects.

RENOWN.

Admiralty 091644 and your 101049. It is not possible to sail on 9th June having regard to what has to be done after the dockyard completion date. Assuming that dockyard work permits embarkation of 4.5-inch ammunition provisions and stores by p.m./6th June i.e. during the course of the refit and assuming that the basin trial a.m./7th June is satisfactory, ship will unbasin p.m./7th June and will be ready to sail a.m./14th June. (RENOWN, 140813B to C. in C. H.F.)

/HALIZONES ...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

HALIZONES, Your 131901B. E.T.A. 1230. Pass to BERGAMOT.
 BELGIAN (LORD STANHOPE, 140830B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 FISHERMAN. Your 140830. LORD STANHOPE report forthwith to
 BERGAMOT E.T.A. at R/V in 052° N. 006° W. in
 accordance with my 131901.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141015B.)
 Take tow to St. Ives Bay. Anchor there and await orders.
 GOATHLAND pass to MARAUDER.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141311B to GOATHLAND.)
 Your 122242B met. LORD STANHOPE detached Milford Haven.
 BELGIAN FISHERMAN proceeding under own steam at 6 knots with
 tug standing by. Position at 1315, 052° 00' N. 006° 00' W.,
 course 070°. Convoy leader intends to proceed in execution of
 your 122242B.
 (BERGAMOT, 141329B to C. in C. W.A.)
 Dangerous area within 2 miles of 308° Hartland Point 5.
 If north of line 051° 05' N. continue voyage.
 GOATHLAND pass to MARAUDER.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141715B to GOATHLAND.)
 GOATHLAND, MARAUDER, HALIZONES continue voyage in accordance
 with my 131335.
 (C. in C. Plymouth, 141853B to GOATHLAND.)
 JONQUIL is being sailed to relieve GOATHLAND at seaward
 end Q.Z.S.184 approximately 020015.
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 141929B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Expect to arrive off Hartland Point 2000B/14th. Tow now
 making 7 knots.
 (GOATHLAND, 131949B to C. in C. Plymouth.)
 Sailed my 141929B (JONQUIL).
 (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 142351B to C. in C. Plymouth.)

PORT My 071722B. Temporary repairs completed.
 QUEBEC. (R.A.(M), 141101 to Admty.)

LEA. LEA sailed at 1030B in accordance with your
 1437/13th. E.T.A. destination 1100Z/16.
 (C.T.G. 24.7, 141111 to A.I.G.303.)

JOHAN VAN JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELDT has been reduced to
 OLDENBARNE- 8 knots by engine defects now apparently remedied.
 VELDT. Request investigation by competent authority on
 arrival.
 (DELHI, 141144B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

LONDON. Your 131800B. Ship can enter basin 24th May and
 unbasin on completion of tilt test p.m./25th.
 (A.S. Rosyth, 141205B to F.O.I.C. Tyne.)

?M.L.295. Intend returning for repairs. Expected time of
 arrival 20 3 (as received).
 (?M.L.295, 141215A to ?)

/JOFFRE ...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects - Contd.

- JOFFRE
ROSE. SS. JOFFRE ROSE understood to be on passage from Port Talbot to Dublin is ashore seven miles south of Arklow.
(N.A. Dublin, 141230A to D.N.I.)
- O. 10. Have S/M in tow. HALCYON not yet arrived. My P.C.S. 63° 42' N. 00° 13' E., 184°, 6 knots.
(BRECON, 141259B to A.C.O.S.)
HALCYON took tow at 1745. Midnight position (?latitude) 0° 11' W., course 190°, 7 knots.
(BRECON, 142359B to A.C.I.C.)
- Lifeboat. Am over ship's lifeboat containing 12 persons. Approximate position 49° (?40') N. 18° 50' W. on course 090°. Flying Norwegian flag.
(A/C 502 Sqdn. Duty 'C', 141530 to 19 Group.)
- FURIOUS. FURIOUS taken in hand 12th May by Messrs. Vickers Armstrong Crayford for work detailed in Admty. 102256 and for fittings type 291 by Messrs. J. Willis Port Glasgow to complete in accordance with A.M. 102256 para. 5.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 141801 to Admty.)
- CHILTERN. My 122145 February and A.M. 110412 March. CHILTERN now operational again having been fitted out with suitable cast steel propeller provided by Russians. Speed on trials 10.25 knots at normal full speed of 106 r.p.m. In view of return of CHILTERN to U.K. on relief by WARSTAR considered unnecessary to ship spare propeller to North Russia.
(S.B.N.O. North Russia, 141814B to Admty.)
- CADORNA. Your 131810B and 140009B. Arrived H.M.Ts CADORNA with engine defects and RESTIVO. Anchoring Bangor Bay for night.
(F.O.I.C.N.I., 142243B to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)
- AUDACIOUS. My 142108B. AUDACIOUS (Pan.) returned from O.N.M.184. Dynamo burned out.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 142244B to A.I.G.191.)

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys.

- S.L. 128 Bristol Channel portion ex convoy S.L. 128 arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Barry, 140200B).
BACTRIA arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Barry 140300B).
- S.C.129 Inform Commodore KYKLADES has arrived Horta.
(C. in C. W.A., 140330B to Escorts S.C.129).
- H.X. 237 Your 132047B. ROSLIN CASTLE detached at 140530Z in 051° 30', 018° 59'.
(C.2 140531Z to C. in C. W.A.)
Ships capable of 12 knots including 2 ships for Loch Ewe are to be detached at dusk tonight.
H.X. 237 (fast) escorted by MORDEN.
(2) On reaching 010° W. these ships are to proceed independently
(C. in C. W.A., 140919Z to Escorts H.X.237).
My 141310. Delete PORT CAROLINE. Add GDYNIA.
(C.2., 142030Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, DESEADO. Proceed to Milford Haven with JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT and DESEADO. DELHI's 140227 refers.
(C. in C. W.A., 140531B to DELHI, BERGAMOT).
Cancel my 140531B. Proceed with JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT, DESEADO to Clyde. Detach BERGAMOT to Milford Haven.
(C. in C. W.A., 141119B to DELHI).
Cancel my 141119. Comply with Admiralty 141305.
(C. in C. W.A., 141321B to DELHI).
My 141102. E.T.A. 1230. BERGAMOT detached.
(DELHI, 141145B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is requested to sail JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT and DESEADO independently to Clyde.
(C. in C. W.A., 141324B to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).
- H.X.238 Your 140316. When clear of ice proceed Iceland ship dome, rejoin.
(C.3., 140635Z to BURNHAM)
Cancel my 140635. Weather report 4772 1353.
(C.3., 141210Z to BURNHAM)
- S.D.40 Your 140845. Escorts proceed to Hvalfiord for fuel returning to Reykjavik if desired.
D.S.40 will sail early 15th from Hvalfiord.
(A.C.I.C., 141000B to SARDONYX).
- U.R.75 Delay sailing convoy until May 18th.
(C. in C. W.A., 141003B to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).

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War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping & Convoys. - Contd.

- T.A.42 Intend sailing passing Clyde boom 0100B/16th to pass through positions (R) at 0600B/16th, thence in accordance with A.M. 112249B May. Speed of advance 26 knots. "Chop" 18th May. E.T.A. New York, 2000Z/21. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 141044B to Admty).
- X.K.6 A. D/F of transmission at 0847Z indicates a U-boat
X.K. 6 B. in general vicinity of convoy X.K.6 A.
(D.D.I.C., 141125B to Escorts X.K. 6 A, X.K.6 B)
- P.W.338 My 141844B. P.W. 338 sailed from St. Ives Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Falmouth, 142110B).
- O.N.S.J.8 ORILLIA is to proceed forthwith to Reykjavik. A.C.I.C. is requested to sail her as necessary with any ships for O.N.S.J.8 to I.C.O.M.P. (C. in C. W.A., 141144B to ORILLIA).
- W.P.B.339 Postponed 24 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 141325B).
- W.S.30 A.M. 091638 and 091530.
and M.K.F.15. 1. Cancel A.M. 072042.
K.M.F. 15 2. SS. JOHAN VAN OLDENBARNEVELT is to be sailed from Clyde in K.M.F.15 destination Algiers.
3. SS. DESEADO is to be sailed in W.S.30 for River Plate.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange sailing of ships as requisite to attend convoy Conference at Clyde.
5. DESEADO is to part company as ordered by Admty. and proceed independently through positions:- K. 33° N., 22° W. L. 23° N., 26° W. M. 14° N., 28° W. N. Equator 27° W. O. 15° S., 32° W. P. 26° S., 40° W. Q. 34° S., 51° W. to destination.
(D.O.D. H., 141652B).
A.M. 132220B. para. 1. Delete reference to landing craft as these will be embarked at Cardiff.
C.C.O. 132623B.
(D.O.D. H., 141731B to C. in C. W.A.)
- W.S.FARISH, U.S. Tanker W.S. FARISH sails with O.N.184.
O.N.184. Improvised stowage complete for 48 D.C. which cannot be embarked owing to action of the Master in his refusal to accept them on board after they were brought alongside. Suggest some action may be taken to prevent repetition.
(F.O.I.C. Glasgow, 141735 to Admty).

/O.N.182...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

U/B

Am over enemy S/M in 36° 35' N., 03° 45' W. periscope only sighted, was on course 230° speed 8 knots.
(A/C D of 233 Sqdn. via Iceland, 140750 to H.Q. R.A.F. Gibraltar).

FLEETWOOD
O.S.47,
K.M.S.14.

Intend detaching FLEETWOOD with 45 U-boat prisoners and sailing papers to Gibraltar at 0500Z/15th. E.T.A. 0500/16th. Request FLEETWOOD may be completed with fuel, depth charges and ammunition and sailed to rejoin O.S.47. FLEETWOOD will signal requirements before arrival. My P.C. and S. 039° 26' N., 012° 31' W. 150° 7½ knots. Weather report.
(SCARBOROUGH 140800Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. W.A., Admty).

MERKLAND and BRIKA escorted by PRODIGAL detached for territorial waters off Lisbon, thence BRIKA escorted by PRODIGAL to Huelva keeping outside territorial waters, thence PRODIGAL to Gibraltar.

(SCARBOROUGH 141320Z to F.O. Gibraltar).

Your 141325B. PRODIGAL already detached as in my 141320Z.

(SCARBOROUGH 141537Z to F.O.C. Gib. (R) PRODIGAL).

Convoy
E.T.20.

Arrival.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar, 141010B to C. in C. Med).

PASTEUR

PASTEUR sailed 1202A today.
(Commorseafron 141120Z to N.O.I.C. Halifax (R) Conroute, Admty. etc).

Dispositions.

Situation 2002B/14th. O.S.47, K.M.S.14, SCARBOROUGH E. 39.01 52.22 through 36.43 10.33 thence 173° 6¼.
(2) U.G.S.8 C.T.F.62, 34.27 13.53 through 34.12 09.59 thence 094° 9½.
(3) QUALICUM 1 merchant ship 39.39 13.01 through 38.42 12.08 thence 091° 6.
(4) 2 Swedish relief ships 35.16 16.39 86° 11.
(5) 2 Swedish relief ships 35.14 17.34 86° 13.
(6) Hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE 36.45 10.01 through 37.01 11.01 thence 358° 13½.
(7) 1 U.S. Dr. 1 merchant ship 34.01 10.50 through 34.01 12.01 thence 282° 19½ destroyer part company a.m./15th and return Casablanca 18 knots.
(8) 3 destroyers sail from Gibraltar 1900B/14th through 35.45 06.30 to R/V U.G.S.8 in 34.15 10.48 at 1200B/15th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141203B).

EIGER

Swiss EIGER leaves Genoa 18th for Gibraltar.
(D.E.W.D. 141250B to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar (R) C. in C. Med).

/U.G.S. ...

War Diary.

14.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

U.G.S.8,
LIDDESDALE,
VENOMOUS,
VELOX. LIDDESDALE (S.O.) VENOMOUS, VELOX, R/V in position VV, 34.15 10.48 at 1100A May 15th.
(2) Casablanca Section is to part company requisite to enter Casablanca during daylight 16th May.
(3) After British escort joins convoy is to manoeuvre as necessary to pass Europa Point before 1900A May 16th or after 0700A May 17th.
(4) Ships bound for Gibraltar are to part company and enter Gibraltar on convoy passing Carnero Point.
(5) Route (V A) 35.45 06.40 through Q.R.A.87 to (V B) 36.01 05.21 (V C) 35.40 03.45 (V D) 35.38 02.14 (V E) 35.56 00.50 (V F) 35.(?03) 00.38 thence as ordered by C. in C. Med.
All positions North and W. S. of A. 9½ knots.
(6) Convoy to commence zigzagging by day when in Mediterranean.
(7) E.T.A. position (V B) 19.(?00) A May 16th (V F) 1900A May 17th.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141309B to Escort of Convoy U.G.S.No.8 for Cdre. C. in C. Med., Admty. Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, Comorseafron).

TRACKER,
BLYSKAWICA,
ORKAN. Propose to sail TRACKER for U.K. escorted by BLYSKAWICA and ORKAN on completion of ORKAN fueling approx. p.m./18th May, S. of A. 17 knots.
(2) TRACKER will not carry aircraft for anti-submarine patrol.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141326B to C. in C. Med., (R) Admty).

M.K.S.13 Intend sailing (list). Request destinations.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 141701B to Admty).

PRODIGAL Following read addressed Gib. W/T. Being enemy A/C. shadowed by one F.W. position NBND 2017 (indecypherable).
(?PRODIGAL 141712Z).
Following read from H L P C (undecyphered).
Help 275 Cape Roca, 102 095 8. 141811Z.

Axis Arrivals 13th JEUNE DENISE, BULGONTE, BANADEROS. Shipping CASTILLO BUTRON. Arrivals 14th 16 = LOUVETOT, Bilbao. 28 = LINETTE, 11 = REGEJA, 8 = SPES, 64 = BORDSEE CABOPLATA. Departures 13th 10 = WATERWEG, 9 = BANKA, 18 = TIM, 27 = MARIBEL, 17 = OLGA. VILLAREAL DE ALAVA.
(Consul, Bilbao, 141715 to Admty).
BORDSEE arrived 1015/14th. KAULDI, LIVADIA, SPERBER, in harbour ready for sea.
(Consul Bilbao, 141815 to M.E.W. (R) Admty. etc).

/Movements...

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14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. - Contd.

Movements, Arrivals MOLDE ex escort duties Melilla.
Gibraltar. HOLCOMBE, ATHERSTONE, WHEATLAND, PENTSTEMON,
TASAJERA with E.T.20. LADY HOGARTH, CONSBORO,
PANORAMA from Casablanca HAYDON from Oran.
STELLA CARINA in tow EMPIRE NED from Oran.
Departures LIDDESDALE, VELOX, VENOMOUS to R/V and escort
U.G.S.8. U.S.S. GILLESPIE, CARMICH to Casablanca.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 142013B to Admty. etc).

Movements, Today's warships arrived U.S.S. KALK, HARRISON,
Casablanca. GARMICK, GILLESPIE. Departed ?TERRY with PASTEUR.
(Commorseafron 142059Z to C. in C. Med).

Air Report Op. Sum. No. 194 for 24 hours 14 May.
(G) Sightings and attacks. Attack by J/233
1638/B/13 May 37.04 N., 00.04 E. Attacked at
angle of 100° to U-boat heading releasing D/Cs
9 secs. after submerged (150 ?) feet ahead of swirl. Stick
under-shot nearest D/C estimate 50 feet. No after effects seen.
2050B/13 May 36.28 N., 02.58 W. Q/179 Well on A/S patrol
sighted U-boat on surface course 235° 8 knots - no attack.
0750B/14 May. 36.35 N., (Y/169 or 179?) Well on A/S Patrol sighth-
ted U-boat (periscope only) course 230° 8 knots, no attack.
(A.H.Q. Gibraltar, 142255B).

BACHI My 141906 (N.T. in W.D.) BACHI left Valencia
1750 tonight.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 142346B to 8th S.F. (R) Capt.
(S) 8, S.O.(I) Med).

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War Diary.14.5.1945.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

BULLDOG. E.T.A. Freetown 141000Z. Weather report.
(BULLDOG, 140123 to N.O.I.C.Freetown)

Convoy D.C.25 Sailing telegram. (2) 0600Z/14th May. (3) 8 knots. (5) Coastal reference 61 to 68 Saldanha Bay A.Y. (6) ROCKROSE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN DUKE, BLAUWBERG. (15) Convoy W/T call sign M.W.D 1 to 9 Q G A 148.
(N.C.S.O. Durban 140748Z to Admty etc.)

Movements, Bathurst. Arrival a.m. 14th May, AIMWELL, M.M.S.105, M.L's 574 and 256.
(N.O.I.C.Bathurst, 141000Z to F.O.I.C.W.Africa.
(R) Admty. Comar, Dakar)

MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID. Departure from Point Noire 0830Z/14th. MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID, routed through equator. (?006° or 017°) East, S. of A. 20 knots. E.T.A. Lagos 0530Z/16th.
(B.N.L.O.W.A. 141005A to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Admty., N.O.I.C.Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi)

BRIDGEWATER. Departure 0041Z/13th. BRIDGEWATER on short escort.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 141122Z to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C Bathurst, Comar Dakar.)

Movements, Freetown. Arrivals 1217/13/5/43. BURDOCK, CROCUS, B.Y.M.S. 9, 10, 17, 18, 25, 26, 27. L.S.T's 324, 412, 421.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 141142Z to Cdr. 4th Fleet.
(R) Admty. Connav, S.B.N.O.W.A., A/S.O.(I) Recife)

Arrival 1040Z/14. Ships FOXHOUND, WITCH, BOREAS, CATTERICK M.L's 290, 278, 296, 209 with T.S. 39.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 141256Z, 151432Z to N.O.I.C.Takoradi.)

Movements, Bahia. Arrival 13th Brazilian Sub-chaser GUAPORE.
Departure 14th Brazilian light cruiser Bahia, minelayer CAMAQUAM, CARIOCA, Sub-chaser GUAPORE escorting north-bound convoy.
(R.O. Bahia, 141143Z to Admty)

Convoy Dakar. Sailed EMPIRE SUCCESS, LEIGHTON, FORTOL, MEDIE II GRAND QUEVILLY, FINISTERRE, 0915Z escorted by WASTWATER. Admiral Afrique being informed concerning French ships. (2) Additional escort to R/V BIRDLIP, AIR FRANCE I, AIR FRANCE IV.
(Comar Dakar, 141148Z to F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C. Med. Admty, N.O.I.C.Casablanca, LEITH, Adm. Gibraltar)

Convoy/...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy C.D.18. (1) C.D.18. (2) 1100Z/14 May. (3) 8½ knots. (5) Coastal reference position Saldanha Bay (AY) 1 - 8. (6) FREESIA, ST. ZENO, DRANGY TURFFONTEIN. (15) convoy call sign C.D.D. 1 - 9 convoy codeword "Janitor" B.B.H. (N.C.S.O.Capetown, 141253Z to Admty)

TRUSTY, escort. Departure from Pointe Noire 1200Z/14th COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES escorting S/M TRUSTY in accordance with your 131605. TRUSTY can make 12½ knots and requests permission to arrive Freetown 1700Z/20th. (B.N.L.O.W.A. 141305A to F.O.W.Af. (R) Admty. N.O.I.C.Lagos, N.O.I.C.Takoradi, TRUSTY.)

X Sao Luiz. U.S. Observer Post. Am informed U.S. Naval Observer Post has been established at Sao Luiz. British Reporting Officer has been instructed to afford full co-operation and any assistance required. Request I may be informed when he may be instructed to discontinue Vesca signals. (B.N.S.O.Rio de Janeiro, 141410Z to B.A.D. (R) Admty. Asst. B.N.S.O. Recife.)

MARIE LOUISE MACKAY, escorts. Your 131554. Intended to use two escorts for MARIE LOUISE MACKAY while carrying out work. Para. 2 (B) of A.M.121404. (2) It appears unlikely that two escorts will be available before 24th May. (F.O.Gibraltar 141645B to C. in C. Med. (R) Admty, Com. Algiers)

T.L.10. Sailed 1800Z/14 T.L.10 escorted by FLOWER (sic) (S.O of escort) ARRAN, M.L.266 and 287 E.T.A. Lagos 1400Z/16. (N.O.I.C.Takoradi, 141737Z to Admty etc.)

Suspicious Ship, St.Helena. Unidentified ship one funnel 2 masts passed 12 miles East St.Helena 1320 G.M.T. disappeared going West at 1830 G.M.T. 14th May. (General St.Helena, 141805Z to Admty (R) F.O.W.A. etc.)

Movements, Takoradi. Arrival 14th May YESTOR, MILFORD, TAMARISK, WOODRUFF, ARRAN, VIRGINIA. Departures SNOWDROP and M.L.'s 271 and 305 escorting to Lagos a.m. 15th May. WOODRUFF and M.L.263 to R/V and return Takoradi a.m. 16th May. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi, 142145Z to Admty)

Tugs for North Africa. (1) The four undermentioned tugs are required in the North African area: EMPIRE MINNOW, EMPIRE OBERON, EMPIRE ACE, EMPIRE DENNIS.

(2) /...

War Diary.

14.5.1945.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Tugs for
North
Africa.
(Contd.)

(2) Request any of the above not committed to you for towage to the Cape be re-routed via Freetown and Gibraltar to sail if possible with S.L.130. (3) Report action taken. (D. of S.T. 142323B to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) B.N.L.O. W.Af. N.O.I.C.Lagos, N.O.I.C.Takoradi, C. in C.S.A.) Date of sailing (C. in C. S.A. 202025B)

/ West African
Escort
Force,
refitting.

11 vessels of West African Escort Force have either completed or will shortly complete one year since last refit. It is desired to refit these in U.K. if possible rather than Cape or South American ports in order that their equipment may be brought up to date. In order to prevent vessels averaging six months overdue for refit it will be necessary to sail one vessel to U.K. with each S.L. convoy commencing with 130. As average absence of vessels refitting in U.K. is about four months, if this programme is carried out 8 vessels will have left the station before the first returns. In order that programme may be carried out as early as possible without unduly reducing local escort strength request. (A) that refit may be expedited as far as possible (b) that consideration may be given to AUBRETIA and VIOLET returning to this station. Your 061800A Dec. 1942 refers. (F.O.C.W.Af. 142326Z to Admty (R) Capt. D. F.B., C. in C. W.A.)

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. P.C. and S. of 3 enemy destroyers, one ferry boat and one escort vessel is 39° 02' N. 17° 14' E.
(A/C FAV/Q via Alexandria W/T 140034B to A.H.Q. Malta.)

P.C. and S. of 3 unknown units 39.01 N. 19.14 E. Unknown, 10 knots.
(A/C FFD/J 140056 via Malta W/T.)

P.C. and S. of one F (?F. lighter intended,) 2 destroyers and 2 escort vessels 39.25 N. 17.12 E. 000° 6 knots.
(A/C FFD/M 140100B.)

P.C. and S. of 2 destroyers, 1 ferry, 1 S/M on surface 39.24 N. 17.12 E. 000° 6.
(A/C FFD/R 140155B.)

My 0034, position of enemy F (presumably Ferry), 39.02 N. 17.14 E. stationary.
(A/C FAV/Q 140200B.)

My 2340. Position of enemy is 38° 24' N. 14° 25' E.
(A/C FAV/V 140230B.)

(Corrupt group) P.C. and S. of 3 R.D.F. Contacts 077° Cape Zebib 16 miles 009° 12 knots.
(Corrupt group 140338A to TARTAR, OAKLEY, PATRIE (sic).) Military report 2 or 3 enemy ships in approx. 037° 00' N. 011° 08' E. May be carrying tanks. Investigate.
(F.O.I.S. 140429A to ALDENHAM, (R) LAFOREY.)

Your 140429A, just received. Intend investigating to northward, presume DULVERTON search regarded (as received) my P.C. and S. 037° 20' N. 011° 23' E. 318° 24 knots.
(Capt. D. 19th D.F. 140945B to F.O.I.S. (R) Capt. D. 6th D.F. DULVERTON.)

P.C. and S. of enemy 2 (?landing craft position 38.42 N. 13.52 E. course 300° speed 6.
(A/C 86H/M 141724A to Air H.Q. Malta.)

CHITRAL. Departure.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 140516Z to Admty. etc.)

BICESTER, My 131200.* BICESTER, G.S. QUEEN OLGA sailed 10
QUEEN OLGA. hours late.
(N.O.I.C. Sousse 140517A to A.I.G. 67, A.I.G. 266)
* re sailing at 1900A/15th code word "Rose."

Situation Situation on relief. No shipping off Pantellaria
D.14. or area GG and HH since cessation of Kelibia Regatta on Wednesday. 96 prisoners. My 130816A search unsuccessful.
(Capt. D.14 140549A to C. in C.Med. (R) V.A. Malta, All cruisers and destroyers operating in area between Bone and Malta.)

ORION. Sail at 1600B today 14th through "Hug", "Crush", "Hope" 10 miles north "Rain" 1120B/15th thence as ordered by C. in C.Levant. S.O.A. 20 knots. Codeword "Wilfred" priority high.

/2...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean.

ORION
(Contd.)

2. Shift to Libyan broadcast at 0830B/15th.
3. Destroyers are to be detached to Tobruk to fuel subsequent joining X.T.14 as ordered by C. in C.Levant.
4. ORION proceed to Alexandria at best speed. (N.O.I.C. Malta 140713B to ORION, HURSLEY, ALDENHAM, KANARIS, (R) C. in C Med. A.I.G.72, C. in C.Levant, Cdre. D. D.N.C.X.F.)
Asking for details of named positions. (Admty. 181735B.)

EASTON
NUBIAN.

27th Division and EASTON E.T.A. "Lacing"1545B. 96 prisoners in 27th Division. NUBIAN has urgent defect requiring dockyard assistance and berth alongside. Estimated time required 18 hours.
(Capt. D.14 140736B to V.A.Malta.)

Movements
Alexandria.

Arrival 13th May ROMEO, BARWICK.
Departure 13th May SHOREHAM, SPETSAI (G.S.)
(S.O.(I) Alex. 140911 to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

L.C.Ts.

Your 130750A (U.S.N.S.C.770 escorting L.C.T. 28 and 31) not arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Bougie 140924A to Cdre. Algiers, etc.)

SPORTSMAN,
SICKLE.

Intend sailing P.229 (SPORTSMAN) at 1445/15th for exercises 800 thence patrol in Gulf of Genoa routed through 036° 56' 003° 10' at 1900/15th 038° 04' 004° 09' at 0500/16th 040° 01' 005° 25' at 1200/17th 042° 00' 007° 06' at 2215/18th.
2. Position N. and E., times zone minus 1.
(Capt. S.8 141206A to C. in C.Med. (R) Cdre. Algiers, V.A. Gib. 8th S.F. Capt. S.10.)
My 141206, P.229 (SPORTSMAN) is to patrol between long. 007° E. and 009° E. north of a line 225° from Spezia. P.224 (SICKLE) after dark 18th is to patrol between long. 005° E. and 007° east when lat. of 042° north.
(Capt. S.8 141222A to 8th S/M F. (R) F.O.Gibraltar.)

P.R.U.

May 14th visuals. 1150 Taranto 2 battleships, 2 cruisers.
(V.A.Malta 141423B to C. in C.Med. etc.)
P.R.U.Venice 1300/13. 3 escort vessels of 210 feet are fitting out. Merchant shipping. 3 tankers (one in dry dock) and 15 merchant vessels.
(D.D.I.C. 141607B to C. in C.Med. etc.)

L.C.Ts.

Your 130750A (arrived and sailed at 0730 U.S.N. S.C.770 escorting L.C.T.28 and 31,) arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Philippeville 141529A to N.O.I.C.. Algiers.)

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

- EURYALUS. C.A.F.O. 618 - 42 para. 2.
Following alterations to fighting equipment have been made: A. type 272 M fitted. Type 284 modified to type 284 M 1. Type 285 modified to type 285 M 1. Type 251 fitted. R.A.F. A.I. beacon fitted for working with A.I.Y.4 and mark 8 code letter X.S. K. forward searchlights each side removed.
(EURYALUS 141534B to Admty. (R) C. in C. Med. C. in C. Levant, C.S.15.)
- / Effect of French Shell & torpedo fire. I have not yet received information either in regard to shell fire at Dakar or torpedo damage to RESOLUTION. A.M. 1936/31 March and 151952 April refer. Request details of despatch.
2. It is unfortunate that we cannot give the French a quick reply in return for their immediate response to our questions.
(C. in C. Med. 141707A to Admty.)
- X French Evacuations, Portugal. GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE will be available to evacuate 600 French refugees referred in B.N.A. Madrid's 102210. Target date 24th May at Setubal. B.N.A. Lisbon requested to confirm this.
2. French will provide one escort vessel
GRACIEUSE. Request you will provide extra British escort and sail GOVERNEUR GENERAL LEPINE under British flag as before. Destination for refugees is Casablanca.
(C. in C. Med. 141713A, 181738A to F.O. Gibraltar, (R) B.N.A. Madrid, B.N.A. Lisbon. Admty.)
- U.G.S.8. Destinations. (list.)
(C. in C. Med. 141742A to C.T.F.62, Escorts of Convoy U.G.S.8, (R) N.O.I.C. Casablanca, Admty. etc.)
- Convoy T.E.21. T.E.21, Algiers section arrived less SURVILLE.
(Cdre. Algiers 141745A to Admty. etc.)
T.E.21, 121423A. Amendments to list.
(Cdre. Algiers, 141758 to N.Os.I.C. (R) Admty. etc.)
- K.M.S.14. Destination as follows (list.)
SCARBOROUGH pass to Commodore and ships concerned.
(C. in C. Med., 141757 to SCARBOROUGH, Escorts of convoy K.M.S.14, (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. N.O.I.C. Oran. etc.)
- ADVENTURE. Request ADVENTURE be sailed as convenient for Gibraltar and Mers el Kebir with mines as in my 071148 April.
(C. in C. Med. 141849A to Admty. (R) N.O.I.C. Oran? Force H (S.O.), ADVENTURE.)

/Movements...

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14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Movements
Port Said. 14th May Port Said arrivals SPETSAI, SOEMBA, IPSWICH, H.M. Tug ST. MONANCE and Tug EMPIRE WARLOCK towing A.F.D. 30, NEBULA. Departures SOUTHERN SEAS, SOUTHERN ISLES. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 141917C to Admty. etc.)

AMARAPOORA Sailed AMARAPOORA 1900A/14th for Belfast routed as in my 131833A for Newfoundland S.O.A. 11 knots. Vessel will call at Gib. en route. E. T.A. 0900A/16th. (Com. Algiers 141956A to Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in C.Med. Connav, (R) Connob Oran.)

Movements
Algiers. Arrivals BADSWORTH in tow ST. DAY, PIROUETTE, BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, TANGO, GAVOTTE, CONVULVULUS, L.S.T. 411, S/M SAFARI (P.211.) Departures HOY, BONITO, U.S.Y.M.S. 34, arrived and sailed AMARAPOORA. (Cdre. Algiers 141959A to Admty. etc.)

French
Refits. Your 132044, para. 2. Concur that GEORGES LEYGUES and GLOIRE should proceed to U.S. as soon as they could be accepted. 2. A further signal will be made on remaining points. (D.O.D.(F) Approved A.C.N.S. (F) 142005B to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.C.W.Af.)

Movements
Haifa. Arrival 14th May Greek Dests. AETOS, PANTHER, PROTEA, departure M.L. 361 Greek Dests. AETOS, PANTHER, PROTEA. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports 142015C to Admty. C. in C.Levant.)

O.S.47,
Mediterranean
Ships,
diversion. My 072043. For your information in case you should wish to divert all or any through Mediterranean, following ships in O.S.47 now nearing GISP are for destinations stated. For Alexandria ENGLISH PRINCE 11½ knots, TACTICIAN, 11, MACHARDA 14½., CITY OF AGRA 13½., INDIAN PRINCE 13. For Karachi NIGERSTROOM 14½, MYRTLEBANK 10½, HAVILDAR for Ceylon 10, SALAWATI for Abadan 12½, 2. CITY OF CALCUTTA is not divertable. (D.T.D. 142036B, 151749B to C. in C.Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gib. F.O.C.W.Af. C. in C.S.A.)

Movements
Sousse. Departure BICESTER, QUEEN OLGA, G.S. M.T.Bs. 78, 75, 76, 84, 77, 65, 82, 95. (N.O.I.C. Sousse 142044A to Admty.)

Movements
Tobruk. Sailed M.L. 355, 356 and 359 to Derna. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk 142205C to Admty.)

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14.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.CANADA,
French
Hospital
Ship.My O11956, april para. 2, what is present position?
(Hd. of M.(1) 142235B to C. in C.Med.)Malta
C.S.ReportA.I.576 14th May. C.S.R.
A. Part 1 offensive. Night 13/14th May. 4 bomb carrying Wellingtons and 3 torpedo carrying Beauforts were airborne to attack train ferry sighted by Baltimore at 1445 hrs. entering

Gulf of Taranto from south. Wellingtons sighted train ferry 2 D/Rs and 1 E/V 39° 02' N. 17° 14' E. at 2210 hrs. and attacked with 38 250 lb. bombs causing 1 large flash followed by much grey smoke. Train ferry was later attacked by 1 Beaufort with torpedo but no results could be observed owing to evasive action from flak. Subsequent photographs day 14th May show no trace of train ferry in Taranto or Cotrone. To cover these shipping strikes Mosquito made intruder patrols over south east Sicily and the Toe of Italy. In Sicily M.T. near Sciacca and also near Empedocle was attacked and in Italy train and railway station at Amendolara and a small vessel off the coast were attacked, many strikes being seen. At Galatina factory was attacked starting red glow inside the building.

Day 14th May. 4 Beaufighters on armed R/C? off Toe of Italy intercepted and destroyed 1 Do.24 off Bianco and attacked 3 F Boats off Siderno Marina setting 1 on fire. 4 long range Spitfires made offensive sweep along the east coast of Sicily. Part 2 Enemy air activity. Night 13/14. 1 Beaufighter was airborne for raid which turned back before reaching Malta. 2 Beaufighters made interception patrols east of Sicily. Day 14th May. 1347 hrs. 8 Spitfires were airborne for raid which turned back before reaching.

C. Naval. 1. Destroyers have been keeping up a patrol over the last few days a number of boats have been sunk and some 400 prisoners brought into Malta.
(A.H.Q.Malta 142239Z.)Movements
Malta.Sailed 3/Ms ULTOR and UNITED, ORION, ALDENHAM, HURSLEY, KANARIS.
Arrived M.T.Bs. 62 and 261, JERVIS, NUBIAN, PALADIN, EASTON, QUEEN OLGA, BICESTER, GLOXINIA.
(V.A.Malta 142359 to Admty. etc.)

US 343

MOST SECRET

WD
556A

INCOMING MESSAGE
ETOUSA

LINREP No. 46

From:- Algiers

To:- Troopers, Usfor, Mideast, Britman Washington,
Arminia Delhi, P.A.I.C., Landforces Melbourne,
Dechiefs Pretoria, Dechiefs Capetown, Force
Nairobi, Defender Wellington.
Britmilat Ankara, (for Marshal Chakmak)

Resident Minister, Achimota

Passed by
Foreign Office
Passed by
Colonial Office

LINREP 46

14th May 1943

No. 1546

TUNISIA -
Situation
Reports.

Summary of Operations 10th-12th May

1. Except by isolated detachments, all organized resistance ceased on the 18 Army Group front on 12th May.
2. Eighth Army. During the night 9/10 May, 167 Infantry Brigade of the 56th Division having failed to capture their objective, the high ground 5 miles north of Enfidaville, were driven back to their original positions with some loss. Patrols of 1st Fighting French Division and of the 1st NZ Brigade were active the following day, and took some prisoners. First TF Division attacked on 11 May; on the right 2 FF Brigade made some progress in area SFGG miles NE of Enfidaville, where they took 200 prisoners. On 12th May, the situation was still confused. General Messe commanding the 1st PZ Army arranged to discuss terms of surrender with General Freyburg, but meanwhile groups of his force were still holding out.
3. 1st Army.
 - (a) 19 Corps. On 10 May an enemy counter attack south of Moghrane was repulsed; thereafter opposition collapsed. On 11 May General Mathinet, commanding the Morroccan Division, accepted the unconditional surrender of the enemy forces on his front. 12,000 prisoners were taken, including the Pfeifer Division with its equipment intact. The advance of French troops continued on 12 May towards St. Mariedu Zit and a further 11,000 prisoners were taken.
 - (b) 9 Corps. Resistance disintegrated before 1st BR and 6th Armored Divisions on 10 May. 26th Armored Brigade pushed through to Solima at 1400 hours, entering Grombalia 3 hours later and making for Hammamet in order to cut off the Cape Bon Peninsula. On their right, 2nd Armored Brigade established contact

/ with 19 Corps.

MAY 17 17 45

with 19 Corps. The next day 26th Armored Brigade reached Bou Ficha, where they were checked by a strong screen of anti tank guns. Meanwhile 1st Derby Yeomanry occupied Nabeul (K 6122). 4th BR Division had moved east from Soliman behind the Armored Divisions, and on 11 May 10th Infantry Brigade made a complete circuit of Cape Bon, joining 12th Infantry Brigade at Menzel Heurc (K 7955). On 12th May 6th Armored Division pushed south and west from Bou Ficha, encountering some resistance from minefields but making contact with 8th Army during the day. By means of their operations during these 3 days, 9 Corps effectively prevented an enemy withdrawal to the Cape Bon Peninsula.

(c) 5 Corps. On 11 May 4th Indian Division occupied St. Marie du Zit (K2414) and the following day continued mopping up operations to the south.

4. 2 US Corps. After the collapse of German resistance on 9 May operations were confined to mopping up. Prisoners captured on the 2nd Corps front totalled 37,998.

5. Enemy AF. The enemy resisted desperately in attempt to prevent our thrust along main road Hamman Lif Zhammanol If - Bou Ficha. Resistance broken by superior forces and on 11 May last remaining Axis forces in Tunisia were cut into 2 pockets. 1 on Cap Bon and the other west of Bou Ficha. In Cap Bon, enemy was encircled by our movement around the coast and about 10,000 surrendered on 12 May. Small bodies only remain to be mopped up in central hills. Opposition in the main pocket of enemy crumbled rapidly on 11 and 12 May. Von Arnim and the staff of Army Group Afrika, Von Sponeck with 90 Light Division and the Italian Young Fascists had all surrendered, while further west more than 20,000 troops capitulated thus reducing the remaining enemy to 164 Light Division. and Italians in general area P 19 and K 10. At last light on 12 May, General Messe, GOC 1st Italian Army, was believed to be negotiating terms of surrender with Eighth Army. Thus final stages of enemy resistance in Tunisia almost closed. Prisoners since 6 May number some 143,000 and will eventually exceed 160,000. 15 Generals have so far been taken. Considerable material captured, including at least 1,200 guns all types and 250 German tanks. Estimated equipment captured intact is equivalent of 2 Divisions. Huge quantities supplies, petrol and ammunition also in our hands. Little evacuation has been achieved by sea or air. Total casualties to enemy since beginning Tunisian campaign estimated to exceed 250,000.

6. NAVY. Our light naval craft have maintained a close blockade of the Cape Bon Peninsula and have also operated off Pantellaria. They have intercepted numerous small boats attempting to take evacuees from Tunisia. 1 of our MTBs although later beached was a total loss after striking a mine off Sousse. On 11 May our destroyers cleared the enemy from Zembra Island, taking over 120 prisoners. The Italian Liner Laurana, painted as a hospital ship, but not registered as such, was taken to Sousse for investigation.

7. Air.

? 12/5 see page 468, para (8)

3.

7. AIR. Wellingtons attacked Palermo on night 9/10 May, and other heavy attacks were made on Borazzo (Sicily) and St Lino Air fields. In daylight 11 May formation of 198 heavy and medium bombers escorted by fighters carried out a successful attack on Marsala. Fires left burning after this raid could be seen from the Tunisian coast, 90 miles distant. Wellingtons repeated the attack during the night and did much damage in the harbour area. Fighter bombers have also attacked Pantellaria. Aircraft of the tactical air force, in addition to most effective support of our forward troops carried out shipping sweeps in the Gulf of Tunis and attacked the Harbour of Pantellaria.

8. POLITICAL. General Girauds memorandum of April 27th to De Gaulle was published in North Africa. Its tone was cooperative and moderate. A reply has been received but awaits General Girauds return from Tunis. There is no indication of an immediate meeting.

Circulation

Brig. Jacob
Foreign Secretary
War Reg. Admiralty
C.6 Tels. W/O
A.M.C.S. (C)
Mr. Strang F/O
Mr. Radcliffe, M.O.I.

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.East Indies.

VASNA. Hospital ship VASNA sailed for Diego Garcia. (N.O.I.C. Mauritius 140401Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. F.O. Ceylon, Cmdre i/c Durban, C. in C.S.A.).

Convoy Programme. (1) B.P.79 further delay now sail 15th. (2) B.P.80 sailing 19th my 100429Z and my 011001Z refers. (P.S.T.O. India 140811Z to C. in C.E.F.).

X 55th Flotilla Arrival 55th Flotilla less 475 and 476. (?N.O.I.C.Madras 140902Z to Admty. C. in C.E.F. etc.).

LEWES Ref. A.H.Q.India 120930 May (N.T. in W.D.) which has been passed to you. Request consideration be given to the early release of LEWES to Ceylon and the provision of a relief for LEWES at the Cape. The question of recovery craft is being dealt with separately. (C. in C.E.F. 140955Z to C. in C.S.A. Admty. (R) F.O. Ceylon, Comnas, R.A.N.A.S. I.O. A.H.Q. India 222 Group).

Movements Kilindini HAWKINS arrived BURNIE, WAYLAND left. (F.O.East Africa 141121Z to Admty.).

Movements FALMOUTH arrived and left. (N.O.I.C.Seychelles 141132Z to Admty.).

Aden moorings. Presume (?you will) (?take necessary action) on A.M. 132009 through C. in C. Levant. (C. in C.E.F. 142232Z to N.O.I.C.Aden, (R) Admty. C. in C. Levant, F.O.R.S.).

TINHOW (sunk 11/5). My 131005 TINHOW. Thorough search of vicinity of wreckage made by Portuguese sloop tug and aircraft. 131 survivors at present out of total 207. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 141357B to Admty. C. in C. E.F. C. in C. S.A. Cdre. Durban). TINHOW my 131005 refers. Amend position of attack 230 degs. Rippopo Light 20 to 25 miles. (C.S.A. Lourenco Marques 141423 to Admty. etc.).

OPHIR Hospital ship. Para.5. of F.O.Ceylon 070902 May and D. of S.T. 020052 December. (?N.P.) Has Italian recognition of OPHIR as Hospital Ship yet been (?obtained). Intend to employ her between Kilindini and (?Durban). Request Admiralty pass to D. of S.T.). (C. in C.E.F. 141431Z to Admty. (R) F.O.Ceylon (?D. of S.T.)).

EDWARD F. JOHNSON Following has been read by Colombo W/T. EDWARD / F.JOHNSON...

14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

EDWARD
F.
JOHNSON.

F. JOHNSON. Simoon broke 11th May, Attempting temporary repairs. Impossible to proceed destination. May require tow. Position 354 degs. 500 (corrupt group) miles from D drifted 310 degs. (?position and course). (Colombo W/T 141530Z to Admty. C. in C.H.F.). Note by W.R:-
Message received in a very corrupt state.

WD. Note. - Was towed into Kelindian, 1,540 miles away.

See WD, June, pp. 450, 471.

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

MAURETANIA. E.T.A. 0400Z/15th.
(MAURETANIA 140200Z. to N.O.I.C. Trinidad (R)
Cominch C. & R.)

Movements. May 13th St. Johns N.F.
Arrivals:- KEPPEL, ESCAPADE, GARLAND, ROSELYS,
RENONCULE, NAPANEE, H.M.R.T. GROWLER ex O.N.181.
Departures:- BURNHAM, LA MALBAIE to H.X. 238,
KITCHENER, NORTHERN SPRAY escorting W.S.C.130.
(N.O.I.C. St. Johns N.F. 140251Z. to Admty.)
Arrival 13th U.S. A.T. EL LIBERTADOR.
(S.B.N.O. Curacao 141358Z. to Admty.)

? My P.C. and S. at 0300Z/14th 048° 15' 047° 20'
000° 1 to 2 knots. Encountered extremely heavy
ice thick packs. Side dented through rolling.
Dome carried away. Request instructions.
(Originator Corrupt 140316Z. to C.3. (R) F.O.N.E.)

B.Y.M.S. This is a re-encypherment of Alusnob Belem
131943. (Begins). Numbers 43, 45 and 6 B.Y.M.Ss.
arrived Belem 13. (Ends).
(Cominch C. & R. 140434 to S.B.N.O. W.At.)
Port Hueneme 12th A.T. PRESIDENT POLK (U.S.) Noumea.
(N.S.H.Q. 141908Z. to Admty.)
New Orleans May 12th A.T. SEMINOLE (U.S.) New York via
Key West 14th.
(N.S.H.Q. 141918Z. to Admty.)

SEARCHER. Seattle departed 131600, B.R.L.O. New York
pass to M.W.T.R.
(N.S.H.Q. 140700Z. to Admty. (R) B.A.D. M.W.T.
New York.)

Convoy A.T.44 sailed as my 121605Z.
A.T.44. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 140907Z. to Admty. Connav.(R)
N.S.H.Q. C. in C. Lant, F.O.N.F. C. in C. W.A.)

Convoy D/F of transmission at 0656Z indicates U/B still
S.C.129, in vicinity of convoy.
U/B. (D.D.I.C. 140937B. to Escorts of S.C.129. E.G.5.
(R) Cominch, N.S.H.Q. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C.)

Movements CARNARVON CASTLE 08° N. 28° W. on Patrol.
summary (D.O.D. (F) 140950Z. to Opnav. (R) Comnav.)
at 1800
G.M.T. 14th.

Convoy O.N. 181. Intend detaching 2 Boston ships in
O.N.181. position 7B unless other instructions received.
Weather report.
(W.6. 141101Z. to A.I.G.301, 3rd U.S. N.D.Boston)

U/B...

War Diary.

14.5.1943.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.- Contd.

U/B. S/M reported in immediate vicinity of St. Johns, N.F.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 141118Z. to G.B.7A.)

H.X.239, BUXTON. New York departed 13th escorting H.X.239 BUXTON.
(N.S.H.Q. 141136 to Admty. (R) B.A.D. C. in C. C.N.A. F.O.N.F.)

Numbers of P.O.W. in U.S. Ships. During the period when large numbers of prisoners must be transported from North Africa present U.S. Atlantic passenger rules are modified as follows. Number of prisoners of war which may be carried on U.S. ships from North Africa will be decided in each case by C. in C. Allied Forces but adequate guards must be furnished. Life saving capacity of ship is not to be exceeded. C. in C. Med. pass to C. in C. Allied Force.
(Cominch 141410Z. to Comnavnav (R) C. in C. Allied Forces, Commorseafron, C. in C. Med. Cinclant, C.E.S.F. Admty. Comnavu)

UGANDA. My 130155. UGANDA sailed 140330Z.
(C.T.24 141431Z. to Admty. (R) C. in C. Plymouth C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q. Cinclant, Cominch.)

N.S.H.Q. S/M Estimate. (N.S.H.Q. 141446Z.)

S/M estimate 14th May. U.S. S/M notice. (Cominch 141458Z, 141459Z, 141600Z, 141601Z, 141602Z.)

Merchant Shipping from U.S. routeing. Your 131314. Presume you will promulgate amendment to your 2038/12 Jan. Para. 2.
(B.A.D. 141517Z. to Admty. (R) N.S.H.Q.)

H.J.51. Departure MALPEQUE escorting H.J.51.
(C. Halifax 141626Z. to Admty. etc.)

E.G.3. O.N.S.7. My 081749. OFFA, PENN and PANTHER to overtake S.C.130. E.G.3 proceed forthwith towards 55° N. 47° W. making good 12 knots weather permitting to support O.N.S.7.
(C. in C. W.A. 141721B. to F.O.N.F. (R) S.O. Escort Group 3, A.I.G.303, S.E.C.S.C.130, S.E.C.O.N.S.7.)

/Staff...

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War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

- Staff Views on Ship Design. Your 041545Z May. Liaison with U.S. Navy Board and suggested general exchange of views on Staff Requirements of ships is fully endorsed and welcomed by Admiralty.
2. List of subjects in your para. 3 is concurred in except that (B) should read "The necessity or otherwise for the large cruiser".
3. Following additional subjects are also suggested for discussion:- (F) Optimum endurance for vessels accompanying a fleet of the small cruiser class and below. (G) Necessity or otherwise for smaller destroyers. (H) Speed and protection in a properly balanced ship. 4. Future Building Committee papers relevant to subjects A. to H. are being summarised and will be forwarded to you as soon as possible. (D.T.S.D. 141734B. to B.A.D.)
- Convoy B.X.51. Sailing Telegram Part 2. * (P.D. Boston 141800 to Cominch C. & R. etc.)
* Total 28 ships, 9 columns, 333, 343, 333.
- Washops 106. Landing in Attu. Aleutian U.S. Force made landing at Massacre Bay and West Arm of Holtz Bay, Attu, during afternoon of May 11th. By noon on May 12th, surface vessels having neutralised enemy position (? opposition) U.S. troops were advancing inland. Owing to adverse weather conditions U.S. aircraft were unable to locate targets. (J.S.M. Washington 141819Z. to Admty. etc.)
- Convoy O.N.180. 33 ships arrived including GLENAFFARIC. Straggler CONTESSA A arrived 121709Z. 1st ship arrived on 140008Z. Last ship arrived 141350Z. All ships accounted for. (P.D. New York 141826Z. to Admty. etc.)
O.N.180. Following arrived New York 13th May (? 14th intended). Total 32 ships. (B.R.L.O. New York 142039Z. to Admty.)
- U/B. U.S. Patrol Boat reports S/M in 19.18 N. 81.28 W. at 1435Z. (Comr. Jamaica 141845Q. to Admty. S.B.N.O. Trinidad, Opanav. C.G.S.F.)
- NIGERIA. Your 131410. Estimation of completion date is mid June. Allowing for trials and 7 days working up practices in Chesapeake Bay, ship should be ready to sail about first week in July. (B.A.M.R. Washington 141848Z. to Admty. (R) NIGERIA, A.S. Chatham, C. in C. Nore.)
- SEMINOLE. My 141918. Army Transport SEMINOLE (U.S.) arrived Key West 13th. (N.S.H.Q. 142130Z. to Admty.)

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies.

T.F.61. Change course immediately for new position F 4755 N. 3540 W. new G. 5415 N. 2620 W. thence to D, omitting B. and C. (D.O.D. (H) 141908B. to Task Force 61 (R) C. in C. H.F. C. in C. W.A. H.Q.C.C. A.C.O.S. Cominch, Cinclant.)

ARCHER. E.T.A. Argentia 0830Z/15th May. Request gate 1000Z. DEVERON, EGLANTINE, ROSE in company. (ARCHER 141935Z. to F.O.I.C. Newfoundland (R) VISCOUNT.)

Shipping Casualties. Connav serial 14. TINHOW torp, sunk May 11th 25.15 S. 33.30 E. ORMISTON torp, May 12th 30.16 S. 15.37 E. arrived Coffs Harbour. Your serial 13, ONEIDA 2664 gross, sunk May 4 about 85 miles N. by E. of Norfolk, Straggler convoy N.G.359, probable marine cause. (Connav 141958 to Comnav.)

Convoys. F.O.N.Fs. 141413. (N.T. in W.D.) Request you will take necessary action with O.N.182 and S.C.130, O.N.182 Chop to you 2200Z/14. S.C.130 my 141850 refers. (D.T.D.142010B. to C. in C. N.W.A. (R) C. in C. W.A. F.O.N.F. N.S.H.Q.)

MAURETANIA. Sail L.N. 692 (MAURETANIA) via
(S) 28.30 S. 34.35 W. (T) 34.30 S. 23.01 W.
(U) 38.50 S. 10.48 W. (V) 40.59 S. 00.15 E.
(W) 41.58 S. 10.30 E. (X) 42.01 S. 20.02 E.
Request C. in C. S.A. provide onward route and destination.
(Cominch C. & R. 142012Z. to N.O.B. Chiloe Island. (R) Admty. C. in C. S.A. Comsolant.)
Reply:- C. in C. S.A. 181803B.

K.15. Philadelphia sailed 141300 Dutch S/M K.15 for New London.
(N.S.H.Q. 142014 to Admty. (R) B.A.D.)

? Neutral Shipping Routes. Ref. Your 122051B. No adjustment of approach lanes considered necessary a desire (? or desirable). Neutral vessels to be routed as in para. 1. ULIAS 072033B. Vessels bound for New Orleans or Pensacola should be routed to position 034.00 N. 061.00 W. thence on direct course to appropriate approach lane. Vessels bound for Northernmost ports in West Indies or Caribbean should be routed to position 034.00 N. 039.00 W. thence direct to appropriate approach lane.
(Cominch C. & R. 142026Z. to Admty.)

/Below...

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14.5.1943.
Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.Below Deck
Cargoes for
Middle East,
India and
Ceylon.

1. We presume you have information on War Office proposals for meeting the new shipping and routeing arrangements which are being made for freight to Middle East, India and Ceylon, whereby consignments in the three months May, June and July will become arrivals in the two months August and September, so that in effect only two months' requirements need be lifted in the three months period. 2. In accordance with recently established procedure we have now to notify War Office of our shipping requirements in the light of these new arrangements so that they can advise the Cs. in C. concerned. (3,4, & 5 requirements.) 6. Request your views on paras. 4 and 5. You will realise they do not affect the deck cargo programme.

(Head of M.A.S. Approved by 4th Sea Lord 142057B. to B.A.D.)

Floating
Cranes for
Mediterranean.

SALOR 7452. LORSA 8005.* An urgent operational requirement in Mediterranean is provision of mobile floating cranes, capable of sea passage for salvage of engines and equipment of badly damaged major landing craft off captured beaches and for changing engines and assisting in repairs at new advance bases prior to further operations. Request endeavour be made to obtain allocation of two in number complete with base assembly. If possible one to be shipped in L.S.T.159 shortly ready New York for loading through to Malta (B.M.S.M. Washington Amast 3209/1605/3/5 refers) or other available through shipment and one to Bougie, both unassembled, or failing through passage, both to Bougie, unless otherwise instructed by C. in C. Med. *T.O.O.1845/20/3 (D. of P. 142109B. to B.A.D. (R) C. in C. Med. V.A. Malta.)

Sub Attack
and Sighting
Summary.

All times Z. (A) PBV sights sub course 210 60.08 N. 32 W. 1350/14 R.A.F. Liberator Bomber attacks sub course 125 60.12 N. 31.40 W. 1537/14. Catalina attacks S/M 60.31 N. 31.05 W. 0600/14 R.A.F. Liberator attacks S/M 47.45 N. 26.57 W. 1434/14 Catalina attacks S/M 60.25 N. 30.50 W. 0745/14 PBV sights sub course 260 60.28 N. 31.18 W. 0845/14 Catalina sights sub course 200 60.10 N. 31.52 W. 1155/14 PBV attacks sub course 270 60.31 N. 28 W. 1045/13. From Cominch. (B) Plane sights sub course 090 04.25 S. 35.10 W. 0800/14 (D) C.G.83372 attacks sub 19.18 N. 81.28 W. 1505/14. Sub. reported area 48 N. 52.30 W. 1118/14. SS. CAESAR RODNEY sights sub 12.57 S. 33.41 W. 1443/13.
(Cominch 142114Z. to Admty. for O.I.C.)

Information
for
Russia.

J.S.M.941 14th May.
Ref. J.S.M. 933. (082301/5). U.S. Chiefs of Staff approve disclosure of G.L. Mark III to Russians and "request that disclosure be made on a quid pro quo exchange basis".
2. We understand that this request conveys a hope and not a requirement.
(J.S.M. 142201Z. to W.C.O. London.)

/Washops...

564

14.5.1943.

Friday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.America & West Indies - Contd.

Washops 107. P.M. May 12th air attacks were made on enemy
Aleutians. positions and barges at Attu. U.S. ground
forces were meeting strong enemy resistance
and operations hampered by fog. Enemy S/M
who fired a torpedo at U.S. large warship
was depth charged and believed sunk on May 13th. Surface
vessels bombarded enemy batteries in Holtz Bay Area
permitting U.S. artillery to move up. Little change in
troop positions and no air support available owing to bad
visibility. Unloading operations continuing. Approximately
5000 U.S. troops have been landed.
(J.S.M. 142221Z. to Admty. etc.)

Officers Your 082151Z. para. 3. Owing to acute
for shortage of Officers C.Os. only are now
H.D.M.Ls. appointed to H.D.M.Ls. and 4 Spare Officers
are allowed to each Flotilla of 8 boats
operating in tropical climates.
2. 12 C.Os. and 6 spare Officers have been
sent from U.K. 3. 4 more C.Os. and 4 Spare Officers are
awaiting passage. 4. 4 C.Os. will be appointed as soon as
possible to complete 116th and 118th M.L. Flotillas.
5. Request confirmation that all Officers ex 19th M.T.B.
Flotilla have been used for other appointment and that none
are available for H.D.M.Ls.
(N.A.2nd S.L. 142344B. to B.A.D.)

U.G.S.8A. Admiralty pass by landline to Cdr. N.W.Africa
Sea Frontier, C. in C. Med. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
This completes my 2134/13th. U.G.S.8A. Part 1
7. 80 ships. 14 columns, single 3, single 5,
single 6, quadruple 7, single 3, double 6, double 7, single 6,
single 3.
(P.D. New York 142350Z. to Connav. (R) NO.B. Bermuda, C.E.S.F
Cdr. N.W. Africa Sea Frontier. Admty. N.S.H.Q. F.O.I.C.Gib.
C. in C. Med.)

Australia & New Zealand.

Kiwi 35. Small A.P. visited Vila Kolombangara 11/5.
Lifeboats survivors possible from PHOEBE
HEARST reported 170 miles 075° Suva p.m. 12/5.
Santa Isabel Rekata Bay attacked by 13 D.B.7s.
a.m. 11/5 A/A positions hit floatplane destroyed.
Bougainville Kahili attacked 11/5 and 12/5 large fires there
also at Ballala and Shortland Islands. Kolombangara. Six
1,000 lb. and 24 500 lb. bombs dropped on Vanga Vanga S.T.
Coast p.m. 10/5. New Georgia Heavenland Munda a.m. 10/5
hits on runway A/A positions and revetments.
(C.W.R. Wellington 140031Z to C. in C. E.F. Admty. D.N.I.
C.W.B. G.H.Q. New Delhi.)

/Digest...

War Diary.14.5.1943.
Friday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia & New Zealand.Digest
Serial No.
479
May 13th.

2. Catalina attacked S/M sighted early hours 65 miles South West of Gasmata course 270° but bombs fell wide. This same S/M and aircraft reported Digest 478 para 4. Another S/M sighting reported after dark 13th 40 miles South East of Lae course East.

3. After daybreak five Bostons bombed and strafed Cape Gloucester Aerodrome starting two large fires. Nil aircraft seen but villages and five empty barges along coast Dampier Strait also machine gunned. 5. Three heavily laden barges near shore Cape Campier (40 miles East of Gasmata) attacked by morning search Fortress which also strafed barge and launch 30 miles South West Talsasea. 6. R/C Liberator bombed buildings near Lorengau Aerodrome at noon. Two small schooners observed anchored Lorengau and at Kavieng sighted 1 destroyer, 3 cargo vessels including 2 large, 1 small. One Zero ineffectually intercepted here. 8. Noon photos Rabaul show 43 vessels, including 25 merchant ships totalling 117,000 tons. 7 destroyers, 2 destroyer tenders, 4 probably minesweepers, 1 each S/m subtender, subchaser, light cruiser YUBARI class and seaplane tender similar CHITOSE. 9. Forenoon photos Wewak reveal 5 merchantmen totalling 27,000 tons and small vessels in harbour plus 90 barges. 11. Finschhafen Aerodrome area bombed during early hours by Catalina and after mid-day by 2 individual R/C Liberators 1 of which also bombed Bogadgim (15 miles South of Madang) and old wreck off Lae. 12. Enemy aircraft conducted wide R/C before noon over Milne Bay Trobriands area. (G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 140832Z.)

Movements.

Arrival 13th May. Newcastle U.S. Transport SWARTENHONDT Sydney (N.S.W.) U.S. Transport BONTEKOE. H.T. DUNTRON arrived Cairns 13th and depart 14th due Townsville 14th. U.S. Transport BOTH depart Merauke 13th arrived Thursday Island 14th.

(C.S.W.P.S.F. 141252Z. to Admty. Connav.)

Arrivals Thursday Is. 13th WARREGO, LATROBE Newcastle 13th. WARRNAMBOOL, MILDURA, Townsville 13th GLENELG, Milne Bay 13th, ECHUCA, BOWEN, WHYALLA, Cairns 13th (?GANANOQUE) Sydney 13th TOWNSVILLE, DELORAINE, COLAC, MORESBY, BENDIGO, ALSEY. Departures Townsville 13th U.S. Destroyer GILMER for Brisbane WARRAMUNGA for Port Moresby, Sydney (New South Wales) 12th F.S. LE TRIOMPHANT for Brisbane Milne Bay 13th ECHUCA for Port Moresby, Cairns 13th SWAN for Port Moresby.

(N.B. Melbourne 141254Z. to Admty. etc.)

Departure Wellington H.T. DOMINION MONARCH for Fremantle E.T.A. 0600Z/23 May.

(D.N.I. Wellington 142200Z. to Admty. etc.)

Arrival Dunedin 0344/13th U.S.S. Ship DELPHINUS. Arrival Lyttelton 2107/13th H.M.N.Z. Ship MATAI. Departure Auckland 2100/13th U.S. Ship HERCULES Noumea 2000/16th. Departures NANDI Fiji 1950 ?18th, ENGADINE Noumea 0300/15th. All times Zebra.

(S.O. (I) Wellington 140326Z. to Admty.)

/D/F...

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14.5.1943.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia & New Zealand - Contd.

D/F
Fixes.

(1). To add to value of direction finding fixes determined by mid-Pacific net, propose (A) After D/F. stations have sent bearings in reply to flashes they follow up with local number of their R.F.P. and TINA observations when such have been made. (B) Honolulu follow their flash fixes by keeping in touch with number of R.F.P. and TINA observations. (2) It is considered not feasible to run one universal series of R.F.P. and TINA numbers for use by all R.F.P. units in Pacific, since such units make observations additional to those which may be made while flash bearings are being taken. There would appear to be no difficulty, however, in matching the various series of numbers to each other and to Honolulu. (A.C.N.B. 140910Z. to C. in C. Pacific Fleet. (R) N.Z.N.B. Wellington, Admty. Opnav.)

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Report.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C. 141404B, 141416B.)

567

15.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.SITUATION REPORT.Home Commands.X S/M patrol
in mid-
Atlantic.Greenland
Sea S/M
Patrol.Biscay
A/S air
patrol.X Air attacks
on Wilhelms-
haven and
Emden.

1. HAKE sailed from the Gareloch today for anti U-Boat patrol in mid-north Atlantic but returned with defects and HADDO was sailed in her place. HERRING is to leave the Denmark Straits at 0001 tomorrow to augment this new patrol. On 14th May F.O.(S) recommended that the 6 U.S. S/Ms of Subron 50 might be employed in future on similar anti U-Boat patrols in mid-Atlantic, 3 being on patrol there continuously.

It is, however, his intention to establish anti U-Boat patrols in the Greenland Sea and he proposed as a first action that SHAD, TRUCULENT and SURF should proceed from their present patrols in the Denmark Straits to establish anti U-Boat patrol in the Greenland Sea. (See 16th May. F.O. (S) 161349B gives the patrol lines). The long term policy for the U.S. S/Ms will be decided later. (See 25th May.)

2. A signal intercepted by WESTMOOR in Convoy S.C.129 today reports that the Eire ship IRISH OAK, 5589 tons, which passed 20 miles astern of the Convoy during last night, has been torpedoed and that all her crew have been rescued in about 47° 14' N. 26° 01' W. It was later reported that the ship was torpedoed at 0840/15 in 47.51 N. 25.53 W. IRISH PLANE landed survivors at Dublin on 19th May.

3. Whitley aircraft M of Bomber Command made a promising attack with bombs and gunfire on a U-Boat 240 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal today. Whilst returning to the position of the attack the same aircraft attacked another U-Boat 214 miles N.W. of Cape Finisterre. Whitley S attacked with 6 depth charges a U-Boat 180 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. Photographs of the attack disclose a large disturbance in the water, with a solid object which might be part of the U-Boat or possibly wreckage, in the centre. Whitley B made a promising attack on a U-Boat 285 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal. 112 Fortresses of U.S.A. VIII Bomber Command attacked Wilhelmshaven Naval Dockyard today and 59 Emden port area.

4. Eagle ship QUEEN EMPRESS and Roughs Fort each shot down a F.W.190 off Harwich this evening.

/S.N.123 ...

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands - Contd.

X S.N. 123.

5. R.A.M. in AGAMEMNON with CASTLETON and ST. MARYS left Port ZA at 1600 for an experimental minelaying operation off Gallon Head.

6. SS. CORMULL (British, 2865 tons) in Convoy F.S.14 was damaged by a near miss mine explosion in the early hours of today off No.7 Buoy, about 12 miles N.E. of Yarmouth. CHAMPION took her in tow pending repairs to her main engine and KITTIWAKE stood by.

North Atlantic.

7. SS. AFRICAN STAR made a submarine sighting report in 35.40 N. 03.10 W.

X 8. A U.S. Army aircraft attacked with 4 depth charges and claims to have severely damaged a U-Boat at 1142A in 31.40 N. 21.15 W.

South Atlantic.

9. A transit aircraft at 0650 reported life rafts with men in 09° S. 13° W. U.S. bombers from Ascension took off at 0915 to search.

? ~~10. A submarine distress report intercepted today from a ship in 11,44 S. 01,44 E. is believed to have been from SS. LULWORTH HILL.~~

Mediterranean.

First
Through
Mediterranean
Convoys.

11. C. in C. Mediterranean intends to pass two special convoys through the Sicilian Strait: viz. K.M.S.14X, a fast convoy of 7 merchant ships which will be detached from O.S.47 on passing.

/Carnero ...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.SITUATION REPORT.Mediterranean.First
Through
Mediterranean
Convoys.
(Contd.)

Carnero for Alexandria and beyond, expected to pass Bizerta a.m. on May 21st and Tripoli on May 22nd (the convoy sailed from Gibraltar on 17th May, 4 ships only); and a slow convoy of ships for Malta, passing Bizerta a.m./22nd and arriving at Malta on the 23rd.

The first convoy of a regular cycle to pass through the Narrows will be G.T.X.1 (intermediate convoy) which will leave Gibraltar on 24th May. Main convoys, consisting of combined K.M. and U.G. convoys (which will retain their K.M.S. designation), will sail every fifteen days, and between each of them an intermediate G.T.X. convoy will run.

/ Tunisia
patrols.

12. C. in C. Med. sends today a summary of the activities of our surface forces operating in Tunisian waters between 30th April and 13th May. M.T.Bs patrolled off Pantellaria last night. Destroyer patrols were maintained around the Cape Bon peninsula today. Small boat activity has practically ceased.

H.M. Ships and coastal forces have taken a total of 879 prisoners during the operations off Tunisia.

23 prisoners were taken off Plane Island today. Capt. (D) 5 (DULVERTON) reports having boarded a steam vessel, K.T.9, of approximately 2000 tons, with a cargo of 1 tank and 4 light cars on deck, ammunition and land mines in the hold. All holds were flooded. Officers and crew had left, and the ship which was aground near Ras Idda, was occupied by 5 transport officers and one man, all German Army fugitives.

13. SAFARI reports firing 2 torpedoes into Port Torres harbour at 1958/8 and sinking a 2500 ton ship. She also sank two small vessels off Asinara on 2nd and 6th May respectively.

14. 20 Wellingtons attacked Palermo last night, and Trapani was attacked today.

*15. 6 enemy aircraft attacked Bone today. SPEEDY, minesweeper, was severely damaged and sustained casualties today in a position 040° St. Elmo 4 miles whilst clearing the North Eastern Channel, Malta. She was towed into harbour and will require extensive repairs.

/16. ...

570

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean - Contd.

16. RORQUAL laid mines today off Stilo Point, south Italy. Among them was the 1,000 lb mine she had laid during the war.

Australia and New Zealand.

17. Four torpedo bombers attacked shipping in Tonolei harbour (Bougainville) last night and hit one merchant ship. Avengers attacked 4 enemy merchant vessels off Pupukuna Point (Tonolei) p.m. today, obtaining hits on one of them, which exploded.

571

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Flag of
F.O.C.T.

My flag is to be hauled down in INDOMITABLE at sunset 20th May and rehoisted in ARGUS at 0800/21st.
(F.O.C.T. 151445).

67th R.M.L.
Flotilla.

R.M.L's 538, 552, 548 and 549 are to be amalgamated to form the 67th R.M.L. Flotilla which is re-allocated to Stornoway to comply with para.4. of A.M. 071904.
(D.D.O.D.(C) 151530B to C. in C. Rosyth).

Movements.

S/M
movements.

My position 51.37 5.16. Clyde E.T.A. 161900.
(TAKU 151201B to Capt.S.3.).

S/M movements tonight. TAKU and H.32 escorted by DAMSAY CUTTER in Irish Sea northbound to Clyde. HAKE escorted by CHANTICLEER northbound from Clyde to Barrahead.
TUNA, STUBBORN, SEADOG escorted by BRYONY in the Minches northbound.
(C. in C.W.A. 151503Z to ROSEMARY, etc.).
Postions of S/M's at 0800/16 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 151709B, 152214B, 160729B).
My 131805 sailed.(ULTIMATUM).
(A.C.O.S. 152234).

ROYAL
SCOTSMAN

My 141020B. Sailed.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 150624B to F.O.I.C.Greenock).

JASON
BRITOMART
BLUEBELL
CAMELLIA.

Sailed Dvina Bar for Kela Inlet.
JASON, BRITOMART, BLUEBELL, CAMELLIA.
(S.B.N.O. Archangel 150930B to S.B.N.O. North Russia).

SCYLLA

Arrived SCYLLA.
(C. in C. Plymouth 150931B).

UGANDA

Alter course forthwith for new position (V)
40.01 N. 33.59 W. new position (W) 42.58 N. 20.02 W. new position (X) 50.12 N. 19.03 W. thence to (U) omitting (Q), (R), (S) and (T).
(D.O., D.H. 151155B to UGANDA).

T.G.92-3.

T.G.92.3 less LEA will depart 2000Z/15th in 55.20 N. 06.35 W. for Reykjavik by following route. E.T.A. 2100Z/17. S.O.A. 15 knots.
(BOGUE 151430 to C.T.G. 24-6).

/Sailed...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Movements.

T.G.92-3
(Contd.). Sailed BOGUE in accordance with C. in C.W.A's 121933Z. BOGUE's 141902Z/ and 151137Z. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 151741 to C.T.G. 24-7).
/ W/T.

Landing Admiralty 082103. Escort for Flight G. TWO-STEP
Craft and MINUET now at Milford Haven.
Flight G. (C. in C.W.A. 151741B).

Destroyer Request you will sail 1 (one) destroyer to
for Hvalfiord leaving Scapa P.M. 18th May.
Hvalfiord. (2) Destroyers will remain in Iceland until
relieved.
(C. in C.H.F. 151904B to F.O.C.D.F.).
Your 151904. ECLIPSE detailed.
(R.A.D. 152146B to C. in C.H.F.).

M.L's for A.M. 041810/May.
Gibraltar 1. Cancel sailing of Group (E) on 21st May.
2. Groups (E) and (F) are to sail on 1st June.
3. It is anticipated that up to 20 Craft will
be included.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide an additional trawler
escort if available.
(D.O.D.H. 151940B to C. in C.W.A. F.O.I.C.Milford Haven).

Operations.

Coastal My 141058B and 141654B. "Artful" returned at
Force 0619.
Patrols. (F.O.I.C. Portland 150632B).
1. Intend M.L's 205 (S.O.) and 246 to patrol
tonight on Lat. 50 degs. 20' N. between 01 degs.
45' W. and 02 degs. 25' W.
2. Leaving Portland at 2130 by Q.Z.S.382 and leave patrol line
at dawn 16th.
3. Object Anti E-boat patrol. Codeword "Jovial".
(F.O.I.C. Portland 151117B).
M.L.208, 124 patrolling Southward of E.A.5. Buoy.
3. CHASSEUR 15 at St. Helens. BLEASDALE, STEVENSTONE, KINGSTON,
TOPAZ at Yarmouth.
4. 2 M.L's from Portland patrolling 50 degs. 20' N. between
2 degs. 25' W. and 1 deg. 45' W.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151314B).
1. M.T.B's 98 and 227 are to patrol on latitude 49 degs. N.
between 3 degs. 20' W. and 3 degs. 35' W.
2. Object. To intercept enemy shipping.
3. Leave Dartmouth for patrol 2200B/15, speed on passage 24 knots.
Leave patrol to be within 20 miles of own coast by first light
16th.
5. Codeword "Bailey".
(C. in C. Plymouth 151523B).

/ M.L's...

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War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Operations.

Coastal Force Patrols. -contd. M.L's 141 and 257 patrolling between Rye and Fairlight Buoys. M.G.B's S.2. S.3 and 40 at Bullock Bank route via No.10. buoy each way. E.T.D. 2230, E.T.R. 0500/16. M.A/S.B's 29 and 25 from Ramsgate at 'V' Buoy. E.T.D. 2300, E.T.R. 0430. (V.A.Dover 151739).

BLEASDALE and STEVENSTONE are to proceed by convoy route to eastward to arrive at C.2.A. Buoy at 2300B, and thence proceed to patrol in the vicinity of position T.T. Leave patrol 0445B and return to Portsmouth by same route.

(2) Air reconnaissance has shown 3 enemy torpedo boats in North Sea which may come South.

(3) If ordered to intercept, force is to proceed and return through passage two, but passage four should be used for return if in that vicinity towards dawn.

(C. in C. Portsmouth 151915B to Capt,D.1.).

Establish patrol between positions (a) 049 degs. 43' N. 005 degs. 01' W. and (b) 040 degs. 43' N. 005 degs. 12' W.

(C. in C. Plymouth 152009B to ORKAN, GOATHLAND).

My 152009B.

(2) Object to cover passage of convoys P.W.339 and W.P.339.

(3) Enemy units. At about 0200 15th our coastal forces sighted at least 2 enemy warships believed T.B. south of Guernsey steering west. Present whereabouts of enemy unknown.

(4) Own information convoy P.W.339 passing 180 degs. The Lizard at about 2300. Convoy W.P.239 passing 180 degs. The Lizard at about 0630. 2 M.T.B's sailed Dartmouth 2200 proceeding to southward to patrol.

(5) If nothing sighted by 0600/16th returning to harbour.

(C. in C. Plymouth 152029B to ORKAN, GOATHLAND).

Amend my 151644B para.4. ORKAN, GOATHLAND, Patrol 14 miles South of Lizard.

(C. in C. Plymouth 152035B).

Your 151523B "Bailey" sailed.

(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 152203B to C. in C. Plymouth).

S/M Patrols. Sailed HAKE escorted by CHANTICLEER in accordance with Consubron 50's 132118. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 151018B).

Leave patrol line Y at 0001/16th May and proceed on surface through

(A) 066 degs. 31' 022 degs. 38' W. at 0900/16, thence between A.M. Q.Z.X.241, A.M.Q.Z.X. 794, and Iceland Coast to

(B) 065 degs. 01' 026 degs. 22' W. at 2100/16.

(C) 060 degs. 02' 034 degs. 59' W. at 0900/18, thence anti U-boat patrol further instructions for which follow.

All times Zone B.

(F.O.S. 151232B to HERRING).

Positions of S/M's at 0800B/16th and movements for following 24 hours.

(A) HERRING approx. 66 degs. 42' N. 21 degs. 55' W. probably on surface to Southwestward, speed 11 knots, to pass inside minefields. Thence through 65 degs. 01' N. 26 degs. 22' W. at 2100/16 thence to 60 degs. 02' N. 34 degs. 59' W. at 0900/18th.

/(B) SHAD...

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Saturday.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

S/M
patrols
-contd.

(B) SHAD, TRUCULENT, and SURF as in my 131524.
(H) HAKE 56 degs. 10' N. 10 degs. 09' W.
probably on surface, speed 10 knots, through 55
degs. 45' N. 12 degs. 01' W. 55 degs. 55' N.
15 degs. 00' W. and 56 degs. 06' N. 18 degs. 01'
W.
(F.O.S. 151709B and 160729B to Admty.).

Exercises.

Exercise.
ANSON
DUKE OF YORK.
MALAYA.

Sailed from Hvalfjord at 1155B Com.2 B.S. in
ANSON with INTREPID, ECHO, MIDDLETON.
(A.C.I.C.151346B).
C. in C.H.F. 101515 para.2. Search will be
carried out by Fortress A/C commencing about 1458
tomorrow Sunday. Sighting A/C will shadow and
home strike. Attack may be expected about 2003. My 151046 refers.
(C. in C. Rosyth 151940B to ANSON).

Enemy Air Activity.

Thames
Estuary.

During the night 13/14 May there was some enemy air
activity over the Thames Estuary but no indication
of mine-laying. R.D.F. plots now obtained from all
ships on patrol tend to show that many enemy
planes on an easterly course passed over the area
just North of B.6A buoy.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 151731B to C. in C. Nore.).

Mining.

? CORMULL
(Convoy
F.S.14).

S.S.CORMULL damaged in No.5. tank from near miss
from mine off No.7. buoy. Ship seaworthy and in
tow of CHAMPION until repairs have been effected to
main engine. Have ordered KITTIWAKE to stand by.
Expect CORMULL will be able to continue her
voyage later.
(WALPOLE 150234B to C. in C.Nore.).

X German
mines in
Kattegat.

My 291751.
(1) Though mines are mainly believed 1940 Vintage,
there is now evidence that Germans relayed
mine-field later with the same ~~mine~~-horned A/S
mines. It is also possible that some of these
mines may have been laid deeper than 20 metres below surface.
(2) It is hoped Director of Minesweepers will examine area in
Swedish waters to southward of 57 degs. N.
(3) Among numerous mines recently washed ashore on West Coast was
a large number of British ones, some with antennae.
(N.A. Stockholm 151131 to D.N.I.).

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15.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Mining. - Contd.

- S.N.123 R.A.(M) sailed AGAMEMNON with CASTLETON and ST. MARY'S in company. (TRELAWNEY 151600 to Admty.).
- Yarmouth. L.L. sweepers detonated red magnetic mine at 1921 in 278 degs. 57 F buoy 1.1/2 miles. (F.O.I.C. Gt. Yarmouth 151947B, 181645B).
- X Operation "Hostile 6A" Orders for this operation are the same as for "Hostile 6" in Plymouth memorandum O1610/413 dated 29th April as amended by C. in C. Plymouth's O31201B May and with following amendments - For Force "Hostile 6" read Force "Hostile 6A" throughout.
Para.5. (A) add M.G.B's 324 and 326 (B) For two destroyers read four or more destroyers as required.
Paras. 10 (A) (B) (C) and (D) cancel and substitute 10(A) arrival at Position (B) Force "Hostile 6A" is to proceed to position (C) 080 degs. Roches Douvres Lt. 10.6 miles.
(B) at position (C) Force "Hostile 6A" is to split into two forces, force "Hostile 6A 'X' " consisting of M.G.B's 317 and 326 and four M.L's and force "Hostile 6A 'Y' " consisting of M.G.B's 312 and 324 and four M.L's (C) Force "Hostile 6A 'X' " is to proceed from position (C) to lay mines between position (1) 079 degs. Roches Douvres Lt. 11.2 miles and position (2) 073 degs. Roches Douvres Lt. 11 miles. (D) Force "Hostile" 6A 'Y' is to proceed from position (C) to lay mines between position (3) 074 degs. Roches Douvres Lt. 11.9 miles and position (4) 068 degs. Roches Douvres 11.9 miles.
(C. in C. Plymouth 152043B to DEFIANCE).
- Operation H.V. Admiralty letter M/O.D. 2038/43 dated 4th May 1943. In view of recent mining of TUSCAN and of frequent reports of mines breaking adrift it is for consideration whether policy of reinforcing this minefield should be reconsidered. If decided continue reinforcement, the proposals in Admiralty letter quoted are concurred in.
(2) Subject to above intend PLOVER should carry out lays as soon first light as practicable, leaving Milford Haven the previous evening as necessary.
(3) 10 Group will be requested to provide escort when applicable.
(4) F.O.I.C. Milford Haven is further requested to state date when PLOVER will be ready to commence operations to which the title H.V. is allotted.
(C. in C. Plymouth 152121B to Admty.).
- Search off Hartland Point. My 141017B. Vessels returned. Operations completed. Nothing to report.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 152203B).

15.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.HOME COMMANDS.Enemy Intelligence.Kiel on
14th May.

Photos taken on 14/1200B May show Kiel; one six inch cruiser LEIPZIG or NÜRNBERG arrived Wik since 20th April, 1943. Six inch cruiser KÖLN still present in outer dockyard basin. (Medmenham 151615B to Admty.).

U-boats.U-boats in
North Atlantic.

Am over enemy S/M 62 degs. 19' N. 10 degs. 36' W. Periscope only sighted. (A/C 151215B to 18 Group). Have lost touch with enemy S/M last seen in 61.39 N. 14.09 W. (A/C O.I.C.C. 151525 to 15 Group).

U-boats
reported or
attacked in
Biscay Area.

Am over enemy S/M in 46.15 N. 11.50 W. (A/C M. of 19 Group 151233). Am over enemy S/M in 47.12 N. 12.38 W. (A/C 151340 to 19 Group). Have attacked enemy with depth charges and estimate one hit, in 47.12 N. 12.35 W. (A/C B. of 19 Group 151418 to 19 Group).

X U-boat A/A
tactics.

During operations of last few days one Swordfish shot down and 2 hit. Consider therefore any other escort carrier operating against U-boats should be warned recent experience shows U-boats policy is to remain on the surface upon attack by Swordfish and open heavy and accurate fire from 20 M.M. gun. (BITER 151633Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Casualties and Defects.

O.10.

Following received from Catalina returned from escort O.10. O.10 now in tow of HALCYON escorted by three destroyers one trawler. P.C.S. at 2055/14 received by V/S from S.O. of escort 063 degs. 14' N. 000 degs. 15' W. 184 degs. 5 knots. (C. in C. Rosyth 150126B to C. in C.H.F.). Return to Scapa after O.10 has passed Muckle Flugga. (C. in C.H.F. 151844B to BRECON).

B.Y.M.S.
866.

B.Y.M.S. 866 from Londonderry to Grimsby entered Aberdeen with engine defect. (F.O.I.C.Aberdeen 150700B).

Search for
Life-boat.

Began search in 018 degs. 51' W. at sunrise. Searching between 048 degs. 55' N. and 049 degs. 25' N. in 090 degs. direction. Aircraft not contacted. My position 049 degs. 15' N. 018 degs.

20' W. Request relief aircraft. (LAGAN 151055B to C. in C.W.A.).

/Completed....

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15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Casualties and Defects.

Search for Life-boat (Contd.) Completed search area 048 degs. 55' N. 049 degs. 25' N. 018 degs. 50' W. 017 degs. 30' W. proceeding 180 degs. from 049 degs. 32' N. 017 degs. 19' W. at 1340B to 048 degs. 48' N. 270 degs. to 019 degs. 01' W. thence 000 degs. to 049 degs. 32' N. thence 090 degs. speed 15. Request aircraft assistance. (LAGAN 151315B to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 151055B. Sunderland A/C will co-operate from 1800B/15th until dusk.
(C. in C.W.A. 151427B to LAGAN).
Your 151516B. Impossible unless (corrupt group) boat has wind from East for 8 hours. Searching to 016 degs. 50' W. and then as in my 151315B. Weather 9170 3225.
(LAGAN 151608B to C. in C.W.A.).
Your 151315B. Aircraft is searching area between 048 degs. 50' N. 049 degs. 40' N. and 017 degs. W. to 018 degs. W. Suggest you do not go further west than 018 degs. W.
(C. in C.W.A. 151647B to LAGAN).
One lifeboat position 49 degs. 02' N. 17 degs. 25' W. 12 survivors May Island land sea (?C.A.).
(A/C N. of 423 Sqdn. 152023B to 15 Group).
Lifeboat located in 049 degs. 02' N. 017 degs. 25' W. Aircraft will probably land and take off survivors.
(C. in C.W.A. 152126B to LAGAN).
Your 152126. My P.C.S. 049 degs. 29' N. 018 degs. 08' W. 140 degs. 19'.
Weather 9070 3223.
(LAGAN 152201B to C. in C.W.A.).
My 152126B. Have you located lifeboat? If not report your P.C.S. Aircraft reports he has lost contact, searching.
(C. in C.W.A. 152331B to LAGAN).
Have lost contact searching.
(A/C 423 Sqdn. Duty N. 152335B to 19 Group).

PATHFINDER It is understood that PATHFINDER and OBDURATE
OBDURATE. arrive Clyde about 18th May and require docking for rudder damage and hull repairs respectively. Both ships also require boiler cleaning.

(2) It would be of great assistance if docking and boiler cleaning could be undertaken concurrently on Clyde and ships sailed for Scapa on completion.
(R.A.D.H.F. 151205B to C. in C.W.A.).

Unknown Ship. Following received, from Niton Radio. No.11 Group Uxbridge R.A.F. Intercept 1450 G.M.T. Type unknown bearing not obtained. begins:- Automatic S.O.S. Strength 1 ends.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151450B to Admty.).
(Port Patrick Radio 151650) (Humber Radio 151945).
Following received. From Niton Radio. Intercepted at 1750 G.M.T. type A.1. bearing sense N.E. Gonio A.O. automatic S.O.S. strength 1-2.
(C. in C. Portsmouth 151950).

/IRISH...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Casualties and Defects. - Contd.

IRISH OAK 32129 My P.C.S. at 1400Z/15th 049 degs. (12?)
N. 026 degs. 40' W. 052 degs. 7.5. Only one
U/boat shadowing convoy at a distance in extreme
visibility. Eire ship IRISH OAK pass 20 miles
astern of convoy during the night, course 60 degs. From
intercepted signal between IRISH (ROSE?) and IRISH PLANE it is
possible IRISH OAK has been (torpedoed?)
(HESPERUS 151600Z to C. in C.W.A.).

Your 151600Z. Signal details of intercepted signal
referred to.

(C. in C.W.A. 152141B to HESPERUS).

Your 152141. Following intercepted by WESTMOOR begins:-
From IRISH PLANE to IRISH ROSE. Have heard distress signal
position 120 degs. (sic) 09' N. 026 degs. 01' W. at 1022Z.
Position of signal letters E.I.N.Y. at 0830 was 047 degs. 14'
N. 026 degs. 01' W. This makes him similarity of position. Owing
to brevity of message and jerky sending am afraid that "E.I.N.Y"
does not reply and am anxious for (?her). This was followed
by IRISH PLANE to IRISH ROSE begins: We are proceeding to 047
degs. 49' N. 026 degs. 01' W. End. Further signal since
intercept reports IRISH OAK was torpedoed and all crew have
been picked up.

(HESPERUS 152042Z to C. in C.W.A.).

WALPOLE WALPOLE at 8 hours notice from 1645/15th to
effect repairs to oil coolers, starboard after
fan, and bulkhead valves. Estimated time of
completion 1700/16th.
(Capt.(D) 16. 151615B to C. in C. Nore).

CULEBRA My 101236B. Sailed S.S.CULEBRA in tow of tugs
EMPIRE HENCHMAN and EMPIRE BASCOBEL for Methil
for onward routeing to Tyne. S. of A. is
expected to be 5 knots.
A.C.O.S's 111601B refers.
(R.O.I.C. Greenock 151648B to A.C.O.S.).

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War Diary.15.5.1945.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

O.N.186. O.N.185 and O.N.186 consisting in all of about
O.N.185. 60 ships will be sailed as one convoy entitled
O.N.186 on 24th May both escort groups being
utilised. (2) In view of the double escort
it is hoped to sail the convoy by the shortest
route, but it may be necessary to adjust the sailing date of
H.X. 243.

(A.C.N.S. U.T. 150008B)

O.N.185 is cancelled. O.N.186 will sail from Mersey
on May 24th.

(D.T.D. 150327B)

Spare Depth-Charges. A.M. 141728A/March. Following Tan-
kers should be available for sailing in O.N.186 but no action
should be taken which may prevent any vessel sailing in an
earlier Convoy where this is possible. Names of 14 Tankers.
(D.T.D. 152125B)

Escort oilers. A.M. 081800A/March. Following ten
tankers should be available for sailing in O.N.186, but no
action is to be taken which may prevent any vessel sailing
in an earlier convoy where this is possible. Names of Ships.
(D.T.D. 152135B)

S.D.40. My 141736. Sailed. E.T.A. 1400B/17.

LEINSTER.

(A.C.I.C. 150121B to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

LEINSTER due Clyde about 18.5. in convoy S.D.40
as soon as possible after disembarkation is
required to be taken in hand in Glasgow for

fitting as a Hospital-carrier, completion date being not later
than 16th June.

(D.S.T. 152150B)

* X.K.6
attacked
by A/C.

Convoy attacked by single aircraft in 048° 16' N.
014° 18' W. at 0435B. Aircraft machine-gunned
by light of searchlight and flares.
(LOTUS, 150437B to Admty)

O.N.S.8.
C.4.

Group C 4 CHURCHILL (S.O) plus RESTIGOUCHE, BRAN-
DON, COLLINGWOOD, BADDECK, ORILLIA designated
ocean escort O.N.S.8. ORILLIA will join from
Iceland. CHURCHILL, RESTIGOUCHE fitted with
H/F D/F.

(C.T.G. 24.7, 150935Z to C. in C. W.A.)

W.P.339.

(2) BRADFORD is to sail to overtake and continue
with W.P.339 as additional escort under orders
of FERNIE.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 150951B to N.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

On meeting convoy you are to leave ROYAL SCOTSMAN and join
W.P.339 as S.O. escorts to Needles. (2) Estimate W.P.339
will be off Trevoise Head at 2000 May 15th. (3) ROYAL SCOTSMAN
proceed independently to destination.

(C. in C. Plymouth, 151657B to GLAISDALE, ROYAL SCOTSMAN)

Ships escorting W.P. convoy are to make best speed to
Portland and not Plymouth (2) CORNELIAN, SCALPAY and ULVA are

to /...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.HOME COMMANDS.Shipping and Convoys.

- W.P.339.
(Contd.) to be detached at Eddystone, and escort Plymouth ships into harbour. (3) FERNIE is to continue to Needles.
(C. in C. Plymouth, 151705 to GLAISDALE)
- H.X.237
YUKON. Your 141310Z and 141850Z. Detach YUKON forthwith to proceed independently to Loch Ewe. Remaining Loch Ewe ships are to proceed independently from (A.W)
(C. in C. W.A. 151005B to Escorts H.X.237.)
- Your 151005B. Following from YUKON begins. Prefer to remain with Loch Ewe Section under protection of Escort. Ends. Have informed him Loch Ewe ships unescorted after (A.W) but have taken no compelling action. Further signals later.
(C.2, 151130Z to C. in C. N.A.)
My 151130Z YUKON is to proceed independently now.
(C.2 151300Z to C. in C. W.A.)
- O.N.184.
SAN Detail one Corvette of C.I. Group to R/V SAN VALERIO from Loch Ewe in 180° Barrahead 10 miles at 1000Z/16th and escort her to join O.N. 184.
W.S.FARISH. (C. in C. W.A. 151205B to Cdre. D. W.A.)
Your 151205. AGASSIZ detailed.
(ITCHEN, 151557B to C. in C. W.A.)
W.S. FARISH. Commaveu is investigating Masters refusal to embark depth-charges, and asks for full report of circumstances. (2) Request this may be forwarded to Admiralty two copies being sent direct to D.T.D.
(D.T.D. 152036B to F.O.I.C.Glasgow)
- MATAROA. My 151641. BRIGHTON delayed Newport with engine defect. Intend sailing MATAROA to programme unescorted.
(N.O.I.C.Cardiff, 151457B to N.O.I.C.Greenock)
- F.S.
Convoy In future stragglers from F.S. convoys are not to be diverted to Harwich if they can reach Southend before dark.
Stragglers. (Capt. D. 16, 151642B)
- S.C.128. S.C.128. Average speed 6.9 knots. Off Oversay at 1830Z/12. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 151725B to Connav)
- H.X. 236. H.X.236. Average speed 9.6 knots. Off Oversay at 1200Z/8. All arrived.
(D.T.D. 151726B to Connav)
- North
Russia. Intend visiting Archangel leaving Polyarnoe in JASON on May 17th escorting final group of M/Vs, returning in BRITOMART on May 22nd approx. escorting tanker BEACON HILL.
(S.B.N.O.North Russia,151801B to Admty)

S.C.129/...

War Diary.

15.5.1945.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys - Contd.

S.C.129. D/F bearings at 1749Z indicate U-Boat in general vicinity of convoy.
(D.D.I.C.152010B to Escorts S.C.129)

O.N.S.8. O.N.S.8. Spare depth charges. A.M. 141728
March and my 081938B/May.

Ship	No of D/Cs.
EL CIERVO	60
BEACONSTREET	60
SALUTA	60
FLOWERGATE	32
IOANNIS FRANGOS	20
MARGARITA CHANDRIS	30
NORJERV	36
OREGON I	24

(D.T.D. 152131B)

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.

- REDSHANK. Sailed H.M. Trawler REDSHANK to join O.S.47. (F.O. Gibraltar, 150015 to Admty., (R) C. in C. Med. R.A.W.A.)
- O.S.47. O.S.47 Gibraltar section sailed as in my 111724 less OCEAN FAME. All in ballast except HOGGAR GENERAL and FORT LIVINGSTONE 2800 tons coal. (F.O. Gibraltar, 150020B to F.O.C.W.Af., C. in C. Med. (R) C.M.S.F.F., Admty., Connav.)
- LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX. (U.G.S.8.) Comply with Commorseafron's 142220 May (N.T. in W.T.) My 141551 (N.T. in W.D.). Amend time of passing Europa Point to read 1159B/16th and amend E.T.A. Oran to read 1330B/17th. (F.O. Gibraltar, 150522B to LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX, (R) Commorseafron, C.T.F.62 Com. N.O.B. Oran, Connav, N.A.W., C. in C. Med.)
- P.225 (SIMOON) My estimated position and speed 36.41 north 08.31 west 9 knots. Request extension bombing restrictions. (P.225 150701B to F.O. Gibraltar (R) Capt. (S) 8) Your 151955 (N.T. in W.R.) ST. NECTAN ordered to intercept and escort you to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 152132 to SIMOON) Arrived SIMOON. (F.O. Gibraltar, 152345B to Admty.)
- × Shipping repairs at neutral ports. Para 3. of your 121127. (A) Yes, after 1 week for repairs to boiler by Dockyard here. (B) Yes. As Lisbon maintains Portuguese Navy and Merchant Navy it is presumed all types of repairs can be carried out. Dry dock is suitable. (N.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 150754B to C. in C. Med. F. (R) Admty., B.N.A. Lisbon.)
- Dispositions. Situation 2001B/15th. G.U.S.7. C.T.F.64 032°32' 028° 23' 281° 9. (2) U.G.L. 4. U.S.S. CHAMPLIN 31.17 41.(?45) through 31.25 41.(?01) thence 083° 8. (3) U.G.F. 8A Task Group 60.1 032° 48' 042° 21' 097° 12½. (F.O. Gibraltar, 151048B) Situation 1958B/15th. Submarine TRIBUNE 37.54 09.43 through 38.50 10.01 at 0400B/16th thence 355° diving by day 9/2. (2) U.G.S. (?8) Mediterranean LIDDESDALE 34.23 09.15 through (?34).24 09.01 and 35.48 06.40 thence Straits of Gibraltar 9½. (3) C.G.32 34.44 07.23 through 35.45 (?06).30 to Gibraltar 7.

/(4)...

War Diary.

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

- Dispositions. (4) O.S.47, K.M.S.14, SCARBOROUGH 36.06 10.27
(Contd.) through 34.28 10.12 at 1200B/16th thence 173°
6½.
(5) Ships escorting O.S.47, WISHART 35.10 08.22
to R/V Ships escorting O.S.47, Escorts of
K.M.S.14 in 34.28 10.12 at 1200B/16th.
(6) FLEETWOOD 036° 23' 007° 54' to Gibraltar 12½.
(7) QUALICUM one merchant ship 038° 42' 010° 45' to Tagus 6
whence merchant ship enters and QUALICUM proceeds direct to
Gibraltar 12.
(8) 2 Swedish relief ships 035° 33' 011° (?12') 086° 11.
(9) 2 Swedish relief ships 035° 34' 011° 08' 086° 13.
(10) K.M.(?F)14 WISHART parts from O.S.47 on O.S.47 G. joining
and proceeds 065° (?7½)
(11 - 13, see next signal, 151014)
(14) U.G.S.8., C.T.F.62 part company (?for) Mediterranean
Section to enter Malta daylight 16th.
(15) U.S.S. YEW 4 P.C.7 merchant ships left Casablanca
1200B/15th to join U.G.S.8, whence escorts return to
Casablanca with C.T.F.62.
(F.O.Gibraltar, 151054B)
Situation 1958B/15th. My 151054 part 4.
(11) One U.S. destroyer 033° 59' 010° 50' to Casablanca 18.
(12) PRODIGAL one merchant vessel 037°28' 008° 52' coast wise
to Cape St. Mary's 8.
(13) O.S.47 (Casablanca Section) U.S.S. GUEST 034° 03' 008°
02' to R/V O.S.47 in 034° 43' 010° 14' at 1000B/16th. After
R/V escorts escort 5 merchant ships 110° 7.
(F.O.C. Gibraltar 151014) Note By W.R. Remainder of
message circulated under T.O.O. 151054 May.

U/B ? Army aircraft sighted submarine submerged in
attacked. 31.40 N. 21.15 W. 1142A/15th May.
(C.M.S.F.F. 151130Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar
Cominch, C. in C. Med. Connavnaw, Comfairwing 15.)
My 151130. Plane attacked S/M with 4 650 depth
charges. Believed severely damaged S/M. Remaining vicinity to
P.L.E. Another plane departed 1417A/15th to cover area to limit
of endurance.
(C.M.S.F.F., 151512Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C. in
C. U.S. Fleet, Connavnaw, Comfairwing 15.) Further attack, see
161630Z.

Axis Telegram 89. KAULDI, LIVADIA, SPERBER, sailed
Shipping 2300/14th. Repeated S.O.(I) Gibraltar.
Bilbao. (Consul Bilbao, 151310 to M. of E.W. (R) Admty.,
for D.N.I., B.N.A. Madrid, S.O.(I) Gib.)

Tugs Your 261948 April. Following Tugs are expected
available to be available at Gibraltar for towages to U.K.
at HUDSON and SCHELDE mid June, ABEILLE IV date
Gibraltar. uncertain. Latter Tug has 14 days range at full
power, 1400 I.H.P. but not considered suitable

/for...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.North Atlantic.Tugs
available
at
Gibraltar.
(Contd.)

for heavy towage. Request that, if possible, BADSWORTH be prepared for towage by HUDSON and SCHELDE. Further signal will be made as soon as anticipated movements of other tugs are more definite but it is hoped that ZWARTE ZEE and FRISKY will be available early in June.
(Captain-in-Charge, Rescue Tugs, 151358B to C. in C. Med. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, P.S.T.O. Med.)

M.K.S.13.

Your 141701B. Sailing destinations.
(D.T.D., 151850B to F.O. Gibraltar)

K.M.S.14
U.G.S.8.

Convoy K.M.S.14 and U.G.S.8 are to R/V in position QQ 35.51 08.26 at 1100A/16th May and proceed 36 into Mediterranean.
2. From QQ proceed through A.M. Q.K.A. 87 to QB 36.01 05.21. Onward route follows.
3. Convoy K.M.S.14, 50 ships, Commodore White R.N.R., in EMPIRE CARPENTER is escorted by FORT YORK S.O., PARRSBORO, WEDGEPORT, HAZARD. 4. Convoy U.G.S.8, 51 ships, Commodore Capt. Taylor, U.S. Navy, in SOCONYIS escorted by PARKER S.O. MACLAGHAN, BOYLE, NIELDS, KENDRICK, U.S. Destroyers LAUB, MACKENZIE, LIDDESDALE, VENOMOUS, VELOX. 5. Western combined convoy Comdr. White R.N.R. Vice Commodore of convoy Capt. Taylor U.S. Navy Rear Commander Capt. Maloney, U.S. Navy, in JOHN MURRAY FORBES. 6. S.O. combined escort PARKER.
7. Following join as additional escort VETCH at 1100A/16th May. WISHART p.m. 16th May PRODIGAL p.m. 16th May. 8. Combined convoy to be called K.M.S. 14 codeword (?) "Polecat". First two letters W. Call sign U.F.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 151854B to Escorts K.M.S.14 for Commodore, Escorts U.G.S.8, for Commodore, (R) C. in C. Med. N.O.I.C. Algiers Escorts O.S. 47G. Commorseafron, Commob, Oran.)
(?Detach) following for Gibraltar on convoy passing Carnero - (1st) (2) LWOW and SPERO are to be detached to proceed ahead with Algiers on entering swept channel to close ROISA to disembark passengers for Gibraltar then rejoin convoy.
(3) Onward route from Q.B. to Q.C. T. 42, 03, 01, Q. D.T. 56, 00, 50, Q.E.T. 53, 00, 38 thence as ordered by C. in C. Med. All positions north and west, S. of A. 7½ knots.
(4) Gibraltar section details following WHEATLAND, BREAM, PENTSTEMON, FARNDALE, HAYDON join as convoy passes Europa Pt. Destination last 2 Oran. (5) E.T.A. Q.B. 0800 A. 17th E.T.A. Q.E. 1600A 18th May. (6) VETCH pass to PRODIGAL.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 151954B to Escorts of convoy K.M.S.14 for Cmdre. Escorts of convoy U.G.S.8 for Cmdre (R) C. in C.M.F. Cdr. N.O.B. Oran, N.O.I.C., Algiers, Commor Sea Frontier Forces.)

Gibraltar
movements.

Departures WISHART, FOXTROT, REIGHTON WYKE to R/V and escort K.M.S.14. MOLDE on escort duties Melilla. Motor launches 170, 174 on A/S sweep east. Arrivals U.S. L.C.I.(L) 95, 96, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 349, 350, L.S.T.379 from Port Lyautey.
(F.O. Gibraltar, 152045B to Admty.)

/Movements...

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15.5.1943.

Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic - Contd.

Movements. Warships May 15th. Departures French LA
Casablanca. GRACIEUSE, AMIRAL MOUCHEZ, COMMANDANT DELAGE,
with C.G.32, P.C.471, 475, 481, 474 with Casa.
Section R/V with U.G.S.8. U.S.S. GUEST,
THATCHER, BROWNSON with Casa Section R/V with
O.S.47. U.S.S. GILLESPIE, HARRISON, R/V with U.G.S.8., P.C.472
departed Safi OCEAN LIBERTY R/V U.G.S.8. Arrivals U.S.S. TERRY
from escorting PASTEUR.
(C.M.S.F.F., 152113 to C. in C. Med. (R) Comnavnaw (C. in C. Med.
pass) F.O.i/c Gib. Admty., Cominch.)

FLEETWOOD E.T.A. Europa Point 160800Z. Request suitable
(ex O.S.47) escort may be provided for 45 German U-Boat
P.O.W.) prisoners segregated for interrogation purpose
as follows: (a) 7 officers (b) 32 ratings
and P.Os. (c) 6 ratings. Weather report.
(FLEETWOOD, 152115Z to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, (R)
Capt. (D) Gibraltar.)

AFRICAN GMRD (AFRICAN STAR) AAA submarine 35.40 N. 03.10
STAR W.
U/B. (Gib. W/T No T.O.O. to Admty.)

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.

Rafts. This is re-encypherment of Com. 4th Fleet 142001 passed to you by Cominch for information. Following received from Army Ascension via Army Recife:- Transient C.47 reported to (?two) life rafts with man each, position 09° S. 13° W. at 0650 this date. Reported here 0910. Bombers off 0915 hours. (Radio Washington 150140Z to F.O.C.W.A.)

Shipping My 090545. (re diversion to Takoradi owing to U-Boats.) Request future sailings may be Diverson. routed to Freetown. (F.O.C.W.A. 150252Z to C. in C.S.A. (R) Admty.)

OCTANE. Your 071135 maximum speed of OCTANE is 7 knots. Ship is being beached and scrubbed in endeavour to improve speed and will be sailed as soon as possible. (F.O.C.W.A. 150307Z to Admty. (R) C. in C.Med.)

/ Tankers, It is requested that I may be informed the information. nature of the cargo of all tankers entering my operational area in order that necessary diversion may be made in cases of operational emergency. (F.O.C.W.A. 150312Z to Admty.) Reply Admty. 191551B.

MONTEREY. 14th arrival. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 150330Z to Admty.)

Weekly state 15th May.
S.Atlantic Freetown to Capetown - NEWCASTLE, ROTHERHAM, Station. RELENTLESS, RACEHORSE, LEWES.
Capetown to U.K. - WORCESTERSHIRE.
Cape Agulhas Area - FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY, SPHENE, HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN DAWN, CAPE WARWICK.
Capetown - Durban FREESIA, DRANGEY, ST. ZENO.
Durban to Capetown - REDOUBT, ROCKROSE, NORTHERN DUKE, ARCTIC EXPLORER.
Durban Area - KENYA, QUICKMATCH, NIZAM, JASMINE, LE TIGER, ST. LOMAN, COVENTRY CITY, STELLA POLARIS, SONDRRA.
Saldanha Bay - FERNMOOR. Capetown - NORTHERN ISLES, VIVIANA, MEAD, CECILE MAPLESON, MASTERFUL, QUADRANT.
Simonstown - FROBISHER, SULTAN III, NORMAN, SPINDRIFT, WELLARD, P.552, P.614, M.Ls. 381, 830, 1150 BY.M.S.5,6,7,8.
East London - KIRRIEMOOR. Freetown - RESOLUTION, GAMBIA, MARGUERITE, ASTER, GENISTA, NIGELLA, ETHIOPIAN, MANCHESTER CITY, LADY ELSA, INDIAN (corrupt group) M.Ls. 1197, 1200. (C. in C.S.A. 151117.)

/AIMWELL...

War Diary.

15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic - Contd.

AIMWELL F.O.C. West Africa 101845. Expected time of sailing AIMWELL escorting motor minesweepers 102, 103, 105 and 106, 1500Z/15th S.O.A. $8\frac{1}{2}$ knots. E.T.A. Gibraltar 0600/24th May. Estimate may overtake S.L. 129 a.m. 22nd. (N.O.I.C. Bathurst 151143 to F.O.C.W.Af. F.O. Gibraltar, (R) C. in C.M.F. Admty. etc.)

Dispositions. 015 (as received) KUMAON, KATHIAWAR, ALLIGATOR with KELT in tow $015^{\circ} 05' 011^{\circ} 30'$ to $018^{\circ} 00' 011^{\circ} 20' 4\frac{1}{2}$ knots. WORCESTERSHIRE $019^{\circ} 15' 006^{\circ} 30'$ to $008^{\circ} 45' 014^{\circ} 30' W.$ 13.

NEWCASTLE and destroyers with W.S. 29, $024^{\circ} 30' 013^{\circ} 10'$ to $025^{\circ} 00' 013^{\circ} 30'$ thence $029^{\circ} 00' 014^{\circ} 00'$ 12.

FRITILLARY, NORWICH CITY with N.C. 12, $030^{\circ} 20' 016^{\circ} 55'$ coastal to Saldanha Bay 9.

CAPE WARWICK standing by tug in $030^{\circ} 15' 017^{\circ} 10'$.

HERTFORDSHIRE, NORTHERN DAWN, SPHENE with C.N. 20, $032^{\circ} 30' 017^{\circ} 30'$ to $030^{\circ} 00' 016^{\circ} 47'$ 9 knots.

FREESIA, ST. ZENO, DRANGEY, TURFFONTEIN with C.D. 18, $034^{\circ} 20' 022^{\circ} 35'$ coastal to Durban 8.

ROCKROSE, ARCTIC EXPLORER, NORTHERN DUKE, BLAUWBERG with D.C. 25, $033^{\circ} 35' 027^{\circ} 20'$ coastal to Capetown 7.

STELLA POLARIS, COVENTRY CITY, SONDRRA with D.N. 39, $029^{\circ} 15' 031^{\circ} 35'$ to St. Lucia 8.

JASMINE $028^{\circ} 50' 032^{\circ} 10'$ to Durban 14 knots.

NIZAM escorting ILE DE FRANCE $029^{\circ} 35' 032^{\circ} 25'$ to Durban 18.

ST. LOMAN, LE TIGER (?027°) $55' 033^{\circ} 55'$ to Durban 10.

KENYA, QUICKMATCH with J.M. 1 $023^{\circ} 10' 039^{\circ} 30'$ to $025^{\circ} 42' 038^{\circ} 20' 16\frac{1}{2}$.

TULIP escorting KHEDIVE ISMAIL $018^{\circ} 10' 039^{\circ} 30'$ (estimated) to Durban 10.

DAUNTLESS $017^{\circ} 00' 041^{\circ} 35'$ to $026^{\circ} 31' 041^{\circ} 27' 14\frac{1}{2}$.

(C. in C.S.A. 151209B.)

Situation 1959Z/15th.

CHARON 23.01 17.46 to 23.45 17.46 thence $042^{\circ} 12$.

LEITH, COREOPSIS, VIOLET, AUBRETIA, BELLWORT, WASTWATER,

ANCHUSA, WHIMBRELL with S.L. 129, 17.55 17.46 $000^{\circ} 6$.

2 M.Ls. escorting 15.48 17.12 to North Coastal 6.

DUNCTON escorting off Dakar to West 10.

BRIDGEWATER, F.S. DUMONT D'URVILLE 2 M.Ls. 09.41 14.57 to 09.17

14.08 thence Freetown 12.5.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.30 14.

(F.O.C.W.A. 151520Z.)

My 151520 add AIMWELL, M.M.S. 102, 103, 105 and 106, 14.04 17.05 to 14.50 17.46 thence $360^{\circ} 8\frac{1}{2}$.

(F.O.C.W.A. 151745Z.)

Situation at 2001Z/15 May.

VIRGINIA, ARRAN, 2 M.L. escorting 05.31 01.24 E. to Lagos $7\frac{1}{2}$.

SARABANDE, TURCOMAN escorting 04.08 00.37 to Takoradi $7\frac{1}{2}$ to Capetown.

HOUDUCE escorting 00.06 03.43 E. 126 7.

MALCOLM, WOLVERINE, RAPID about 03.38 04.18 to Lagos 15.

S/M (?TRUSTY) D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES 03.20 S. 06.08 E. 284 11.

CARNARVON CASTLE on patrol about 08.30 27.14.

FANDANGO, PICT, M.L. 261 screening off Marshall.

M.Ls. 1042, 1016 off Accra, M.Ls. 274, 1014 off Cotonou.

(F.O.C.W.Af. 151531Z.)

/DAVID SWAIN...

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15.5.1943.

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

- DAVID SWAIN. Sailed 1126Z DAVID SWAIN escorted by DUNCTON. My 141117 refers (re sailing DAVID SWAIN for Paramaribo.)
(Comar Dakar 151226Z to F.O.C.W.Af. Admty., Cominch.Connnav.)
- TRUSTY. B.N.L.O.West Africa's 141305A. From position G. increase to 12½ knots speed made good. Amend time of passing (corrupt group) to H at 1900Z/17th, I at 0100Z/19th. E.T.A. Freetown 1700Z/20th. My 131605 refers.
(F.O.C.W.A. 151228Z to TRUSTY, (R) F.S.COMMANDANT D'ESTIENNE D'ORVES, Admty. N.O.I.C. Lagos, N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O. West Africa, Air H.Q.West Africa.)
- LA GRANDIERE. Arrived 0700Z LA GRANDIERE. My 101844 refers.
(Comar Dakar 151236Z to Admty. F.O.I.C. W.Af.)
- BRIDGEWATER. E.T.A. 0600/16th May.
(BRIDGEWATER 151321Z to F.O.C.W.Af. (R) Capt. D.Freetown.)
- U/B Brazil One reported at 0800Z/14 in 04° 25' S. 35° 10' W. course 090° is thought to be the only U-Boat off coast of Brazil and may now be moving N.E.
(D.D.I.C. 151408B to F.O.C.W.A.)
- DIVA explosion Yesterday morning 14th explosion occurred on board local Schooner DIVA laden with 15 tons of petrol and 600 tins of Kerosene Standard Oil Co. Stock in transit to Natal while boat was moored at Quay in inner Harbour here. DIVA and cargo completely destroyed by fire with loss of life. Cause of explosion not yet verified but surviving crew state it occurred in hold which was closed.
(R.O.Pernambuco 151450Z to Admty.)
- Lagos Movements. Arrival 15th SNOWDROP, M.L.271, 305.
Departure SNOWDROP.
(N.O.I.C. Lagos 151631Z to Admty.)
- LADY DENISON PENDER. Your 121615. (re sailing of LADY DENISON PENDER to effect repairs to Freetown Bathurst, Cable.) Insufficient escorts are available to sail LADY DENISON PENDER at present.
(F.O.C.W.A. 151631Z to Admty.)
- MALCOLM ORDUNA Propose to sail MALCOLM escorting ORDUNA from Freetown about 28th May for Gibraltar filling up ORDUNA, to above unescorted limit of passengers if necessary.

/MALCOLM...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.South Atlantic.MALCOLM
ORDUNA
(Contd.)

MALCOLM then to proceed to U.K. as ordered by F.O.I.C. Gibraltar to change propellers and refit condensers. My 260850 April refers. MALCOLM's speed is limited to 20 knots. (F.O.C.W.Af. 151703Z to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar.) Reply Admty. 161755.

SHERIDAN
overdue.

Shipping. SHERIDAN Capetown 16th April for Montevideo 9th May not arrived. (Ass. B.N.S.O. Recife 151741Z to Admty. etc.) Arrived, see 170213.

EMPIRE MINNOW

Admiralty's 142323.
1. R.N.O.Lagos sail EMPIRE MINNOW for Freetown in next T.S.convoy.
2. C. in C.S.A. is requested to take necessary action regarding remaining tug. (F.O.C.W.A. 151749Z to R.N.O.Lagos, C. in C.S.A. (R) N.O.I.C. Takoradi, B.N.L.O.W.Af. Admty.)Convoy
C.N.20.

For South American ships. Move latitude of first 3 (?stragglers) and ships independent routes 007° to southward. On dispersal steer through these amended positions thence as follows:

HANLEY to P. JAMES LYKES to G. NICHOLAS BIDDLE to E. COTTON MATHER direct to destination. ETTRICKBANK direct to destination. GRACE ABBOTT to E. AGWISTAR direct to destination. ABEL PARKER UPSHUR direct to destination. TEXMAR direct to destination.

2. Above ships are to be dispersed at 1800B tomorrow Sunday 16th May. Acknowledge when passed and understood. (C. in C.S.A. 151848B to MEGGIE (as recd.) (R) Admty. Connnav, F.O.C.W.Af. Ass. S.O.(I) Recife.)

Movements
Takoradi.

Arrival 15th May WOODRUFF, DUNKERY, M.Ls. 263, 277, 265, SARABANDE, TURCOMAN, departure 15th May M.Ls. 263 and 244 screening and sweeping area returning 0600Z/17th May. (N.O.I.C. Takoradi 152105Z to Admty. etc.)

War Diary.

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units. Following has been read by Alex. W/T. P.C. and S. of enemy 2 small craft 39.18 N., 13.55 E. 10 knots.

(GOXP* 150030B to K.T.1 X.)

W.D. Note *X = Med. Local call signs.

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of enemy, fixed at 0700 one medium M/V of 6,000 tons, 2 medium M/Vs of 4,000 tons, 1 destroyer 40.45 N., 14.00 E. course 000° stationary.

(A/C 86HB 150710A).

Following has been read. P.C. and S. of 1 enemy destroyer and 1 merchant vessel of 500 tons 43.20 N., 09.40 E. 180° 5 knots.

(A/C 86HN 150730Z).

Following read: P.C. and S. of 1 enemy Merchant Vessel 200 tons at 0735Z 42.25 N., 11.05 E. 315 6 knots.

(A/C 86 HN 150800Z).

Following read. P.C. and S. of enemy 2 destroyers 3 motor torpedo boats, 2 planes 38.20 N., 13.18 E. 120 10 fixed at 0900.

(A/C 86HB 150923A).

Position course and speed of 4 small enemy vessels 43.50 N. 9.32 E. 010° 7.

(A/C FAH/S 151555 to Alexandria W/T).

1 Merchant vessel in position 35.59 N., 24.17 E. course 360

(A/C A07W 152043Z to H.5 K).

Have attacked enemy with torpedoes estimate no hits.

(A/C A07W 152153Z to H.5 K).

1 Merchant vessel in position 35.53 N., 24.41 E. course 360, speed 10 knots.

(A/C AOYQ 152140Z to H.5 K).

Beirut Movements.

14th arrivals M.L. 316, departures AETOS, PROTEA.

(S.O.(I) Beirut, 150755C to Admty).

Alexandria Movements.

Arrival 14th M.L. 357. Departures 14th M.T.B.60 PAUL COUNDOURIOTIS.

(S.O.(I) Alexandria, 150914 to Admty).

P.44

Capt. (S) 10 131428 (131423 intended) proceed from position P to patrol in zone B and zone E west of 014° E.

(Capt. (S) 8, 150932A to P.44 (R) 8th S.F., F.O.S.)

EREBUS

EREBUS on arrival is to be administered by R.A. Alexandria.

(C. in C. Levant, 151031C to EREBUS (R) Admty. F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria).

/K.M.S.14...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

K.M.S.14 Admiralty 142036 not to SCARBOROUGH.
ENGLISH PRINCE, TACTICIAN, MACHARDA, CITY OF
AGRA, INDIAN PRINCE, NIGERSTROOM, MYRTLEBANK,
HAVILDAR and SALAWAT are to continue with
K.M.S.14. Further orders follow.
(C. in C. Med., 151101A to SCARBOROUGH Escorts
of Convoy K.M.S.14, (R) Admty. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, F.O.C.W.Af.
C. in C. S.A.)
My 151101A. Destination of all ships Gibraltar for onward
routing.
(C. in C. Med., 151508A to SCARBOROUGH Escorts Convoy
K.M.S.14 (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty).

Enemy Vessels,
K.T.9 intercepted. Your 142149A (N.T. in W.R.) One vessel 3000
tons burnt out and sunk.
Boarded steam vessel K.T.9 approx. 2000 tons
with heavy derricks. Cargo 1 tank 4 light
(?communication) cars on deck, ammunition and
land mines in hold. All holds flooded. Officers
and crew had left, C.Bs. and charts appear to
have been destroyed, have salvaged all papers and charts remain-
ing and W/T equipment.
Ship was occupied by 5 transport officers and one man all
German army fugitives.
(Capt. (D) 5, 151120B to C. in C. Med., (R) N.O.I.C. Malta,
F. or S.O. I.S. F.O. 12th C.S.) W.D. Note - See also 152359A.

Oran movements. Sailed M.T.B. (?6)38 at 151000A to Gibraltar
escorted by M.L. 469. Route through 109,66 and
16. S. of A. 12 knots. Codeword "Nabbrat".
F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail M.L.
469 to Oran soon as possible.
(Comnob Oran, 151135A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

X Special Through Convoys. Intend to pass two Special convoys through
Sicilian Strait.
(a) A fast convoy consisting of 7 merchant ships
ex O.S.47 to Alexandria and beyond which is
expected to pass Bizerta a.m./21st (corrupt
group)* Tripoli on 22nd. C. in C. Levant is
requested to arrange escort from Tripoli onward.
(b) A slow convoy consisting of ships for Malta passing Bizerta
a.m./22nd and arriving Malta on 23rd.
(C. in C. Med., 151138A to C. in C. Levant, N.O.I.C. Malta,
(R) F.O.C. Gibraltar, S.N.O. Tripolitania, F.O.I.S. A.I.G. 263,
F.O. 12th C.S. Admty). *Decodes as "A". See also 151754A.

/ Operation M.W.27. Total general cargo of 22532 tons completed
discharge at 141830.
(V.A. Malta, 151200B to Admty)

TRACKER Your 141326 (TRACKER to sail for U.K.) approved.
(C. in C. Med., 151206A to F.O.I.C. Gibraltar,
(R) Admty).

/Tugs...

15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean - Contd.

Tugs at Gibraltar. Admty. 151358B to C. in C. Med., See North Atlantic.

P.R.U. May 15th Visuals. 1115 Taranto, 2 Battleships, 2 cruisers.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 151414B to C. in C. Med. etc).

Sweeps for M.Ls. Mark 5 Oropesa Sweeps have been used successfully in M.Ls. and H.D.M.Ls. Essential that sweeps be provided for M.Ls. mentioned in my 301520, April, but Admty. 081335 suggests that Mark 5 Star Sweeps will not be ready in time.

2. Request Mark 5 Sweeps with winches and fairleads be shipped for these M.Ls. in case Mark 5 Star Sweeps are not ready.

3. Request shipment of Mark 5 sweeps referred to in your 1643/4 March may be expedited.

4. Request ten further Mark 5 maintenance kits and 200 explosive cutters be shipped to Malta and Algiers at first opportunity.
(C. in C. Med., 151540A to Admty. (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, C.C.F., V.A. Malta, Deputy N.C.X.F.)

K.M.S.14 X (for Alexandria) K.M.S.14 X. F.O.I.C. Gibraltar is requested to sail K.M.S.14 X consisting of ENGLISH PRINCE, TACTICIAN, MACHARDA, CITY OF AGRA, INDIAN PRINCE, NIGERSTROOM and HAVILDAR at 1100A 18th to Alexandria. S. of A. 11 knots.
(2) Route through 3,76, 56, 89, 100, 24, 90, 61, 36, 79 lettered A to K omitting I. Thence through
(L) 37.09.4, 11.05.7 (M) 36.51.6, 11.14.0, (N) 36.31.2, 11.00.
(O) 36.27 11.02. (P) 35.58 11.02. (Q) 35.13 11.57.
(R) 34.44 12.00. (S) 34.20 11.10. (T) 33.56 11.08.
(U) 32.58 13.12. All north and east.
(3) Speed is to be adjusted to pass position (?B) at 0300A May 21st E.T.A. position (U) 1900A/22nd.
(4) Onward route as ordered by C. in C. Levant.
(5) First two letters of W/T call sign 4 V.
(6) Fighter priority 2.R/T codeword "Hemingway" W/T L.V.T.
(7) Escort LIDDESDALE (S.O.) VENOMOUS, VELOX, TROUBRIDGE, S.N.O. Trip. is requested to sail them to Bone on arrival.
(C. in C. Med., 151601A to F.Os. I.C. and N.Os. I.C. French North Africa (except N.O.I.C. Casablanca). F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, Admty. Connav, S.O. Force H, Capt. (S) 8. S.O.I.S., Bizerta. N.O.I.C. Tunis. N.O.I.C. Spax. N.O.I.C. Sousse. N.O.I.C. Tripoli. C. in C. Levant, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Tripolitania. R.A. (L))

SPEEDY mined. SPEEDY mined in position 040 St. Elmo 4 miles whilst clearing North Eastern Channel. Towed into harbour. Extensive repairs required. Regret casualties. 2 killed, 2 missing, 1 seriously wounded, 7 wounded. Next of kin not informed.
(V.A. Malta, 151625 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. Levant, (R) Admty).

/OSSAG...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.OSSAG
(German).

Ref. my 2612/832 May 3rd. Report B.3. OSSAG will leave Golden Horn 16th or 17th. German Tug due within next few days from Danube to tow ship to Piraeus for repairs. No indication yet when towing will start.
(S.O.(I) Istanbul, 151642C to S.O.(I) Levant, (R) S. and V. S.O.1, D.N.I.)

Convoy
T.E.21.

T.E.21 sailed 1000/15th as in my 121423 and 141 183 less EMPIRE TERN plus L.S.T. 323, 363, 364, 409 and BARBARIAN for Bougie. BARBARIAN for onward routing to Jijelli.
(N.O.I.C. Algiers, 151646A to N.O.I.C. Bone, N.O.I.C. Bougie, F.O. or Cdre. (C) 12th A.I.G. 259.)

Port Said
Movements.

15th May Port Said arrivals COUNDOURIOTIS, R.F.A. BADURPUR.
Departures MARYBOROUGH, GAWLER, LISMORE, IPSWICH, ST.MONANCE towing A.F.D.30. SPETSAI, 349, COUNDOURIOTIS, SOEMBA.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said, 151649C to Admty. C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.R.S.C.A., R.A. Alexandria).

First
Through
Convoys,
G.T.X.1,
G.T.X.2.

My 151138. First convoy of regular cycle to pass through Narrows will be G.T.X.1 which will leave Gibraltar on 24th May and pass Cap Bon on 28th May. 15 L.S.Ts. waiting passage to Levant plus 3 loaded with stores for Malta will be included in this convoy and will be escorted as far as Tripoli (Libya) by escort from Western Med.

2. Five escorts will then be available at Tripoli on 31st May to (?help) escort of any ships from Levant for inclusion in combined G.U.S.8 M.K.S.14 convoys due to arrive Gibraltar on 6th June.

3. The next (?eastbound) through convoys containing ships from U.K. will be combined, U.G.S.9 K.M.S.16, will follow 15 days later.

4. Between these two convoys it will probably be necessary to run an intermediate through convoy referred to as G.T.X.2, leaves Gibraltar 8th June, arrives Alexandria on 19th June.

5. Eastbound convoys will be escorted as far as Tripoli by escorts from Western Med. Escorts of convoy in para. 3 and 4 will be available to escort X.T.G.2. Request you will inform me if there are any ships from Levant for inclusion in these convoys. If so they should be sailed so as to pass Tripoli on 8th June, 15th June, and 23rd June in order to reach Gibraltar on 14th June, 21st June and 29th June respectively.
(C. in C. Med., 151754A to C. in C. Levant, (R) F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, V.A. Malta, S.N.O. Trip. Admty. S.N.O. Tripoli (Libya) D.N.C.X.F.) See Admty. 201228B to C. in C. Med., etc. and 201229B to B.A.D.

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15.5.1943.
Saturday.War Diary.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean. - Contd.

- N.W.A.A.F., To Eaker and Brereton. From Spaatz, N.A.A.F.
Reported. H.Q. Adv. NR 4089.
- x 1. From 19,000 feet to 23,000 feet 46 B.17s
dropped 552 x 500 bombs on Civita Vecchia harbour
The entire target area was well covered. Hits
and near misses were scored in harbour on 3 large and 3 small
M/Vs. Many numerous explosions were observed, including a
fuel storage area and a munitions dump. Fires were started
which were visible for 60 miles from 18,000 feet.
2. 36 B.26s dropped 175 x 500 bombs and 5 x 500 incendiary
clusters from 10,000 feet on Porto Ponte Romano.
Many hits were scored on the carbonization plant which was set
afire; there were some hits on pier and in town.
3. The escort of 40 P.40s 20 with bombs, dropped 20 x 5 x 500
pound bombs on Calasetta and Caterina. Hits on large buildings,
dock and small vessel at Calasetta were scored. A 7,000 ton
M/V and 1 DR. both Italian, heading northwest of Cap Spartivento
were strafed.
4. 54 B.25s escorted by 87 P.38s, 11 of which carried bombs,
dropped 83 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of bombs from 7,000 to 12,000 feet on Olbia
harbour. 2 large and 1 small vessels were sunk. 2 large ships
and 1 small one were reported (?hit) and a tanker damaged, and
near misses on several others. Bursts were observed in the
dock and town area. 10,000 Italian leaflets were dropped.
Enemy aircraft were encountered over the target at 12,000 feet.
3 were destroyed. 2 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. 1 P.38
is lost and 2 are missing.
5. 13 P.38s all carrying 10,000 (.1 and .025) bombs attacked
various targets. A tunnel southwest of Sassari was bombed with
6 bombs and the entrance of the tunnel was torn up. 1 bomb
was dropped on the barracks at Alghero. As a result of
straffing, 12 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground and
4 sea planes on the water. 1 P.38 crashed in flames. 1 Ju.87 B
was probably destroyed and another was damaged in an encounter
near Sassari.
6. 12 P.38s with same bomb load bombed Porto Torres harbour
from 2500 feet. A direct hit on a dock at which 2 small ships
were moored, a near miss on a M/V of 300 feet, and 2 hits
on a ship in the harbour were scored. 8 bombs fell in town;
1 of them burst in the main square. All the buildings in the
south end of Alghero airdrome were burning when the formation
reached.
7. 11 P.38s of the same load attacked Abbasanta. 9 bombs
dropped on a factory of 7 buildings in the north part of town;
2 bombs fell in the town.
8. Coastal carried out usual patrols.
9. Tactical carried out several sweeps and some convoy patrols.
10. Night 13 and 14; 23 Wellingtons dropped usual assortment
on Cagliari from 3500 and 10,000 feet. One large explosion
followed by a series of further detonations which emitted black
smoke to a height of 6,000 feet was visible for 80 miles.
Bursts were seen near barracks, gas works, and naval arsenal
and some bombs were dropped in the dock area. 138,000 leaflets
were dropped.
11. Night 12 and 13; Beaufighters destroyed 1 Ju.88 near
Algiers and 2 enemy planes as they were landing in Sardinia
were damaged.
(N.W.A.A.F., 151812A to Etousa).

/Minesweeping...

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Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Mediterranean - Contd.

Minesweeping (24 Groups missing) Your 141735B and 141740 (N.T. in W.R.) (corrupt group) not to all. (Incomplete group) sweeping completed negative results. One floating Antenna mine type unknown sighted and sunk in 035° 36' 30" N., 014° 12' 30" E. (2 corrupt groups) now in 035° 28' N., 013° 22' E, course 191° speed 12 knots. E.T.A. BLAZE 0830B/16. (S.O. 14th M.S.F., 151833B to A.I.G.67).

M.T.Bs. Departure M.T.B.268 and 313 to Malta. M.T.Bs. 316, 265, 309 to Bone. (N.O.I.C. Sousse, 151837A to Admty).

Italian repatriations. A.M. 131218B. Positions will be signalled en clair every four hours and not every 15 minutes. (Head of M. (I) 151849B to C. in C. Med).

Malta Air Report. A.I.586 15th May. C.S.R. (A) Air. Part 1 Offensive. Night 14/15 May. Mosquitoes made intruder patrols over East Sicily and toe of Italy. In Italy cannon strikes were scored on shipping and quayside at Gallipoli and railway sidings at Battipaglia were attacked and damaged. Attacks were also made on marshalling yards at Sibari and strikes on railway buildings south of Battipaglia. 3 torpedo carrying Beauforts searched for enemy shipping along east coast of toe of Italy but made no sightings. Day 15th May. 20 Spitfires made offensive sweeps over southern Sicily. 4 Beaufighters and 8 Spitfires on armed R/C southwest of Sicily made no sightings. Part 2 enemy air activity. Day 14th May. A further 11 Spitfires were airborne for raids which turned back before reaching Malta. Night 14/15th May. 1 Beaufighter made interception patrol south of Sicily. Day 15th May. 0715 hours 10 Spitfires were airborne for 15 raiders which turned back before nearing Malta. Part 3. Reconnaissance. Night 14th/15th May. 2 Special equipment Wellingtons maintained A/S patrol over outgoing naval units. 1 special equipment Wellington on shipping search along west coast and north of Sicily made no significant sightings. (A.H.Q. Malta, 151952Z).

Haifa Movements. Arrival 15th M.T.B.60 SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, Greek Dest. AETOS. Departure 15th SOUTHERN SEA, SOUTHERN ISLE, Greek Dest. AETOS. (N.O.I.C. Palestinian Ports, 152017C to Admty).

/H.D.M.L. ...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

H.D.M.L. Your 091253A. Approved to transfer one H.D.M.L. Flotilla of 8 boats to French. Transfer to be for French. without prejudice to financial arrangements which will have to be settled in the light of any general arrangement about supplies to French which may be reached.

Report pendant numbers of boats intended to be transferred and disposal of British crews relieved.

(Head of M. (II) Approved 1st Lord, 152023B to C. in C, Med., (R) C.C.F.)

Movements
Algiers.

Arrivals CHASSEUR III. Departure BROCKLESBY, QUANTOCK, CONVULVULUS, TANGO, PIROUETTE, KING SOL, L.S.T. 364, 323, 409, 363, BARBARIAN, Tug NIMBLE M.L. 240, Tug ST. DAY, HUSSAR, SPORTSMAN (P. 229).
(Cdre. Algiers, 152028A to Admty.etc).

ISIS,
PETARD,
QUEEN OLGA.

Sail at 2315 today to relieve DULVERTON, MIAOULES, EXMOOR in area GG and HH routed through 036° 15' N., 013° 00' E. and 036° 10' N., 011° 30' E. S. of A. 23 knots. Then patrol as in S.O. 8th Sub. F's 151205. Code-word "Banker". Amend my 151917 (Not received in W.R.) accordingly.

(N.O.I.C. Malta, 152047B to ISIS, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA (G.S.) (R) C. in C. Med., F.O.I.S. F.O.C.12th C.S. A.I.G. 266, Med., addressees.)

C. in C. Med., 151205 (N.T. in W.R.) Propose sail Bone destroyers to arrive in area (?noon) 18th and that reliefs take place in area every subsequent 48 hrs. so that destroyers pass through Q.K.B.93 in daylight.

(C.S. 12, 152235A to V.A., Malta).

Activities
of our
surface
forces
Tunisian
water 30th
April - 13th
May.

Personal for V.C.N.S.
Your 131128 (N.T. in W.D.) Following is a summary of the activities of our surface forces operating in Tunisian waters between 30th April and 13th May.
(2) Enemy vessels sunk. One destroyer SPICA class, four merchant vessels totalling 12,000 tons, one unknown carrying ammunition, three small tramps. One barge numerous small craft. At least one E-boat damaged.
(3) Number of prisoners 704, including Chief of

Staff Fifth Panzer Army.

(4) Shore targets were bombarded as necessary. In particular Kelibia, Ras Doundas, Sidi Daoud.

(5) Minesweepers swept channel to Bizerta.

(6) Damage and casualties to own ships. M.T.B.61 lost by stranding. M.T.B. 264 and M.M.S.89 sunk by mine. BICESTER damaged by near miss by own aircraft. LAFOREY slight damage from shore battery. BLYSKAWICA slight damage by near miss. LAMERTON superficial damage in E-boat action.

(7) Casualties to own personnel, one dead, 29 wounded one missing.

/(8)...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. - Contd.

Activities of our surface forces Tunisian water 30th April - 13th May. (contd). (8) Above is compiled from reports so far received (C. in C. Med., 152120A to Admty).

Movements Tripoli. Sailed PRIMULA, FALK, REDWOOD. (S.N.O. Trip. 152131A to Admty).

Tobruk movements. Arrived SHOREHAM, WAR KRISHNA sailed SHOREHAM. (N.O.I.C. Tobruk, 152308C 160725C to Admty).

Movements, Benghazi. Arrived M.L. 1126 sailed L.C.T. 7108 M.L. 1046. Arrived and left DELPHINIUM, G.S. SAKTOURIS, BURRA. (N.O.I.C. Benghazi, 152308C to Admty. (R) C. in C. Levant).

Malta Movements. Arrived M.T.B. 65, 75, 76, 77, 78, 82, 84, 95. Sailed WHITEHAVEN, CROMARTY, BOSTON, ROMNEY ISIS, ROMNEY, PETARD, QUEEN OLGA. (V.A.M., 152351 to Admty).

Situation Report No. 94. 1. Destroyer patrols have been maintained around the Cape Bon Peninsula on 14th and 15th. Small boat activity has practically ceased. 23 prisoners were taken off Plane Island on 15th and at 1101/15 DULVERTON boarded K.T.9 aground near Ras Idda. Ship was full of Military cargo in flooded holds, six Germans were taken off. 879 emigrants have now been recovered by H.M. ships and coastal forces during the operation. 2. Destroyers carried out patrol off Pantellaria on night 13th 14th and M.T.Bs. on 14th, 15th. 3. 16 mines were swept in Bizerta area on 13th including 7 by H.D.M.L. 1236 fitted with Mark 5 sweep. Approach channel to Tunis being swept 15th. 4. Bizerta No. 1, 2 and 3 underground oil fuel storage tanks at Carriere appear sound. Total capacity 30,000 tons. One pump operative at 200 tons per hour. Deep water berths for 2 large Cruisers alongside. No.6 tank converted secretly by French Navy as underground workshops with 50 machine tools. Mechanics available. Diesel power station adjoining oil storage in operation present output 1100 kilowatts expected increasing to 1600 kilowatts in 3 weeks time will be able to supply whole area as lines are repaired. Ferryville temporarily supplied by small 120 kilowatt tank. 5. SAFARI reports sank 450 ton Coaster at 0902/2 and 300 ton Steam Trawler at 0933/6 both by gunfire off Asinara Island. Fired 2 torpedoes into Port Torres Harbour at 1958/8 sinking 2500 ton ship. 6. ILEX sustained slight damage from near miss during air raid at Bone at 2201/14 three ratings killed. (C. in C. Med., 152359A to Admty).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoy Sailing telegram (3 ships). 2. 0330Z/15th May.
B.P.79. 3. E.T.A. position S. 0530Z/17th Karachi R/V.
3a. E.T.A. crossing 062° E. 0630Z/18th. 3b.
E.T.A. West of Quoin Is. position W. 1900Z/19th.
4. 10 knots. 5. (Route). thence P.G.W. (?u) to
(6). 6. RATNAGIRI, KONKAN.
(N.C.S.O. Bombay 150452Z, 150453Z to Admty.)
B.P.79. 1. CITY OF CANTERBURY. 2. VARELA. 3. SANTHIA sailed
15th May with following U.S.A. Troops. E.T.A. Rooka 21st.
(D.S.T.O. Bombay 150945Z to D.S.T.O.P.G.)

ALBATROSS. A.M. 261635 to C. in C.E.F. passed to other
addressees in my 271133.
2. Considered although a dummy H.Q. ship often
will provide for elementary training it can not
be a substitute for a seagoing H.Q. ship for preparatory
operational training.
3. Therefore when ALBATROSS is withdrawn from Bombay it is
considered that every endeavour should be made to provide a
replacement H.Q. ship.
(C. in C.E.F. 150822Z to Admty. (R) F.L.O. Delhi, ALBATROSS,
Com. R.I.N.)

Movement No. 64 May 15th.
Summary. 1. CHITRAL left Aden 14th due Kilindini 19th.
2. RANPURA left Bombay 14th due Colombo 17th.
3. CARADOC left Tulear 14th due Diego Suarez
17th thence Kilindini due about 20th
4. TULIP left Kilindini 12th escorting one ship due Durban 19th.
5. WAYLAND escorted by BURNIE left Kilindini 14th due Aden 20th.
6. SATSA and STORM/RACK left Kilindini 13th escorting convoy
K.A.7 2 ships due Aden 20th.
7. Movement summary number 61 item 3 VERBENA due Seychelles 15th
thence Kilindini due 18th.
8. Movement summary number 62 item 3 (?FALMOUTH) now proceeding
Kilindini 18th.
(C. in C.E.F. 150840Z to E.F. 280 Y.)

Movements. Arrived a.m. left p.m. VERBENA.
(N.O.I.C. Seychelles 151100Z to Admty.)
Arrival KARACHI escorting one ship.
(S.O.(I) Bombay 151301Z to Admty.)
Arrival Khorkwai M.L. Flotilla 49 escorted by LAUNCESTON.
(S.N.O.P.G. 151415Z to Admty.)

Troop D. of S.T. is signalling details but understand
Movements his proposals will be approx. as follows.
MAURETANIA. 2. A convoy of personnel ships leaves Kilindini
about 2nd June with first flight of East African
Brigade for Ceylon. D. of S.T.'s 011930 April,
para. A. refers.
3. On arrival troops disembark and the same ships are used for
oncarriage of U.S. troops ex MAURETANIA to Bombay. 4. Request A.
confirmation that you can provide escort for convoys in para. 2 and
3. B. decision between Colombo and Trincomalee for transhipments.
C. You will inform C. in C.S.A. if you wish to hold MAURETANIA at the

/Cape...

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop
Movements,
MAURETANIA.
(Contd)

Cape so that she will arrive in Ceylon after
convoy in para. 2. This would ease disembarka-
tion and embarkation problems and holding of
ship during monsoon. D. of S.T. and War Office
would prefer that if any delay to MAURETANIA is
in fact necessary it should be at Cape rather
than Ceylon.

(D.O.D.(F) 151832B to C. in C.E.F. (R) F.C.
Ceylon, C. in C.S.At. F.O.C.R.I.N.)

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War Diary.15.5.1945.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies.

B.Y.M.S. B.Y.M.S. 68, 31, 186, 187, 209 depart Boston in company May 16th at 1000Q en route Halifax via.
(P) 42.23 N. 70.42W(Q) 42.31 N. 70.32 W.
(R) 42.41 N. 65.08 W. (S) 44.06 N. 63.24W.

Speed 10 knots.
(C.T.G.(?24) .1, 150150Z to C.E.S.F.)

U.S.S/M (Cominch, 150158Z, 151501Z, 151502Z, 151602Z,
notice. 151603Z, 151604Z)
S/M estimate
15th May.

Convoy (1) Sailing telegram part 2. (80 ships - list)
U.G.S.8A. (P.D. New York, 150214Z to Cominch C. & R.
(R) C.E.S.F.?. Cdre. North West Africa S.F.
Admty. F.O.I.C.Gibraltar, C.in C. Med. N.S.H.Q)

Movements. St.Johns N.F. 14th. Arrivals CHELSEA, SUDBURY,
SHAWINIGAN, MILLTOWN ex H.X. 238. ORCHIS ex
O.N.181. FENNEL, NANAIMO, MONTGOMERY ex
Halifax. GEORGIAN, PORT HOPE ex Sydney escorting
L.C.54. NORTHERN PRIDE, NORTHERN REWARD ex O.N.S.6.
Departures DUNCAN, SUNFLOWER, TAY, VIDETTE, PINK, LOOSESTRIFE,
SNOWFLAKE to S.C.130. MULGRAVE, ROXBOROUGH, SASKATOON,
DUNVEGAN to O.N.S.6. OFFA, PENN, PANTHER to support O.N.S.7.
(N.O.I.C. St.Johns N.F. 150553Z to Admty)
Arrival THE PASMINAS ex O.N.181.
(C. Halifax, 151200Z to Admty)
Departure PROVIDER M/L 094, 086, 100, 101, 076, 103 to
Sydney (C.B)
(C.Halifax, 151201Z to Admty)
Departure 15th H.M.Tug BUSY and GEMMA for Trinidad.
(Harbour Master Barbados, 151650P to Admty)

C.T.U. U.S. Navy (corrupt group) (U) (R) (A) Expect to
24.3.5, depart 0715Z to cover your convoy. Will be on
Convoy station at 0845Z. Radio call sign 2 6 2 Y Y.
A.T.44. (C.T.U. 24.3.5, 150557Z to A.T.44.)

ORILLIA. My P.C. and S. at 0630 053° 29' N. 036° 32' W.
13 knots weather report.
(ORILLIA, 150640Z to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A.)

Palisadoes 80130 cipher Q.2 (a) 15th May.
aerodrome. Your 5286 cipher 14 April approved. Admiralty
agree you taking over Palisadoes to limit 500
all ranks on temporary encroachment terms includ-
ing proper maintenance of buildings and adjacent
areas and their return in same condition as taken over.
Occupation subject 3 months notice. Cable when taken over.
Total estimate approved now £30,000.
(War Office, 151145B to Commander North Caribbean Area)

Convoy /...

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

Convoy O.N.182. (1) Western local escort W 14
O.N.182. MONTGOMERY (S.O) FENNEL, NANAIMO, NORANDA will
relieve you in West. M.P. 46° 47' N. 47° 32' W.
at 1200Z/16th. (2) When relieved proceed with
your unit to St. Johns. (3) "Chop" 2200Z/14th.
(4) Admiral Osborne and Cdr. Hodgson are to be transferred
from OTTAWA to MONTGOMERY if weather permits.
(F.O.N.F.151155Z to C. (?5) (R) C. in C. C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.
Admty. N.S.H.Q., C. in C. U.S. Fleet, S.O. 4th E.G., MONTGOMERY)
Your 151155Z Adm. Osborne and Cdr. Hodgson freely intend
to come to St. Johns in OTTAWA in order to discuss with C.O's
of Escort vessels, trials carried out.
(OTTAWA, 151925Z to F.O.N.F.(R) MONTGOMERY, C. in C. C.N.W.
At. U.S. C. in C. U.S. Fleet, C. in C. W.A. Admty.)

Oiling at Your 191225 April para. 3. O.N.180 510 transfer
Sea, LUCELLUM, NORSTANK (Nor.) 578 six operations
Depth each vessel BRITISH ENGINEER Nil VELMA Nil.
Charges. Depth charges THORHILD Nil. One failure
NORSTANK escort decided against taking fuel reason
rough weather. Both LUCELLUM, NORSTANK complained
of escorts not falling back on steadying line
to reduce bight in hose, resultant drag of sea nipping armoured
length in escorts Fairlead choking flow of oil, breaking hose,
being unprovided with adapter, taking hose line so far inboard
flexible length nipped on escorts rail, certain escorts
exceptions notable K.273 fuelled with facility in gale.
Suggest escorts instructions provide for slight tension on
steadying line affording escort oiler control of evolution in
accordance with experience and weather.
(B.R.L.O. New York, 151257Z to Admty (R) C. in C. W.A. B.A.D.)

O.N.S. Commodores and Masters of ships in O.N.S.
Convoys, Convoys bound for ports west of Halifax are to
Diversions. be warned that they may be detached off Halifax
to proceed to destination via Cape Cod.
(D.T.D. 151319B to C. in C. W.A. (R) C. in C.
C.N.A., N.S.H.Q.)

Convoy Arrived.
F.H.54. (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 151334Z to Admty)

U/B reported A/C reported sighting periscope submerged in
by A/C. approx. 47° 47' N. 52° 46' W. at 1250Z.
(C. in C. C.N.W.A. 151345Z to G.B.7A)

Convoy Sailing telegram part 2. Total 11 ships
H.S.85. (Lists etc.)
(Halifax, 151349Z to Admty)

Biscay /...

15.5.1945.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies (Contd.)

Biscay Points from 18th meeting of A.U. Committee.
A/S A/C (A) Coastal Command and aircraft from Gibraltar
Offensive. in April had 157 sightings giving 78 attacks
Convoy 7 probable kills and 6 probably damaged.
Cycles. Bay operations accorded with estimates for
scale of flying carried out. Committee asked
for future monthly returns to cover all North
Atlantic. (B) Bay fishing vessels to be
attacked if in "sink at sight" area after 1st June. (C) Small
numbers in Atlantic convoys has led to uneconomical use of
escorts. Admiralty and M.O.W.T. to reconsider convoy cycles
June and July to enable formation of support groups to replace
those being withdrawn. (D) First trials of M.A.C. ships are
satisfactory.
(A.C.N.S.(UT), 151351B to B.A.D.)

Convoy A.T.43 Presailing telegram. Admiralty 121940B
A.T.43. (2) CHEBUCTO 0600Z May 17th. (3) 0500Z/23rd
(EMPRESS OF 54.26 N. 05.12 W. 1000Z/23rd Bar Light Vessel.
SCOTLAND) (4) 19.5 knots. (5) (Route) "Chop" 2300Z May
18th. (23)(24) oneship 550 15 codeword "Henbane"
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 151445Z to Admty)

MELBOURNE STAR Your 131110P. Request names of crew and
torpedoed passengers known by survivors to have got away
2nd April. from ship.
(D.T.D.151449B to B.R.L.O.Bermuda.)

KAUSONIA Cominch 131750 addressed for action to Comnavu,
(Italian) Com-8th Fleet, Chief of Staff Army, all Task
new Hospital Force Coms Atlantic Fleet, and Cincpac, informs
Ship. as follows: Pass to appropriate air commands.
The State Department has been notified of a
new Italian Hospital Ship, the motorship KAUSONIA.
The KAUSONIA has a speed of 19.5 knots, is 9500
gross tons, 149 meters long, 19 meters beam, has two masts and
one funnel. She will be marked in accordance with the
provisions of the Hague Convention, and illuminated at night.
(Comnavu, 151454 to Admty)

N.S.H.Q. (N.S.H.Q.151504)
S/M
Estimate.

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) Red Islet (48.07 N.
Q.S.47. 69.23 W.) 1330Z/17th May. (3) 1730Z/19.
(4) 10 knots. (5) (Route) Gaspe-Sydney "Chop"
0930Z/19th. (6) AYRSHIRE. (15) Convoy Call
Sign (QF).
(N.C.S.O.Quebec, 151605Z to N.C.S.O.Sydney)

North Your 121155. Concur. This will be done.
Atlantic (N.S.H.Q. 151612Z to Admty)
Convoys,
Cycles
and Speed.

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War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

MAURETANIA. Arrived Boca De Navios 1100Z/15.
(N.O.B.Trinidad, 151659Z to Radio Washington
pass to Cominch C. & R.)

U/B Aircraft report S/M sighted in 47° 00' N.
Sighted 63° 00' W. at 151529Z.
by A/C. (C. in C. C.N.A. 151705Z to G.B.7A)

Convoy H.X.236. Approach routes to U.K. ports issued
Routeing at Halifax to this convoy were not in accordance
Instructions. with U.K.A.R. To save time, Bristol Channel
ships omitted calling at Belfast, a procedure
which is frequently adopted. The furnishing
of route instructions at Belfast cannot therefore
be relied upon.
(D.T.D.151730B to N.S.H.Q., (R) C. in C. C.N.W.A.
N.C.S.O.Halifax.)

U/B sighted Aircraft sighted S/M in 47° 24' N. 63° 49' W.
by A/C. at 1724Z.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 151856Z to G.B.7A)

U/B. Coast Watcher reports Submarine sighted in
46° 30' N. 62° 10' W. at 1300Z.
(C. in C. C.N.A. 151858Z to G.B.7A).
As amended 160826Z.

X C.T.F. 24.7 Sailed U.S. Ships BELKNAP, GREENE, GEO. E.
BOGUE. BADGER, OSMOND, INGRAM at 1900Z to meet U.S.S.
BOGUE in accordance with your 121933Z.
(C.T.G.24.7, 151900 to C. in C. W.A. (R) Com.U.S.
Nav. Europe, BOGUE, Connav, C.T.F. 24, C. in C.
N.A. Cdre. (D) W.A., Admty. N.S.H.Q., F.O.N.F.,
H.Q.C.C., A.C.I.C.Comdr. D.Argentia.)

Convoy Pre-sailing telegram. (A) St.John N.B. 1500Z
F.H.55. May 17th. (B) SWIFT CURRENT. (C) 6 ships.
(D) 42 hours.
(N.C.S.O.St. John N.B. 151915Z to Admty)

Sub All times Z para. D. Aircraft sights sub.47 N.
attack and 63 W. 1529/15. Aircraft sights periscope area
sighting 47.47 N. 52.46 W. 1250/15.
summary. (Cominch, 152025Z to Admty)

Convoy Sailing telegram. (2) Gate 1900Z/15.
H.H.X.229. (3) OOMR 1200Z/16. (5) As C. in C. C.N.A.S.
082020Z and Admtys 061146B. (7) Total 12 sailed
(list)
(N.C.S.O.Halifax, 152026, 152027Z to Admty)

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War Diary.15.5.1945.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.America and West Indies (Contd.)

- Use of title S.B.N.O. at U.S.N. air training Stations. (1) The title Senior British Naval Officer for the Resident R.N. Instructor at U.S.N. air training stations has been introduced by arrangement with the U.S.N. to facilitate the handling of signals and correspondence. (2) Request this title invariably be used. The term B.N.L.O. used for these officers is misleading and apt to result in their misemployment. (B.A.M.R. 152136Z to Admy. (R) F.O.N.A.S. Combrax Lee on Solent.)
- U/B attacked by A/C. Enemy submarine attacked by aircraft in 42.08 N. 64.30 W. at 2101Z/15th. (C. in C. C.N.A. 152147Z to G.B.7A) No evidence of damage (C. in C. C.N.A. 160336Z)
- U/B sighted by A/C. Pilot of civilian aircraft sighted periscope and part of conning tower submerging in 048° 47' N. 068° 24' W. at 2113/15th heading East. (Grade B.2) (C. in C. C.N.A. 152242Z to N.S.H.Q.)
- H.H.X. 239. Escorts. Departures H.M.Nor. LINCOLN, OAKVILLE, BROCKVILLE, Escorting H.H.X. 239. (C. Halifax, 152248Z to Admty etc.)

Australia and New Zealand.

- Kiwi No.36. Lifeboat from PHOEBE A. HEARST (torpedoed 1/5 ref. Kiwi 28 picked up 14/5 contained Master Chief Officer 23 others. Second lifeboat containing 22 men believed landed Nomuka (Tonga). 24 dive bombers with fighter escort attacked Munda (New Georgia) 12/5. U.S. Task Force bombarded Vila and Munda on the night of 12-13/5. One large AK OR AH and three small AK sighted Buintonolei area (Bougainville) 12/5. Enemy landed stores Buka from small AP 10/5. One small AP six barges sailed for Tinputz 14/5. (C.W.R. Wellington, 150002Z to C. in C. E.F.. A.C.N.B., Admty. D.N.I., G.H.Q. New Delhi.)
- Movements. Departure Wellington U.S.S. HUNTER LIGGETT E.T.A. Pago Pago 23Z 21 May route. S. of A. 13.5 knots. (D.N.I. Wellington, 150101Z to Admty)
- Departure Auckland 1051/14 U.S.S. ? PINKNEY for Noumea E.T.A. 0500/17. Arrival Lyttelton 0758/15 U.S.S. TAGANAK all times Z. (D.N.I. Wellington, 150930 to Admty)

Arrival /...

War Diary.15.5.1943.
Saturday.FOREIGN STATIONS.Australia and New Zealand.

Movements. Arrival Fremantle 14th. TJERK HIDDEN from
(Contd.) Exmouth Gulf Port Moresby 14th. ECHUCA.
Departure Sydney 13th. U.S.Des. BAGLEY for
escort duties to Townsville Port Moresby 14th.
ECHUCA for Townsville Thursday Island

14th. WARREGO for Merauke Milne Bay 14th. BOWEN for Oro
Bay WHYALLA for survey duty.
(A.C.N.B. 151121Z to Admty)

Arrivals Townsville 14th May hired transports TAROONA,
DUNTROON. U.S. Transport VAN HEUTZ departed Cairns 14th due
Port Moresby 16th. U.S. Transport VAN DER LIJN departed
Fall River 14th due Cairns 16th. U.S. Transport BOSPHORUS
departed Thursday Is. 14th due Port Moresby 16th.

(C.S.W. P.S.F. 151424Z to Admty)

Digest (2) Gasmata village strafed earlier by R/C
Serial Fortress which also bombed supply dump Cape
No.480 Gloucester and buildings at Ubili where five
May 14th. barges seen. (3) Forenoon patrol Liberator
bombed and probably damaged bridge over Kumul
(Fumal) (40 miles northwest Madang) also attacked
barge at Pier Unea Island (Witu group).

(5) Four vessels observed Kavieng Area morning possibly same
units as previous day refer Digest 479 para. 6. Photos indi-
cate all vessels under 2000 tons. (6) Forenoon photographs
Rabaul reveal nil change except one additional old type
destroyer, while at Wewak 1 small merchant vessel a patrol
craft and 66 barges present. (7) Single ship probably
minelayer observed Lorengau morning. (8) Approx. 50 enemy
fighters patrolling over Lae at dusk and shortly afterwards
barges reported operating in harbour. (10) Single enemy
R/C aircraft shot down by Kittyhawk during morning 40 miles
north east of Buna. 90 minutes later 20 enemy medium bombers
with about 25 fighters intercepted when approaching Oro Bay by
11 Lightnings 52 Kittyhawks which destroyed 9 Zeros 7 bombers
plus 1 Zero and 5 bombers probably. Our losses totalled
1 Lightning in combat 1 Kittyhawk crash landed but both pilots
safe. Some fifty bombs dropped Oro Bay also few port
Harvey (3 miles southward) destroying one Gasoline barge 1
Bitumen dump.

(G.H.Q. S.W.P.A. 150946Z)

Convoy Your 131203Z. Titles allocated:
Titles. D.G. Thursday Island - Merauke
G.D. Merauke - Drake's Island
S.N. Sydney, N.S.W. - New Caledonia
N.S. New Caledonia - Sydney, N.S.W.

Promulgation will take place by C.A.F.O. (2) Request
geographical position of Drake's Island may be communicated.
(D.T.D.151605B to C.S.W. P.S.F.231336Z)

MOST SECRET.

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15.5.1943.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

Estimated positions.
(D.D.I.C.151406B, 151415B, 151651B)